



Illustration by Cyntia Camilla

The above illustration is an interpretive rendering of the Federal Communication Commission's vote to alter the net neutrality bill. Statements and opinions expressed in this illustration are solely of the author and may or may not be shared by the management and staff of The Torch. The story below is a vetted news story addressing numerous sides of the issue.

The end to net neutrality draws near

FCC to eliminate Title II regulations

JEFFERY OSBORNS
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

On April 18, across from Independence Avenue in the nation's Capitol Building, the Federal Communications Commission voted to begin a process to eliminate Title II regulations resulting in an end to net neutrality and the open internet rules.

The FCC is an independent government agency, designed to regulate interstate communications by radio, satellite, television, wire and cable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. Telecommunications carriers, such as Verizon, Comcast, Dish Network, Centurylink and AT&T, are currently regulated under Title II of the

Communications Act of 1934.

Title II, passed in 1934, implements strict net neutrality rules, including prevention of website and app blocking, speed throttling, and paid fast lanes. In essence, this eliminated the ability of governments, media companies and internet service providers to charge different service fees based on the content being transmitted over the internet.

In early 2014, a federal appeals court ruled that the FCC did not have the authority to enforce existing rules preventing ISPs from favoring certain companies that send data over the internet. As a response, the FCC chair, Tom Wheeler, designed a new set of rules that allowed ISPs to charge for "priority access" to their networks, creating an "internet fast lane" for companies that pay for it.

With net neutrality, consumers have the freedom to access any online content for no extra charge, excluding what local governments may prohibit such as illegal file

sharing. Advocates of this "open internet oppose accelerated access options. A tiered system could give the ISPs an unfair advantage over companies who use the internet to deliver their services.

"The powerful interests that control the pipes are trying to take control of the internet away from their consumers by creating discriminatory networks that play favorites," Oregon Senator Ron Wyden said at Powell's Books in Portland, addressing local business owners, labor leaders, consumer advocates, and local members of the Open Internet Coalition who delivered more than 20,000 petitions from Oregon residents supporting net neutrality. "We can't afford to let discrimination rule the internet, which is why I'll continue fighting to ensure net neutrality." Wyden was the first member of Congress to introduce legislation

See **NET NEUTRALITY** on page 5

NEWS

theTorch

THE INDEPENDENT
STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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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

The dye is cast on deficit

*Lane's board of education
votes 'yes' on final
administration budget
proposal*

ALEC EBERT
REPORTER

It is now week eight of spring term at Lane Community College with the end of the fiscal year fast approaching on June 30. On May 17, the Board of Education held their final public forum to hear concerns from faculty, students and the community before approving the finalized budget proposal.

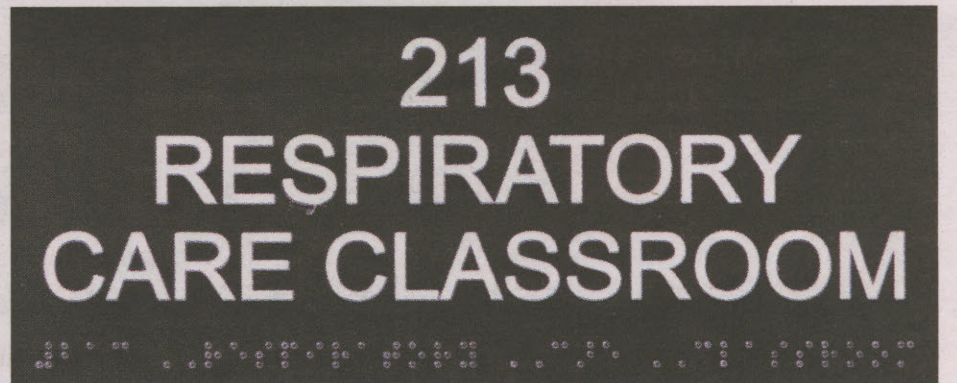
Similar to the budget committee meetings prior to last Wednesday's, the meeting began at 5:30 p.m. Outgoing ASLCC president Robert Kirkpatrick began by reiterating similar comments he had made at meetings prior.

"This decision is a hard one, but what are we going to do to make sure this doesn't happen again next year?" Kirkpatrick said. "We don't want to use the bandaid tactic as we have in the past but we don't want to take things away from people. Where's the middle ground?"

According to the approved proposal, the college will be balancing the budget with reductions to the following programs:

- Two full-time counselors from the counseling department will be eliminated and moved to other departments for which they are qualified.
- Religion and Philosophy will eliminate the religion discipline and eliminate one FTE faculty instructor.
- Elimination of Honors Program and one faculty position from the Grants program.
- Elimination of the Respiratory Therapy Program and reduce faculty by one FTE faculty instructor.
- Elimination of the Watershed Technician program and the Successful Aging Institute program.
- Elimination of Workforce Development Program.

There is a reason for the swift cuts being made at Lane starting next year. Enter Jim



Photos by Christopher Palanuk / Photo Editor

Salt. Salt is an instructor in sociology at Lane. He is also currently the president of the LCCEA which is Lane's union that represents the rights and needs of the college's faculty.

"It's quite an extensive role, actually. Aside from organizing committee functions, the president is also responsible for electing the other members of the committee, as well as maintaining the goals of the association," Salt said.

Salt is also one of the representatives for the Lane budget sub-committee. The sub-committee's job is to add input specifically from Lane's faculty and offer ideas from their perspective on how the school can balance the budget. The idea is for the faculty involved to work in tandem with the administration's budget committee to come up with the most relevant information on how to solve accounting-related issues for the school and then present these solutions to the board.

This year, however, Salt feels that the administration's budget committee did not do their part to acknowledge the solutions found by the sub-committee.

"The administration never showed any interest whatsoever in not only reaching a consensus, but also not doing anything other than the plan they had developed unilaterally," Salt said.

According to Salt, the administration only accepted three of the alternate options that the budget sub-committee had made in their majority proposal. These options could have helped the college from preventing cutting programs and laying off faculty.

"I think this was a conscious decision by the administration to simply decide to develop a proposal unilaterally and

to ignore alternatives, criticisms, lack of supporting evidence and rely upon the board and the budget committee to vote in favor of that unilateralism which is exactly what happened," Salt said.

Even though the budget sub-committee had differences in opinion with the administration, they were fully aware that many reductions would still have to be made. The budget sub-committee majority proposal was only in favor of reductions in programs, instead of outright eliminations.

"In terms of the Early Childhood Education Program, one full faculty member is now voluntarily retiring early from the ECE at great expense to them to prevent the program from being eliminated," Salt said.

Salt also highlighted that the administration was not always clear on what they planned to do with faculty that were currently being eliminated from one department and assigned to another.

"In terms of the counseling department, the board isn't eliminating counselors to save any money at all. They're laying off two faculty members in order to take the expenses associated with them and use that to expand the Oregon Promise Program. The administration misrepresented that to the budget committee and the students and counseling faculty wanted to keep those positions," Salt said.

To counter this dilemma Salt explained that the budget sub-committee and a few involved students had an idea to raise the new proposed health clinic fee a bit more to make up the proposed savings from potentially cutting two counselors.

Salt also explained that the biggest overall problem with the board and the administration's unilateral decision making is that they are not recognizing the needs and rights of the students and faculty. He also hopes that Lane's new president will push for more of a bipartisan approach to solving matters of finance for the college.

At the end of the meeting board member Tony McCown expressed the perspective the board faced in regards to voting on the budget proposal.

"At some point our work has to be done. We are the elected leaders of this school and we're three days away from a deadline that can cost us more than \$800,000 if we do not meet it. I'm not in support of program cuts, but I know I have to present a balanced budget. I know I have a set of numbers from an administration that has provided exemplary data time and time again," McCown said.

Following McCown's statement a few more board members said their piece, the vote was cast and the administration's budgetary proposal was approved. The vote was unanimous with the exception



Respiratory Care classroom 213 and the entire second floor of Building 30 lay dormant as the school day wraps up on May 21, 2017. Respiratory Care, one of five programs being affected by the budget cuts, will be eliminated for the next school year.

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.

NEWS

Folded flyers land at Lane

Students encouraged to make paper planes

ELIZABETH COMISKEY
FEATURES EDITOR

The most popular belief about when the first paper airplane was flown is attributed to the Chinese, who flew paper airplanes about 2,000 years ago.

Two French brothers, Jacques and Joseph Montgolfier, made a hot air balloon out of paper on Sept. 19, 1783. After multiple unsuccessful attempts, the brothers eventually piloted their invention, making it the first hot air balloon flight the same year.

Orville and Wilbur Wright used paper airplanes to gain insight for wing structure and airfoils executed in wind tunnels to help with the design which led to the first human-carrying powered plane on Dec. 17, 1903.

The second World War caused wood, plastic and metal to be scarce and toys were not made due to wartime restrictions. In 1944, as a marketing ploy, General Mills offered to send children two model paper airplanes for two Wheaties box tops and five cents. The paper models were small replicas of

the World War II fighter planes. A child could collect all 14 models.

The celebration of National Paper Airplane Day was the idea of Raymond Bailey, Lane's Coordinator of Library Circulation Services. The planning committee includes volunteers from the library, Student Life and Leadership, Academic Technology and the Writing Center. Planning committee members were distracted by the fun of making and flying paper airplanes at the meeting — details of the event were a challenge to plan. "The paper airplane's were flyin'!" library assistant Cynthia Kocsis said.

This is the library's first National Paper Airplane Day event and took a month of planning. The celebration is taking place on the eve of the holiday due to the long weekend. The actual holiday is on May 26.

"We hope students, faculty and staff have a fun and relaxing time! Who doesn't like paper airplanes?" Kocsis said.

Prizes are plane themed and participants have a chance to win within several categories. Some of the categories included are: best design, longest flight distance and "will it fly?"

The National Paper Airplane Day celebration will take place in the Center Building in front of the library on the second floor on Thursday May 25. Construction of airplanes begins at 11:30 a.m. and supplies will be provided. The competition begins at 12:30 p.m.

Check out the template on the next page to fold your own paper airplane.

Illustration by Pixabay.com

First Lane president passes



Above: Dr. Parnell presides at LCC's first graduation.

Leaves behind legacy of community college improvements

ASHLEIGH MARTINS
NEWS DIRECTOR

Dr. Dale Parnell, Lane Community College's first president from 1965 - 1968, died on April 20. He was 88.

Staff and faculty learned of Parnell's passing in an email from current Lane president Mary Spilde on Monday, May 22.

"Dale was a visionary and through his work left an amazing legacy to community colleges. His legacy lives on at Lane in countless ways," Spilde said in her email.

After his tenure as Lane's president, Parnell became the Superintendent of Education for the State of Oregon in 1968, as appointed by the governor at the time, according to Lane's website. He served as superintendent until 1974.

In 1981 Parnell began his work at the American Association of Community Colleges where he was the president for 10 years.

Though he wrote several books, Dr. Parnell's most well-known book was "The Neglected Majority," which introduced the "2+2" concept — two years of high school and two years leading to postsecondary education.

According to KLCC, Parnell is survived by three sons, two daughters, 17 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.



Dr. Dale Parnell

From Dr. Parnell's Desk - - - -

Ask anyone connected with the school to define Lane Community College and his answer will probably be something like this:

It is a new college with 1400 full-time students and 2000 Adult Education Evening Extension students attending classes on 24 campus locations scattered throughout Lane County, and a staff of 166 full and part-time employees.

These facts are impressive. But Lane Community College is much more than this. It is Charles and Dennis and Terri leading the Student Council meeting; it is Mr. Hakanson and Mrs. Howard advising Paul or Nancy concern-

ing the inevitable problems they encounter on entering school; it is Mr. Bristow and the other Board members giving time and energy in an effort to establish a truly distinctive community college for this area; it is Pat and Dave and Anita working with Mrs. Dixon on the student newspaper.

It is Mr. Roberts helping Gary and Judy and Pat to get started on new jobs, and Mr. Wright placing Larry and Ginny in jobs under the Work-Study Program. It is the labors of Mr. Simmons in the Learning-Resource Center and Miss Zinser in the student bookstore. It is the lay Advisory

Committees suggesting new ways of meeting the changing needs of our community; the President and Cabinet working to get the college off to a flying start. It is the students in the classrooms taking full advantage of the instruction offered them by competent instructors. It is Mrs. Maney at the PBX and Mrs. Malliris in the Business Office.

In short, Lane Community College is the sum of the efforts of the individuals who contribute in any way to the school. Since our classrooms are spread over a wide area, it is difficult to maintain this feeling of "oneness" -- of belonging to one group. But

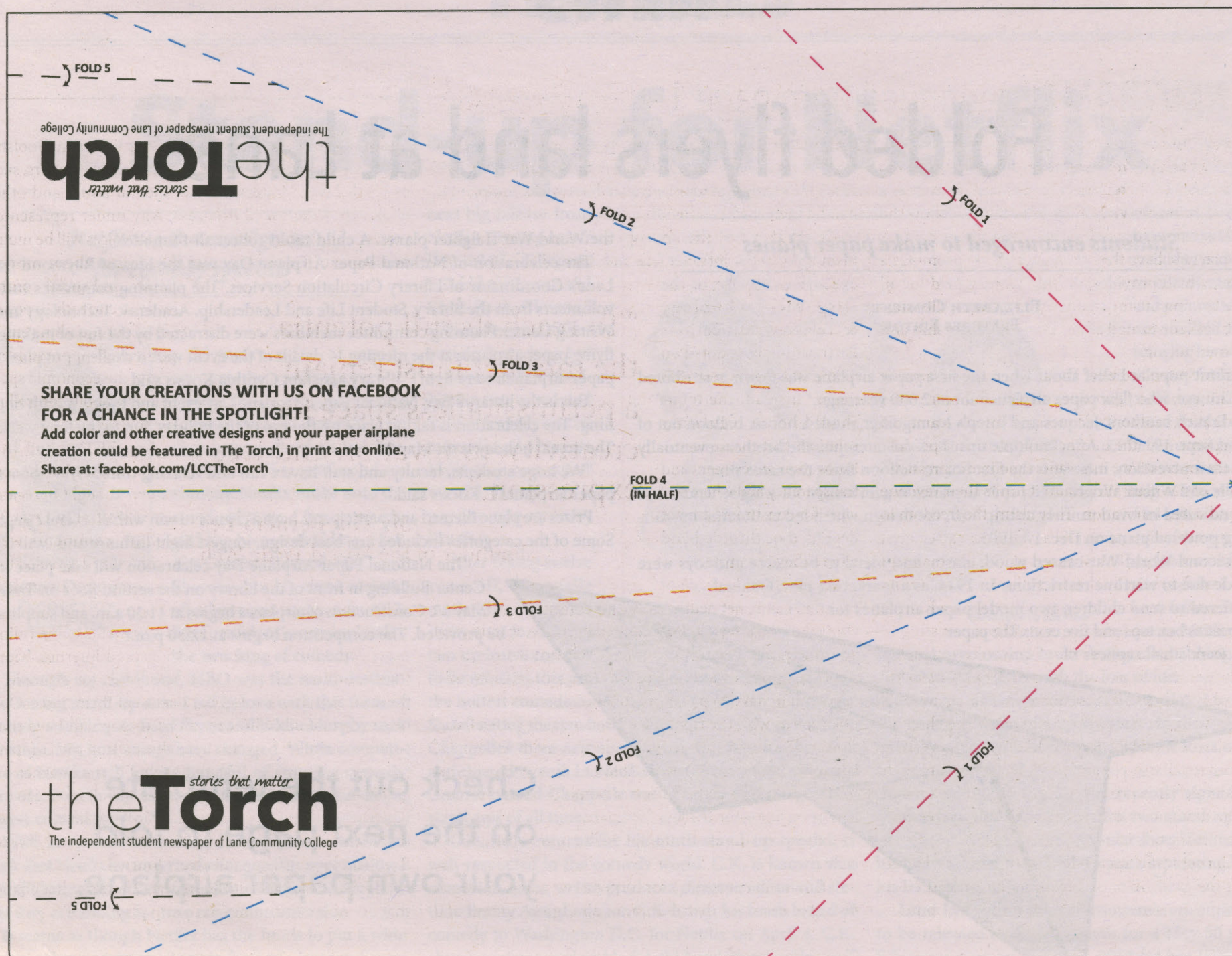
it is imperative, for this very reason, that we all make an effort to take part in college affairs in every possible way.

Walter Lippman once said we operate our daily lives based largely on "the picture in our heads." It is this image or "picture in the head" which people form about Lane Community College that is important. Staff and students should think of LCC as "our" college, not "his" or "theirs" but "ours." But to be able to speak of "our" college with any degree of conviction requires participation.

A college reflects the composite feelings of students and staff members.

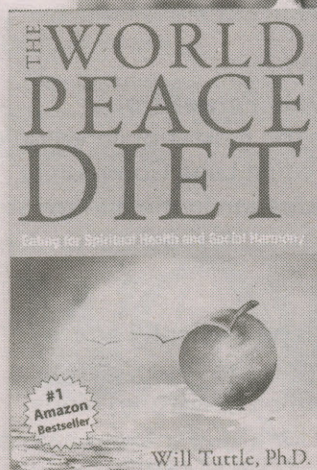
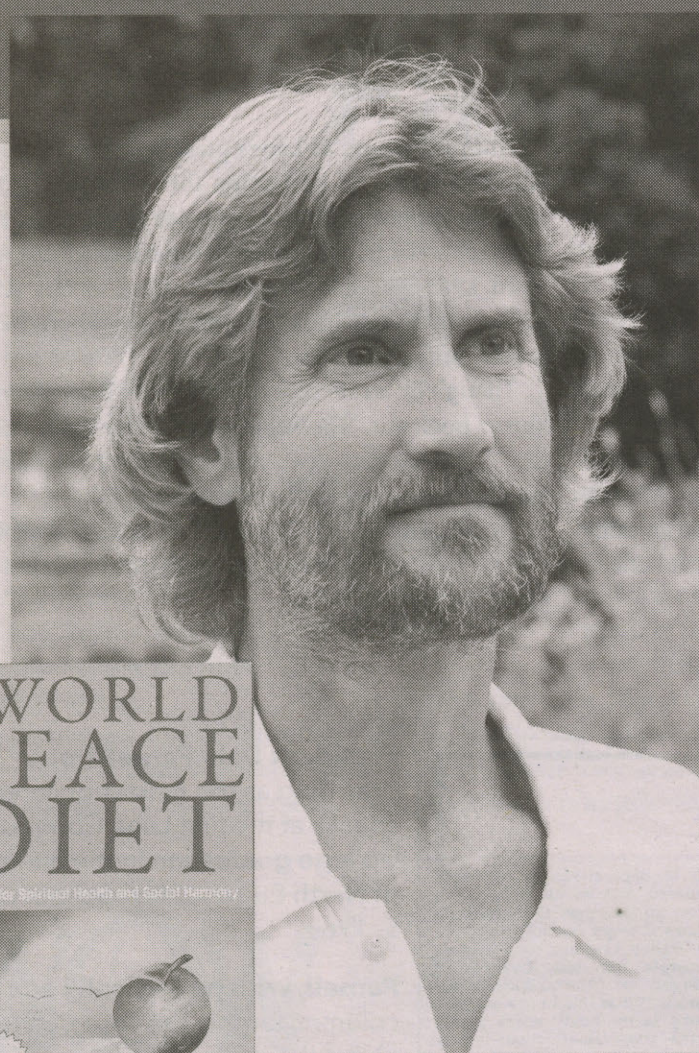
President Dale Parnell (top), presiding as the master of ceremonies, speaks at the first Lane Community College graduation in the auditorium of North Eugene High School on June 5, 1966.

Parnell, who periodically wrote columns for the The Torch, stated about the campus, "It (Lane) offers opportunity for a student who has not been able to focus his educational sights on a definite goal to discover which field best suits his needs." He passed on April 20 at 88 years of age.



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NEWS

NET NEUTRALITY continued from page 1

preserving net neutrality.

In support of an open marketplace, net neutrality backers desire to get the FCC to reclassify broadband internet as a telecommunications service. They want ISPs to follow the same non-discriminatory rules that govern phone companies. Supporters believe that an open internet promotes a free market, which provides an even playing field for all companies to compete for customers. Net neutrality supporters are also concerned about internet censorship and increased monitoring.

"When I invented the web, I didn't have to ask anyone for permission ... " Sir Tim Berners-Lee, founder of the World Wide Web, said to the Web Foundation's team. "To reach its full potential, the internet must remain a permissionless space for creativity, innovation and free expression."

Opposers of net neutrality claim it limits their revenue potential and stifles innovation. They claim the freedom to purchase priority delivery from ISPs would act as a catalyst for innovation among all businesses. FCC Chairman Ajit V. Pai, has stated publically that he believes net neutrality offers no incentive for these companies to invest in advanced networks. Businesses need ISPs to continue investing in their broadband networks. Increased revenue from higher bandwidth services will allow ISPs to invest in broadband infrastructure to bring broadband to more customers. Doing away with net neutrality could allow the champions of the telecommunication world, including Verizon and Comcast, to charge content providers who want their products and services promoted. This should be a major benefit. The new revenue stream may result in free data plans for consumers.

With internet traffic increasing in recent years, largely because of the availability of streaming music and video services, the ISPs were not prepared for such a jump in

bandwidth usage. Opponents of net neutrality believe that the revenue gained by higher-bandwidth services will allow ISPs to design more advanced networks equipped to handle increased bandwidth needs.

"Title II is not the appropriate regulatory mechanism to keep the internet free and open," Rosa Mendoza, executive director of the Hispanic Technology & Telecommunications Partnership was quoted on Comcast's media relations page. "Instead, the focus should be on regulatory solutions that ensure access, innovation, investment and transparency and where services for consumers are not degraded or throttled and where they are protected."

As for the other side of the coin, losing net neutrality means consumers might lose control of the internet. ISPs could determine exactly what consumers are able to view online. While utilizing email, scrolling through Facebook, or streaming shows on Netflix, users might have to pay more for such services if they are not aligned with the right ISPs. Users may be subjected to slower download speeds for legal services. Additionally, small businesses may not be able to afford the price tag for ISPs to promote their content. This could result in the loss of business for the less fortunate.

Others see this as an attempt to alter our constitutional rights.

"This is a major attempt for corporations to regain control over the means of distribution of all digital content and

information," Lane faculty instructor Jefferson Goolsby, said. "You may see a decrease in social justice matters, such as Black Lives Matters, environmental issues and other efforts to make social progress. Any under represented voices or any non-corporate/consumer voices will be muted or silenced." Goolsby argues that this is about money,

power, and social control by those currently in power. "It's about squashing entrepreneurial opportunities across the economic spectrum. It's about controlling the message."

The FCC asked in a public forum what the consumers thought in regards to net neutrality. Over 3.7 million comments were recorded and revealed that less than one percent of

"To reach its full potential, the internet must remain a permissionless space for creativity, innovation and free expression."

Sir Tim Berners-Lee
Founder of the World Wide Web

polled consumers opposed it.

Looking forward, according to opponents of the ruling, users could be on a road to a sponsored internet, where the only things Comcast subscribers see, for example, is the information Comcast providers want them to see. Only larger companies who can afford to pay will have their content spread across the web, eliminating the competition of small business. "In all likelihood, the internet will gradually move from being a one-size-fits-all service to one where users or content companies can — or have to — pay more for better service or higher volumes of traffic," writes Ryan Knutson of The Wall Street Journal.

The FCC may revisit the matter. There's still a chance that net neutrality comes back into play.

SPRING CONCERT SERIES

June 1

Lane Symphonic Band

7:30 pm

Ragozzino Hall

June 7

Lane Jazz Ensemble

7:30 pm

Ragozzino Hall

 **Lane**
Community College

MUSIC
LANE PERFORMING ARTS

FEATURES

Stand-up for Netflix

Netflix is the new 'go-to' for comedy specials



JEFFERY OSBORNS
PRODUCTION
DIRECTOR

If you're a fan of stand-up comedy, you'll appreciate Netflix for its ever-expanding comedy specials. Recently, you may have noticed an increase in Netflix's library of stand-up comedy. Netflix broke onto the stand-up stage a few years ago and has been outbidding rivals like Comedy Central, HBO and Showtime for big-name contract after big-name contract. In 2017, I feel confident in naming Netflix the new king of comedy.

Through my childhood, HBO was the main destination for big stand-up acts. I fell in love with this form of comedy watching Richard Pryor and Eddie Murphy rock the stage. My, how things have changed. While competitors of Netflix still have a handful of amazing comedy specials, Netflix has been able to close on some of the largest contracts ever.

With 21 specials released so far this year, some might think that Netflix is concerned with quantity over quality. I would disagree. Recent mega-deals sealed by Netflix show that they are aiming for true entertainment value.

It seems as though Netflix has the funds to put a wide variety of big-name comedians in front of a large audience. With a library of comedy specials available to stream at your convenience, Netflix has taken the lead as the top supplier of stand-up legends.

Top comedians, including Amy Schumer, Dave Chappelle, Louis CK, Tracy Morgan and Sarah Silverman have all released specials through Netflix. Jerry Seinfeld is the

next big release from Netflix, aiming to air late 2017. Morgan, Seinfeld, Silverman and Chris Rock, all signed astounding multifaceted deals reaching \$40 million and beyond. Netflix has scheduled for one comedy special to be released per week. Most any comedian would jump on a payday opportunity like that.

After taking twelve years off, Chappelle made his anticipated return to form with two exclusive comedy specials on Netflix, with one more to be released this year. In 2003, Chappelle became one of the hottest comedians in the world, with "The Chappelle Show," setting the standard for contemporary sketch comedy. Chappelle's three new specials may perhaps be the most anticipated events in Netflix history. In 2009, Comedy Central named Chappelle one of Comedy's 100 greatest stand-ups of all time.

C.K., who returns for his ninth stand-up special, is well-respected in the comedy world. C.K. is known as a comedian, actor, writer, producer, director, editor and six-time Emmy Award-winner. C.K. brings his brash brand of comedy to Washington D.C. for Netflix on April 4. C.K. shed his infamous plain black t-shirt and presented himself donning a suit and tie as he covered topics such as abortion, suicide, faith, and his complicated relationship with the 2012 movie "Magic Mike." C.K. is slated for another comedy special to debut on Netflix later this year.

"Louis has been one of the most innovative comedy voices in this new era of stand-up," said Ted Sarandos, chief content



Illustration by Cat Frink

officer at Netflix. "We have marveled at his creativity and his ability to invent comedically and commercially, and are thrilled that he is bringing his newest specials to Netflix."

Morgan makes his return to the stage after being severely injured in a 2014 car crash involving a Walmart truck. His special, "Staying Alive," he goes over the outcome of his tragic car accident where he lost fellow comedian James McNair. His also

covered overcoming brain damage, rehabbing from his accident and dealing with the loss of life.

After an eight-year hiatus, Rock is slated to make his return with two stand-up specials set to air on Netflix later this year. The first special will follow Rock on a world comedy tour.

Seinfeld, a comedy legend, recently signed a major production deal with Netflix for two stand-up specials. The former star of the once popular show "Seinfeld" makes his return to the stage with 19 years separating him from his last special.

Liam Lynch will direct Silverman's upcoming special to be released later this month for a May 30 premiere. Silverman won an Emmy in 2014 for her HBO comedy special Sarah Silverman: "We Are Miracles."

After a groundbreaking year, taking over the top spot of stand-up content, I'm excited to see what's next. Netflix has become the major destination for comedians, actors and video producers alike. Combining quantity, quality and demand, Netflix delivers major entertainment.

Fast track to fall

Summer courses offer students a leg up on credit requirements. After a blustery spring it is difficult to believe that the sun, and summer term, are already almost here. Many students will be heading back to Lane Community College's main campus for 'summer sessions,' which, in some cases, are a bit different from the traditional terms that run approximately 10 weeks from fall through spring.

One of the most notable differences that students should be aware of is that some class sessions may only be four weeks long. This



ASHLEIGH MARTINS
NEWS DIRECTOR

presents a unique opportunity for students to take an entire three-course series in the span of one term, instead of three terms. For example, 12 credits of psychology — 201, 202 and 203 — can be completed in-sequence during summer term instead of spreading it over fall, winter and spring terms. Some classes are still the traditional length of a term, such as an accounting class that runs from June 26 to Sept. 16.

While most classes begin June 26, some of the shorter sessions begin later. Four-week class dates are as follows: session one, June

26 - July 22; session two, July 24 - Aug. 19; and session three: Aug. 21 - Sept. 16.

Before enrolling, students should carefully review the class schedule to ensure they select the correct classes for their program of study, that they don't overwhelm themselves by signing up for too many credits over these short periods, and/or take on a financial burden they may not be prepared to negotiate.

Students who wish to take summer classes should check out the current catalog, available on Lane's main page and enroll immediately to secure a spot. Enrollment Services and Financial Aid in Building 1 on Lane's main campus are available for students with questions.

Key dates for 2017 summer term

Registration begins
May 2017

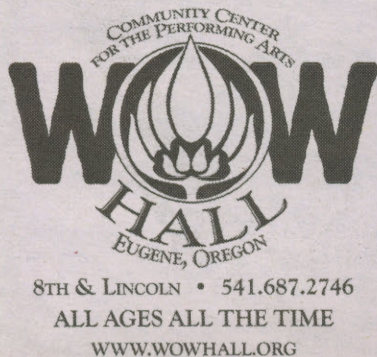
Summer term books available
6/19

Summer term begins
6/26

Independence Day (College closed)
7/4

Labor Day (College closed)
9/4

Summer term ends
9/16



FRIDAY
MAY 26

LA INEDITA
(from Peru)

SATURDAY
MAY 27

SPROUT CITY'S
BATTLE OF THE
BANDS

WEDNESDAY
MAY 31

FRAMEWORKS
Tor
Lapa

SATURDAY
JUNE 3

U. OF O GREEN &
YELLOW GARTER
BANDS

THURSDAY
JUNE 8

BROKEBACK
Fell Runner

FRIDAY
JUNE 9

JAH9
Mellow Mood

OPINION

Letter to the Editor

Do you have a response or feedback for The Torch?
Send your letter to the editor
at letters@lcctorch.com

Illustration by Cat Frink

I read the latest opinion in your pages and could only shake my head in disbelief. The article “Who’s running our student government?” is a case study of our problem not just at Lane, but in this country when it comes to civic engagement.

Even putting aside the obvious misunderstanding of where the money for our student government comes from, which is from the Student Activity Fee and not Dylan’s tuition as he thinks, there seems to me a problem to this notion that the elections have low voter turnout due to a lack of advertising in some way. If you walked on the Lane main campus anywhere during the two plus weeks before the election began you would have had to actively disengage with your surroundings not to see the posters, lawn signs and chalk campaigns that were all over the place. Add to that the mass emails that even I as a student got, the Titan Times announcements that linked to orgsync, and oh look at that, a four-page, full-color advert about the election in the very paper this opinion was written in. How could you go through a single day at Lane and not see those things? How could you not have seen the flyers even earlier about how to get your name on the ballot and become a part of the student government?

This brings us to the issue which I see as a real problem. We have a student population that is so disengaged civically

that they come to campus, go to their classes and keep their heads down without apparently taking in the community around them. They bury their heads in their phones and social media has become to them the replacement for the civic engagement that is so desperately needed not just here, but everywhere you live. We’ve lost the community in our college and society in general because it’s been supplanted by false communities online.

So who’s to blame for the low voter turnouts, for the disengaged community members we call students? Who should we point to as the culprit in having completely un-challenged candidates? Who can we say is at fault for the lack of depth or quality in our candidates, and then in the end our elected representatives? I say that would be you, the student reading this who didn’t look up from your phone long enough to read the lawn signs. It’s you, the columnist who did the same, never seeming to seek out information about how student government works here at Lane because you haven’t bothered to take the time to be an actual member of the community.

There are many problems with the student government here at Lane in my opinion which I see as troubling. None of this about the ASLCC is troubling just because the school has a budget gap to try to work through. That is an entirely separate issue to how our student government

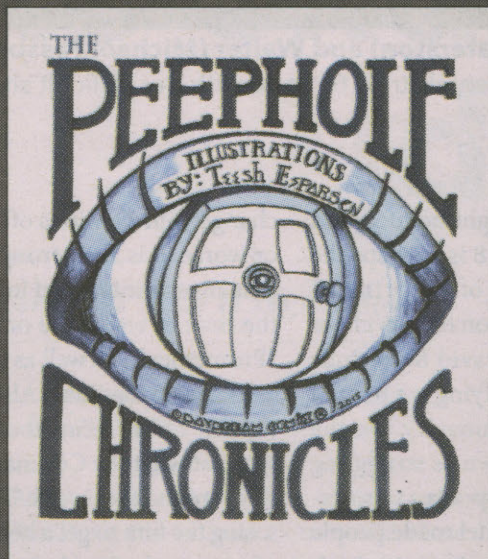
works. Our student government has representatives on several college councils where they give input on things like the budget that we see being pushed by the administration now. They sit in on board meetings and give reports there as well. The problem is that the link that’s supposed to connect them with the students they represent has been broken by students who are disengaged. Students seem to be more interested in what’s trending on YouTube today — which is likely where the idea to have a YouTube banner advert came from, as where the mind goes — than what’s happening with the community they are a part, and yet not a part of.

Writing a damning indictment of the current student government when you didn’t even know there was an election due to the seemingly self-imposed blinders of civic disengagement you are wearing only shows where the problem actually is. I would encourage anyone reading this to stop lurking, remove the blinders and start participating in this community. Don’t know how? Ask your Student Government Representative for ideas. You’ll find their contact info at <https://www.lanecc.edu/aslcc>.

CARL KNOCH
LANE STUDENT

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PEOPLE YOU NEVER WANT TO SEE



AT
YOUR FRONT DOOR

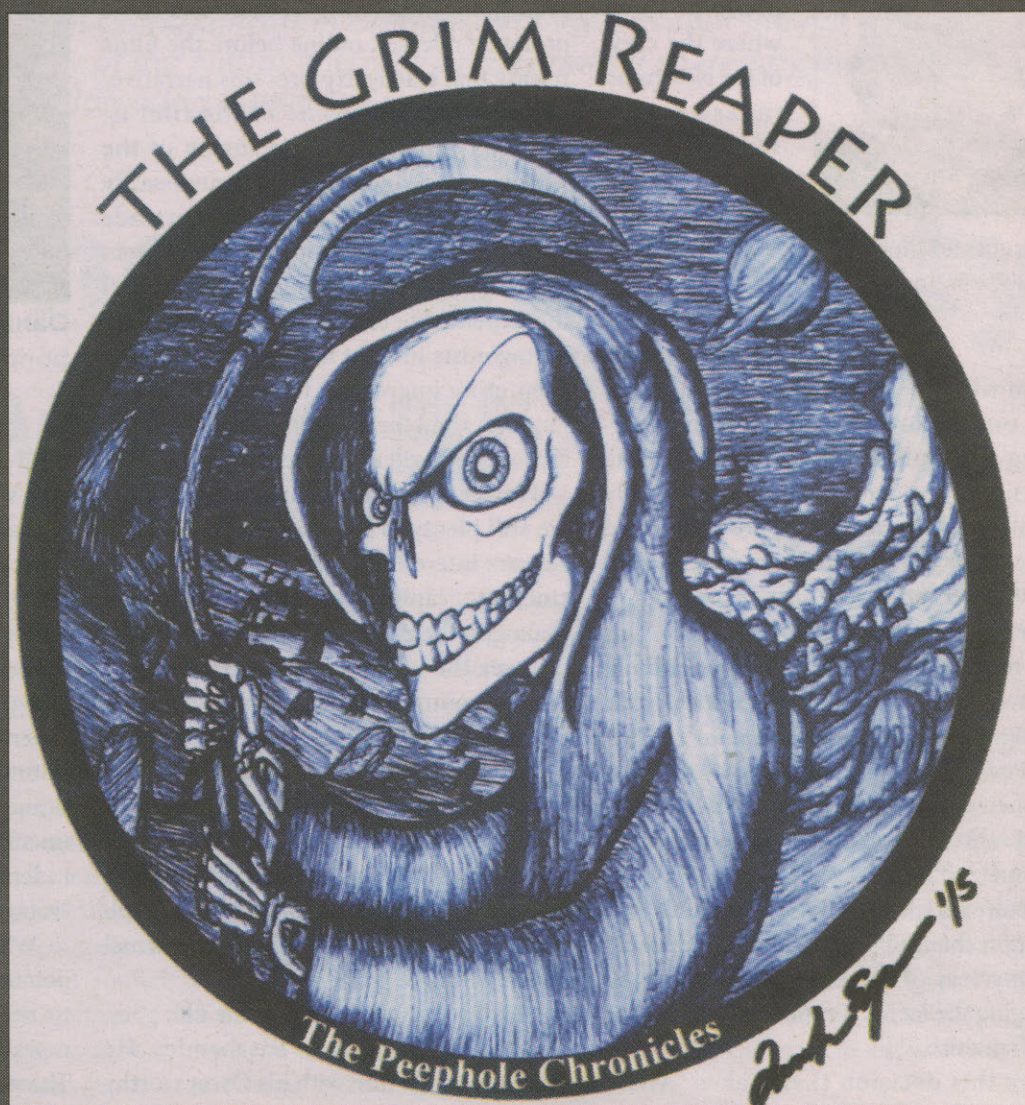
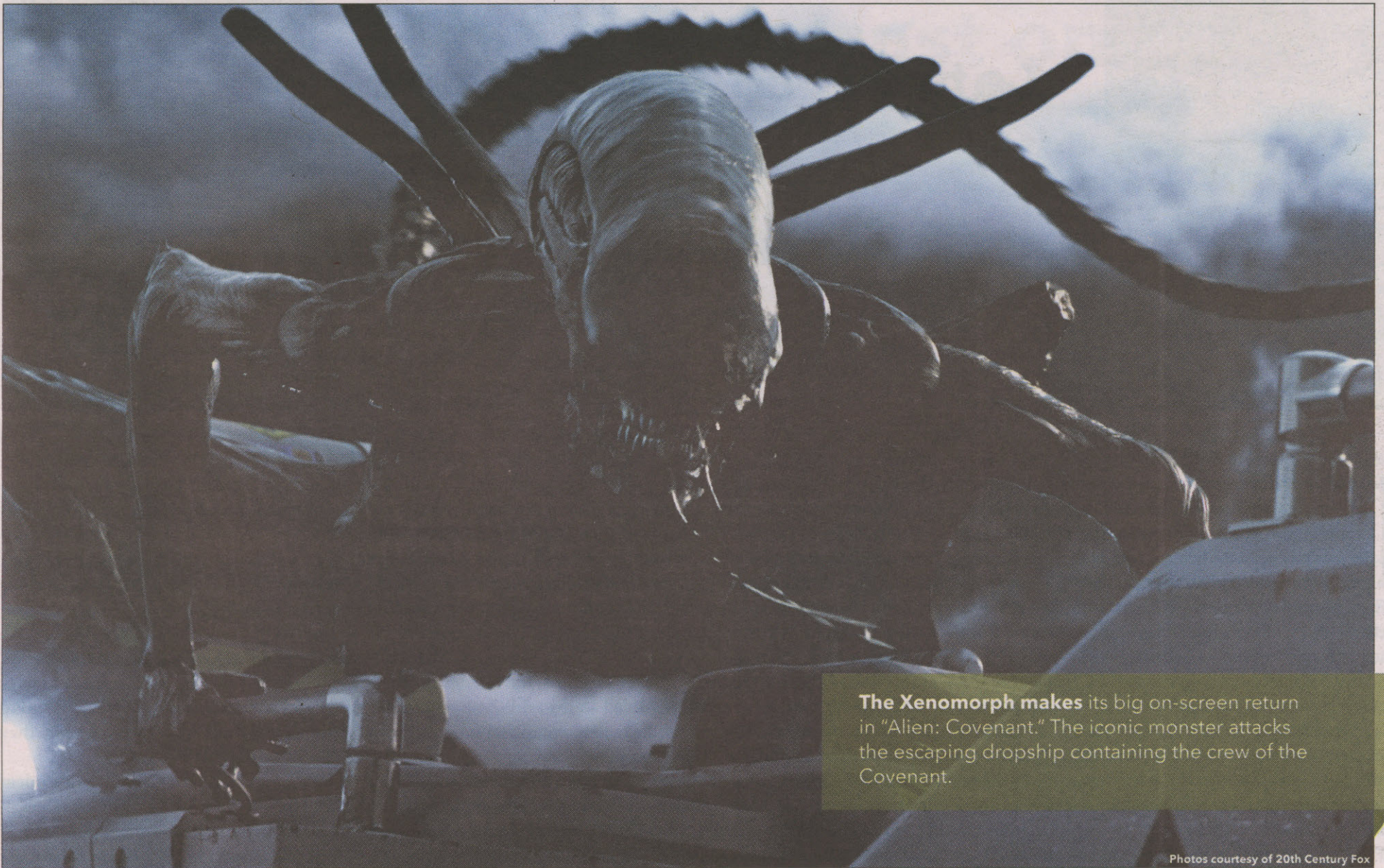


Illustration by Teesh Espersen

FEATURES



The Xenomorph makes its big on-screen return in "Alien: Covenant." The iconic monster attacks the escaping dropship containing the crew of the Covenant.

Photos courtesy of 20th Century Fox

'Alien: Covenant' lost in ambition

Michael Fassbender carries mediocre follow-up



HUNTER RULAND
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

In Ridley Scott's classic film "Alien," there's a suspenseful scene where the crew of the Nostromo investigate a signal that originated from a crashed alien spacecraft. Shortly after entering the ship, they walk into a room where a giant humanoid corpse is laid on a chair with a hole from something that bursted out of its chest. The identity of the corpse's species (originally known as the Space Jockey, are now called Engineers) would remain a mystery until Scott returned to the franchise in 2012 with the semi-prequel, "Prometheus." This was in response to Scott's disappointment in the "Alien" sequels never exploring this ambiguous aspect of his film.

"Prometheus" was meant to be the start of a new series of films that would later tie in with his original film. However, the film was met with mixed reviews about its plot structure and poor character decisions. This reaction changed his direction in exploring the mystery of the Engineers in favor of bringing the iconic Xenomorphs back into the franchise.

It's this decision that makes "Alien: Covenant" somewhat disappointing, as it

doesn't follow up the potentially interesting story implied by the ending of "Prometheus." Instead, that story mostly takes place off screen and doesn't spend a lot of time talking about it. The absence of this story ends up making "Alien: Covenant" feel like reading a book with a missing chapter. Although you can decipher what happened in that missing chapter based on the chapters before and after, you still want to read it. This is made even more infuriating as there is a short prologue released online before the film's release that briefly explores this narrative.

The other downside of the film is, ironically enough, the inclusion of the Xenomorphs, since they felt unnecessarily thrown in and lacked the tension that made them so iconic. The Xenomorphs aren't given anything new to do, other than to kill off the expendable characters and chase our protagonists in tight hallways. It would've been more interesting to see more of the Engineers and their culture, but who knows if producers will ever take that risk.

However, this film isn't all bad. There are still plenty of things going on to keep viewers interested. Scott and his frequent cinematographer, Dariusz Wolski, once again give their film gorgeous imagery that features the unique, gritty texture that's become common trait in recent Scott films. The soundtrack makes great throwbacks to the scores from "Prometheus" by Marc Streitenfeld and "Alien" by Jerry Goldsmith. Even the performances from the main leads are good, including the surprising casting of Danny McBride who did a great job acting in a film that's outside of his normal line of work.

As far as the best aspect of the film goes, that would be Michael Fassbender. He steals the whole film with his Oscar worthy performances as the two androids, David 8



Daniels (Katherine Waterston) and Walter (Michael Fassbender) share a bonding moment as Daniels tries to cope with her difficult situation.

and Walter. In fact, he might be too good at playing David 8. David 8 is perhaps the most horrifying example of an "artificial being gone rogue" ever put on film. Without giving too much away, David 8 reminds viewers that the most terrifying is a human face that lacks sense of humanity. On the other hand, Walter is shown as struggling to find the appropriate responses to situations. Since the David model made people uncomfortable due to how it could think independently, the Walter model is more "robotic" in personality.

While "Alien: Covenant" is slightly disappointing upon its first viewing, it's important to remember that the film is meant for repeated viewings, much like "Prometheus." There is plenty of things to think about after seeing the film which could potentially

change your opinions of the film for better or worse. It is also strongly recommended that anyone interested in seeing this spend the time to watch the original "Alien" and "Prometheus," as well as the two prologues available on YouTube. Also watch "The Last Supper" before seeing the film to get a better sense of what the Covenant crew's relationships are and then watch "The Crossing" after seeing the film to get a better understanding of what took place between "Prometheus" and "Alien: Covenant."

