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Combating addiction with compassion

Karen Freeman-Wilson shares stories about successes

> DIANA BAKER REPORTER

Lane Community College Speaker Series hosted Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson on Mar. 1 for a presentation about drug courts

and education. About 30 people attended the event, including Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis, LCC President Margaret Hamilton, Lane Interim Diversity Chief Greg Evans and other community and school personnel. Freeman-Wilson, mayor of Gary, Indiana, has a long history with politics and drug treatment reform from her time as a judge and attorney general in Gary, a CEO of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and in leadership roles of many other organizations.

Freeman-Wilson spoke about how drug courts benefit individuals and communities, and extolled the virtues of extending drug court methods of education to other social organizations. A drug court program is a treatment-focused process of legally dealing with individuals with drug addiction, an alternative to the traditional justice system process of incarcerating those individuals. Core components include intensive treatment, accountability often through a 12-step program, regular and random drug testing and frequent court appearances.

As a judge in Gary, Freeman-Wilson explained she kept seeing the same faces in court and felt frustrated that the justice system fell short of reducing repeated offenses. Caroline Cooper, an early leader in the drug court treatment program, recommended that Freeman-Wilson check out a drug court in action in San Bernardino, California.

Freeman-Wilson recounted it as the most transformative experience of her professional life. Instead of handing out sentences, the judge showed interest in people's lives. He remembered and asked about kids, congratulated people on being sober for extended periods and went through a troubleshooting process with people when they failed to pass drug tests, helping them find resources.

When the judge saw a graduate of drug court struggling to find employment, the judge remembered she'd been a dependable cashier even through her addiction struggles. He picked up the phone, called the head of a local grocery chain and asked them if she could get a job there. The woman, who had struggled with addiction for 15 years, was sent to see the manager for a job on the personal recommendation of the judge. Freeman-Wilson felt that demonstrated the judge's great confidence not only in that graduate, but also in the drug court program itself.

"I had to have a piece of that. I had to bring that back to Gary, Indiana," Freeman-Wilson said.

Freeman-Wilson took a team to a training, and they caught the excitement. Four months later, in Sep. 1996, they had a drug court in Gary, Indiana.

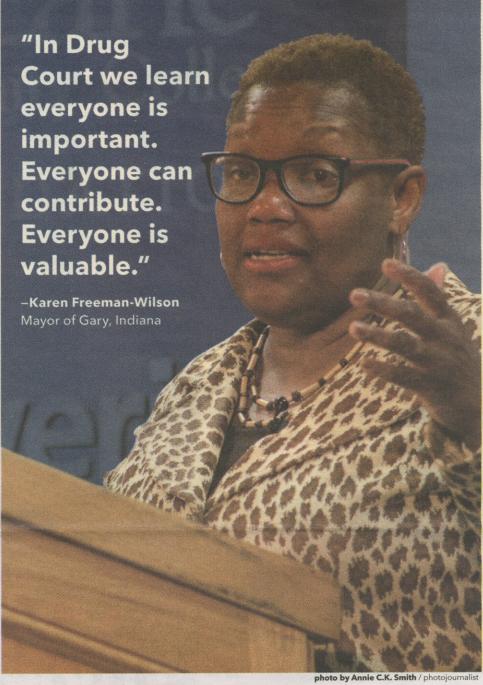
Proponents of drug courts cite affordability and reduced recidivism rates.

"It costs about \$96 per day to house an offender in the county jail and the addicted offender comes out still addicted and lacking in education or skills to change prior behavior," an article about drug courts said on the Oregon Judicial Department website.

In contrast, it costs \$9 a day to treat and educate drug offenders, according to the ODJ website. Studies across the country have found that drug court treatment plans reduce recidivism - when a person reoffends - but the amount by which recidivism is reduced can vary depending on the individual drug court. A 2011 study by Shannon M. Carry and Mark S. Walle on Oregon Drug Courts found an average of 23 percent reduction in the recidivism rates.

Freeman-Wilson and members of the audience discussed drawbacks to the drug court program. Freeman-Wilson noted that the drug court program wasn't reaching many people who could use it, and she hoped for wider adoption of the program.

Mark Harris, Lane's Coordinator for Substance Abuse Prevention and an experienced



Karen Freeman-Wilson, the current mayor of Gary, Indiana, speaks at Lane about improving access to interventions and treatment to combat drug addiction.

addiction counselor, saw limitations within the 12-step programs that are a requirement for most drug courts.

"There's lots of relapses because 12-step treatment doesn't get to the root of sexual, racial, class trauma or veteran's trauma," Harris said

Harris sees a long-term education component as the best aid to a lasting recovery. Freeman-Wilson responded by noting that the most successful drug courts included an educational component. She said that for some people, the community service requirement sparks an interest in education.

"The thing that allows us to ignore so many of the challenges we see in our country - income inequality, racial inequality, racism, sexism, treatment of people who are differently-abled — is the fact that we have determined that they have marginal value," Freeman-Wilson said.

She encouraged placing greater value on people and trying to address the root of the issue for problems in the education, criminal justice, health care and immigration systems.

Campus lobby group campaigns against hunger

FIONA WATKINS CORRIGAN REPORTER

The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group at Lane is pairing up with Food for Lane County to run the Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness. The group puts on events to raise funds and awareness for

According to the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Database, 43.1 million Americans live below the poverty level, 549,000 Americans are homeless on a typical night, 42 million Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger and one in five children in the U.S. live in poverty. One of OSPIRG's missions is to fight this with donations.

First-year Lane Community College student Ciara Wyatt started volunteering for OSPIRG in January.

"OSPIRG is a student-run, student-funded, publicinterest research-group," Wyatt said. "We were created in 1971 to do a lot for the community and to advocate, because we know that students need a voice, and need to think beyond self-interest."

OSPIRG has a student board that chooses the campaigns for the group. "It's been going for quite a while.

We helped start the Rainy Day Food Pantry in 2013," Wyatt said.

The Campaign for Homelessness and Hunger includes annual events such as the Trick-or-Can. "It's basically can-collecting," Wyatt said. "We got over three hundred during this one."

The campaign is also involved in weekly events, such as volunteering at the Grass Roots Garden on Saturdays. Wyatt explained that though OSPIRG supports the event, the Grass Roots Garden is "open to the whole community." Students can apply to OSPIRG online or with an OSPIRG member to get involved in the campaign.

theTorch

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STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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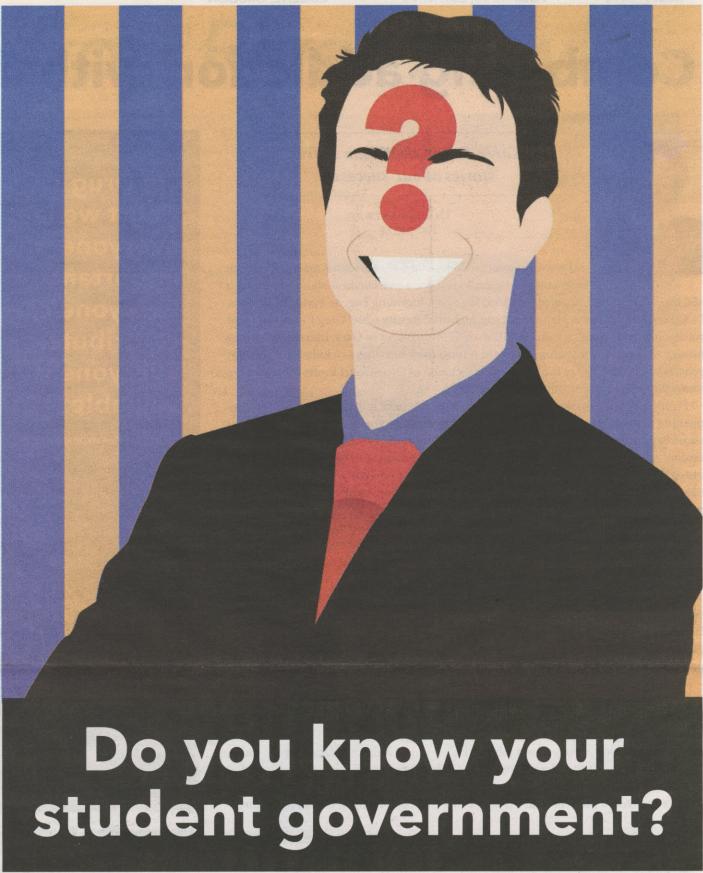


illustration by Cat Frink / production director



Campus community members weigh in on ASLCC's role

JANELLE DUTTON REPORTER

Every term, students pay \$56 towards the student activity fee. Out of that \$56, \$13.14 is going toward ASLCC, Lane Community College's student government: \$9.14 toward their operations and \$4 toward legal services. The ASLCC budget for the 2018 fiscal year is \$160,824 yet many students either don't know that LCC has a student government or have no idea what the organization is

doing for them.

Many students share the same mindset that although there are activities on campus, as well as the weekly Titan Times newsletter, there needs to be a stronger effort put toward transparency.

"I don't know much," first-year student Kaitlyn Brown said. "I think if [students] knew [ASLCC] had such a large budget and that there's issues that we can get together for, then we should."

Kristie Potwora, part-time instructor in the art department said, "I would say [their job is] to empower the students. I think in the past they have. I couldn't really tell you." As far as forming a better connection between students and ASLCC, Potwora said, "I think it would probably be on the student government to perpetuate that conversation or energy. Whether coming to classes, putting up fliers, sending

out emails, that kind of thing."

"I think they could be a lot more visible to the average student," non-traditional student Kevin Kleppe said. He thinks the job of student government is "trying to be a watchdog for the students' welfare, which is probably their main purpose. Also, it's an educational tool to learn how government works and how best to get along with others and be successful. I think they're trying and I applaud those who are in the government because it's a lot of extra time on their own."

For those interested in getting involved, ASLCC Treasurer Amadeo Snyder recommends students voicing their concerns in the Senate meeting that are held Thursdays from 4 p.m - 6 p.m in the Center Building or at board meetings.

"I think direct action and organizing around this is important," Snyder said.

"I think if [students] knew [ASLCC] had such a large budget and that there's issues that we can get together for then we should."

-Kaitlyn Brown, first year student Every term, students pay \$56 towards the student activity fee. Out of that \$56, \$13.14 is going toward ASLCC. "...I think they're trying and I applaud those who are in the government because it's a lot of extra time on their own."

-Kevin Kleppe, non-traditional student

NEWS

A sit-down with Marge Hamilton



photos by Diana Baker / art directo

LCC President outlines the college's path ahead

SABRINA PICCOLO AND MAREK BELKA REPORTERS

In Building 3 on Lane Community College's main campus is a modestly-decorated corner office with wide windows that overlook Bristow Square. The office is adorned with small personal touches, like a wooden relief of an abstract figure carved by Italian furniture craftsmen hanging on one of the walls. A nursing degree from Widener is displayed behind an immense frame over an L-shaped wooden desk. A shelf packed with books about management, economics and college education rests just under a wall of windows. A round table stands in the center of the room, a copy of the Register-Guard Blue Chip business magazine lying in the middle of table. And at this round table sits Dr. Margaret Hamilton, President of Lane Community College.

Hamilton, an excitable native of upstate New York, started her term as President on July 1, 2017, after Mary Spilde's retirement. Her 29-year career in higher education has carried her to colleges from Pennsylvania to China. Prior to Lane, Hamilton served as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Camden County College in southern New Jersey, which placed her in charge of over 25,000 students at three different campuses. At CCC, Hamilton curated several partnerships between the college and local businesses, and played a key role in staunching declining enrollment. Hamilton sees this prior experience as vital to her attempts to reverse Lane's own declining enrollment. Hamilton laid out her vision for the college's future while acknowledging its current struggles.

"I'm a new president, so I'm still learning," Hamilton said. "But, as I learn the needs, I must deliver. I must go out and help the people, give them the resources, help them reorganize and help them become more efficient."

Hamilton's background as a healthcare provider potentially makes her an ideal leader for a community college whose nursing program is ranked fifth in Oregon. To her, the nursing program represents one of Lane's greatest investment opportunities.

"I am super proud of our nursing program," Hamilton beamed. "They have something like a 98 percent pass rate on their boards, and it's just astounding."

The growth of Lane's nursing program has also led to greater interest from local health organizations including PeaceHealth, the largest employer in Lane County.

"That's what we want, we want to work with business and industry," Hamilton said. "So, it could be a welding program, we want people who hire welders to say, 'How can we help you?"

As Lane faces declining enrollment – Winter term saw 8,195 credit students enrolled, down from 8,804 during Fall term – Hamilton knows that she will have to make some adjustments in the coming years.

"You don't come in and just try to balance a budget," Hamilton explained. "What you do is try to come in and look at the whole organization and look for, I use the term 'efficiencies.' You have to step back and think, 'maybe we could do things better."

Though the college has faced program cuts in the past year, those were initiated by the Board of Education and former President Spilde. Thus far, President Hamilton has not



LCC President Margaret Hamilton holds up a caricature of her mother graduating from college at the age of 60. Hamilton's mother serves as an inspiration to her on the value of continuing education and the importance of community colleges.

made any major decisions regarding the operation of the college, though she did admit that she's looking into some of the most pressing issues facing Lane in the coming years.

"There are better ways to do everything, but that doesn't mean you have to come in and change things for the sake of change," Hamilton said. "But when I see us running continuously at a deficit and continuously watching enrollments go down, something's wrong. It's going to take some analysis to figure out why."

Hamilton did hold high praise for several LCC programs. She lauded "one of the most vibrant international programs" as an example of departments on the way up at the college, and shone a light on the job-training programs available to students.

"You have to go with what you know, do with what you do best," Hamilton said. "We're very good at healthcare, we're very good at technology and we're very good at home manufacturing."

Though President Hamilton has decades of experience in college administration, a small anecdote revealed a personal connection to the community college experience. She pulled out a black-ink caricature of her mother in full cap-and-gown and told the story of her mother's journey to earn a college degree at age 60. Their entire extended family was there to watch the matriarch walk across that stage; that image has been burned into Hamilton's mind ever since.

"This is what keeps me going, this and a thousand other stories."

NEWS

Class size negotiations fail

Student/Teacher ratio a growing issue in K-12 schools

CHARLENE VENETTE REPORTER

In the 2018 legislative session that ended Saturday, Mar. 3, law-makers voted down a bill that would have added class size to contract negotiations for teachers. According to the staff summary on the State Legislature website, it was argued that the bill does not make any changes to the State School Fund nor does it adjust the distribution formula used to calculate funds provided to school districts for K-12.

On Feb. 27, the issue of class size reduction moved ahead in the House of Representatives. The House reviewed the proposal to add class size to contract negotiations between teachers and school districts.

Under the proposal, bargaining negotiations during contract renewals would be required to cover class sizes along with benefits like pay. Currently, teachers can ask for changes in class sizes, but often at the expense of asking for other benefits. This bill would have allowed for collective bargaining to include both class size and benefits.

The issue of class size is an old one, with statistics showing that as far back as 1955, there were issues with student-to-teacher ratios. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average student-to-teacher ratio has gone down nationwide. In 1955, the average ratio was 26.9 students per teacher. The national average has since gone down to 16.1 students per teacher as of 2017. Oregon, however, is much higher than the national average, with 21.9 students per teacher, according to a 2015 report by the NCES.

There are a few concerns associated with reducing class size. At the top of the list is the cost of instruction with teachers' salaries and benefits being the most expensive element of a school budget. Another concern is space, as many schools do not have the room to add additional classrooms.

Randy Schild, superintendent of Tillamook School District, told lawmakers at the Feb. hearing that "Small districts without space to add classrooms would still end up increasing class sizes, and would likely end up choosing to pay teachers more in exchange for managing larger classes," according to an article by the Associated Press.

In regard to concerns over the cost of education, Allison Kangail, a fourth-grade teacher at Laurel Elementary in Junction City, said, "I think schools and education are not made a priority in our state and also our country. It needs to be a larger priority. Everything stems from education, and I think students, teachers and schools aren't given the funds and resources that they desperately need."

Kangail added that class size is very important to her and her peers.

"I have had classes at my last school in Virginia as small as 19 students and as large as 23 students. In Oregon, I haven't had a class size smaller than 25 and my largest was 29. It has a huge impact on my students," Kangail said.

Cesar Chavez, one of the top ranking schools in Eugene, according to SchoolDigger. com, a school ranking website, has one of the lowest student to teacher ratios in the area with an average of 18.7 students per classroom.

Haley Marsteiner, a mother of a first grader at Cesar Chavez, feels that the teachers do a good job of monitoring students. "When Eli misbehaves they have him call me from

school to tell me what he did. If he mistreats his iPad they send home a note for him to write down his goals for taking better care of it. Of course, they do have volunteer mothers in the class, which helps," Marsteiner said.

Jordanna McDowell, a resident of Springfield who has a son in Springfield Elementary, volunteers regularly in her son's class because it is so big. She feels that it will benefit her son in the future and is hoping that it will also help other students.

The 1985 study conducted by four Tennessee State Universities is one of the most comprehensive studies done on this subject. Termed Project STAR (Student-Teacher Achievement Ratio), it spanned a four-year period in which results obtained in kindergarten, first, second and third-grade classrooms of 13 to 17 pupils were compared with those observed in classrooms of 22 to 25 pupils. In the larger classrooms studied, the teacher was assisted by a paid aid.

At the end of the four-year study, it was determined that the children who were originally enrolled in smaller classes continued to perform better than their peers who had started out in larger ones. Project Challenge, a part of this same study, observed the 17 economically poorest school districts. They were given small classes in kindergarten, first, second and third grades. These districts improved their end-of-year standing in rank among the 139 districts from well below average to above average in reading and mathematics, according to Frederick Mosteller, Ph.D., professor emeritus of mathematical statistics at Harvard University.

If class size does not decrease, some parents and teachers feel that there will be more issues in the future.

"I see higher rates of teachers getting burnt out or leaving, increased behavior issues, lower graduation rate and decreased performance in the classroom. It's going to be difficult for teachers to really do their job well and to give students the education that they deserve," Kangail said.

There is no immediate resolution to this issue. t is still active and will most likely be voted on by the Oregon Senate in 2019. This bill's progress can be followed on the Oregon State Legislature website.

Oregon Average



National Average

16.1 students per teacher

illustration by Cat Frink / production director

Tuition transparency bill passed



New student board to vote on tuition increases

MCKENZY GAUSNELL REPORTER

On Mar. 3, the Student Voice and Transparency Act was passed by the Oregon House of Representatives for the second time and now awaits to be signed by Governor Kate Brown.

If passed, this bill will ensure that the student bodies of public universities are able to weigh in on tuition pricing. For students struggling to pay tuition, this bill could ease frustration from increasing tuition trends at colleges nationwide.

"Why wouldn't a student want to know and have a say in the thousands of dollars they pay for their education?" Lane Community College student Ally Backes said. "A student should see what their money is going toward."

Even though House Bill 4141 doesn't apply to LCC because it is not a public university, many LCC students will later attend the University of Oregon, Oregon State University and other state universities. The bill will create new requirements for public universities to be able to increase tuition fees.

HB 4141 requires that the board be represented by a diverse range of individuals on campus. Students will receive direct representation by holding four of the eight spots on the Tuition Advisory Council. According to the bill, universities are required to have two students representing the student government and two students representing historically underserved students of the university.

On top of forming a council, the bill establishes limitations and restrictions on increasing tuition. Universities have to follow a detailed process in order to increase tuition over three percent and are not allowed to increase tuition more than five percent without providing mandatory material

to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for approval.

Even though Bill 4141 doesn't affect community colleges, LCC has a similar way of setting tuition.

"In addition to the college-wide discussions referenced in board policy, students are encouraged to provide comment during Board of Education Meetings, which occur on the second Thursday of each month," Zachary Evans, Budget and Finance Analyst at Lane, said. "The College Council Budget Development Subcommittee reserves two voting positions for Lane students, and meetings are open to all. This subcommittee, comprised of student, staff, faculty, and administrative representatives, is tasked with developing consensus budget-balancing proposals to include tuition and fee rates."

HB 4141 could change tuition pricing in all Oregon public universities and get students directly involved in the decisions if the bill is approved and signed. The bill could have a huge impact on college students by giving them a larger voice in their education. With the bill being unanimously passed by the senate and passed twice in the House, the only thing keeping the tuition transparency bill from being official is Governor Brown's signature.

BSU continues dialogue

The Bam Slam event seeks to maintain vigilance

JEFFERY K. OSBORNS AND STERLING GONZALEZ EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PHOTOJOURNALIST

Black and gold streamers accompanied by matching balloons lined the Longhouse at Lane Community College for the Black Student Union's Bam Slam event on Mar. 2. Over 40 community members, including LCC students and faculty, attended the event that celebrated Black arts and music and brought awareness to racial discrimination towards America's Black community.

The event included multiple speakers, live music and plenty of food. Brisket, macaroni and cheese, collard greens and chicken were catered by Tony's BBQ. Hawaiian Punch, both Fruit Juicy Red and Lemon Berry Squeeze, accompanied the food.

BSU Vice President Jeremy Thomas started the event by welcoming and thanking all attendees and spotlighted all of the efforts it took to organize Bam Slam. From the BSU officers who helped set up and organize the event to the attendees, many of whom were strangers to the BSU, Thomas took time to express gratitude for their help and

Thomas was forced to step into the lead position as host of the event, as the BSU President Amani Baxter was in New York attending an interview for admission to West Point Academy.

Ruth Koenig, Thomas' next door neighbor, was the first speaker of the evening, sharing stories of her experience with the Freedom Summer Project in the 1960s. Koenig was a volunteer who campaigned for African-Americans' right to vote in Mississippi.

"Black folks have been agitating, working, struggling, being murdered forever since they've been put in this country," Koenig said. "They resisted many different times in many different ways - they started to have this courage to move forward."

Eric Richardson, president of Lane County NAACP, was the second speaker. After his speech, where he spoke of how the Black community needs young leaders to stand up and join the older generation in spreading the awareness of the unjust condition in their communities, Richardson performed three songs on his double bass.

"I'm glad to be at this beautiful event, to help start a conversation in your generation about racial discrimination and police brutality that happens in our country today against Black people," Thomas said.

The venue featured 30 Black Lives Matters posters on presentation boards placed around the tables.

According to The Washington Post, 75 unarmed members of the Black community have been killed by police since 2015, including the recent killing of veteran Arther McAfee Jr., who was shot twice in the chest while being detained on the ground on Jan. 20 in Longview, TX.

"We must keep the conversation going. Awareness is how we can fix the issue of police brutality in the Black community," Thomas said. "We need to resist anything that distracts us from the narrative."

BSU plans to organize an African Night event, in collaboration with the University of Oregon's BSU during spring term. Similar to the Bam Slam, African Night would focus on music and art from local Black students and community members. BSU aims to have the event at UO's Erb Memorial Union.



Eric Richardson, President of the NAACP in Eugene, serenades the audience with jazz from his bass cello. Richardson gave a speech on police brutality, racial inequality and the need for youth to be active around the issue of racial equality.



Ruth Koenig speaks at the Bam Slam sharing her activism stories from her life. Koenig was an active volunteer with the Freedom Summer, also known as the Mississippi Summer project, which was launched in 1964 to help African Americans register to vote.



Eric Richardson, president of Lane County NAACP, gave a speech urging young leaders in the Black community to stand up and join the older generation in spreading the awareness of the unjust condition in their communities.

The Complete Winners List

The Shape of Water (WINNER)

Best Picture

Best Director Guillermo del Toro

Best Actress Frances McDormand

Best Actor

Gary Oldman Darkest Hour

Allison Janney I, Tonya

Best Supporting Actress

Best Supporting Actor

Sam Rockwell, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (WINNER)

Best Original Screenplay

Get Out (Jordan Peele) (WINNER)

Best Adapted Screenplay

Call Me by Your Name

Blade Runner 2049

Best Visual Effects

Blade Runner 2049

Best Film Editing

Dunkirk (Lee Smith) (WINNER)

Best Production Design

The Shape of Water (WINNER)

Best Cinematography

NAVE

Conservation is for the birds



illustration by Rachel Unger / graphic designe

REPORTER



On Friday, Feb. 9, Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commission voted in favor of reclassifying the marbled murrelet, a small, brown-spotted seabird that lives along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to central California, as an endangered species under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. The decision marks the start of a recovery plan

for the marbled murrelet.

541-632-8800

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Bob Sallinger, the conservation director of the Audubon Society of Portland, said that the non-profit organization had played a major role in petitioning for Oregon to list the marbled murrelet as state-endangered during the late-80s and early-90s.

"Washington and California have recently recognized that the marbled murrelet is endangered," he said. "Oregon was last to follow suit."

as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1992 and the survival guidelines will take place in the Commission meeting

coastal waters, but nests and raises its young in unfragmented,

Although the seabird's marine habitat has also been harmed in recent years due to overfishing, oil spills and changing oceanographic conditions from climate change, the petition explains, the high rates of logging in Oregon over the past 150 years has been an especially significant factor driving the marbled murrelet toward extinction, the petition states. The petition adds that logging has left Oregon with only a small percentage of forests fit for marbled murrelet to live and breed in.

"Oregon has done a really dismal job with protecting older forests that are under jurisdiction and private timberlands," Sallinger said. "When we're looking at science literature, there's really no question that the primary concern right now is how we're continuing to log these forests on state and private lands."

If steps are not taken immediately to allow the bird as well as logged areas to recover, Sallinger added, it is likely that the marbled murrelet will go extinct within the next 80 years.

In Sept. of 2017, the OFWC drafted a status report stating that factors like timber harvests and fires, combined with the "narrow habitat requirements and limited geographic distribution" of the bird have destroyed much of its habitat. From 1993 to 2012, there has been a net loss of 78,600 acres of Oregonian forests fit for murrelet habitat. As a result, nesting success for the bird has been about only 36 percent and the ratio of young to old murrelets has been declining.

On its website, the OFWC explains that uplisting the marbled murrelet from threatened to endangered will "[a]ffect some lands owned, managed, and leased by state agencies but will have no direct impacts on private landowners."

In addition, the OFWC staff will begin working on "guidelines for state-owned, managed, and leased funds" to protect the marbled murrelet species. The rulemaking process to adopt these

The marbled murrelet is officially considered endangered in Oregon

SABRINA PICCOLO



According to its website, Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commission aims "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats." The OFWC commissioners met in Portland and voted 4-2 to support a proposal made in June of 2016 by six environmental groups: the Cascadia Wildlands, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Coast Range Forest Watch, the Oregon Wild, the Audubon Society of Portland and the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The petition states that the marbled murrelet, which was listed

Oregon Endangered Species Act in 1995, forages and feeds in this coming June. PACIFIC UNIVERSITY Bachelor of Education Become a teacher, leader and advocate for students. Earn your degree at the Pacific University Eugene Campus. INQUIRE TODAY



Set Decoration: Shane Vieau and **Best Costume Design** Phantom Thread (Mark Bridges) **Best Makeup & Hairstyling** Darkest Hour Kazuhiro Tsuji **Best Sound Mixing** Dunkirk Mark Weingarten, Gregg **Best Sound Editing** Dunkirk Richard King and What did you think

about the oscars?

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The guns remain the same



Fill classes with thoughtful dialogue, not firearms

> **DONNY MORRISON** COLUMNIST

Imagine walking into a classroom as a kid and being eye level with a holster. The smiling face of Mr. or Ms. Whoever takes on new meaning. Teachers begin to feel respect like they've never felt before. Except it isn't respect. It's fear. It's not that teachers can't be trusted with guns; humans can't be trusted with guns. Furthermore, humans with some form of authority definitely can't be trusted with guns.

On Feb. 14, 19-year-old Nikolas Jacob Cruz, armed with an AR-15 he purchased legally a year earlier, took an Uber to Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. He walked into Building 12, a three-story structure that typically holds up to 900 students and 30 teachers, and pulled the fire alarm. As students and faculty exited their rooms, he raised his Smith & Wesson M&P 15 and fired on his former students and teachers, killing 17 people and injuring 14 others, making this the third deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

In 2015, the sixth deadliest shooting in U.S. history occurred about 70 miles south of Eugene, at a community college not unlike our own, in Roseburg, Oregon. All weapons used in that attack had also been purchased legally.

It's now over three weeks since the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida. The emotional outrage from all political spectrums is only now beginning to dissipate to the point where productive conversations can take place. Except, historically, this is where the conversation usually ends. We begin to forget about the grainy videos of students being evacuated from schools; the images of crying classmates mourning their fallen peers. The barrage of "I'm safe" tweets and the tearful statements of grief-stricken parents. The nightly debates on gun control quietly leave the news, having only managed to bring us further from a logical solution.

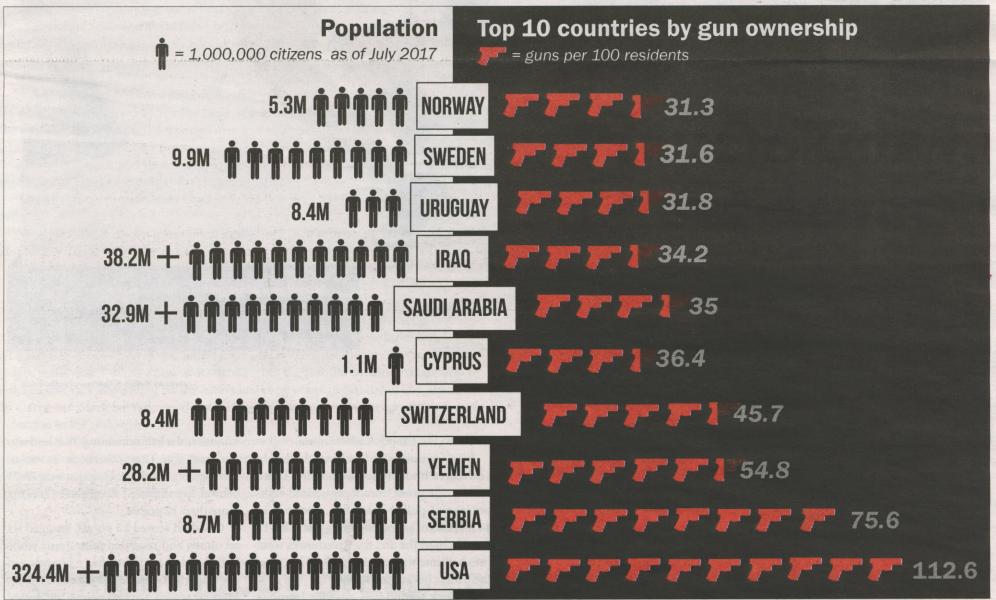
It's become one of those issues where the line has already been drawn. Debate becomes utterly superfluous when both sides have their minds made up. If you're still a Trump supporter in 2018, you're probably always going to be a Trump supporter. If you still believe that giving people more guns is the answer, amid all the evidence that points to the contrary, then you probably will forever until an affable gym teacher breaks up a fight between your son and another student by shooting first and asking questions later.

This polarization is put under a magnifying glass every time we experience another tragedy. The politicized nature of gun control debates tends to crop out the smaller events in favor of the bigger picture. This has the ability to turn attention away from singular incidents, making it tougher to identify where the actual problem rests. It's true, no one mass shooting is the same, but there does seem to be a commonality present: the types of weapons used.

Nowhere else on the planet do we see the same amount of mass shootings. According to The American Journal of Medicine, gun deaths are 25.2 percent higher in the U.S. than in any other high-income country. This isn't because we're the only nation that doesn't have gun-toting teachers. It's because we're the only country with such lax gun laws. This isn't because we're the only nation with individuals suffering from mental health issues. Mental health issues are a global problem. School shootings are a U.S. problem. The Academy For Critical Incident Analysis at John Jay College collected data comparing school shooting incidents from 36 countries, spanning 250 years. They found that the number of such incidents in the U.S. was only one less than all 36 countries combined. The only difference between us and the rest of the world is our access to the type of weapons typically used in these uniquely American mass shootings.

Perhaps this is simply the cost of doing business. In order to flex our Second Amendment rights, kids have to die. It's a necessary evil in order for individuals to feel safe in this country. This strikes me as ironic because these guns are precisely the reason kids and educators don't feel safe in the first place.

As students, we have an obligation to keep the conversation going. We must not forget how we felt in the moments directly following an attack. Reliving the debates after a tragedy such as Parkland can be exhausting and uncomfortable, but through this discomfort will come change if we can manage to engage in a dialogue that doesn't patronize the opposing side. The solution exists within the conversation. The hard part is getting there without wanting to shoot each other.



Gun statistics: courtesy of www.smallarmssurvey.org

Population statistics: courtesy of www.worldometers.info

illustration by Douglas Gaines / graphic designe



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WEDNESDAY

SUNDAY March 14

LANE 8 Bizio

March 18

FUTURISTIC IshDARR ScribeCash FRIDAY

March 23

DECLAN MCKENNA Chappell Roan

WEDNESDAY

March 28

March 29

BATHS

No Joy Sasami Ashworth EPIC BEARD MEN

THURSDAY

Sage Francis & B. Dolan Sammy Warm Hands

SPORTS

Titans drop River Hawks



Lane ends Umpqua's 27-game winning streak

NOAH NOTEBOOM REPORTER

In the final game for Lane's sophomores, the Titans hosted the first-place Umpqua Riverhawks. The Riverhawks

had not lost a game before Wednesday, winning 27 in a row. But the longest winning streak in the NWAC came to an end when Lane defeated Umpqua by a score of 86-79.

"It feels wonderful; we played hard tonight and I think it showed," Lane head coach Greg Sheley said after his team handed Umpqua their first loss of the year.

The Titans controlled the tip but it was Umpqua who opened the scoring. Lane point guard Amber Lease was the first Titan to score when she made her first and only 3-pointer of the evening. In the first quarter, both teams struggled shooting from behind the arc. Umpqua failed to make any of their three attempts, and Lane converted just one of their six shots.

Taeli Carrillo was the first sub off the bench for Lane. Carrillo finished with 13 points, five steals and four rebounds. At the end of the first quarter, it was Umpqua who held a slim 17-15 lead.

In a decisive second quarter, the Titans outscored the Riverhawks 25-13 and went into halftime with a 40-30 lead. Carrillo scored 11 of her 13 points in the second quarter.

Early in the second half, Lease passed up court to Megan Stills who hit a cutting Sarah Hall for her second basket. Hall scored the Titans' first six points of the third quarter before Rachel Fielder scored a layup and gave Lane a 13-point advantage.

Despite Umpqua grabbing 21 more rebounds than Lane, the Titans found other ways to even the playing field. Lane had only 14 turnovers while the Riverhawks had more than double with 32. The Titans scored 36 points off of those Umpqua turnovers.

After a 3-pointer from Umpqua's Taylor Stricklin, the Titans were up by just seven heading into the final quarter.

The Riverhawks cut a 14-point Titan lead to just two with eight minutes remaining, but the Titans managed to stay ahead of the Riverhawks. A steal and fast-break finish by Lease seemed to push the Titan lead out of comeback range for Umpqua. Lease put the finishing touches on an 86-79 victory when she made her last two free throws on Titan Court.

Lease scored 13 points, dishing out five assists to go along with three steals. Hall scored 21 points and pulled down four rebounds while Sierra Carrier added 17 points and four rebounds.

The Titans extended their winning streak to eight after they defeated the Mt. Hood St. Bernards in Gresham on Mar. 3. This was their final regular season game before they face off against Skagit Valley in the first round of the NWAC Playoffs on Thurs. Mar. 8 in Everett, Washington.

"They did a great job at bouncing back after a rough start to the year," Sheley said on the play of his sophomores this year. "But man, they are playing really well right now."



photo by Nathan S. Calkins / photojournalist

Titans end season

on skid

NOAH NOTEBOOM

Patrick Goddard, Kylor Kelley and Tayler Marteliz played their final home game for Lane as they welcomed Umpqua Community College on Feb. 28. Umpqua came to Eugene on a three-game losing streak while Lane had lost four in a row. Umpqua is currently in a tie with Chemeketa and still fighting for the fourth and final playoff spot in the Southern Region. They came one game closer to that reality when they took down the Titans 78-71 Wednesday night.

Despite Kelley winning the tip-off, the Riverhawks were the first on the scoreboard.

Titans fall to Riverhawks on Sophomore Night

But the Titans didn't let that deter them, as they responded with a 10-0 run featuring four different Lane scorers. Kelley scored his first bucket on an alley-oop pass from fellow sophomore Marteliz who finished with four assists.

A few possessions later, Kelley found himself in the post with a defensive mismatch and scored a smooth right-handed hook shot. Kelley finished the half with eight points and three blocks.

With just seven minutes left in the first half, Umpqua's David Vasquez tied the score at 20. That basket was part of a 16-2 Riverhawk scoring run that prompted Lane head coach Bruce Chavka to call timeout and curb the Umpqua momentum.

Lane forward Mike Swadberg checked in and scored his first shot to bring the Titans within one point. Swadberg scored eight points and pulled down five rebounds in 14 minutes of action. Shooting just 1-for-12 from behind the arc, the Riverhawks went into halftime with a measly 38-32 lead and the Titans hot on their trail.

A quick second half-start for Umpqua gave them a 10-point lead after just one minute of play. Just as they had connected in the first half, Marteliz found Kelley again for an alley-oop dunk, which energized the Lane crowd. Next trip down the court, Keiron Goodwin sunk his first 3-pointer to cut the Riverhawks lead to single digits with 14 minutes remaining in the Titans' final home game.

As Umpqua slowly increased their lead, the Titans decided to implement a fullcourt zone defense to try to throw off the Riverhawk offense. It was successful as Lane pulled within seven, but with just a minute and a half remaining, that lead was too great. The Titan comeback, as well as their season, fell short. Umpqua won 78-71 behind five different Riverhawks scoring more than 12 points.

Goddard scored 13 points, snagged six rebounds and recorded four assists while Kelley added 14 points, five rebounds and five blocks in their final home game as Titans. Marteliz scored just two points, but dished out four assists and had four steals on the defensive end.

Chavka highly praised his sophomore guard Goddard, saying he had come a long way in his three years at Lane.

"Pat has done a great job of proving himself, and he can shoot lights out. He's a success story. I'm super proud of him," Chavka said after the game.

Because they did not qualify for the upcoming NWAC tournament in Everett, Washington., the Titans played their final game of the season on Sat. Mar. 3 when they lost to Mt. Hood 85-94 in Clackamas.