

Cougie rallies against
lack of school spirit

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Local heavy metal
band tears up stage

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What goes next, our lunch money?

College loses even more funding for the coming years due to government cuts

By **Brian Baldwin**
News Editor

On Feb. 1 Governor John Kitzhaber released his recommended state budget plan and Clackamas Community College will likely lose \$8 million over the next two years. According to Courtney Wilton, vice president of college services, this is due to the state decreasing the amount of state support per enrolled student for Oregon community colleges and increasing college expenses, including the Public Employees Retirement System. Now the college is looking for ways to recover from this deficit.

There are currently three options that the school is looking at for filling this gap. The first is to explore ways to reduce funding, whether it is cutting classes or material. Several deans have asked their departments to suggest ways that they can reduce their budget.

"We're going to look for efficiencies and look out for ways to reduce our budget as painlessly as possible and that's part of what you're seeing with these requests," said Wilton. "That's what we're in the middle of now, gathering those ideas from staff."

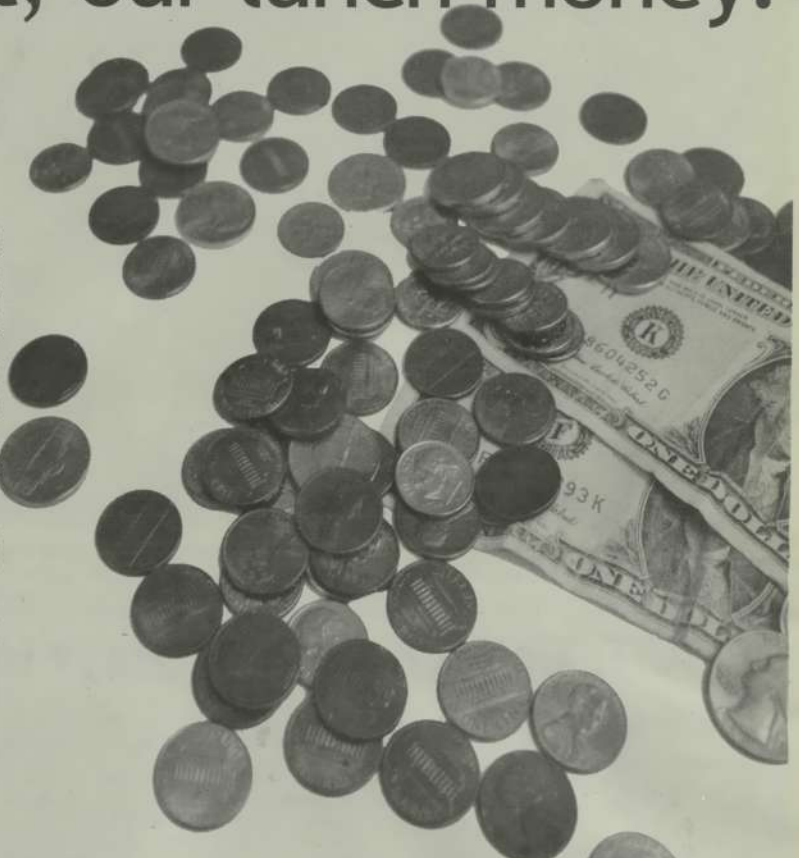
Wilton works directly with the Business Office, Facilities and Operations, Human Resources and the Information Technology departments and has received suggestions from those areas but would not go into specifics of what will or is being considered to be cut in these proposals.

"Ultimately, it's the Board (of Education) that approves our budget. But until they are there, it doesn't serve any purpose to talk about potential cuts. It makes people nervous and you don't want to do that until you're certain that you're going to have to do certain things," said Wilton.

One class that is being looked at to be cut is the theater appreciation class, which currently has a low enrollment rate, according to Dean of Arts and Sciences Bill Briare.

"The main (suggestion) is looking at reducing the number of classes offered," said Briare. "We kind of do this all the time, looking at classes and enrollments. Sometimes we have to stop a class before it runs and sometimes we'll run it and cancel it the first day."

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Black History Month; a time for all Americans to look back

By **Joshua Baird**
Arts & Culture Editor

Have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.'

These unforgettable words were spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Aug. 28, 1963, and since then the United States and the world as a whole have moved forward by leaps and bounds to that great prophecy that King spoke of.

February is Black History Month, a time to look back at where our country has been, not just as a black, white, Asian or Latino, but as a whole. It's a time to see what strides we have made as a nation, a community, or a family.

There has been more than 200 years since the foundation for the country was laid down by our forefathers, and since then we have seen the world on the planet move to our shores to seek what so many of us were granted.

It is in this time that at this point in our history we see people making the violent statements on bathroom walls or hide behind computer monitors "flaming" other people in an age that is supposed to be enlightened?

Why do we think people have low self-confidence, so they turn to violence?" said Georgia Garza, a returning CCC student. "I think racism will always be around because certain people won't change. That is why Black History Month is so important; it shows those people who are racist will open their eyes."

How do we as a society have to deal with deficiencies in intelligence and the coverage of ignorance," said Alan Wone, a Clackamas Community College student. "As sure as those conditions are

timeless ailments that prevail without cure, racism and the crimes stemming from it will go on. The mind has to change in order for the world to change and right now, you can reference Haiti and New Orleans to measure this truth."

Black History Month is not a time to focus on the negative aspects of history, but to focus on the positives. Wone takes the time to remember his heritage often, creating art from his emotions surrounding the history of his culture. He created a video called "Blaque Sistory" about the trials and advancements that black women have made throughout history, set to poetry he wrote himself.

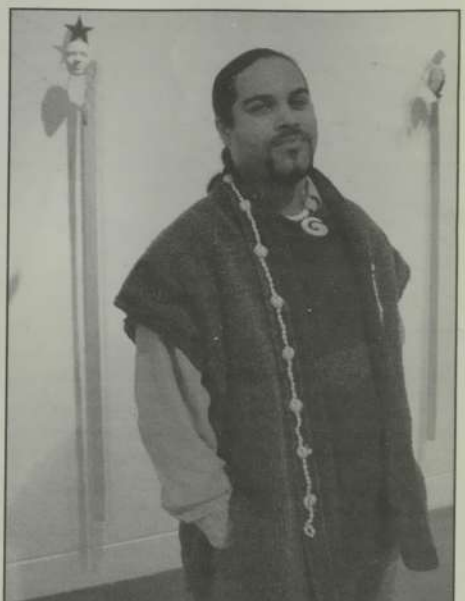
The video demands and deserves your attention through the many subtle transitions that change the flow of the poem itself.

"(Black History Month) is important because it not only educates African American people of their past, but also informs us, meaning all people. Too long have we ignored parts of history," said Paul Fernandez, a visitor at CCC.

For many, the reason for pride in their heritage is obvious, though most people fail to understand each other's reasoning. Black History Month also helps others to learn about the cultural relevance of other groups outside of their own.

"Preserving the African oral tradition by combining sound, movement, imagery and storytelling, I have written poetry for half of my life and now realize that the other half I was poetry unexpressed," said Wone. "Soul is a companion of the heart and the quality of heart and soul derives from the impact of pleasure and pain one incurs over a lifetime, no matter how long or short the life."

Black History Month is important for many reasons; the most important reason is definitely that black history is everyone's history, whether you are black, white or anything else.



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