

# The Collegian

## Protesters gather at Oregon State Capitol against Trump's mass-deportation policies

Robin Linares • News Editor • Feb. 15

Approximately 100 protesters peacefully gathered at the State Capitol State Park on Saturday, Feb. 8 in protest of mass-deportation policies occurring under Trump's second administration.

This was one of several demonstrations in Salem this past month, one of which included a protest at the Salem capitol on Feb. 5. The Feb. 5 protest was united against the implementation of Project 2025, and was part of a nationwide demonstration at state capitals. Another protest, held on Feb. 1, was in support of Mexican immigrants in Salem.

Since the start of Trump's second term, there have been at least 10 executive orders specifically targeting immigration, that, according to Pro-Publica, restored old Trump-era policies and added additional policies. Additionally, a day after Trump's inauguration, the Department of Homeland Security reversed earlier regulations to allow ICE to raid schools and churches, areas that were previously off limits.

Oregon remains a sanctuary state, meaning that state and local law enforcement are not allowed to assist in immigration raids. However, fears still remain about the impacts of these anti-immigration laws among Oregonians.

Concerns regarding anti-immigration, along with Trump's attacks on other minority communities, hit close to home for one protester and was a driving motivation for their participation in the event. "One of the reasons why I'm protesting is protesting against deportation, protesting against the fact that they're trying to take away trans students' rights, which is not acceptable. I'm protesting for Mexican and Asian immigrants because my whole family contains immigrants," said Nox, a protester who only felt comfortable giving their first name to *The Collegian*. "Everything that is going on is affecting either me or my family, so I'm speaking out against it to try and change things as much as I can."

Nox, along with other protesters, displayed posters including phrases like "Don't be an ICE-hole," "Immigration built this nation" and "Stand with immigrants." Many shouted chants and cheered at the honks of support from cars driving along Center Street. Two counter-protestors also briefly appeared at the event with



Protesters hold posters and flags along Center St. NE across from State Capitol State Park, on Feb. 8, 2025. The Oregon State Capitol stands in the background.

Photo by KEENAN YOSHIZAWA

MAGA gear and a flag with an image of Trump after his assassination attempt.

However, even with the presence of counter-protesters and a short but intense bit of rain in the mid-afternoon, many remained in high spirits, as protester Jazz Kabrinski noted. "I was late to the show, which turned out to be good because a whole bunch of people left because they got soaked by rain, so it was like sending reinforcements," Kabrinski said. "Since I've been here, it's been growing again and it's pretty steady, and while this is much smaller than the protest that was here on the fifth, I still love to see this much activity from people."

One Salem-based organization, Latinos Unidos Siempre (LUS), also showed up at the protest and provided an additional perspective for how to support immigrant youth in

Salem. LUS, an organization that focuses on youth leadership and grassroots activism, were promoting their petition to remove Yondr pouches from the Salem-Keizer school district. The petition claimed that Yondr pouches, which are lockable pouches students are required to keep their phones in throughout the school day, block communication between immigrant families and students, which can increase anxiety amidst increased risk of deportation with new federal policies.

Sandra Hernández, the director of LUS, elaborated on the petition's goal, calling for the district to "reinvest that money into programs that would support immigrant students if their families were to suffer a deportation or detention."

Some Willamette University students also demonstrated support

during the protest, with many urging the university to ensure there are protections in place for students. "I think that immigrant rights are fundamental, and I think that Willamette themselves should be doing everything in their power to protect their immigrant and undocumented students," said Molly McCullagh ('27). Willamette's Office of Institutional Equity provides resources and additional support for DACA and undocumented students on campus.

Ultimately, the themes of community-building and developing ways to support and protect local communities were expressed by several protesters at the event. "The solidarity matters," Kabrinski noted. "It's the only way we're gonna get through this, caring about each other and sharing the resources that we have."

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# Sexual misconduct, discrimination protections at Willamette to remain despite reversal of Biden-era Title IX

Alan Cohen • Staff Writer • Feb. 8

On Jan. 9, 2025, a federal court reversed Biden-era changes to Title IX policy on matters of sexual misconduct and discrimination. Until further notice from the Department of Education, universities will have to abide by 2020 Trump-era regulations, which include fewer protections for victims and a reduced jurisdiction for reporting. However, the reversal will have limited impact on Willamette students as they are already protected by university policy.

Title IX is a federal statute established in 1972 to prevent sex discrimination in education, which all public and most private institutions have to abide by. Under this statute, schools cannot discriminate based on sex in any educational program or activity that receives federal funding, including admissions, recruitment, financial aid, academics and athletics. Universities must also provide resources for preventing and addressing misconduct and investigate any complaints in a reasonable and timely manner.

In 2024, the Biden administration released new Title IX rules that expanded the actions that schools must take to address sexual misconduct. For instance, Title IX started applying to incidents between students off-campus — and even abroad — while the previous Trump-era Title IX applied almost exclusively to on-campus incidents.

Under the Biden-era policy, any former student could file Title IX complaints of incidents that took place during their time in school,

while before, the complainant had to still be enrolled at the time of the complaint. Other changes included a “prompt and effective” school response, mandatory training for staff, and discrimination prevention strategies, all of which were not part of prior Trump-era Title IX regulations.

Apart from sexual misconduct, Title IX also protects pregnant, parenting and LGBTQ+ students from discrimination. The 2024 changes expanded the meaning of discrimination to include harmful stereotypes and discrimination against intersex communities and introduced protections for transgender individuals to participate in academic and athletic activities consistent with their gender identity, most of which are no longer in place due to President Trump’s recent executive order.

A judge ruled on Jan. 9 that Biden’s Title IX policies are invalid in a lawsuit brought by multiple states against the Department of Education. The reversal will make all institutions revert to previous Trump-era regulations, which are less protective of victims of sexual misconduct and LGBTQ+ discrimination. However, they do not limit schools’ power to investigate misconduct or provide resources, as institutions can incorporate many of the previous protections into university policy.

“All the things that didn’t apply to Title IX, [Willamette] captured in our sexual misconduct policy,” said Vice President for Student Affairs Lisa Landreman. This includes LGBTQ+ discrimination, she said.

“It sounds awful that the federal government would narrow this, but if a student filed a complaint [the university] would still investigate because we’ll just cover it under our own policy,” Landreman said.

Although Willamette will continue to use the preponderance of evidence test, other campuses might go back to using higher standards of evidence such as the clear and convincing test. Higher standards of evidence may deter some victims from reporting, Landreman said.

Public universities must not only comply with federal policy — such as Title IX — but also state policy. How public schools address sexual misconduct may therefore vary between “blue” and “red” states.

“That’s the benefit of being a private institution. It doesn’t impact us the same way,” Landreman said.

K-12 institutions are also impacted by the reversal of Title IX, but just like Willamette, individual schools and districts may have their own policies that go beyond those legally mandated.



The 2024 Title IX Policy being ripped apart.  
Art by ELLIE STARR

“Even though we have workarounds, to have that kind of messaging is detrimental,” Landreman said. “It’s a difficult thing to hear from your federal government.”

More information about Title IX and sexual misconduct policies at Willamette can be found here. Students can contact Lisa Landreman at [llandreman@willamette.edu](mailto:llandreman@willamette.edu) or Title IX coordinator Amanda Hanincik at [ahanincik@willamette.edu](mailto:ahanincik@willamette.edu) with any questions.

# Willamette prepares for potential upcoming drop in enrollment following nationwide demographic cliff

Amelia Hare • Staff Writer • Jan. 29

Like many colleges across the country, Willamette University is preparing for a shift in the number of incoming enrolled undergraduate students, commonly referred to as a “demographic cliff.”

According to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), the demographic cliff began due to low birth rates in 2007-2008 during the Great Recession. From 2007 to 2009, birth rates dropped approximately 4%, according to data from the Centers of Dis-

ease Control and Prevention (CDC), presumably due to parental fears over having children because of economic uncertainty.

These birth rate factors have combined with a shift in how college degrees are viewed. In 2023, a Pew Research survey showed only 22% of adults believe college is “worth it.” Constant shifts in the economy can also influence how many families can afford to send a child to university. As a result of these influences, many higher educational institutions are preparing for a lower number of enrolled students beginning this fall 2025 semester through 2041. Along with that, there are fears of smaller liberal arts universities being more at risk for the impact of lower enrollment.

According to university President Stephen Thorsett, Willamette is “remaining adaptable” to this change and has steps in place to approach this potential issue. This demographic change, Thorsett said, should be considered a “broader demographic trend that affected all parts of society.” The decrease in enrolled un-

dergraduate students has been materializing since 2007, and colleges have been preparing. “We aren’t sort of at the mercy of any demographics when we think of how to shape the university,” Thorsett asserted.

Sue Corner, dean of undergraduate enrollment, noted, “The demographic cliff has been a big conversation, not just at Willamette, but everywhere.” It is not an unforeseen issue, but the school year is approaching in which universities are expected to see the impact.

Thorsett claimed that Willamette is expecting approximately 3,000 students across all programs in the coming year and stated that the demographic cliff can be more accurately described as “a slow flattening first and then a slow decline.”

Corner emphasized that the upcoming demographic cliff itself “is not something within [Willamette’s] control.” Instead, she and others involved with student recruitment and enrollment are focused on continuing existing practices of recruitment and communication to college-aged students. “That is what I can control and can be focused on, regardless of how many students are out there,” Corner explained.

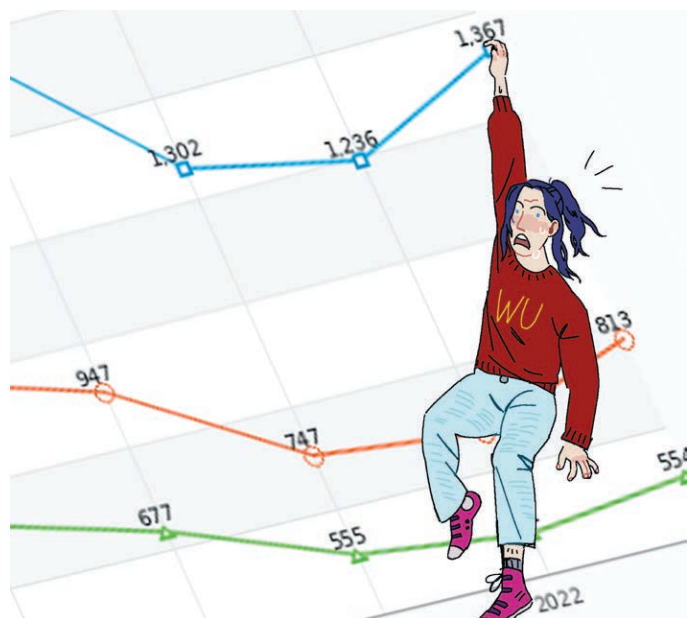
Another concern of this downward trend is the possibility of fluctuating student tuition fees. Both Thorsett and Corner made clear that it would be unlikely for students to experience significant tuition cost increases. “I don’t see the changing demographics as something that will

affect student tuition,” said Corner. Tuition is decided yearly by the board of trustees.

With a significant increase to tuition costs unlikely, Corner is instead applying energy and resources to “spreading our exposure and what we offer” to potential students. She hopes that boosting this communication around the country will encourage more high school seniors to apply to Willamette.

Thorsett also emphasized the diversity of what the university has to offer. In recent years, “Willamette has been significantly broadening its program mix,” having acquired the Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA) in 2021, along with creating the School of Computing and Information Sciences (SCIS) in 2023. However, the University has experienced some budget cuts, including the end of the Office of Spiritual and Religious Life. This was attributed to the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with decreased enrollment due to 2024’s delayed Free Application for Federal Student Aid rollout.

As the beginning of the cliff’s impacts begin in the incoming fall semester, administration claims they are prepared for this change. Thorsett emphasized, “We have a range of programs that we balance.” This shift will be an important moment for administration to assess what is working within the university for staff and students in terms of programs and classrooms, making adjustments accordingly to fulfill the university’s needs.



A Willamette student hanging off the edge of an increasing number of undergraduates. Image from College Tuition Compare.  
Art by BASIL ALLEN

# ASWU and the Black Student Union collaborate to celebrate ‘Black ecology through the power of poetry’

Maya Darski • Staff Writer • Feb. 17

**O**n Feb. 15, Class of 2028 ASWU Senator Ernest Jones ('28) and the Black Student Union (BSU) hosted a poetry reading event at the Martha Springer Gardens to celebrate Black ecology on campus. The event was intended to revive the community gardens and to spark hope through poetry.

The gardens behind Sparks Recreation Center used to be well used by Willamette students, but biology professor David Craig told Jones

that after the COVID-19 pandemic, the space fell into “a state of disrepair” and stopped being used for community events. As such, Jones’ goal was for this event to be a “rededication of the community garden space” to the Willamette community. He also wanted to celebrate hope by giving the Black community on campus a space of their own.

“Given the current political climate we live in, it’s important to have hope. One of the major ways we

express hope is through spoken word poetry, so I really wanted this to be a celebration of hope and to show that we’re here and that we’re still fighting,” Jones said.

Explain here what a campus improvement project is, how often they happen, why they happen, etc. This event was Jones’ campus improvement project as ASWU senator of the Class of 2028. ASWU Vice President Sal Chappell ('27) came to oversee the event, stating that they were “very proud of Ernest, and [that] the collaboration was beautiful and touching.”

During the event, Jones and other members of BSU read poems written by Black poets, such as “Who Am I,” by Angela Davis, “If We Must Die,” by Claude McKay Limns, “Winter Poem,” by Nikki Giovanni, and an original poem called “Black Like Trees” by BSU secretary Nyeelah Brown ('27).

Brown’s poem, “Black Like Trees,” was inspired by a comment made to Brown. Years ago, “when [she] was wearing [her] afro more often,” she was told “it reminded someone of a tree.” In her poem, Brown ties together themes of community and ecology. “Our ecosystem is so interconnected and our community as Black people is so interconnected,” she said while reflecting on the poem

and the event itself.

The poetry reading was originally intended to be paired installations of an art piece and a plaque with a quote from Black journalist and activist Ida B. Wells. Unfortunately, Jones explained that the organizers had to “axe the art installation and the plaque because the event was on a short timeline. The art would have needed to be approved by facilities, but they are really busy right now and [he] wanted it to happen during Black History Month.”

Despite this setback, Jones plans to install a plaque in the future, ideally in the gardens near the walkway students use frequently so “BSU has a physical presence on campus.” Brown agreed: “It’s important for students of color to claim space on campus that is not set off to the side like the Renjen center is.”

Despite the art installation and plaque unveiling not happening yet, BSU and other students who came to join in on the celebration were able to enjoy the poetry reading, the cutting of a ribbon to commemorate the day, and eating and chatting with one another after the event commenced. Attendee Macy Haro ('27) believes that this event “is the first step towards having the garden be a community meeting space and a place for students to come together.”



Ernest Jones ('28, center back) and the Black Student Union gather for a photo after the poetry reading and ribbon cutting on Feb. 15.  
Photo by MAYA DARSKI

# The legend of Wulapalooza: How Willamette’s once renowned music festival lived and died

Maya Darski • Staff Writer • Feb. 7

**A**s the first rays of spring sunshine touched the grass of Brown Field, Willamette students used to tune their instruments, set up tables, pray for the rain to stay away, and carry picnic blankets and camp chairs towards the grass. For 20 years, from 1998 to 2018, Wulapalooza was a music festival Willamette was known for, a unique aspect of the university. But just like The Naked Run, it has faded into history and memories.

Willamette alumni fondly remember Wulapalooza as a day when students let loose after weeks of gloomy Oregon winter. An entirely student-run music and art festival, Wulapalooza was a place where both student and professional bands performed live on stage. Students performed in 15-minute increments for the entire day; once evening arrived, a couple of professional artists would perform to close out the event. The main stage was set up on Brown Field with a secondary stage at Jackson Plaza, where student a cappella groups performed.

Wulapalooza served as a creative outlet for students as well. Clubs set up booths, the Bistro brought out furniture for students to paint, the Poi Club performed on the balcony, and students displayed their artwork. Since the festival was an all-day event, it made it easy for students and visitors to arrive or leave at any point of the day and be able to listen to music and enjoy the activities. Zach Kambour ('14) remembers how he and his friends would leave “to go to Best Little Roadhouse and play a round of mini golf, come back, and then watch some more music that was still going on.”

Emma Jonas ('15) was co-president of the Wulapalooza club during her last two years at Willamette. The

club would spend the entire year planning for the big event, selecting the bands and organizing the budget received from ASWU. Jonas reflected on how Wulapalooza was “unique to Willamette, and although it took a lot of work, dedication, and a lot of emailing, logistics, and organization, it was all worth it.”

Lisa Holliday, associate dean of students and director of Student Engagement and Leadership, was the club advisor and warmly watched over Wulapalooza as the club members felt “a sense of accomplishment” when they were able to have bands they were fans of come to perform.

As the years went on, Wulapalooza became more and more known among students as the day to go wild. Jonas remembers how there was “a lot of drug use and drinking, and people not understanding their own limits and overdoing it.” It took place near the end of the year, and it seemed that a lot of students used the event to let loose before finals. Drinking and drug use at Wulapalooza were so extreme that at times, medical assistance needed to be called. Holliday explained that students were also vandalizing and making messes. It was “a huge burden on the staff to pick up the pieces after the event was over,” and they would have to patrol campus throughout the day to stop people if they were being unsafe, according to Holliday.

Jonas and the Wulapalooza team tried to control the situation by creating Wulapalooza guidelines that informed students “where the medical tents are, to stay hydrated, and that they don’t have to drink or do drugs too much to have a good time.” Unfortunately, the issue had grown to a point where guidelines were not stopping people from making dangerous decisions. According to Holliday, the

student organizers wanted to “plan the event but not have responsibility on the day of the event.” However, she added, “Staff can’t be responsible for running an event that is student-led and run.”

One year, fencing was put up around Brown Field due to safety concerns. There was a dedicated entrance and exit through the UC building, and bag checks were implemented to try to control the entrance of alcohol and drugs. The fencing and “implemented wristband system made people upset because it felt antithetical to the spirit of Wulapalooza and it stopped people from outside the Willamette community from coming to the event,” Jonas explained.

The conflicts, safety concerns, and disagreements escalated to the point that it became difficult for students to freely organize and control

the event, forcing Wulapalooza to shut down.

Lisa Holliday believes that “there’s definitely potential for some type of music event if students want to put the work in and do what’s needed to put on a safe event.” If some students want to bring it back, Jonas stated that she and other alumni would be more than willing to help and there are lots of resources from past events available. In the meantime, Willamette still has a variety of musical events for students such as Musicalia and house shows.

Even without Wulapalooza, alum Jerome Sader ('15) believes, “People are still finding ways to enjoy music, play in bands and go see their friends play music. ... While it’s not exactly the same as Wulapalooza, those are also special in their own way.”



Garrett Butler (left), Matthew Sazima ('14, middle), and Zach Kambour ('14, right). Photo taken by Matthew Tom ('15) on April 14, 2014 at Wulapalooza Main Stage on Brown Field.

# Old fashioned or still en vogue: Why ‘Sex and the City’ is still relevant in 2025

Maisy Clunies-Ross • Staff Writer • Feb. 13

The first episode of “Sex and the City” opens with a meditation on modern dating from Carrie Bradshaw as she introduces the audience to an “age of un-innocence.” “No one has affairs to remember,” Bradshaw muses. “Instead, we have ... affairs we try to forget as quickly as possible.” These words were televised before the rise of dating apps and the juxtaposed ubiquity of hookup culture and the tradwife takeover. Now, Bradshaw might wonder, if culture is all about hooking up, why is nothing looking up? How can one fan the flames of desire if all you have is Tinder? The current dating scene and cultural landscape is very different now than it was in 1998 when “Sex and the City” first aired, but many lessons from the show can still be carried into today.

“Sex and the City” (SATC) has a complicated legacy. It was undeniably impactful. Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda shaped the way a whole generation spoke, dressed and viewed relationships. It brought conversations that many women had been having behind closed doors onto a mainstream stage. However, the show was very limited in its perspective. SATC was based in New York, yet rarely included people of color as anything other than one-off plot points or set dressing. It focused on four upper-class white women, leading lives completely inaccessible to most Americans and despairing over problems many would dream to have.

There have now been a million think pieces criticizing SATC for its depictions of class, race, queerness, therapy, sex and feminism. While many of these critiques are fair, some ignore the intentional presentation of the women’s problematic views. They have differing beliefs about what it means to be empowered, how romantic relationships should function, and what it means to be a woman. Those conversations are worth highlighting, even if what the characters say is

problematic or unkind. They’re working through social conditioning and complex issues in a realistic way, and there must be space for that.

The women’s conversations about casual sex as empowering versus demeaning, for themselves or for the approval of men, are just as relevant today as they were then. Dating apps and changing social climate have made hookup culture a norm. For some women, this has allowed them to feel less shame surrounding casual sex and to appreciate physical pleasure unburdened by the idea that sex must be inherently romantic. However, the presentation of casual sex as a form of reclamation or empowerment is one of poor faith. Many women feel pressure to engage in casual sex because it’s mainstream; it’s often presented as a feminist act, and no one wants to seem sex-negative. Unfortunately, this often leads to people feeling regretful, left unsatisfied and with their emotional needs unmet. The Madonna Whore complex reigns supreme. Despite the normalization of hookups, women who participate in casual sex are still demeaned for their promiscuity, while those who abstain are seen as prudes. This culture of disrespect doesn’t serve women. It serves men.

The women of SATC grappled with this dissonance. Samantha found casual sex to be enjoyable and empowering; Carrie did not. Neither act is innately feminist as the choices are personal and circumstantial. The show also presented an alternative to the false dichotomy of traditional monogamy and unattached hookups: casual dating! This mindset is focused on getting to know someone, not monogamously, but still forming a level of emotional connection before physical intimacy. Go on a date, test the waters, and proceed from there. Throughout the show, the women often went on dates, shared a little smooch, and then just didn’t let the guy upstairs. Meet, test, repeat. This wasn’t always



Carrie Bradshaw from Sex and the City looking down at her phone.  
Art by BASIL ALLEN

the case — the show was called “Sex and the City, not “Getting Coffee” and the City — but it exemplified a style of dating less common in the app era.

Additionally, it’s important to note that while SATC represented the straight dating world in a nuanced way, it didn’t dwell on the complex social dynamics of queer dating, and as such, offers little insight into the way hookup culture impacts the queer community. While the male-female power imbalance isn’t present in the same way, there are other dynamics that make queer dating its own can of worms — a can of worms the show was not equipped to comment on. (While Samantha may have sustained a relationship with a woman, any contact with a queer polycule would have killed Carrie.)

Another important lesson from the SATC was the women’s resistance to traditional relationship norms. Although the average age one gets married is rising in America, trad wife culture and the shift towards conservatism is attempting to stigmatize single, working women once again. Trad content shows a fantasy of domestic bliss, days spent cooking and cleaning, devoting oneself to housework all while wearing beautifully long flowing gowns, leading a life in service not of oneself, but of one’s man.

Trad wives and the primarily male audience who promote them encourage women to leave their jobs and give up financial independence in exchange for a differently framed life of service. Really, what these women want is a break from the capitalist hellscape of constant work and a way to remove themselves from the “hustle culture as feminism” messaging of the 2010s, but instead they choose to demean women who resist traditional domestic norms. The women of “Sex and the City” faced constant ridicule for being unpartnered, unmarried, working and childless. Yet, even Charlotte, the most traditional of the four, continued to lead her life as she wanted rather than succumbing to the patriarchal pressure.

The most important lesson of the show is the simplest: friendship is an integral component of a happy and well-rounded life. Despite the show’s focus on romantic relationships, some of the most impactful storylines centered on the women’s friendships. They disagreed and hurt each other, yes, but at the end of the day, they always showed up for each other. Their partners came and went. They were each other’s constants. At the end of the day, that’s a universal message. It’s a necessary lesson for everyone, regardless of their sex or their city.

## BEST BUDDIES



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### STAFF PICKS

Compiled by Priya Thoren • Opinions Editor

**Topic:** If you could have lunch with any famous person (dead or alive), who would it be and why?

*Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed are from the individual staff members and do not reflect the perspective of The Collegian as a whole. The submissions are unedited and unaltered from what was submitted by individual staff members.*

**The Pick:** Gordon Ramsey

**Submitted by:** Rohan Srinivasa Babu, Business Manager  
**Staff Comment:** I’ll cook the meal and see what he says lol

**The Pick:** Princess Diana

**Submitted by:** Keenan Yoshizawa, Photography Editor

**The Pick:** ANDREW JOHN HOZIER-BYRNE!!!

**Submitted by:** Alma Snortum-Phelps, Layout Editor

**The Pick:** Brian David Gilbert

**Submitted by:** Bjorn Domst, Managing Editor

**Staff Comment:** Those who know him will know why. Those who don’t know him ... are missing out.

# Athletics Department to align policy with new NCAA trans athlete competition restrictions

Skeet Starr • Sports & Rec Editor • Feb. 17

Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Rob Passage confirmed Feb. 17 that Willamette University will be adjusting its eligibility policies in order to comply with the NCAA's new requirements regarding transgender athletes — requirements which will restrict their participation.

Announced Feb. 6, the national regulations ban outright the competition of athletes assigned male at birth in NCAA women's sports programs. They also ban the competition of athletes assigned female at birth who have begun any "hormone therapy (e.g. testosterone)." The changes present a marked shift from the NCAA's previous eligibility requirements, which allowed athletes to compete in accordance with sport-specific national or international governing bodies' regulations.

The NCAA announced the policy changes one day after Donald Trump signed an executive order titled "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports." The order seeks to reposition Title IX as a vehicle for compelling educational institutions to constrain trans athletes. The NCAA Board of Governors had placed their transgender athlete policy "under review" as early as April 2024.

"It's something we've been anticipating," said Passage. Willamette's varsity athletics fall under the purview of the NCAA. Failure to comply with national eligibility requirements

could result in possible forfeitures and disqualification from championship contention for the Bearcats. The executive order itself threatens federal funding withdrawal across the entire university.

Other NWC schools have reached similar decisions as Willamette — Lewis & Clark announced their compliance Feb. 6 in an email to Pioneer student athletes. "From the conversations I've had [with other schools], everyone seems to be on the same page. ... There's not a huge space for pushback in this area at the moment," said Passage.

Passage explained that to his knowledge the new policy "does not, or would not have negatively impacted the eligibility of any current or former student athletes that [he] knows of." However he stressed that athletes have had to make "difficult" decisions in the past regarding transitioning while participating in university athletics. He said that for the Athletics Department's part, the conversations sur-



Sparks Field.  
Photo by ANUSHKA SRIVASTAV.

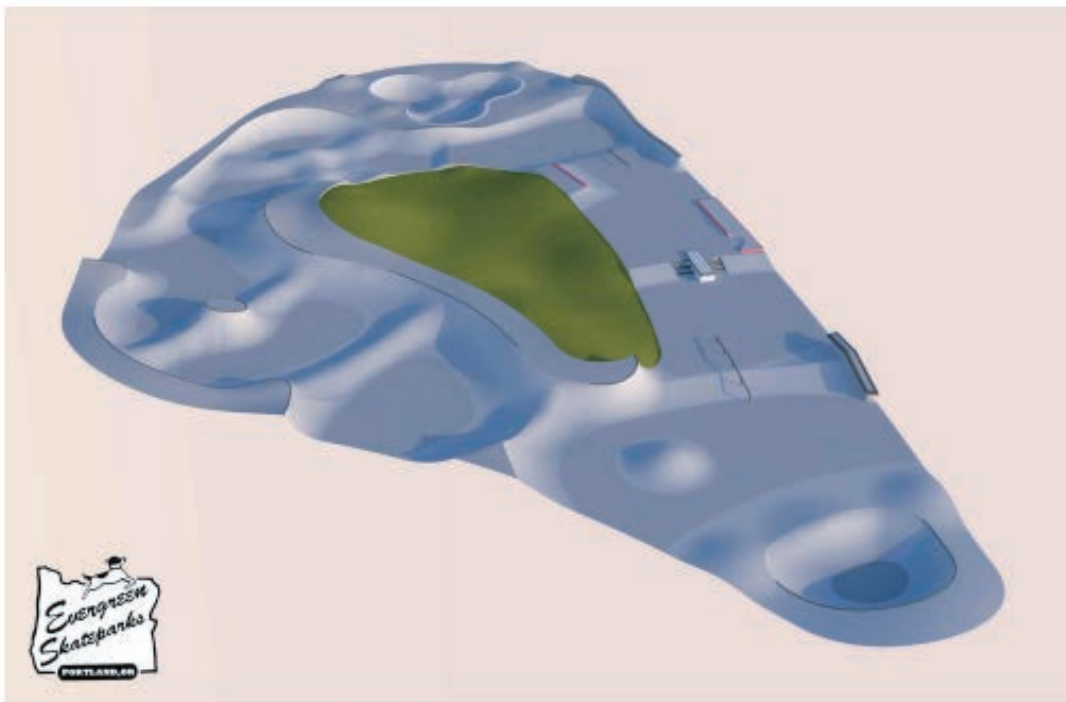
rounding those decisions will remain focused on supporting athletes. "This ... targeting [in general] of transgender folks who are just trying to live their lives as their authentic selves has to be challenging," he said.

According to the BBC, NCAA President Charlie Baker estimates

there were less than 10 trans athletes in the NCAA as of December 2024. Speaking from a personal level, Passage expressed: "[Setting aside] the wording impact of the [new] policy ... the hatred behind [the executive order] is the most challenging part."

# Geer skate park construction to begin in March, Willamette skaters inspired

Ruby Hampton • Staff Writer • Feb. 13



The final layout of the new Geer skate park taken from the Oct. 2024 City of Salem Site.

The City of Salem announced Jan. 30 the beginning of construction of Geer Park's full-sized community skate park. Construction for this contemporary renovation will start in March and conclude in October, according to a recent press release. The four-acre community park is located on the east side of Salem, two miles from campus, and currently has a bike trail, two soccer fields and two baseball fields. The skate park is the first step in the "Geer Park Skatepark and Pathway Improvements Project," designed to create a safe place for skating, biking and scooting.

The total project budget, now at \$4.64 million, is funded through public bonds, charges to private developers and a \$500,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Funding delays for the new skate park were primarily due to the need to allocate funds from a bond measure passed by voters, which can take time to be fully dispersed and ensures the project fits within the overall budget for park improvements. The city has not approved the use of its general fund, which is experiencing a significant deficit for this project.

The new 20,000 square foot

skate park is being built in response to community input from 2021 and 2022 and aims to support "goals for a more livable and inclusive community," according to the Salem Reporter. Other Geer Park updates include a paved pathway, picnic shelter, drinking fountains and a small plaza with native plants. The existing soccer and baseball fields will also be renovated.

In the meantime, students have been getting creative with where they can practice their skateboarding skills safely, finding open areas and curbs in and around campus. Jack Godsil ('28), a frequent skateboarder spotted in front of the Matthews dorms, expressed that although the skate scene is small on campus, his friends are stoked for the upcoming skate park renovation.

"Skate parks aren't just like, you don't just go there to skate. You go there to hangout. ... It's a cool community — maybe the new skate park will weed out more people to skate there and be more motivated to go

out and skate."

Skateboarding has become a positive outlet for Godsil, allowing him to mentally destress after a long day of handling the academic demands of college. "I get restless and tired so skating is a way for me to ... get out some intense energy, then I'm more chill and relaxed. It's a way to humble yourself as well. Part of skateboarding is learning how to fall and get back up."

Now with the renovations at Geer Park underway, students can look forward to the upcoming fall semester with the new and improved community space outside of campus.

Read the "Fast Break," Willamette's premier university athletics column ... or else. New issues Tuesday mornings.

SCAN ME



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# Winter Fashion Lookbook: How Bearcats are staying cute and cozy

Maisy Clunies-Ross • Staff Writer • Jan. 31

**A**s a chill creeps over the Willamette campus, fashionistas everywhere are forced to cover up their outfits. Baby tees are hidden under chunky sweaters, miniskirts are traded out for sweatpants, and puffy coats overtake all which lay beneath them. However, for those who still intend to make a statement other than, "I'm cold," students around campus have advice on staying glamorous in glacial temperatures.



Itzel Garibay ('25, left) and Jennifer Cabrera ('25, right) combined comfort and style with large colorful scarves. Garibay's outfit also featured a trench coat and bag charms.

Both mentioned their European fashion inspirations, having spent a previous semester in Spain. "I moved out of sweatpants and hoodies," Cabrera said. "I think I'm more sophisticated," Garibay agreed. "It was a lot of dress pants and business casual over there." They also suggested looking to New York Fashion Week and social media for inspiration.

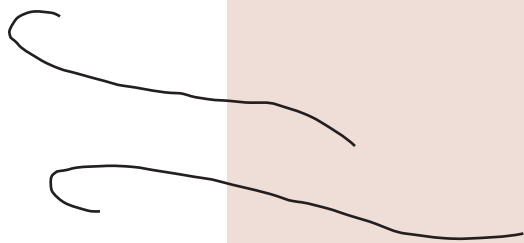
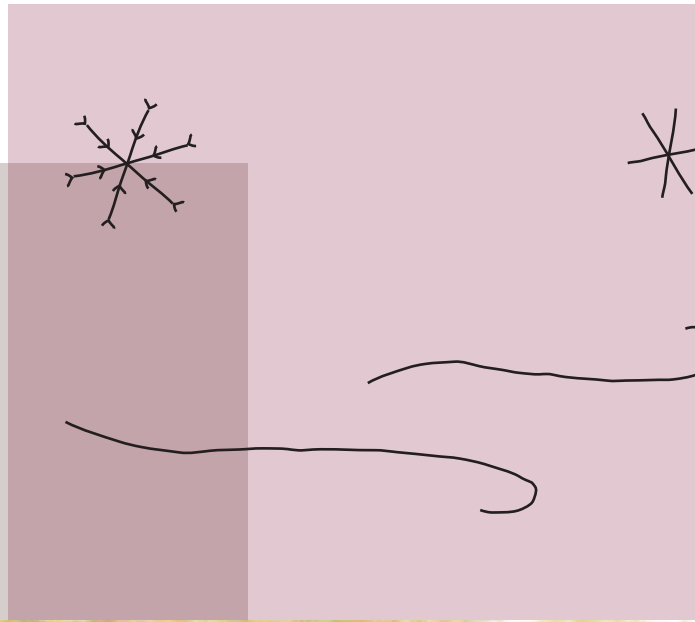
Photo by PATRICIA KREPEL



Grace Garver's ('26) outfit also featured a scarf, but in a darker color palette for a more alternative look. She paired the scarf with a cotton vest, plaid wool skirt, fur boots and a leather jacket. "I'm trying to lean more into 80s goth, with big maxi skirts, because I feel like there's so much layering I can do with that," Garver explained.

Garver gets most of her clothing thrifted, but lately she's been trying to cut back on her shopping and prioritize clothes she already owns. For people who want to create new looks without consumption, she recommends sewing. "If I have an old graphic tee I want to get rid of, I'll cut the design out and sew it onto something else," she said. "Then it's a new thing."

Photo by PATRICIA KREPEL





Sam Barrett ('26) added some color to a cloudy day with a green sweatshirt emblazoned with a rainbow design and a bright teal Trader Joe's sardines bag, as well as some silver jewelry from his mom and a sun tarot card necklace.

It wasn't always easy for Sam to express himself through his clothes. "As someone who's always been kind of heavy and tall, it's always been difficult for me to find fashion that I feel is mine," Barrett said. "A lot of fat guy clothes have kind of racist undertones, which is not a great look."

Now, Sam gets a lot of his clothes, including his green sweatshirt, from shirtz.cool. "I was really excited when I found this brand. It gave me an opportunity to express that I'm having fun and we can be a little imaginative and a little creative with our outfits, even if we don't fit the mold."

Photo by PATRICIA KREPEL

Armondo Valdez ('27) wore a pair of sepia brown pants and a cream-colored argyle sweater, with blue and brown accents. "I really like the way that the top of my sweater matches with my shoes. I like sandwiching my layers of clothes," Valdez said. "I try to wear a maximum of three colors. If it's any more than that, I think the outfit gets kind of ruined."

Although the fashion found around campus is very unique, many students recommended the same tips for finding clothes and staying warm. Layering, knitwear and scarves were the most popular recommendations for staying fashionable despite frigid weather, while thrifting was where most students found their clothes.

Photo by PATRICIA KREPEL

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# Late February Crossword

Crossword submitted by EZRA NELSEN

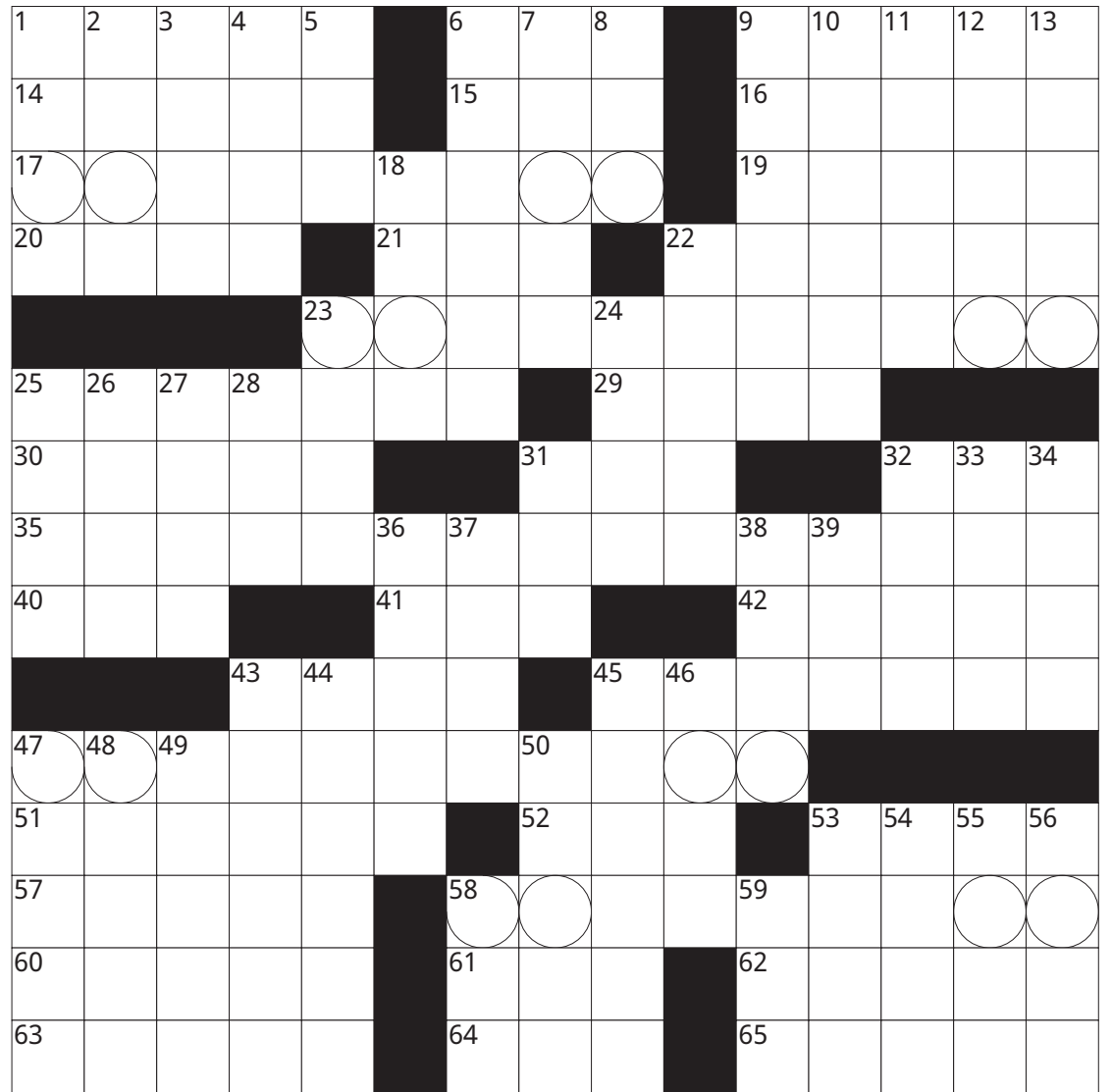
**ACROSS**

- 1 Disney warrior of China
- 6 College in Yolo County, abbr.
- 9 Period in school
- 14 In flames
- 15 Slime
- 16 Lee of Jazz
- 17 "Take a picture, It'll last longer"
- 19 Panama divider
- 20 Ballpark figs.
- 21 Half and half
- 22 Depositors
- 23 Soccer group NW of London
- 25 "Apocalypse Now" director
- 29 Minecraft goodies
- 30 Quarterback, Rodgers
- 31 It was popularized by the 1973 film, "Westworld"
- 32 Its SW of 32-down
- 35 1965 best picture, and a clue to the starts and ends of 17-across, 23-across, 47-across, and 58-across
- 40 "Yo"
- 41 Man of early video games
- 42 Filmmaker, Kurosawa
- 43 Pumpkin topper
- 45 Shrieks
- 47 Explanation for the formation of our star system
- 51 Like Napoleon

- 52 Australia's foe
- 53 Popular lists on YouTube
- 57 Leans
- 58 Football and Basketball sportscaster for Fox Sports
- 60 Leaves the engine on
- 61 Musician, Brian
- 62 Microsoft spreadsheet
- 63 High-maintenance
- 64 Once more, abbr.
- 65 "Cheers" waitress

**DOWN**

- 1 Produced
- 2 Bright lights on Independence Day?
- 3 Dryer accumulation
- 4 Crafts predecessor
- 5 GameCube predecessor, abbr.
- 6 Kenya's neighbor to the west
- 7 Pitted
- 8 A deer, a female deer
- 9 Songs holder
- 10 Masses of bread
- 11 Make part of, as a country
- 12 Eat hastily
- 13 Dip for corn chips
- 18 Hard work
- 22 Font flourish
- 23 Prefix meaning 21-across



- 24 Emblem
- 25 "It's raining \_ and Dogs"
- 26 Honolulu's island
- 27 Get ready, for short
- 28 Opposite of neg.
- 31 Public health agency
- 32 Most populous continent
- 33 Solid
- 34 Some TVs
- 36 Overturn
- 37 Identify
- 38 Rooney of "Carol"
- 39 Hawaiian instrument, familiarly
- 43 Like most pretzels
- 44 Long-haired
- 45 Call forth
- 46 Extra-curricular group
- 47 Take effect
- 48 Like rust
- 49 Northern French city near Belgium
- 50 Sentient life form
- 53 Yellow cab
- 54 Machu Picchu constructors
- 55 Biblical garden
- 56 Call in school
- 58 A drink with jam and bread
- 59 Commie



Comic by WES MOWRY-SILVERMAN