

COLLEGIAN

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Picture the World reflects motto of Willamette

NATALIE PATE
GUEST WRITER

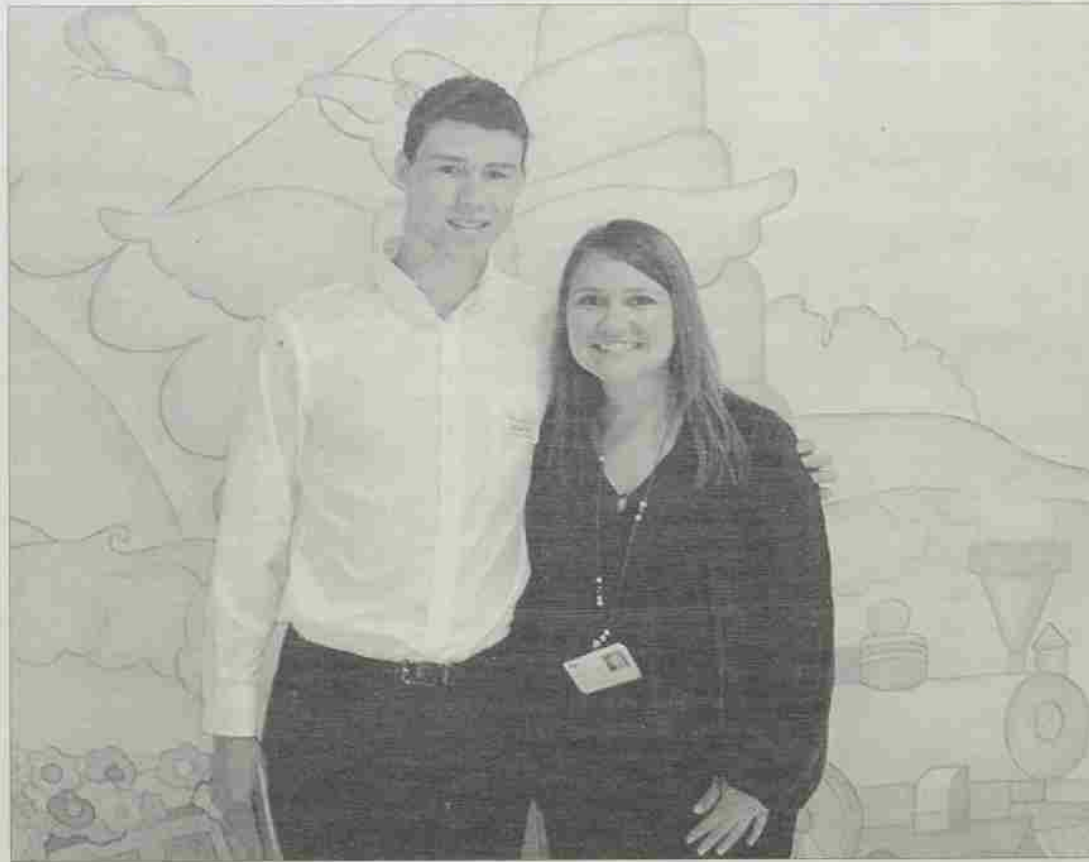
"Non nobis solum nati sumus — Not unto ourselves alone are we born." Willamette Bearcats hear this motto all the time, but now is the chance for us to recognize its power and validity and take it to a new level.

University students have the power to join together and make a difference. Learning from other inspiring young adults, University students can see how they can contribute on an international scale and become part of the global generation.

One such story is about a young man from Auburn, California named Alex Darrow. According to Kids are Heroes, Darrow, 18, is "one of the youngest executive directors of an established non-profit organization in the world" known as Picture the World.

Picture the World is a non-profit, fiscally-sponsored website that collects pictures sent in from people around the world. It is soon to become, as Good Day Sacramento stated, "the world's largest photo mosaic" once it reaches 112,896 photos. 10 organizations benefit from the funds, some of which include: Doctors Without Borders, 88 Bikes, the World Food Program and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital.

Like most things worthwhile, the organization did not become a success overnight. When he was 16, CNN Newsroom quoted Alex as saying that he decided "to start a project that



Alex Darrow on the left, Executive Director at 18.

really represented a large community—thousands and thousands of people coming together to support a worthy cause."

As many students will agree, to start a project or donate money is one thing, but to become involved personally and have it be something enjoyable is what people want.

mitted citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Contact: npate@willamette.edu

"I also wanted a project that was fun, innovative and kind of epitomized the global community and would allow donors to be able to participate. Not just make a monetary donation, but actually join the movement" Darrow said.

To reach his goal, however, he was going to need money and assistance. Darrow worked for two years to earn money for the project. The Auburn Journal reported that he did so by "washing dishes at a pizza place, and saving all cash received for Christmas and his birthday." He was eventually able to establish the website, but even today as founder and executive director of Picture the World, Darrow has chosen not to take a salary.

Darrow's success has continued since the project first began. At 17, Darrow spoke about social entrepreneurship and social innovation at Harvard Business School, and today he plans to study business in college. His project has inspired many to join the Picture the World movement and make a difference in their communities.

Many such organizations have already formed at Willamette, such as the student-led Take-a-Break program. As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, com-

Students work to create awareness of oppression

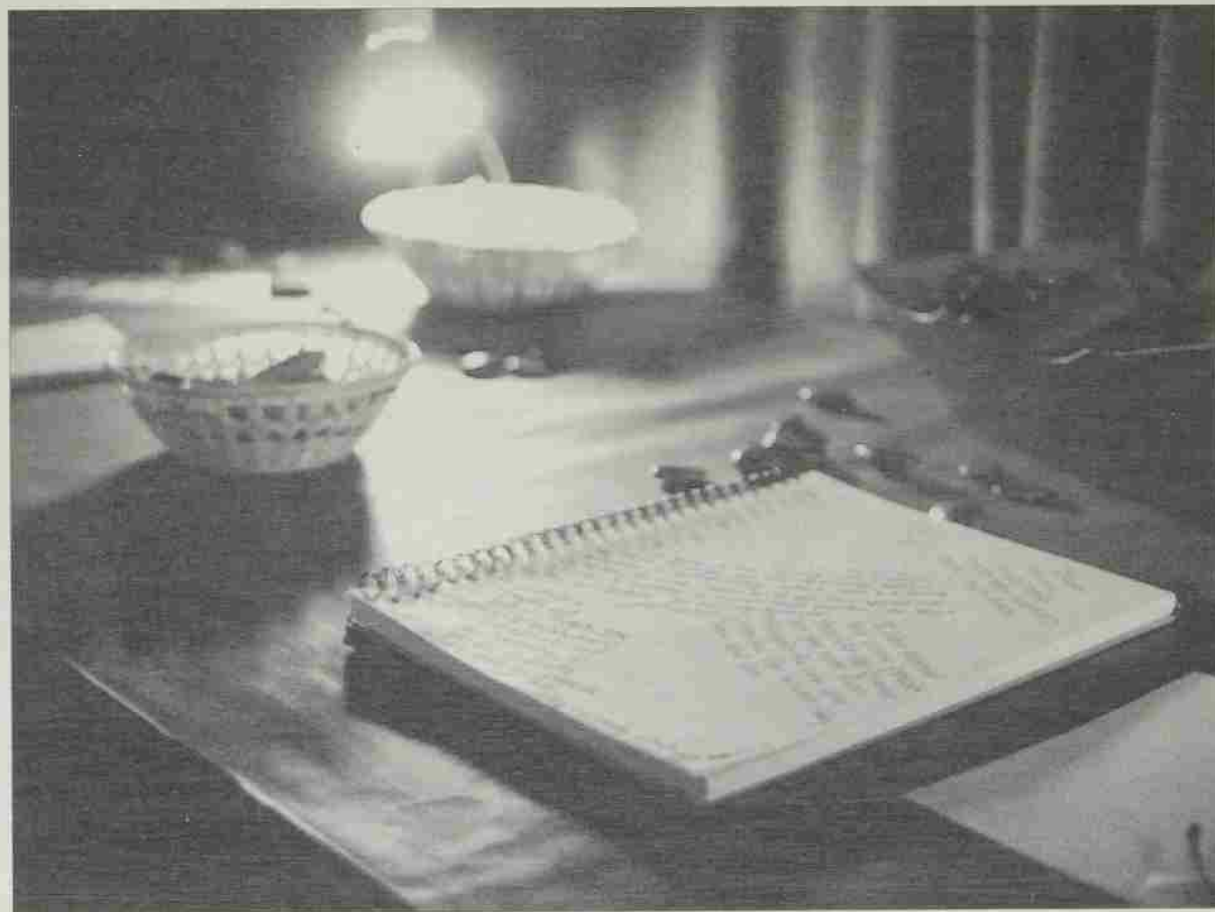
KATE BARKER
CONTRIBUTOR

Last week, students put on the Tunnel of Oppression project. This project has been put on by students every year in conjunction with Willamette's MLK celebration in January. Tunnel involves individuals walking through sets of exhibits in Montag Den, and looking at a variety of topics relating to a few of the many forms of oppression, including Islamophobia, racism and sexism.

This year, the areas of focus students decided to represent were issues of food justice, sweatshop labor, and reproductive racism. The food justice themed room focused on issues such as corn subsidies and how they allow for corn based ingredients in much of our food.

The sweatshop room was created with the help of campus organization Students Against Slavery. This three dimensional display consisted of hanging pieces of clothing from popular clothing companies like Gap and Eddie Bauer, carrying tags with information about inhumane conditions that workers go through to produce those articles of clothing.

Baily Mullins, who is involved in that organization and was in charge of putting together this room, explained that the purpose



A journal at the end of the tunnel.

was to get more students aware about issues of slavery happening in the United States. "It was a good opportunity for our group to put our message out there and have people interact with our ideas," Mullins said.

The last area was reproductive racism, which focused on intersectionality of racism and sexism. Stories, spoken word and billboards illustrated the lack of reproductive rights that women of color have in the

United States.

Although the Tunnel of Oppression is overseen by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, it is really run by the students.

Kelley Villa, who was in charge of coordinating the project this year, said that any student can design a room based on her or his area of interest. "We try to take these vast systems of oppression and narrow them down to understandable topics," Villa explained.

Students spoke about the large amounts of time and effort that went into creating the Tunnel. Surabhi Mahajan, who was in charge of setting up the food justice room, said she'd put in around 72 hours of work since the beginning of the school year.

Both Mahajan and Mullins noted that they would have liked to have seen more people come Tunnel last week, considering how much work they spent on it. If you missed going through Tunnel this year, you should check it out next year. "I think Tunnel is really important, because it is an area where students can artistically express their passions," Mahajan said.

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Colleges Against Cancer prepares for Relay for Life

ALISON EZARD
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, Feb. 2, Colleges Against Cancer will be holding their first team captain meeting of the semester in preparation for the second annual Relay for Life event that will be held at Willamette on April 7.

Relay for Life, during which participants help fundraise for cancer research by participating in an overnight relay-style event, was started in 1986 in Tacoma, Wash. by colorectal surgeon Dr. Gordy Klatt. Over the years, what had initially begun as Dr. Klatt's attempt to enhance the income of his local American Cancer Society office and show support for his patients who had battled cancer has become an extremely successful national event.

Because Relay for Life is a 24-hour event, teams of runners take turns walking or running the track and resting or sleeping so that there is someone representing the team on the track for the entire event. Each team works to fundraise up until the day of the relay, with all proceeds going to the American Cancer Society for research, education, advocacy and services. "The idea behind Relay for Life is that because cancer never rests or sleeps, we won't either," coordinator and junior Emily Burke said.

Willamette first became involved with Relay for Life in November 2010 with the formation of the Colleges Against Cancer Club, which works with the American Cancer Society by hosting a Relay for Life event on campus every year. The club currently has about 10-15 members who are working to prepare for the relay.



Students walk around the Quad during last year's Relay for Life.

AMARA FANUCCI

"Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) has been preparing for WU's second annual relay since about Oct. of last semester. We have formed our committee of members that will be in charge of organizing different parts of the relay such as food, materials needed, making teams, fundraising and spirit," Burke said.

Although Colleges Against Cancer has already has nine teams, including members of Pi Beta Phi, Phi Delta Theta and Delta Gamma, signed up to participate in the relay in April, they are still looking to get more teams signed up. "We really want to encourage everyone to make a relay team with their friends, sports team, hall, club, Greek chapter or any

other group on campus," coordinator and sophomore Amara Fanucci said.

Anyone interested in participating in the relay is encouraged to drop by a Colleges Against Cancer meeting on Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. in the Parents' Conference Room, on the third floor of the University Center.

Doing so will put students on the club's list serve to be given updates on the event. Additionally, by attending a meeting, students will receive more information on how to participate in and fundraise for the event, as well as meet the coordinators.

"It's a great way to give back to people all over the world. The ACS supports the U.S. as well as many other countries, so your efforts at Willamette's relay will benefit people everywhere, not just in Salem," Burke said.

Due to the massive amount of planning and coordinating involved with hosting Relay for Life, the relay is the only event the club currently has planned for the spring semester.

However, the club's leadership is currently working on developing an idea for an event Colleges Against Cancer can host during the fall semesters as well.

► Learn more

To get involved with this year's Relay for Life, students can sign up a team for free at relayforlife.org/willamette or, attend a Colleges Against Cancer meeting on Wednesday from 6:00-7:00pm in the parents' conference room on the third floor of the Putnam University Center. Pizza will be provided for anyone who would like to attend.

Contact: aezard@willamette.edu

CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

January 23- 29, 2012
Information provided by Campus Safety

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

► Jan. 25, 12:25 p.m. (Law School): A student suffered a stroke near the café in the Law school. When the officer arrived on the scene she was conscious and recovering from the event. She was assessed and deemed healthy enough to leave with her husband.

► Week of Jan. 23-29 (In a campus residence): A friend of an intoxicated student called to report that her friend was talking about killing herself. The officers assessed the situation and WEMS was called. The student was transported to the ER for further evaluations.

► Jan. 28, 12:46 a.m. (Belknap Hall): While on patrol the campus safety officer saw some students carrying another student. When the officer made contact the students told the officer that their friend was having trouble breathing. WEMS was called and assessed the student. They then called 911 and the student was transported to the ER.

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

► Jan. 25, 1:30 p.m. (Matthews Hall): As the Campus Safety officer encountered two students who were smoking marijuana. He made contact with the students and confiscated a pipe and a grinder. The students were cooperative during their contact with the officer.

► Jan. 26, 9:15 p.m. (Belknap Hall): Campus Safety received a report of the smell of marijuana coming from a room in Belknap. Campus Safety made contact with the students and confiscated the marijuana. The students were cooperative with the officer while he was in contact with him.

HARASSMENT

► Jan. 24, 10:00 a.m. (Goudy Commons):

A Bon Appétit employee made some disturbing comments to his co-workers. Campus Safety was contacted and the employee was interviewed about his intentions. He was then referred by to Bon Appétit management for follow up.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

► Jan. 24, 11:25 a.m. (Belknap Hall): A student called to report that there was damage done to his window in his room. The officer

noticed that the small hole appeared as if someone had shot a hole through the window with a BB or pellet gun. A work order was submitted to have the window fixed.

► Jan. 27, 8:49 p.m. (12th Street): A vehicle was driving by campus when two students threw a beer bottle at the car and broke their windshield. One of the victims pursued the two individuals, but they escaped into Terra. The officer searched for the two students,

but could not locate them.

Please contact Campus Safety if you have any information regarding these incidents:
safety@willamette.edu

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Tempting Tomes

COLUMN

No 'Fault' in Green's 'Stars'

AUSTIN SCHOCK
COLUMNIST

We've all done it: you're sitting there, minding your own business, when it hits you. I have a deadline tomorrow and I haven't even picked up the book. Such was my issue when, on the last Friday of break, I frantically went to the local bookstore to get something new. That failed. So, I went with my second best option: Facebook. One frantic status update later, I picked up John Green's, "The Fault in our Stars."

I had no idea what this book was about when I picked it up but there it was on page one: a cancer patient (yay). Not only that, but a teenage cancer patient (double yay), who is terminal but kept alive by a miracle drug that buys her a few more years (yays out the wazoo). From reading that, one might assume that this book is going to be depressing. Despite the ending expected from a book of this nature, the story is optimistic.

Joining Hazel, the aforementioned cancer patient, are her mother, her friend from when Hazel still attended school, a few individuals from a cancer support group, an enigmatic author and Augustus Waters.

Augustus, new and not a member of the support group, having lost one of his legs to a tumor (as Hazel would have put it, "a side effect of death") and Hazel quickly begins a romance with him. This isn't a normal teenage romance, though. Rather than making out like there's no tomorrow (which, for Hazel, there might not be), they talk about books, and try to live life as normally as they can.

I think that fact is one of the strongest suits of the book: that Hazel could have a sharp decline in health at any moment is always a part of the atmosphere, but it lacks a melodramatic effect that most authors would have added.

Rather than reading about the disease, I got to read about people, and I was quite pleased with the results. Green has given us a brief look into the life of the few, a life filled with hardships, like lungs that don't act like lungs, that few who do not experience them would ever want to comprehend. At the same time, the book forces the reader to think about these issues and gain new empathy for the few.

If you only read one book this year, this is the one I'd suggest.

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RESTAURANT REVIEW: 'Salvador's Bakery'

Eat at Salvador's

BRIAN GNERRE
GUEST WRITER

All right folks, say you're craving Mexican food. Which you probably are, considering it's cheap and explosively delicious. Hopefully you've already ruled out Muchas Gracias, unless it's past midnight and your judgment has been, well, mildly to severely impaired.

Maybe you're a regular at cute little upstairs La Perla in downtown (I once was too) and you've come to terms with its mediocrity (at least it's cheap, right?) and ridiculously slow service (twenty minutes to upwards of two, count 'em, TWO hours).

Or perhaps you want to live large at pricey La Margarita, another downtown eatery that I would only patronize if I were over twenty-one because of their margarita pitchers.

However, if you are at all like me, then you want to find the best, cheapest, most authentic Mexican food Salem has to offer, and you do not mind going a little out of your way to get it. Salvador's Bakery, on 45th Avenue a few blocks from Chemeketa Community College, fulfills these criteria to the tee.

Numerous multicolored piñatas adorn the roof of this charming eatery/bakery/meat market. Orders are made and paid for at the counter, so although the food is brought to your table tips are not required or expected. Dining options include all the standard Mexican fare plus specialties like menudo (a hearty Mexican soup), tortas (Mexican sandwiches), and chicharonnes (fried pork rinds).

I played it safe and ordered an asada burrito, as much because I love them as for comparison's sake. However, I did opt for a tamarind fruit drink (new for me), which had just the right amount of tartness to not be overly sweet. They also had homemade horchata available (as all good Mexican places should) for all the spiced milk fans out there.

So this burrito. Fresh, handmade tor-



Shove it in your face hole.

tilla. Rice, beans, cilantro, onions. And steak. Oh, the steak. Juicy little morsels of tender, grilled carne asada and a fantastic meat to filling ratio. The best part? This burrito, which took me two separate sittings to finish, cost a measly \$3.75. That's it. Less than half an hour of work at a minimum wage job. If you can think of a better burrito deal please contact me ASAP.

As an added bonus, when you dine in you receive access to a free salsa bar. This includes most every salsa you can imagine, plus lettuce, cilantro, limes and, best of all, free guacamole! Now I know you may be thinking I'm just easily excitable (which is true) but you have

to believe me when I tell you that free guacamole is rare in this world, which is why I hesitated to even mention it. Now that you know, I may as well let you in on another secret. This guac f-ing rocks. Creamy, light and so smooth, with a strong lime accent that gives it the freshest and most palate-pleasing taste. This, plus salsa verde and a creamy fire-roasted tomato salsa, equals the most satisfying way to dress up a burrito.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have a kiddie pool-sized puddle of drool to clean off my floor.

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Many great albums dropped in 2011: these are a few of my favorites

BRIAN YEE
GUEST WRITER

Fleet Foxes - Helplessness Blues

The highly anticipated sophomore release from Seattle folk outfit Fleet Foxes is a gorgeous collection of wonderfully crafted acoustic melodies. It is harmonious yet darker and at times more introspective in its lyricism than the group's self-titled debut. But most importantly, the album is cohesive and creative, and every aspect of its sound is blended to near perfection.

ASAP Rocky - LiveLoveASAP

With his gold teeth and French braids, the French inhaling ASAP Rocky takes a straightforward yet effective approach to hip-hop. While his lyrics are primarily vested in doing drugs, being from Harlem, having sex with lots of women and being a "pretty motherf-ker," Rocky's flow is consistently on point, and his voice is quite versatile to boot and is appropriately pitch-shifted to match the thudding bass in the aptly named third track. The beats that lay the groundwork for Rocky's raps are some of the best of any hip-hop album from last year.

Grails - Deep Politics

Never owning to one or even a few different styles, the only thing that the songs of Grails latest album have in common with one another is that they are all instrumental and they are all very good. The Portland based band can move between a desert rock sound in album opener "Future Primitive" to something you might expect to hear from Aphex Twin or Thievery Corporation in "Corridors of Power." The album fluctuates from a louder pent up tension with booming guitars and drums to more withdrawn moments that lead in with piano and strings. It's capable of servicing many moods and is sure to evoke many when given the proper attention on a full play-through.

La Dispute - Wildlife

The rag "post-hardcore" gets thrown around a lot. While it used to refer to bands that modified the structure of hardcore punk that arose in the early 90's, it now gets associated with metalcore bands who like to experiment with synthesizers, clean vocals and/or chaotic guitar riffs. Grand Rapids' La Dispute is a band that reaches a connection with the

past, but all the while remains uniquely modern in style. The most polarizing aspect of the band is frontman Jordan Dryer, whose vocal style is usually closer to spoken word than actual singing, and whose lyrics range from discussing a drive-by shooting in "King Park" to the addled relationship between a father and his schizophrenic son in "Edward Benz, 27 Times." If you have a fortitude for the incredibly sad, the extraordinary richness of Wildlife's music and poetry will give you chills.

Craft Spells - Idle Labor

The playful contradiction of the title to Craft Spells' debut LP is maintained in the poppy, delightfully lo-fi vibes it brings. The bright guitars and synth loops clash nicely with the woozy, bedroom recorded voice of Justin Vallesteros, who started the project as a solo effort. Craft Spells ride high on the wave of nostalgia that has given rise to bands like Twin Shadow and Wild Nothing, and give a fresh spin to the sound they hint at with album artwork that echoes New Order's "Power, Lies, and Corruption."

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Progressive film series investigates big business

HANNAH MOSER
ARTS EDITOR

On Feb. 9, The Salem Progressive Film Series invites you to join the community for a viewing of "Hot Coffee," a documentary tackling tough issues regarding big business and ongoing legal corruption.

The Salem Progressive Film Series comprises both thought-provoking films and compelling discussion in their monthly events in order to "raise awareness and educate the community on important current, local, national and world issues, provide a public forum for discussion and further research, and stimulate personal civic involvement."

"Hot Coffee" is an Oregon-born story by filmmaker and trial lawyer, Susan Saldoff. She and "Hot Coffee" traveled to the 2011 Sundance Film Festival and have since made waves around the world. In a New York Times interview, Saldoff said, "I made this movie because I had something to say that needed to be said, and nobody else was saying it, at least to regular folks, to the public."

The film focuses on the public's limited access to the judicial system and

the ways in which the big business world have influenced that restriction and the supposed impartiality of trials that do make it into the system. According to the film's website, "Jurors have been led to believe that a large verdict will affect their pocketbooks. Voters believe that we have a court system out of control that needs reforming."

The film's title comes from the now-famous case of spilled McDonald's coffee, which gave a woman third degree burns. This is the hook into the types of cases Saldoff investigates with a focus on ways in which caps and mandated arbitration go largely unquestioned.

In the same NYT interview, director Saldoff compared her experience in the courtroom to the process of making a documentary. She said that, "questioning a witness on the stand was akin to interviewing people on camera, and that organizing



Saldoff's project begins with the story of Stella Liebeck, who sued McDonald's.

documents to tell a story was a common skill in courtroom and newsroom alike."

Following the film, the SPFS will feature guest speaker Mic Alexander, attorney and partner with Swanson, Lathen, Alexander, McCann & Prestwich, PC and a member of Oregon Trial Lawyers Association. An open conversation will follow his talk.

The event will take place at the Historic Grand Theatre located just downtown at 191 High Street NE. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the film will begin at 7:00 p.m.

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Multicultural and multitalented poet comes to campus

MARISSA BERTUCCI
GUEST WRITER

Poet and professor Susan Briante will be visiting the Willamette campus on Thurs., Feb. 2 as the first visitor of the spring for the Hallie Ford Literary Series. Briante, raised in a working class neighborhood and initially trained in journalism, calls herself as an unlikely poet.

Likely or not, her poetry is the carefully wrought product of a fascinating life. Briante was born and raised in New Jersey before attending Northwestern University, trading blue-collar for urban. She worked for just under a year in Oklahoma before abruptly leaving the United States for almost a decade.

During her seven years in 1990s Mexico, Briante participated in a variety of ventures. She worked as an editor and translator for the magazine *Artes de Mexico* and later collaborated

with Roberto Tejada, whom she describes as a "poet/scholar/mentor" on his magazine, *Mandala*. It was this stint in Mexico that led Briante to begin writing poetry.

Since this period of expatriation, Briante has been building an impressive background in education and publication. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from Florida International University, an MA in Comparative Literature and a PhD in English, both from the University of Texas at Austin.

She has been widely published in literary journals including *New American Writing*, *Kenning*, *the Marlboro Review*, *Ploughshares*, *POOL* and *Court Green*. Briante is currently an assistant professor of Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Her poetry reflects these multifaceted cultural influences, at once grounded in the gritty realities of 21st century America

and interspersed with the Spanish tongue and an understanding of rich, sprawling Latin American landscapes.

Briante credits her keen eye for cultural details to her journalistic training. She uses architecture and location as sharp motifs in her study of American past and present, notably in essays and longer works including *American Ruins: Nostalgia, Amnesia and Blitzkrieg Pop*.

On Thursday, Briante will be reading from her most recent collection of poetry, *Utopia Minus*, described as a "monument to collapse." It is lauded as a smart, sorrowful ode to what America has become and is said to seek beauty in strange places.

The event will take place on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 7:30pm in the Hatfield Room of the library. This event is free and open to the public and will include a reading and discussion.

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New Crow's Shadow exhibit at the Hallie Ford

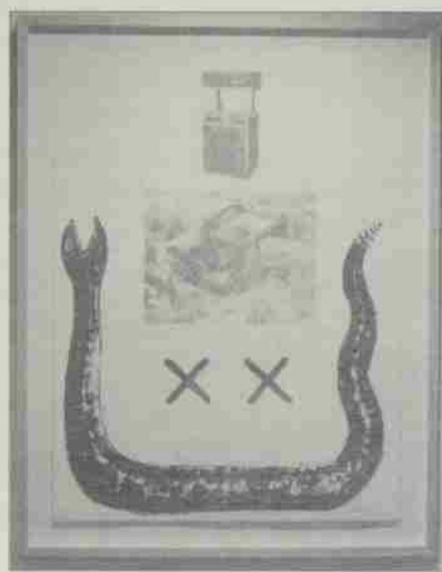
MADLINE MOREHOUSE
STAFF WRITER

Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts Biennial exhibition is now on display at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art. Curated by Professor of Anthropology, Rebecca Dobkins, this is the fourth exhibit on which the Crow Shadow Institute of the Arts (CSIA) and the Hallie Ford Museum of Art (HFMA) have collaborated.

The show features a select group of contemporary prints created by some of the Native American artists associated with the Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts.

Native American painter and printmaker, James Lavadour, founded the institute in 1992. It was created with the purpose of providing educational and professional opportunities for emerging and established Native American artists.

CSIA is located in the historic Saint Andrew's Mission schoolhouse on the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton, Oregon. The schoolhouse facility features an advanced printmaking studio, classroom, computer lab, library and gallery space. Dobkins hopes that with the exhibit, there will be more of an appreciation for the institution and space that supports a thriving creative environment for artists.



"Vahitas #2" by John Feodorov, a four color lithograph.

The CSIA and the HFMA developed a partnership in 1996 and this Biennial show serves as an ongoing demonstration of their relationship. More specifically, the show coincides with the upcoming exhibit of Willamette Alumnae, Marie Watt: *Lodge* exhibit, and as Dobkins says, "The Marie Watt's concurrent exhibition with the Crow's Shadow offers a wonderful link between the three institutions."

The exhibit showcases a selection of artists in residence in the past two years that explore a variety of subject matter and printmaking medias in their art. There are emphases on many different subjects and collectively, the artists are linked to one other with their partnership with Crow's Shadow. Dobkins says, "I would hope that visitors get a sense of the creativity of these Native American artists, to understand different definitions, and to not just see the stereotypes of the image."

The exhibit is also doubling as an area for a lighting study. In the study gallery, half of the space has been lit with Energy Star rate Toshiba LED lamps while the other half is lit with the conventional Tungsten Halogen lamps. There have been recent studies on the benefits of using LED light bulbs for viewing art as well as protecting it.

The museum is interested in better understanding those benefits and invites visitors to come experience the difference and to give any feedback.

The exhibition will continue through Mar. 11 in the Study Gallery and Print Study Center at Willamette University's Hallie Ford Museum of Art.

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The power of spoken word

RACHEL HEISTERKAMP
STAFF WRITER

People are often surprised to discover my obsession with spoken word poetry. Too many times I've heard, "Isn't that for hipsters and people who are, like, trying to be deep?" And I'll admit that I understand the stereotype. But the truth of the matter is that, as an English major, hearing a poem from the voice who created it is a truly unique experience.

Beyond that, it takes poetry to a whole new witty and scintillating level – it is written by people our age for the benefit of people our age. It's essentially porn for someone who loves language as much as I do.

A truly talented spoken word poet is able to create something to which any listener in the room can find a connection. Maybe the poem tells a story that doesn't necessarily match yours – but you will still laugh at the witty remarks and you will still understand that feeling and emotion that went into it. The fact that the poet is there, reliving everything they're talking about, showing in their face and in their body language what that story means to them is an element that just can't happen by reading it on a page.

Spoken word poetry is perhaps the exact outlet many of us have been searching for but have never been able to fully grasp. Both spoken word and rap give us the satisfying click we feel when that perfect word is rhymed with that perfect other word; when the idea being yelled at is so fantastically put in its rightful place because this sentence was so perfectly crafted.

Spoken word is a method that somehow eliminates the cockiness and need to impress that so often annoyingly occurs in rap music. To be more specific: spoken word poets don't make any money. It's as simple as that; the single reason these poets write is for the sake of writing. The single reason they get up in front of crowds and perform their work is for the sake of saying those words out loud. It's a wonderful phenomenon – all of the most clever, insightful and passionate people putting down in words and in rhymes what they think and know to be true.

The performances themselves are also beautiful to behold. These poets want nothing more than to share their experiences and truths, and because of that, each poem delves deeper and deeper into that specific poet's individual nature.

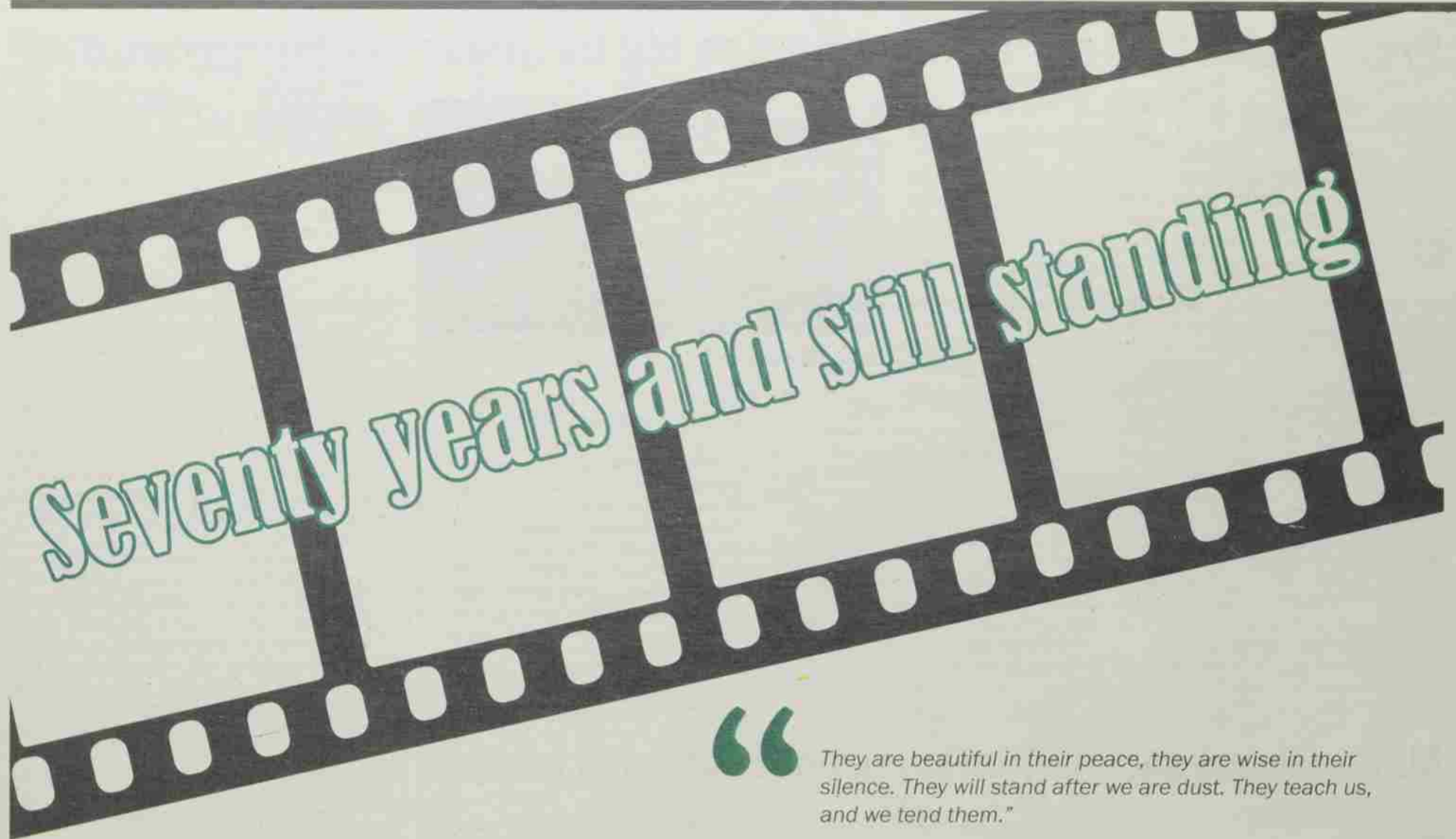
I can't describe the way it feels to watch the look on their face as they tell the audience the intimate details of anything from a heart-wrenching break up to their parents' divorce. But don't let that fool you into thinking every performance is dramatic and depressed; the incredible art and power that a good spoken word poet has is the ability to put into witty words their dreary days as well as their highest peaks.

The point here is: if you maybe feel as if there's something you could be doing with all of your thoughts and angry feelings (besides being passive aggressive), get on YouTube and see what your peers are doing with theirs.

Contact: rheister@willamette.edu

"A writer should write
with his eyes and a painter
paint with his ears."

- Gertrude Stein



“

They are beautiful in their peace, they are wise in their silence. They will stand after we are dust. They teach us, and we tend them.”

GALEAIN IP ALTIEM MACDUNELMOR
POET

LINDSAY BRAUNWALDER
FEATURE EDITOR

Iconic scenes surround the identity that is Willamette University. There are many aspects that help define Willamette and shape our University's unique image: the Mill Stream, the Bistro, the clock tower, the "Chicken" Fountain and the Star Trees.

Perhaps the most awe inspiring are the things we can look at and realize are also connected with hundreds of others who have passed through this campus before us. The Star Trees represent a memory that many WU students can relate to, and it is one that they treasure.

2012 marks the 70th anniversary of the planting of Willamette University's beloved Star Trees. The now-giant sequoias were planted and dedicated in 1942 during WWII, in honor of Willamette's centennial.

I had the honor of talking with Sunny VanWyngarden, a student of Willamette who graduated the year the trees were dedicated and planted. She stated that, "the trees were a parting gift from the graduating class."

The 100th class to graduate from Willamette felt they needed to leave their footprint on the campus that helped to shape their future lives. In fact, VanWyngarden said the class had a special motto: "42 won't miss the bus; they've waited 100 years for us!"

The Star Trees definitely signify the longevity and strength of WU. We realize the trees were planted 100 years after our University's beginning, and now it has been 70 more years since their planting. The class of 1942 will forever be tied to the Star Trees.

There is another version of the tree's history that is also told. A former president of Willamette, Carl Sumner Knopf, left the university in 1942 and he left the trees as his parting gift. When the trees were planted, Knopf was the first to put a shovel in the dirt.

As noted on the Willamette website, at the

planting Knopf spoke about the worldwide conflict to preserve freedoms taught at Willamette: freedom of expression, freedom of political action and freedom of belief. "Each sequoia planted here we regard as a tree of liberty," he said.

At the time of their dedication, "the trees were only about one and a half feet tall," said VanWyngarden. She also claimed the students and faculty involved didn't anticipate the formation of the star shape which now gives the Star Trees their name. Erik Schmidt '05, and the Associate Director of Alumni Communications, commented "perhaps part of the charm might be that the star shape isn't artificially produced."

Many were in attendance at the dedication of the Star Trees. However, many students missed the 'birth' of the trees; VanWyngarden said "Many members of the 1942 class were in the service, so not the whole class was able to attend."

That is one thing she remembers most when visiting the Star Trees, even as the years pass, VanWyngarden said "I remember how small they were, and seeing them now brings back memories, of the ones who went to war." VanWyngarden tries to come back and see the Star Trees when she can. "I didn't expect them to get so large, or that they would be decorated every year for the holidays," VanWyngarden said.

VanWyngarden received her degree in Art and Psychology in 1942; she also met her husband at Willamette. He was a member of the same graduating class. Of course the Star Trees were much too small for VanWyngarden and her future husband to complete the legendary myth of kissing under the Star Trees as a rumored symbolic act of future marriage. In fact when I talked to her, she had never even heard of the tradition that is now so prominent within the WU community.

Kissing under the star trees has become an act of definite meaning at Willamette, although it is unclear how many of these moments of passion turn into lifetimes of commitment and love. Schmidt said, "we don't know the rate of marriages between alumni, but it's been part of the culture here for a while to kiss under the trees if you're looking for some dependable bliss."

Schmidt also commented, "my wife and I, both WU grads, have actually never done it, and we feel like we didn't quite fulfill our duties as Bearcats. Do we do it now, after all this time? Would that upset the balance? We don't know!"

Victoria Smith, an alumni from Willamette, speaks of the magic tied to the Star Trees, "my husband and I had our first kiss under the Star Trees, and that was August of 2004. We got married this past July. At the time of the kiss, I had never heard the Star Tree 'legend' about having a first kiss under the Star Trees ... It came true for us."

There are many other traditions associated with the Star Trees, including camping out beneath them. The five sequoias provide a unique view, a window of the night sky above in the shape of a star. Susan Elizabeth - Marsh Tanabe '79, MAT '90, said she remembers, "Toting our sleeping bags and pillows from Lausanne to the center of the Star Trees, Fall '75 or Spring '76... Since then, I've taken hundreds of high school and TIUA students there, loving the looks on their faces when they look up."

Alumni Mariah Pine Mayfield also reminisced in a similar fashion; she said she remembered, "sleeping under the Star Trees the first night my now-fiancee visited Willamette and waking up with sticks and needles majorly stuck in my hair."

Of course the Star Trees have served as the official trees for the annual holiday tree light-

ing. This tradition represents a unity and connection people have with each other at Willamette, and also with the Salem community. They join together during a time of celebration and enjoy the view of the Star Trees decorated with tiny bulbs of light.

Alumni Natalie Carmelle Miller Nawn talks about her experiences with the Star Trees, including the tree lighting. She said, "My senior year I was determined to see the Star Tree lighting that I had missed every year before. After waiting four years, then waiting a little longer because the pouring rain delayed the lighting, the trees finally lit up and it felt almost magical."

Natalie had another incredible moment that night that she associates with the Star Trees. She commented, "Continuing the magic, after the lighting ceremony my now-husband proposed. Though it's been a few years now, that evening is still one of the most perfect moments of my life, and the Star Trees will always represent part of what is uniquely captivating about Willamette."

As members of the WU community we understand what it means to be 'Mill-streamed,' we can fight for our choice of a Buzz Bar, or a Bars Bar at the Bistro, we will recognize the sound of the clock tower chime, we know that the Chicken Fountain really doesn't contain any chickens and when we think back on our time spent at Willamette, a vision of the Star Trees might come to mind.

The five sequoias stand as some of the tallest trees on any college campus. Perhaps they have grown along with the WU community and the memories of those who have passed through Willamette over the last 70 years.

The Star Trees serve as a connection between us all. Now we see the Star Trees taller than any building on campus, yet we know that students witnessed their planting 70 years ago.

The stories of the Star Trees' history might be different, but the message of the Star Trees is the same. They were planted as a gift, and I think that gift was to serve as a symbol, a place for memories, for all the students of WU. The Star Trees are an iconic image of the University, and when I think of WU, I always think of them.

And now, I also imagine all the people before me; those who watched the trees being planted, those who walked through five trees as tall as the building they stand next to, or those who looked up to the sky underneath a star shaped window formed by branches. At some point we were all students at Willamette University, and we will always have that connection.

Special thanks to Erik Schmidt

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Sequoias

- **The Willamette Star Trees are giant sequoias. Many other giant sequoias can be found in the California, Redwood Forest.**
- **The average sequoia can grow between 160 - 279 ft. tall and 20 - 26 ft. in diameter.**
- **The oldest known sequoia is 3,500 years old.**

Top photo: An aerial view of the Willamette. Notice the young Star Trees in the bottom right corner.
 Second photo: A photo of the Star Trees in the 1950s.
 Third photo: A current image of the Star Trees seen from the top of the capitol.
 Bottom photo: The lighted trees during the 2011 holiday Star Tree lighting.



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SALLY SZETO

Sports Fans... who will win the Superbowl?

JOE DONOVAN
STAFF WRITER

Sports fans,

Today, I have heartburn and hiccups. It's because I had sausage for breakfast and my esophagus is delicate. Because I just ate meat I feel inclined to write about the melodramatic Super Bowl, unquestionably the largest "sausage-fest" in America.

My chest burns from breakfast, but I'm a dedicated sports correspondent, and you smart readers turn to the *Collegian* for perceptive insight on the upcoming drama between the New England Patriots and the New York Giants.

The footballers to watch on Sunday are Tom Brady and Bill Belichick. Brady is the longhaired heartthrob (in a non-food induced way) quarterback of the New England Patriots. Belichick is the head coach of the Patriots. Belichick is also known as the fool who wears torn sweatshirts.

Because this sports reporting is endowed

with the *Collegian's* reputation for high-quality (aka wordy) writing, I only look at the stats. Like other members of the football intelligencia I rely on stats to assert football is number one in every category in America. Here are some stats regarding hearts, hair and football:

Stat: During one Super Bowl commercial, the collective audience will beat 4,440,000,000 heartbeats; that's enough beat for one human to live 105 years, providing they don't run too hard.

Stat: Sunday will have 4,625,000,000,000 feet of hair witnessing sport's biggest day. That's enough hair to get from Salem to the Moon 12 times.

Stat: I'm 21 years old, and my heart has beat 88 million times. Right now because of my breakfast I feel each beat like I'm being dragged down a flight of cement stairs.

Stat: The average length of human hair is five inches, (Tom Brady's hair is eight inches) and the average person has 100,000 hair follicles. That means Tom Brady has 800,000 inches or 12.62 miles of hair.

I'm almost positive the Super Bowl is on Sunday, and one thing is clear: football (as we know it) is comprised mainly of hair and heart. Thanks to modern science, this sports page can prove statistical correlation between length of hair and "heart."

I mean "heart" how football announcers use it: to express how much a player wants to win. One thing is clear, long hair makes someone look like they've got heart. Sunday's game is sure to prove that football is no different than a sugary action movie.

If you're as perceptive as I am, you'll notice the men asserting their masculinity on a big screen are no different than men asserting their masculinity on a playing field. Okay, that's probably not true but I just watched an

action movie and got a hairy feeling in my stomach. The movie had a lot of fighting and muscle. In the end, the antagonist looked in the eyes of the hero and said, "You don't quit, do you?" then he spit blood out of his mouth. The antagonist was about to die but he used his last breath to say, "You've got heart."

Aside from this final scene making me want to barf, I thought about Tom Brady.

I wondered if Tom Brady uses the bathroom and then only afterward, he discovers there's no toilet paper on the roll. The truth is, Tom Brady isn't the Tom Brady we know. But I think we like football because we love the show. We love the characters. The Super Bowl is a performance for the populace.

Wait, I haven't said anything. Here's a prediction, the New England Patriots will win, 21-6.

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Hot or not?

BRANDON CHINN
STAFF WRITER

Hot:

Prince Fielder, 1B, Detroit Tigers

After hitting 38 homeruns and driving in 120 RBI with the Milwaukee Brewers in 2011, the All-Star first baseman cashed in...BIG time, signing a 9-year, \$214 million contract with the Detroit Tigers. The deal serves as the fourth-highest Major League deal of all-time and bolsters a Tigers offensive lineup that powered them into the American League Championship Series a year ago. Fielder, whose father Cecil played with the Tigers organization for five-plus years, says, "It's kind of a dream come true."

Murray State Men's Basketball

Twenty one games into the season and the Murray State Racers men's basketball team is still unbeaten. That's right, 21-0. After starting the season unranked, the Racers have soared their way up to being the nation's ninth ranked team. Murray State, who owns a 2-14 overall NCAA Tournament record, also figures to be in position to make a deep postseason run come Madness time.

New York Giants

Back on December 6th it appeared as if the Giants, who held a 6-6 record would miss the playoffs for a fourth straight season. Things changed, however, when the team ended the regular season winning three of their last four games. That momentum is still present for the New York football Giants, who are playing in the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots after three consecutive playoff victories in which they've outscored their opponents 81:39.

Ricky Rubio, Rookie PG, Minnesota Timberwolves

Coming over from Spain this past offseason to make his NBA debut for the Minnesota Timberwolves, the 21-year-old Ricky Rubio has done nothing but impress. After starting the season in a reserve role, the rookie guard has now managed to find himself in the starting lineup, averaging 11 points and 9 assists per game. In the past five games though, Rubio has really turned some heads, averaging 14 points, 11 assists, and 4 rebounds per game.

Not:

Peyton Manning, QB, Indianapolis Colts

After missing the entire 2011 season while recovering from neck surgery, Peyton Manning is now unsure of his playing future with the Indianapolis Colts, who locked up the first overall pick and the potential rights to top QB prospect Andrew Luck in the upcoming NFL draft with a 2-14 record. Manning has also had his share of problems with the Colts front office in the previous months. After voicing his disapproval of the firing of team President Bill Pollian, Manning clashed with team owner Jim Irsay, leading some to believe that Manning's days could be over in Indy.

Victor Martinez, C, Detroit Tigers

After hitting .330 with 103 RBI in 2011, Martinez will have to wait an extended period of time before returning to the field after tearing his ACL during an offseason agility workout. While there is some hope that the veteran catcher could return this season, it looks as if Martinez will be done for the season before it even begins.

Orlando Magic

The Magic got off to a hot start to the abbreviated NBA season, but after a 10-3 start Orlando has lost four of their last six games. To make matters even worse, All-Star big man Dwight Howard, who requested a trade at the beginning of the season, called the team out after Friday night's 93-67 drubbing at the hands of the New Orleans Hornets.

Charlotte Bobcats

Showing potential after winning their first game of the season back on December 26th, the Bobcats have looked flat out awful. Currently holding an NBA worst 3-18 record, the Bobcats have lost eight games in a row. To make matters even worse, they lost to the Washington Wizards (4-16) twice in the past week.

Sources: ESPN.com, Huff Post Detroit

Contact: bchinn@willamette.edu

WU All-Stars



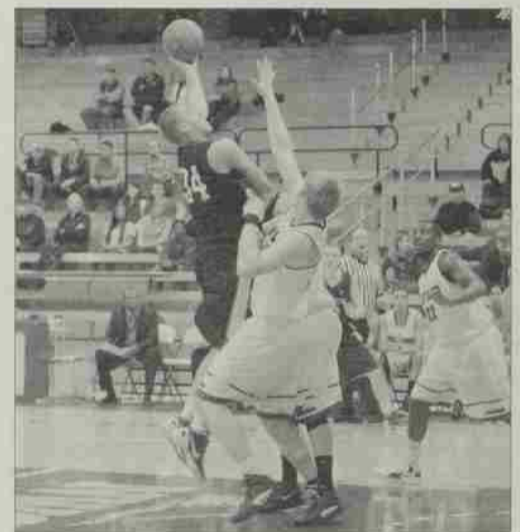
RYAN ROBBIE

Sophomore Erin Parkinson won three individual events versus Linfield, including the 1,000-yard freestyle.



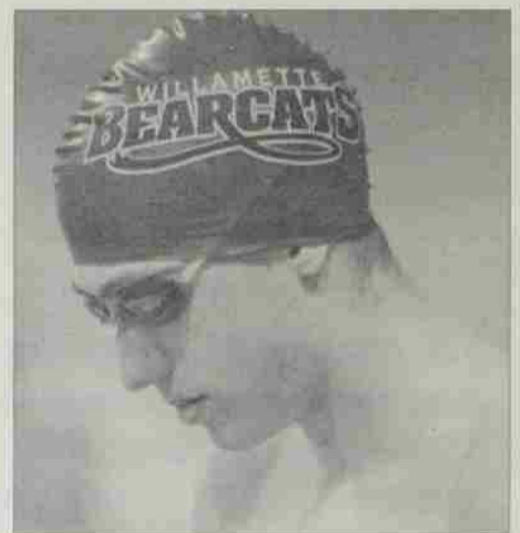
ALLY SZETO

Senior Kailiegh Westermann had 9 points and grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds in a 71-52 loss at PLU



ALLY SZETO

Senior Forward Taylor Mounts scored 30 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in an 89-78 loss at PLU.



COURTESY OF WU ATHLETICS

Freshman Sean Piper won the 200 yard medley and the 200 yard backstroke versus Linfield

▼ next up

Basketball

Bearcats v. Linfield

@ Salem, Ore.

Friday, Feb. 3 at 8 p.m. (Men's)

and 6 p.m. (Women's)

SWIMMING

Piper, Parkinson shine as Linfield downs WU

MICHELLE LASHLEY
STAFF WRITER

The Bearcat swimmers triumphed as individuals this weekend, but the Linfield Wildcats took more combined second- and third-place wins, giving the Wildcats the edge in points and an overall victory. The Bearcats were especially hurt in the relays, where Linfield took split victories. The Bearcat women were defeated by a close margin of 106-95, while the men finished with a score of 129-66.

Willamette's women had seven overall first-place finishes, three of which were taken by sophomore Erin Parkinson who won in the 1,000-yard freestyle, the 100-yard freestyle and the 200-yard breaststroke. Two of these races were won with narrow margins, Parkinson edging out Linfield competitor Victoria Nickerson in each.

In the 100-yard freestyle, Parkinson finished with 57.59, a margin of just 1.15 seconds over Nickerson. In the 200-yard breaststroke, Parkinson finished with 2:36.36, just 0.85 seconds ahead of Nickerson. In the 1,000-yard freestyle, Willamette finished first and second, with Parkinson taking first and sophomore Hope Nelson finishing right behind.

Also winning individual events for the Bearcat women's team were Nelson in the 500-yard freestyle, junior Lauren Ballinger in the 50-yard freestyle and freshman Ann Hues in the 200-yard backstroke. Nelson won the freestyle with a time of 5:47.66, a comfortable 10 second margin over the second-place finisher. Ballinger won with 27.89, Willamette's Brandi Halemano placing second just 0.16 seconds behind her. The WU women also won the 400-yard freestyle relay, with Nelson, Bars, freshman Summer Elias and Ballinger getting a time of 4:02.06.

The Willamette men were once again led by freshman Sean Piper, winning two individual events. He placed first in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:05.20 just 1.25 seconds over Linfield's Serh Ruwitch. Piper was victorious by three seconds in the 200-yard backstroke, as he finished in 2:02.96.

Willamette also had several of its own narrow second-place finishes, with sophomore Chris Whitehead trailing the victor by only 3/4 of a body length in the 200-yard backstroke. In the 400-meter medley, a strong fourth leg by freshman Aran Johnson was able to reduce Linfield's lead by 1.83 seconds, although the Wildcats won by just 0.6 seconds.

The Bearcat women's team concluded its dual schedule at 2-7, 0-7 in the NWC. Willamette's men ended the dual season at 0-8, 0-7 in the NWC.

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RYAN ROBBIE

Sophomore Chris Whitehead finished second in the 200-yard backstroke for the Bearcats.

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You know you're a D3 Athlete when...

SEAN DART
SPORTS EDITOR

The life of a Division III athlete isn't a glorious one. And by "isn't glorious," I mean "is pretty shitty."

We don't get athletic scholarships, and we are, by most accounts, less athletic than our sport requires, making the whole running, jumping, moving-quickly-thing kind of difficult. We get hardly any fans, and even our friends and family aren't sure they want to come to our games.

When your mom tells you that you're slow and boring, you know you're a DIII athlete. It's not all bad, though... we get a really good education, and get funny articles written about us in the newspaper. Check it out:

You know you're a Division III athlete when:

- You weren't the best player on your high school team.
- You were the best player on your high school team. That won 3 games in the 1A classification of Montana's Cowboy Hat League.
- The trainers keep a running tab for all the athletic tape you've used over the years.
- Your total is \$57.50. Tuition is \$57,000
- A year.
- You: "Sorry I was late to practice... dissecting an armadillo is far more time consuming and intricate than I had previously assumed!"
- Coach: "No problem, did you ever calculate the velocity at which you need to throw the ball in order to get us a god-damn touchdown this weekend?"

You: "Why, yes. Yes, I did. I'll give you the spreadsheet."

- "Willa-mette? That sounds like a mountain. Is it a mountain? I'm pretty sure that's a mountain."

- You still sort of operate under the assumption that you're a big time athlete. This is evident by your incessant Facebook posting about your game tonight, and your Twitter feed. Insert hash-tag-joke here. #HASHTAGJOKES

- You listen to Bon Iver on your warm-up mix. Or Childish Gambino, because he's the only rapper "intellectual enough" to pump you up.

- You play in an intramural league in the off-season, and you aren't that much better than the other students playing.

- This doesn't stop you from being overly competitive, sweaty, probably having some sort of offensive chest hair, insisting on being "skins" every time and yelling at everyone. "HELPSIDE! D! BALL, BALL, BALL! WHO'S GOT SHOOTER?"

- People don't want to be on your intramural team.

- Everyone has this story: "In high school, I played against _____ and held my own. We got destroyed, but I played really well. _____ is overrated. I am underrated."

- That one time you get to play against a big DI school, you always walk away from it saying "they're not that good" and "we could have competed with them."

- Your mom might agree.

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OPINION

Myth of the bedpost

Reading the fine print

BETHANY WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

In attempting to woo a potential roommate (to convince him to set aside all trepidations and just move in already), my housemates and I presented him with some pretty seductive factoids:

- We are the best
- We will all be playing games together at least once a week
- When you get good grades, they will be proudly displayed on our refrigerator
- At any given time, someone somewhere in the house will be happy to snuggle
- We cook a lot of tasty food and drink a lot of tasty drinks, which we will share
- We are a naked-happy house

Fortunately for us, we hoodwinked him, and he moved in. Unfortunately for him, we may have left out some details he would have appreciated knowing before he made the decision:

- Three out of our four burners do not work
- Our basement (where he lives) floods even when it's not raining
- At any given time, someone, somewhere in the house will have a yeast infection
- The roof leaks
- Our kitchen floor is coated in 30 years of college grime and will never be clean

The good news is that our roommate now realizes what living in our house really entails and has still decided to stay. The bad news is that the ol' bait-and-switch happens not only when trying to fill shitty college houses, but also when we're taught about sex, love and all sorts of relationships.

Sometimes, disregarding the details can be comedic. Not telling someone you plan on getting naked when you have a few additional nipples or your penis is pierced can lead to fun, harmless and even endearing discoveries.

But not telling someone you plan on getting naked when you have an STI or even a cold can lead to serious consequences.

New friends aren't informed that I cheat at cards. No biggie.

New romantic partners aren't informed up front that if they hurt my feelings, my reaction is to zoom in on their greatest fears and insecurities in order to shamelessly belittle and exploit them. Potentially disastrous.

We're taught that relationships of all kinds are supposed to be mutually beneficial, filled with give and take, reciprocity, compromise and sharing.

Rejection is scary, and at times it's difficult or, to be honest, even ugly. But to improve our relationships, sex lives and basic knowledge of how the world works, we're going to have to accept that giving and receiving all of the information is essential.

Information is the necessary foundation for making any positive choice or change, from snagging a fantastic roommate, to finding someone with compatible sexual taste, to ending violence against women, to stopping environmental degradation.

In 16 short days, Willamette students will present the Vagina Monologues, an annual performance aligned with V-Day, which is a global movement working to end violence toward women and girls.

The Vagina Monologues tells stories and presents information that is not fun or easy to hear, but remains vitally important. After enjoying a holiday all about love, consider attending the performance and learning about some of the details that may have been left out.

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EDITORIAL

Message lost in translation

Last week marked a tradition at Willamette University. Each year, the MLK celebration draws social justice to the forefront of the collective consciousness of this campus.

An integral part of that process, the Tunnel of Oppression is a traditional headliner. However, like all traditions, it bears some examining on occasion to assure that it continues to work properly and appropriately.

As always, this year's Tunnel covered a number of issues important to Willamette students, including sweatshop labor, food justice and reproductive racism.

The validity of the content aside, the Editorial Board is not concerned with what is being said as much as with how it is being said.

According to the event's website, Tunnel is meant to offer participants "opportunities to reflect on the ways in which [they] participate in the systems that reproduce inequality," after which they would be "compelled to take informed action."

Unfortunately, at very few points did Tunnel offer participants the chance to enter into a conversation with the exhibit or with each other.

Rather, right down to the recording in the background, participants were bombarded with information, without being able to actively engage with the exhibit. Though we understand that the Tunnel is meant to inspire righteous

anger, some type of conversational follow-up should be included in the experience. Recently, steps have been taken in recognition of this need, but the issue of communication and conversation extends beyond the particulars of Tunnel.

As it stands now, somewhere between taking in information and taking action, there is silence where conversations should be taking place.

Tunnel is just one example of the type of discourse that is endemic to this campus: Consistently one-way and often angry.

All too often, "conversational" lectures offered campus-wide do not provide the proper forum for a dialogue.

The professor or guest speaker lectures, maybe two or three students have the opportunity to ask a question, and then the audience leaves without having contributed to an increased understanding.

Another example is last semester's Border Fence event. Putting aside, once again, the message of the Border Fence, the event itself did not necessarily promote an exchange of ideas.

When students are attacking each other from behind their Facebook profiles, you know you have a problem. When discussions end in tears rather than in an increased understanding and respect, there's a problem.

Students protest into the void and become frustrated when no one

answers back.

But really, why would they, when all they can expect is an angry reaction?

Events such as the Border Fence and the Tunnel of Oppression are beneficial installations, but they should not be considered a substitute for a dialogic exchange of ideas. And they should not be called dialogic if they are not.

Maybe we don't really talk on this campus because we are subconsciously afraid of what may happen on a campus this small. Perhaps more likely, we've not cultivated a respect for differences in opinions that allows for that sort of talk.

It's important to maintain a respect for those students who are not necessarily activists, to believe that they are not unintelligent or uncaring individuals.

Conversations need to happen. The silence may be deafening, but so is the shouting.

COLLEGIAN EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editorial represents the composite opinion of the Collegian Editorial Board

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OPINION

Huerta misfires at MLK celebration

ALEX KIPLING
GUEST WRITER

On the flood-threatened evening of Friday, Jan. 28, Willamette students and Salem community members gathered to hear Dolores Huerta speak as part of Willamette's MLK celebration.

Huerta, 81, indicated that her long and tireless battle for social justice and farmworkers' rights was far from over.

But as students and faculty cheered and veteran activists applauded, one man stood during the question and answer session to express his frustration with Huerta's lack of recognition of the past and current struggle for African American civil rights.

He raised a key point: Why was the African-American community's longstanding fight against social oppression ignored in Huerta's lecture during Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations?

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, proposed by his wife Coretta Scott King, was reluctantly made a federal holiday by President Ronald Reagan in 1983.

It not only celebrates Dr. King's persistent call to action against racism without the use of violence, but also brings forth the concept of a unified front to improve conditions in underprivileged communities.

Although this message embraced a vision for a better future for all discriminated groups in the United States, we have to remember that King's struggle was carried out in a time when part of our country supported the idea of a legally segregated society.

As president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

(SCLC), Dr. King was the most prominent leader of the African American civil rights movement. This movement, as Huerta demonstrated, has been simplified to a piece of history with little relevance to current society.

During the Q&A session after her speech, an African American member of the audience stated, "Is it just me or did someone just miss my birthday?"

He was questioning Huerta's complete disregard for speaking about the problems still facing the black community on an occasion that was ripe for just such a discussion.

Huerta's response was forced, pointing out to the crowd the substantial educational barriers that still haunt low-income African American communities, the ongoing genocide of black babies through birth prevention and that black men still have the highest incarceration rates in this country (an abominable 1 in 15 African American males are behind bars, compared to 1 in 45 white males).

This omission, along with an absurd, defensive response from Huerta's daughter that claimed that we "are all originally from Africa," were, may I say, embarrassing.

As part of the many celebrations and dedications to the non-violent and progressive desegregation efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Huerta's invitation to engage the predominantly white and Latin@ audience was a powerful statement in itself.

As a Latina, Huerta's presence represented how Dr. King's fight for African American civil rights in the 1950s and 60s has transformed into a unified campaign for all minorities

and other stigmatized groups to take from King's approach to dismantle social oppression.

But we cannot forget to pay homage to the African American struggle against the de facto and de jure racism in the South and the covert racism in the North.

Although King's message is often applied universally to any oppressed group, we should continue to apply Dr. King's efforts and lessons to the present-day black community, a community that still encounters social, political and economic discrimination.

In remembrance of a man who dreamed of a race-free society, where African-Americans and other persecuted groups could one day be seen as equals, Huerta failed to address how King's vision for the African American community has yet to be accomplished.

Until that equality has been reached, the issues that remain in the African American community, especially in an event celebrating its greatest civil rights hero, cannot be brushed aside.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite you to submit letters to the editor. Letters can be sent by postal mail, e-mail (mpitchfo@willamette.edu), campus mail or fax. Letters are limited to 150 words, must include your name and phone number and must be submitted by noon Monday on the week of intended publication. The Collegian reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

OPINION

REDUCTIO AD AWE SOME

Corporations are people too



ANTHONY MACUK
STAFF WRITER

watch while an entirely different constituency (humans) chooses the policymakers.

Thanks to this grossly unfair denial of agency, a corporation's only recourse is to donate untold hundreds of millions of dollars to their preferred candidate's super PAC and hope that one day they might see some positive change.

The second major issue is corporate gun ownership. Individuals within a corporation can purchase firearms for self-defense, but the corporations themselves are left at the mercy of aggressive protesters and hostile occupations.

If we truly care about the rights of our businesses, then we cannot rest until American corporations are authorized to protect themselves by deploying standing armies of drones, mines and terminator robots on American soil.

The legal rights of corporations are also a joke in this country. If a corporation is in trouble, it deserves the same treatment as everybody else. When was the last time a corporation was given a trial by a jury of its peers (other than in Citizen's United)?

Perhaps the single most disgusting denial of corporate rights comes in the form of corporate marriage. Individual people get married every day with minimal hassle. But if two corporations want to merge, they have to go through endless legal processes

designed to make them give up.

Sometimes the government may actually block the merger for trumped up reasons like "monopoly" or "fraud." What gives the government the right to do this? The love between T-Mobile and AT&T was as real as in any other relationship, and denying it only perpetuates society's anti-corporate attitude.

Speaking of which, the battle won't stop once corporations have their civil rights. We also have to address the culture of negativity directed against them. America's denial of corporate personhood is so pervasive that most people don't even acknowledge the humanity of the corporations with whom they interact.

Anyone reading this article probably knows several corporations personally. They could be your internet service provider, your favorite restaurant or even your weed dealer.

But when you think of them, you don't really think of a person of value; they're just "that business" or "that place" or "that guy you met behind the dumpster." That's the attitude that has to change.

The bottom line is that corporations are people, and we need to treat them as such. Five Supreme Court justices have already recognized this basic fact. Now it's time for the rest of us to do the same.

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I feel really sorry for corporations. For centuries, these gentle business giants have been abused, mistreated and denied the most basic status of sentient beings: personhood. But in 2010, five brave Supreme Court justices finally stood up for corporate rights.

In the landmark case Citizens United v Federal Election Commission, the Court found that corporate speech is protected under the First Amendment, and that corporations and unions therefore have the right to make unlimited expenditures for political purposes.

The Court's position is clear: Corporations are people too, and they deserve equal rights. In the spirit of this ruling, I thought I'd take the time to point out some other basic rights that are still denied to corporations in this country.

The Supreme Court should take note: under the precedent set by Citizens United, all of these issues need to be rectified as well.

First and foremost is the right to vote. In spite of the progress made by Citizens United, corporations are still forced to sit around and

Buddies, friends and how far we've yet to go



SEAN DART
CONTRIBUTOR

discouraging the "fear" that stems from ignorance about people with disabilities that many people feel, but to simply settle for conquering this fear is to sell ourselves short and continues to disregard the humanity of people with intellectual disabilities.

The article also places an emphasis on the reciprocal nature of friendships formed in Best Buddies, which is great — making a new friend when offering friendship is a positive situation on all accounts and occasions — but an oversimplification exists when we allow our watered-down version of acceptance to replace an honest pursuit of fulfilling relationships between people.

This notion of equality is immediately extinguished by both the content of the article and the aesthetics, which included multi-colored font fit for an article about grade-schoolers and exaggerated silly pictures featuring clearly adult people with disabilities.

The piece itself aspires to the Utopian ideology that we are all equal, and friendship thus blossoms. While it's important to have fun, and this program provides an environment where this is possible, the relationships formed are between adults and must be recognized as such.

The appeal is there, and I want genuine acceptance to be a reality as bad as the next person, but pretending that we have already achieved this ideal only perpetuates the issue.

To stop here and chalk the article up as a victory, like some sort of progress other than gaining members of Best Buddies has been made, is to ignore the issue of equality and acceptance.

If the point of the article was simply to increase the appeal and, thus, the involvement in the "Best Buddies" program, it succeeded. I'm sold on the group. I'm sold on the idea. I'm not, however, willing to say this is good enough.

The writer concludes by saying, "Who knows? Maybe you will be able to finally meet that best friend you have been looking for," to both acknowledge the potential friendship that awaits you in Best Buddies and to encourage you to join the group and find out for yourself. Maybe it's about you. Maybe it's about the group.

Go join. In the process, you'll touch a life, change your perspective and learn how to be part of the solution. Prove me wrong.

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While I'm pleased that last week's feature article, "You've got a friend in me," (Issue 15) encouraged students to accept people with intellectual disabilities and promoted participation in the "Best Buddies" club, the feature did so while perpetuating a stereotype that deems people with disabilities as less than human and somewhat of an entertaining caricature.

Though the author's intentions seem pure, the article forgets that not all people with disabilities are simple, fun-loving creatures.

It is easy to keep people with disabilities in a neat compartment, classify them as "buddies," "cute" or "precious," and accept them in that capacity. Surely it is better than blatantly rejecting them, but it is simplified and limited, and far from equality.

While the article is surely a step in the right direction towards acceptance, it still serves as a marker that we have a long way to go, and to leave that unsaid is to say it's okay to treat people with disabilities as caricatures, as long as they're caricatures you accept.

This article does many good things in

COLUMN



Smashing my face into my keyboard



KEVIN BELL
COLUMNIST

One in every eight people at Willamette suffers from a severe and debilitating condition. It is one which is unavoidable as one progresses through life as a student, and one which will cripple said student with frustration, indignation, rage and eventual despair.

The blight I speak of is familiar to many but discussed by few outside of closed doors, hushed tones and smoke-filled rooms. Of course, a savvy reader will have deduced the horror already, but for those of you unfamiliar, I am speaking of: LOS DIABLOS THESIS MUERTES BELL GRANDE.

If you or someone you know suffers from one of the following conditions, ask your doctor about NERVOUS BREAKDOWN, a new prescription from CopingCorp, the makers of PHUCKET I CAN BE A STRIPPER.

Be on the lookout for nausea, sleepless nights, panic, sudden death, hallucination, a blank, endless stare into oblivion, repetition of esoteric and pointless trivia about ethno-socio-economic-religious implications of the decision between Bistro and Special blends of coffee, etc.

Thesis is a serious condition, and Thesis related stress is a highly communicable disease, so exercise caution when interacting with those suffering from Thesis, as you may be punched in the face in a fit of paranoid delusion.

For those of us already caught in the ironclad grip of the Research Proposal and laying out our offerings of gold and 15 page applications at the foot of the Institutional Review Board, it is our lot in life to justify the Bistro's free 1 a.m. closing coffee.

Never before have so many written so much that was relevant to so few. If you've ever skipped a class to work before your thesis class, you know what I mean.

Me, I get by because I know whenever I have a problem or want to vent to somebody, I always have you, dear readers, the only ones who I can count on to assuage my sadness.

I have no idea how those other suckers do it though. Crystal meth, probably; or maybe they just damage property or something, I dunno.

Realistically, I'm starting to think everyone smokes crystal meth. I not only just started watching "Breaking Bad," but I also live in north Salem, where they could easily film a CSI style spinoff, set and props gratis.

Finally, I've been able to focus my Irrational Irritation into some actually productive pursuits lately, as this weekend I was able to yell, plead, mock and lie my way into my first victorious college debate tournament.

You may think to yourself, "Oh, what a pretentious dick, bragging about his accomplishments in his column," but in addition to my own win, Willamette won first place in Sweepstakes and Quality as well.

Since we're for damn sure not getting in the sports section for it, due to our lack of merchandising and spectator quality, I thought I would use my grandstand to announce how awesome our debate program is. So if you know a debater, be a bro and give them a fist-bump.

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CARA THOMPSON

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FEBRUARY 2012

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

STEPHEN E. THORSETT

Monday



Science Café with President (and Professor) Thorsett
Special Introduction by Tandem

7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 7 p.m.)
Cat Cavern, University Center
Willamette community welcome

Thursday



Carolyn Porco: Planetary Scientist
Cassini Explores the Saturn System

8 p.m. (Doors open at 7 p.m.)
Smith Auditorium
Willamette community and alumni: First 2 tickets FREE with ID
General Admission: \$10
willamette.edu/events/atkinson_lecture

Friday



Installation Ceremony

2:30 p.m. (Be seated by 2:15 p.m.)
Smith Auditorium
Official ceremony installing Steven E. Thorsett as president of Willamette University
Ticket required

INAUGURATION WEEK
FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Monday, Feb. 6** 7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 7 p.m.) **Science Café with President (and Professor) Thorsett**
"Peculiar Stars and Ancient Planets"
Cat Cavern, University Center
Campus community welcome
- Library hours **Exhibitions** *Continuing through Feb. 20*
"From Divinity to Astrophysics: Willamette's Presidents, 1853 to the Present"
"Congratulatory Greetings from Higher Education Institutions"
Mark O. Hatfield Library Lobby
- Tuesday, Feb. 7** 11 a.m.–noon (Doors open at 7 p.m.) **Tea with Steve**
Complimentary refreshments provided
All students welcome
The Bistro, University Center
Rick's Café, College of Law
- Thursday, Feb. 9** 8–9 p.m. (Doors open at 7 p.m.) **Atkinson Lecture with Carolyn Porco, Planetary Scientist**
"Cassini Explores the Saturn System"
Smith Auditorium *Ticket required*
- Friday, Feb. 10** 2:30–4 p.m. (Be seated by 2:15 p.m.) **Installation Ceremony**
Smith Auditorium *Ticket required*
- 4–5 p.m. **Celebration**
Reception at Goudy Commons
Campus community welcome
- 7:30–11:45 p.m. (Doors open at 7 p.m.) **Black Tie Affair**
Salem Conference Center
Student event, ticket required
- Saturday, Feb. 11** 7–10 p.m. (Doors open at 7 p.m.) **Puttin' on the Ritz**
Salem Conference Center
Campus and Salem communities welcome
Ticket required



WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

willamette.edu/inauguration