

The Collegian

Constitutional Heritage Club seeks ASWU affiliation following refusal of TPUSA chapter

Sirena Coulter-Kress • Staff Writer

Last semester, senior Lexi Thorsett ('26) filed with ASWU to affiliate a Willamette University chapter of the national organization Turning Point USA (TPUSA). Such affiliation would allow them to reserve spaces on campus and potentially gain access to ASWU funding. In November, ASWU senators voted unanimously to refuse affiliation to the group.

This spring, Thorsett applied for ASWU affiliation for a group called "Constitutional Heritage Club" (CHC). The senate is voting on the club's affiliation at Thursday's meeting after a brief deliberation during last week's meeting and an original recommendation from the Club Approval Committee to affiliate the new club.

Despite the new name, the CHC seems to carry over some of the plans and relationships from the original push for a TPUSA chapter.

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The Constitutional Heritage Club tables in Jackson Plaza on Jan. 13, 2026.

Photo by LUCY DEVLAE MINCK

WITS help desk substantially reduces student staff for spring semester

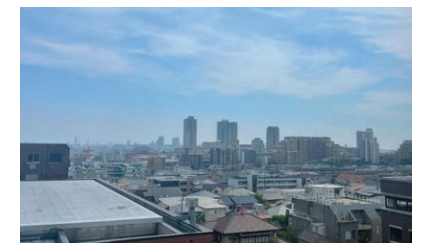
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Men's basketball secures playoff spot for the first time in 11 years

Catie Mohr, Sports & Rec Editor & Skeet Starr, Editor-in-Chief



up as they head into the tournament to face the most offensively efficient teams in the NWC.

Men's basketball faces the No. 2 seed Puget Sound Loggers in the conference semifinals on Friday, Feb. 27. The 'Cats split their regular season series with the Loggers, losing their first meeting 63-93 on Jan. 10 and winning the second 88-78 on Feb. 6.

The difference maker in both games was shot efficiency; in the first matchup, the Loggers absolutely dominated the Bearcats in shot percentage, going 56.4% from the floor and 50% exactly from three. The 'Cats, on the other hand, shot 25.8% from the floor and 12.5% from three, making just three of 24 attempts. These stats were flipped in the second game between the two, in which the Bearcats made 54.9% of field goals attempted and a whopping 57.1% of threes attempted to the Loggers' 41.8% and 38.5%, respectively.

The Bearcats have been in excellent form in recent weeks, having lost just one of their last five games, and in those five games they've averaged a 45.92% shot percentage, around 2% better than their season average. If the 'Cats can maintain their good form and shot selection, they'll be able to cruise past the Loggers for a chance to win the NWC tourney for the first time since 2000, when they defeated Linfield.

In the other semifinal, hosts No. 1 Whitworth will take on the defending champions No. 4 Lewis & Clark. Last year, the River Otters shocked the Buccs to win in an identical semifinal matchup, having finished in last place the season prior.

The last time the men's basketball team won the Northwest Conference tournament, in 2000, The Collegian covered their season in black and white. Now, they have a place in the tournament for the first time since 2015.

Collage compiled from The Collegian archives by LUCY DEVLAE MINCK

The 2025-26 season has been nothing short of historic for Willamette men's basketball. As of Feb. 22, their overall record sits at 15-10, their best since at least the 2006-07 season.

Last week, they secured a place in the conference tournament for the first time since 2015. Over the weekend, they cemented a final regular season placement at No. 3 in the conference, up from dead last at the end of the 2024-25 contest.

The 'Cats this year owe a large part of their success to Tanner Overby ('28), who is averaging 24.8 points per game (PPG) and shooting over 53% from the field. He is currently

on track to break the Willamette single-season PPG record, which hasn't been broken since the 1990-91 season. He leads the Northwest Conference (NWC) in PPG by a wide margin, with No. 2 Anthony Hrobka of Pacific averaging 20.7 PPG.

Overby's rise in the stat sheet has been meteoric. Last season, he saw the court 21 times but scored only 61 points. In the 20 games of the 2025-26 season so far, he has 496 points.

The fast-paced Willamette leads the conference in PPG with an average of 82.6, but they also give up the third-most points per game, a statistic which they'll need to clean

WITS help desk substantially reduces student staff for spring semester

Sirena Coulter-Kress • Staff Writer

At the end of the spring semester, the Willamette Integrated Technology Services (WITS) help desk let go of more than half its student workers and cut student hours, leaving some former employees confused.

At the end of last semester, the WITS help desk leadership, which provides on-call tech help to the campus community, informed its student workers that their hours would be reduced to 20 hours per week, divided among all student employees.

Student workers were then told that only one and a half student workers out of the five who were active would be retained for regular work with the help desk instead.

Jeremy Lovato, the chief information officer for WITS, said the purpose behind this change was to streamline the process of resolving service requests or tickets.

“The goal for any IT organization is to have a first point of contact resolution, and that requires your help desk team to deal with highly complex requests and have access to some of our systems that are secure and have access to personal information,” Lovato said.

Lovato added that, since they’re trying not to escalate so many tickets up the chain of command, they needed to have more professionally skilled help desk staff.

This includes being able to have one student developing deeper relationships with staff, faculty and clients, along with being able to provide the more complex training required to make the help desk more efficient, he said.

When asked when the decision to phase out most student help desk workers was made, Lovato said the changes were planned to “go live this calendar year,” and the decision had been made over the course of the

fall semester.

In a later statement to The Collegian, he spoke further about the intentionality behind the change. “This transition was intentionally planned within WITS as part of aligning staffing with higher expectations for IT service delivery and security, and it was timed at the end of a semester, which is when student employment is typically reassessed,” Lovato said.

Lovato also spoke to the potential for students to be reassigned throughout other IT areas at the university, such as application development and the web development team. When asked to clarify if the students who were working at the help desk had been redistributed to other areas of IT, Lovato restated the staff had been “reduced to one.”

Former student workers react

Maya Colclazier ('26) and River Hosten ('26) are two such students who were let go from the help desk.

Colclazier was an employee at the help desk since August 2022 and was promoted to help desk lead in June before being laid off in December. She felt there was a lack of communication throughout the process. “I think in the time I was working there, it had been kind of all over the place, and then restructuring started when Mr. Lovato came on,” she said.

Colclazier witnessed the budget and available work hours, especially for the help desk, get reduced consistently.

“It wasn’t a shock that something like that would happen eventually,” she said. “We just didn’t know when and to what extent it would be.”

In line with Lovato’s responses, Colclazier highlighted the importance of consistent service as one of



The WITS help desk on Jan. 23, 2026.
Photo by MAC CHILDERS

the reasons given for the restructuring, while also discussing concerns with the communication around the situation.

Hosten was a newer hire to the help desk, having been brought on this past July. He noted his surprise at being hired so close to his graduation, and spoke about a seeming lack of effort being put into his training and how he was “mostly trained in things [he] asked to learn about.”

Both Hosten and Colclazier spoke about their concerns with the manner of communication used.

“The way that they explained it at the time was very confusing because I think they were trying to make it seem not as bad as it was,” Hosten said. They originally told us they’d have 20 hours available for

student workers a week, but 20 hours split between five student workers is not sustainable to have a living.”

Lovato, in a statement responding to concerns brought up by the former student workers, acknowledged the concern students had about the transition.

“Anytime roles change, especially in a student employment context, it can be personal, and I take that seriously,” Lovato said. “While the decision itself was made deliberately, I recognize that how change is communicated and experienced matters. That perspective is important to me, and it’s something I carry forward as we continue to lead and improve how we support students through transitions.”

One year after cancellation, Black Tie Affair returns to Salem Convention Center

Avneet Dhaliwal • Staff Writer

One year after its cancellation due to problems with event logistics and a lack of ticket sales following the event’s move to PNCA, the Willamette Events Board’s (WEB) historically popular Black Tie Affair is set for March 7 from 8-11:30 p.m. at the Salem Convention Center downtown. The theme for this year’s event is “Royal Ball.”

Jodi Santillie, assistant director for Student Engagement and Leadership and advisor to WEB, said that the cancellation of the decades-old annual dance last year was not due to a lack of student interest, but rather a conflict with booking the Convention Center.

Without their normal venue, WEB tried to see if the PNCA campus would be a better fit for the event. However, there were logistical is-



Bearcats enjoy the 2023 edition of the Black Tie Affair.
Photo by ANUSHKA SRIVASTAV

sues with the location, and the individual ticket price for the event significantly increased, making it no longer reasonable to host the event, Santillie said.

The theme of the Black Tie Affair is different every year. Santillie explained that there is an extensive process that goes into the decision.

“[WEB goes] through a process where we do a huge brainstorming session to choose a theme,” Santillie said. “The Royal Ball theme kind of stemmed from a twofold thing where we knew we had a lot of things in our storage that would fit the theme, and also the team enjoys things

like Bridgerton.”

WEB will also provide appetizers and desserts for attendees. Additionally, there will be a 21+ lounge for attendees of age to enjoy drinks at an appropriate pace, Santillie said. For first-time attendees, Santillie recommended that students dress to the theme, wear comfortable shoes and bring what they can carry.

“The Convention Center is very particular about [certain] things. You need to check in coats and purses,” she said. “The least amount [of items] that you can bring with you, the better just because the coat check gets a little hectic.”

The last time Black Tie Affair was hosted, in the spring semester of 2024, WEB estimated that there were over 680 people in attendance.

“[The Black Tie Affair] is [WEB’s] largest event outside of Midnight Breakfast,” Santillie said.

Students can buy tickets online for \$17 up until Feb. 28 or pay \$20 on the day of the event. The Salem Convention Center will allow no entry into the event after 10 p.m. Any accommodation requests should be directed to the Willamette Events Board.

(Constitutional Heritage Club continued)

Changing tactics

When ASWU unanimously refused to affiliate Thorsett's TPUSA chapter last semester based on concern for student safety and comfort on campus, Thorsett said, "It was like I hit a wall I couldn't get through."

Recognizing ASWU's refusal as relating directly to her club's identity as a TPUSA-named and affiliated group, Thorsett returned to the drawing board with the other executive members of the proposed club, its advisor, Willamette's Director of Residence Life and Housing, Aaron Hukari, and its Turning Point Cascades representative, Sawyer Stone.

Since some senators stated they would accept a general politically conservative club, Thorsett said she renamed the group to limit reasons for another refusal.

Following the ASWU affiliation vote in November, TPUSA representatives also discussed TPUSA's previous legal actions at other universities that similarly denied TPUSA chapters. Thorsett said she doesn't want to pursue that avenue. "I don't want a legal battle at all," she said. "I've done legal stuff for, like, a car wreck, and it was a nightmare. So, I was like, 'Please, let's not go that route.'"

In terms of legal support, however, she made it clear that the option still exists, saying, "I don't want to threaten legal action at all, but it is on the table because it has happened before at other schools. Affiliate us; if we break any of ASWU's rules, if we break any of our constitutional rules, disband us. They have every right to do so if we become problematic."

Lisa Holliday, associate dean of students and director of Student Engagement and Leadership (SEAL), couldn't recall a time in the past 20 or so years when a club was rejected by ASWU. "If everything's taken care of in the packet, and we've checked all the boxes, historically, they have approved these organizations," she said.

Peyton Edmunds ('29), an ASWU senator and member of the finance board — which is also the

club approval committee — had, along with the rest of ASWU, been against affiliation of the TPUSA club in its original state. However, she expressed that as long as the group wouldn't make students feel unsafe and remained separate from the national organization, she would vote to affiliate them. "I think I've made that clear ... that if they want a Young Republicans on campus, I'll support it," she said.

When Thorsett's club filed affiliation paperwork for the Constitutional Heritage Club, no national affiliation was listed. Edmunds and the rest of the committee recommended the senate to approve the club's affiliation at the Feb. 16 finance board meeting.

However, it seems CHC still has connections to TPUSA.

According to both the TPUSA Cascades and CHC Instagram pages, Willamette University is listed as affiliated with Turning Point. On Wednesday, Feb. 18, the CHC's Instagram page included "TPUSA affiliated" in its bio. By that Friday, amid discussions between The Collegian, ASWU senators and members of the club, it instead read: "Powered by TPUSA."

"I literally need the affiliation just to reserve a space," Thorsett said of ASWU's approval. "I'm not asking for money. ... We still have ties to TPUSA, because they are going to support us financially if we need any money for anything."

When The Collegian asked Edmunds on Feb. 19 about this apparent connection and how it may impact Edmunds' decision to recommend affiliation, she stated, "If that is true — and I am going to attempt to figure that out from the source — my conviction is going to be what it originally was. I am against the affiliation [of TPUSA] itself, as that's what generally makes people feel unsafe on campus."

The Club Approval Committee unanimously recommended

approving Constitutional Heritage Club's affiliation during the finance board meeting on Feb. 16. However, during the broader ASWU meeting three days later, senators moved to table the vote regarding whether or

“ They think just the name brings violence and a lack of safety for the school. ... Okay, let me change the name then. ”

—Lexi Thorsett

not to affiliate the club until the Feb. 26 meeting.

The affiliation question

ASWU requires disclosure of affiliations with national organizations within its club application paperwork, also asking for disclosure on where prospective clubs will receive funding from other than ASWU.

Within that, however, SEAL and ASWU don't have a set definition of what constitutes being "affiliated" with a national organization. Holliday noted, "I think the whole thing is going to be looked at as we establish a new norm going forward."

Aaron Hukari was selected as the prospective club's advisor amid its startup effort last term and said he welcomes the chance to work more closely with students. He added that part of a university's responsibility is to prepare students to find new ways of thinking.

"An engaged political discussion from many different viewpoints also provides opportunities to develop our own political sensibilities and evolve our perspectives," Hukari said. "Only providing resources or access to one part of the political spectrum hinders this perspective sharing, conversation, and evolution."

Edmunds confirmed that no national affiliation was listed on the

CHC's application, and that there was no mention of where they would be receiving funding from outside ASWU.

"We left the affiliation part off our application," Thorsett said. "I was advised to not add it for the time being, from my club advisor."

Hukari told The Collegian they have not received requested guidance or clarity from ASWU on any specific requirements, criteria or factors for what constitutes a formal, external affiliation, or how to provide more information on how these organizations are separate.

"Having clear definitions and guidelines would prevent the nebulous conversation occurring now about what is and is not an external affiliation and whether or not that should impact ASWU-affiliation," he said.

Hukari stated that while he had met the Turning Point representative when CHC tabled an event in late January, he didn't have any connection with the TPUSA organization.

"As far as I know, there is no official connection between the two," he said. "There is certainly the partnership they have in terms of they are conservative students on campus who were interested at some point in affiliating with them."

Until things "calm down," as Thorsett put it, she and other leaders are keeping Turning Point updated on their club status and said they are still being considered official by the organization as a result. But they're doing more of what Willamette's governing student body wants them to do — like change their name.

"They think just the name [Turning Point] brings violence and a lack of safety for the school," Thorsett said of ASWU. "Okay, let me change the name then."

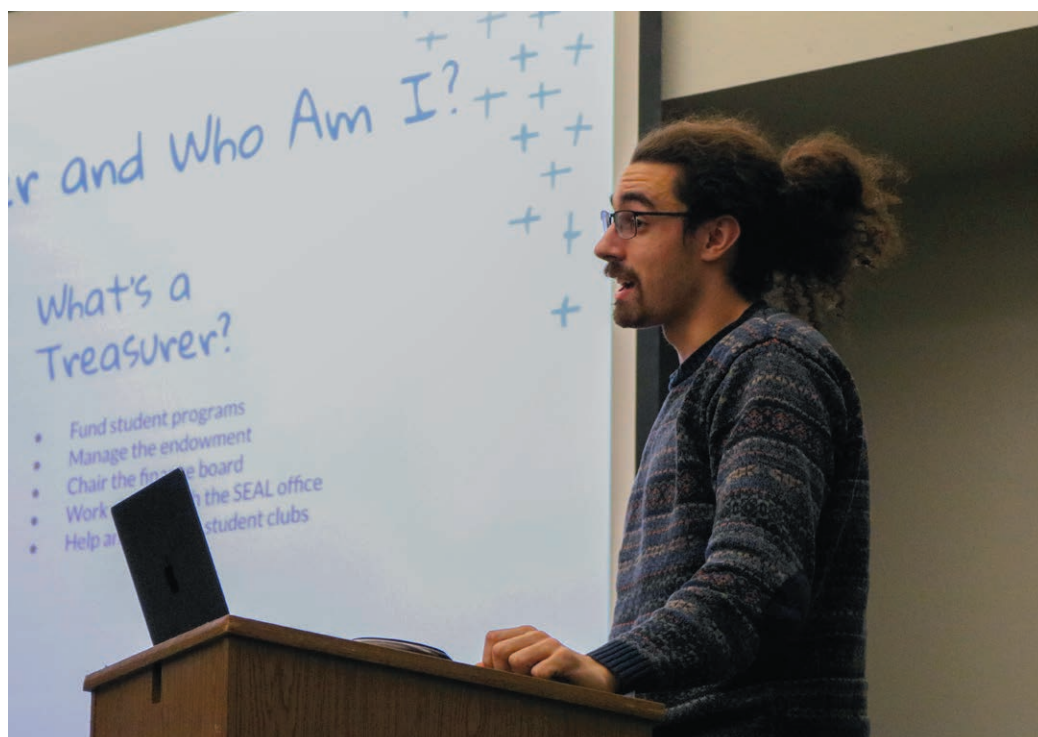
"I'm trying to minimize the reasons why they would deny us."

ASWU's next meeting is Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. in Montag Den.

Willamette student organizations face funding cuts

ODP, WEB and Lū'au among student groups with lowered spring budgets

Aubrey Lee • Staff Writer



ASWU Treasurer Mitch Septoff ('26) presents at the ASWU senate meeting on Jan. 29, 2026. Photo by LUCY DEVLAMINCK

Disclaimer: As a student organization, The Collegian was also impacted by funding changes. Advocacy efforts remain separate from news coverage.

Willamette's student organizations are facing significant funding cuts.

In December, the Associated Students of Willamette University (ASWU) senate voted to give the university's student organizations — the Willamette Events Board (WEB), Outdoor Program (ODP) and The Collegian — \$20,000 each as a "tide over" until a consensus could be reached on how best to manage ASWU's funds moving forward.

"We just don't have as much money as we used to," said ASWU Senator and finance board member Peyton Edmunds ('29).

According to ASWU Treasurer Mitch Septoff ('26), one

of the reasons for this lack of funding is that post-COVID, there are simply more clubs and organizations making requests during funding rounds, meaning that ASWU does not have the money to grant them all.

Clubs tend to make requests in all three funding rounds for a semester, while organizations typically only request funding in the pre-fall and pre-spring funding rounds.

In the 2026 pre-spring round, ASWU had a budget of \$150,000 set aside for organizations, plus an additional \$30,000 left from the fall semester that was not put back into the Reserve to help cover this semester's gap.

However, organizations requested over \$220,000.

When it was time for ASWU to vote on pre-spring funding, Septoff said, "The recommendation that the finance board came up with was not well-informed enough for my liking or the liking of other people in the organizations."

Read more on page 4.

(Spring funding continued)

This led Septoff to recommend that the ASWU senate give organizations \$20,000. That way, “organizations who needed to make payments and disbursements over winter break would have the ability to do so, without [the senate] making a final decision on funding.”

This decision was also in part, he said, because “all the organizations requested [a minimum of] \$30,000, and we know we probably weren’t going to cut below \$20,000.”

Complicating matters further, Septoff said, there is no organizational funding precedent for student orgs the way there is for clubs. Organizations are generally larger than clubs, and certain things, like Leadership Awards, can not be cut between fall and spring semesters.

“The organizational precedents, if they ever existed, fell out of use so thoroughly that we actually don’t have record of them today,” Septoff said. He added that while the finance board is working to draft a new precedent, without it, the ASWU senate and finance board are left to make “best judgment decisions.”

Septoff said that when making cuts, one of the things that the

finance board considers is “discretionary versus mandatory spending,” essentially looking for what can be cut without impacting the quality of the organization.

On Jan. 29, after some deliberation, the ASWU senate voted to confirm the budgets for organizations this spring.

Organizations, clubs respond

ODP provided two possible budgets to ASWU, one was their original ask for \$60,000, as well as a reduced ask of \$41,000. ASWU voted to fund the reduced budget, meaning that ODP is facing the largest cuts of any of the student organizations this round.

According to Outdoor Program Coordinator Kira Grimes (’26), these cuts “pretty drastically impacted the number of trips and the types of trips that we could run.” Grimes said that ODP is working to “maximize our outdoor programming with the reduced funding that we would be getting in this semester.”

WEB had initially requested around \$35,000. In the end, ASWU allocated \$30,000 to WEB instead — a roughly 15% cut from their ask.

That total allocation was still

thousands over ASWU’s target budget. The ASWU senate voted to pass this allotment with the agreement that WEB will cut another \$8,500 in the fall.

If we had accepted the amount that was originally proposed to us...” said WEB President Zia Brandstetter (’26), “it would have devastated us as an organization.”

Even then, the budget that was approved this January “cut a lot of stuff,” she said. While WEB does keep the profits from Black Tie in a non-ASWU-affiliated account, Brandstetter shared that the account is “not huge, but it’s sort of supplemental.”

Brandstetter said these budget conversations are never trivial. “Midnight Breakfast can’t go away. Black Tie can’t go away again.” She added, “It is a difficult decision for everyone involved, and I do not envy the finance board, or the ASWU treasurer’s position, or ASWU exec at all.”

The Collegian, which also has its own ad revenue, had the lowest reduction out of any student organization — down 5% from its original ask — with expectations to reduce spending further in the fall.

Lū’au, though it is not technically an organization, is also facing

funding cuts, explained President of Hawai’i Club and co-coordinator of Lū’au Payton Kawahara (’27). While Hawai’i Club is funded separately, the Lū’au funding request was made during the same pre-spring funding round. As of Feb. 19, Kawahara said they are still not funded.

Kawahara said the Lū’au planning committee originally requested \$35,000, which was less than the previous year. However, their requested budget has since been cut down to \$21,000, but “it is still not entirely approved.” On Feb. 12, the ASWU senate voted to partially fund Lū’au to the amount of \$5,800.

Kawahara noted that Lū’au is “cutting a lot of things we normally wouldn’t have thought to cut in the past,” including things like the T-shirts for the dancers and volunteers. Kawahara added that to compensate for the potential funding cuts, they will be holding fundraisers at Panda Express on Feb. 27 and April 3.

“We care about things a lot,” ASWU Senator Edmunds said. “And a lot of the cuts we make, we don’t want to make.”

New study abroad program brings Willamette students to Kobe, Japan

Maya Darski • Staff Writer



Ground view of some of Konan’s campus on Sept. 4, 2025.
Photo courtesy of Rand Carswell (’27)

In the fall semester of 2025, four Willamette students arrived at Konan University in Kobe, Japan, the first from Willamette to take part in a new study abroad program.

Unlike the Tokyo International University (TIU) study abroad program, the Konan University program is in a city situated between the ocean and mountains in Southern

Japan, and is only available for the fall semester. It’s also not an exchange program and offers more rigorous Japanese language courses. Willamette seeks to experiment with this new program to see how it appeals to students. This semester, the first participants from Willamette returned to Salem.

According to Joe Bowersox, director of the Office of International Education (OIE) and professor of environmental science, OIE worked with Japanese studies professor Miho Fujiwara to “find an option for students, particularly those in advanced Japanese studies, that wanted to have a little bit of an intensive language experience.”

Willamette’s relationship with Konan is unique in that it is not direct. Instead, Willamette works through a consortium with the University of Hawai’i. Bowersox explained that this means that “Willamette students kind of become University of Hawai’i students for the semester that they are in Konan.”

The overall student response has been positive, according to Bowersox.

Roan Sticka-Jones (’27) is one of the students who participated in the program. He decided to go to Konan because he liked how it is a smaller school and Japanese language focused. Sticka-Jones took the Level 4 Japanese language class, which ran for three-hours every morning. He also took a Japanese linguistics class and an anthropological class about Japanese culture, which were taught in English.

Rand Carswell (’27) also went to Konan, and they found that the elective classes, taught in English, were similar to a 200-level course at Willamette. The Japanese language course’s “rigor and pacing” made it “Probably the most difficult class [they’d] ever taken.”

Amid the intensive Japanese class, Carswell appreciated that the professors were very knowledgeable in their fields and felt they “learned

a lot in that environment. The professors will do anything to help you learn the language; they were really awesome,” they said.

Some aspects that Sticka-Jones and Carswell enjoyed about studying in Konan stemmed from the campus environment.

Sticka-Jones reflected how the most fun part was meeting other people from the study abroad program: “There were around 35 program participants, and the people were from all across the U.S. and from other countries. They all had different levels of Japanese knowledge.” For him, the cool part about interacting with the students in Konan was that the “students speak a lot of Kansai dialect, and it was fun to learn that dialect,” he said.

Meanwhile, Carswell, a big nature person, appreciated being in a city “right in between the ocean and mountains.” They took the nearby Nunobiki Railway into the mountains where they explored shrines and hiking trails. “The view there is breathtaking,” they said.

From overall student feedback, Bowersox highlighted how students were appreciating the faculty members from the consortium schools that helped to facilitate transition issues. Carswell also emphasized how they appreciated the study abroad staff.

For the foreseeable future, according to Bowersox, Willamette’s Konan University program will take place during every fall semester. While study abroad applications for the 2026-27 year are closed, the deadline for applying tends to be at the end of the fall semester of the previous academic year.

Being in an experimental stage with the program, OIE will continue to collect feedback from students and see how it goes. Bowersox felt that, for students interested in studying in Japan, “It’s nice that we were able to provide another option for students that maybe want to explore outside of Tokyo.”

Oregon's own Disney composer

Ethan Barker • Staff Writer



Dave Metzger recording and conducting a short film released for Disney's 100th anniversary. Photo courtesy of Laura Metzger

While it's not Los Angeles, Oregon has a rich history in film. A plethora of classic films have been filmed in the state, including "The Goonies," which was famously filmed in Astoria, and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," which was filmed at the Oregon State Hospital in Salem.

Adding to this history is Dave Metzger, who has worked as a composer, orchestrator, and arranger on over 50 films, many of them with Disney. Metzger currently lives in Bend, but he was born in Corvallis and lived in Salem for over 30 years, giving him personal and professional connections to Willamette University.

"My in-laws were Willamette graduates back in the — man, I guess that would have been the early 1950s," Metzger said. "I have a lot of friends that are or were professors and staff members at Willamette University, so I've always had a deep appreciation and love of that school."

Throughout his career, he traveled back and forth between Salem and Los Angeles for his work, much of which has been with Disney.

He received his first credit for the company as an orchestrator on "The Lion King" in 1994.

Since then, he's worked with Disney on many more films, including orchestrating the music for both "Frozen" films and "Moana." He also composed the scores for the 2023 short "Once Upon a Studio," the 2023 film "Wish" and the 2024 film "Mufasa: The Lion King," among many other credits.

Though Metzger has worked in all aspects of film music, there are differences between composing and orchestrating for films.

"A lot of times, the composer is just going to write the melody in a very basic way, so an arranger then will write counter melodies and things like that. ... If [the other parts of the score] weren't there, you would kind of think that the song was fairly spare and not much going on," Metzger said.

Some composers work by writing the melody of the song, leaving other work up to the arrangers and orchestra-

tors, but Metzger tends to add more to his work, often composing for the full orchestra.

Metzger's journey to film started early in his life with a mentor who encouraged his love for film and a spark of inspiration from a legendary composer.

"I was really lucky to be in a choir class in junior high with a really great director who also was a composer, and so she was sort of my mentor ... so I just wrote a ton, starting at age 12, all the way through junior high," Metzger said.

He continued this composition work all the way through middle and high school, writing music for school bands.

He was 16 when the first "Star Wars" movie came out, which displayed the legendary film compositions of John Williams. "That's when I really caught the bug of film music, and I knew that that's what I really wanted to do for a career," Metzger said. As an orchestrator or arranger, when working with other composers, Metzger said he has to ensure he maintains the work of the original composers while turning it into a full score.

"I don't want to write something that [Lin-Manuel Miranda, whom Metzger worked with on "Moana"] is not going to respond to or do something really weird to his songs," Metzger said. "Part of it is actually trying to figure out what they're looking for. ... There's a narrative arc for the whole movie, and so ... I'm trying to tie in all of the songs in the movie in some way so that there's

some kind of consistency to it."

A recent project that Metzger composed was "Once Upon a Studio," a 2023 short film featuring Disney animated characters spanning the company's over 100 years of storytelling. The film is a love letter to Disney's rich animation history, and Metzger worked that history into the film's score.

"I would use themes from some of the classic films, but most of the time, I would actually write in the style of the era," Metzger said. "It was really a blast. That was a hugely fun project for me because I'm a Disney nerd."

Early in Metzger's career, he arranged the version of the Disney classic "When You Wish Upon a Star" that played alongside the Disney logo with longtime collaborator Mark Mancina. Metzger had a full circle when he conducted the recording of "Once Upon a Studio," with every Disney animated character performing the song in a group shot.

"I'd worked with that song before, but there was something really cool ... in the context of "Once Upon a Studio" to be able to do that," Metzger said. "I don't usually conduct, but that was kind of fun."

Metzger continues to work with Disney and in Hollywood to this day, recently composing 2024's "Mufasa: The Lion King" and arranging and orchestrating the 2025 remake of "Snow White."

There's just always something about Disney animation, and I love the people there," Metzger said. "I've been there, working with them for so long that they're really kind of family."

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Opinion: Goudy desserts ranked

Gimena Baez Baez • Staff Writer



Chocolate pudding in the lunch dessert bar on Feb. 9, 2026 at Goudy Commons.
Photo by SOFIE SZIGETI

Desserts are a unifying force for all across campus. A dessert is the perfect ending to a satisfying meal, the encore after the performance. Therefore, it is crucial to know which desserts served at Goudy are worthy of the long walk to the dessert bar after finishing a meal or precariously balancing a small dessert plate between a dinner plate and a drink to make it all in one trip. The dessert observation period for this article lasted about a week.

Don't let me yuck anyone's yum, but without further ado ...

8. S'mores chocolate pudding

The s'mores pudding had too many textures and flavors colliding with each other that did not seem to go together. I know that s'mores are a classic flavor and that the components are supposed to go together, but they just didn't somehow. The overall look of it was not very appealing, either, and made me feel like the kid in "Matilda" with a face full of chocolate.

7. Chocolate Oreo pudding

I know, I know. Another pudding? Really? Yes, really. But this one actually tasted quite good, and I would recommend it to those who like pudding. The flavors complemented each other, the Oreo bits added a nice texture, and it tasted like a normal chocolate pudding with a bit of a twist. It's a good addition to the lineup of desserts that deserves a place at the bar.

6. Strawberry cupcake with soy whipped frosting

Though not the highlight of the cupcakes that Goudy provides, it was an interesting change that I was intrigued by. The cake was pillowy, the frosting had a nice taste and feel, and the freeze-dried strawberries were a superb garnish. Sadly, the cupcake had little to no flavor outside of the strawberries on top, but the effort was appreciated.

5. Cherry chocolate cake with soy whipped topping

Goudy consistently shines in terms of the fluffiness of its cakes. This was no exception. The cake itself was wonderful and had a slightly honeyed flavor to it. Where the ball was dropped was the flavor of the frosting. At first, the frosting tasted good, if a bit sour. After a few seconds, however, it morphed into a sickly sweet medicinal taste that many cherry-fla-

vored treats unfortunately fall prey to. It was reminiscent of the experience of choking down disgustingly sweet cough syrup as a child. Overall, this was a good cake that was taken down a few notches by its frosting.

4. Raspberry chocolate vanilla cake

As per usual, the cake was airy and had a satisfying vanilla flavor that didn't overpower the raspberry frosting. The frosting itself did not have much of a taste in the way that La Croix tastes like the memory of a flavor, but that was okay for this cake, as it accented an already good taste. Chocolate shavings and raspberries were an appreciated detail.

3. Chocolate chunk cookies

A true classic from Goudy. The chocolate chunk cookies are something to rely on and provide an enjoyable hit of chocolate for my fellow chocolate lovers. A soft, doughy texture, large chunks of chocolate and edges with a bit of crunch made this a wonderful dessert option. Were they better than the typical chocolate chip cookie? Not necessarily, but they were good if one wanted a sweet treat for no cost.

2. Marionberry crisp

Easily the best crisp offered at Goudy. The marionberries provided a wonderfully bittersweet taste unlike any other berry, although I may be biased as an Oregon native. The superiority of the marionberry is not the main point. The main point is that Goudy knows how to prepare some awfully delicious preserves, and the crisp provided just the right contrast to the berry to create an outstanding dessert.

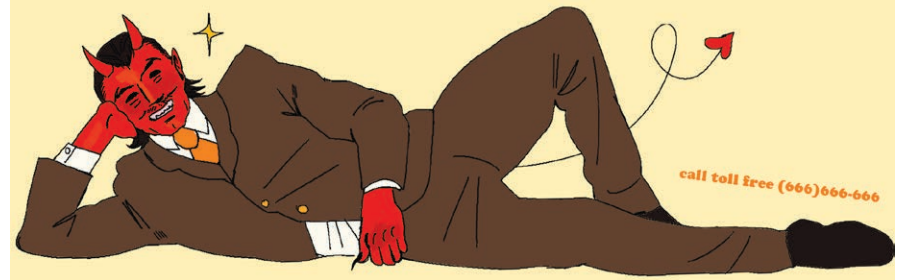
1. Chocolate chip blondies

Better than any cookie, the blondie combines the texture of the brownie with the luscious taste of a chocolate chip cookie, creating the single best dessert that Goudy serves. The perfect time to get them is when the chocolate is visibly oozing from the fresh blondie. That's when the chocolate gives you a "Ratatouille"-worthy flashback to childhood. There's not much to say other than chocolate chip blondies are downright delicious, and there is not one person who could convince me otherwise. Chocolate chip blondies at every meal is a movement that I could get behind. After all, there can never be too much of a good thing.

The Devil's Advocate: Edition Seven

William Weeks • Staff Writer

NEED AN ADVOCATE? WANT SOME ADVICE?



Art by BASIL ALLEN

Disclaimer: The Devil's Advocate is a satirical column that does not reflect the views or opinions of The Collegian.

I heard someone mention the 'cat distribution system' offhandedly. How does this system work exactly?
- Curiosity killed what now?

There is an ancient, powerful force that bequeathed us humans with the cute, furry creatures we call cats, short for Cute Animal, Truly. That's why the Egyptians sanctified them. The Cat Distribution System is a self-sufficient system designed to reach only those who have been deemed worthy. When the time is right, and you have proved yourself accordingly, the nearest cat in need will be deployed to you. It is your duty to adopt or take care of the cat as long as possible for maximum karmic value. Should you fail this destined task, Bastet herself will curse you for a thousand years.

Note, this is a natural duty which will present itself whether you want it or not, especially in Salem, the city of outside cats. As this has happened to me, I suggest being prepared at all times. Keep cat food and a water bowl in your backpack or car when you go out. And if there's anyone you dislike who's allergic to cats, you can save some fur for them too!

How do I save money when I don't have a job because no one will hire me? I need \$700 ASAP
- Broke

Given the political and economic state of the world right now, you may not find a job for a while, degree or not. But the math for this one is pretty simple, actually. All you have to do is divide the amount of money you need by the number of friends and family members you have, then send a couple of pleading texts their way. It's important to diversify your portfolio. Believe me, this little "favor" works.

In fact, it's so successful, you're gonna have to create a long-term plan. Such angel investors need to be treated kindly. Time your requests and remind them how much they mean to you, besides the money.

I would consider this a perfectly acceptable way to acquire much-needed cash. After all, governments operate on debt, corporations receive bailouts and many universities rely on donor funding. Feeling bad about asking for money is only a hindrance. Does shame pay the bills?



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Opinion: Internet outrage culture bastardizes the art of being a hater

Maisy Clunies-Ross • Staff Writer

When one ventures into the digital realm, they are putting themselves in danger of hearing the opinions of trolls, undisclosed advertisers, AI bots, Matt Walsh and children. No one's safe. Not on YouTube, not on Twitter, and heaven help you if you have the misfortune of downloading YikYak. To indulge in a little hyperbole, everyone is acting stupid. People are ill-informed, angry and loud, and they couldn't be prouder of it. They want to be heard, despite the fact that they don't have anything to say. People have disregarded intellectual curiosity in favor of inflammatory grandstanding, and in doing so, they've abandoned the art of being a true hater.

Social media corporations have done nothing to curb the prevalence of misinformation and rage-baiting. In fact, they've actively encouraged it.

A recent study, published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that Twitter's algorithm promotes posts that were divisive, emotional and from accounts the user was likely to disagree with. These practices keep people on the app for longer and encourage them to make content of their own.

"Enragement equals engagement, equals more ads, equals more shareholder value," NYU marketing professor Scott Galloway said. It doesn't matter that this culture of outrage can have real consequences on people's physical and mental well-being. Harm is irrelevant when profit is on the line.

As a result, people feel compelled to share their opinions constantly, without researching or looking inward first. There are great rewards to those who have the most provocative or inflammatory take, and these same rewards are not reaped in equal amounts by thoughtful criticism. Nuance takes effort, nuance takes time. And so, nuance becomes passé, and cruelty becomes du jour. Through the prevalence of this manufactured internet culture, the art of being a hater, a critic, is drowned out and diluted.

Growing up, many children are chided to think before they speak. This tenet has been disregarded in the digital age, when people do not have to reckon with the impact of their words on those around them. Often, internet users are protected by ano-



The Thinker finds himself in an unfavorable new crowd.

Art by ADRIAN AXTELL

nymity. They do not have to grapple with the personhood of those on the other side of the screen. To this effect, they lose sight of their own personhood, if only for a moment. It's easy to dehumanize our enemies, but to succumb to blind anger robs us of our humanity, too.

In addition to incentivizing outrage and cruelty, our media landscape encourages thoughtlessness. People are lulled into a mind-numbing doomscroll, where all they can do is take in content and gobble up the slop they are served. People are equally encouraged to watch content passively and speak about it actively. It is as if people are consuming this slop without chewing, then spitting it back up without caring whom it lands on.

People are no longer placing value on critical thinking. They're just placing value on being critical.

One of the most infuriating parts of this new style of communication is the people who frame this drivel as social commentary. This is

the juxtaposition at the heart of our media ecosystem: people are simultaneously rewarded for being ignorant and for framing themselves as if they are not. Helena Riley, @freshhel on the social platform X, said it best: "I understand [that] a very popular personality to perform rn is like 'glamorous philosopher' but some of you are stupid."

If you don't read critically or reckon with the content you consume, you won't have anything interesting to say, and no amount of buzzwords and pseudo-intellectual posturing is going to save you from that fact. If you are an ill-informed hater — if you picked up your pitchfork before you even knew what the mob was for — you're not morally virtuous. You're not an intellectual. You're just a bandwagoner. You might be on the right side of history in a particular moment, but with no true moral framework, you will just as easily end up against those who least deserve your ire.

To remedy this culture of

worthless criticism and poor-quality hating, we must rediscover the beauty of critique. But is it foolhardy to gatekeep being a hater, an experience as human as grief and joy?

There were probably critics as soon as there were creators, people appraising cave paintings and remarking to themselves, "What a crude glorification of the hunting lifestyle. This totally plays into the hunter-gatherer industrial complex." However, to be a good hater, one must first be a lover. You must have a love of an artist, a craft, a movement. Or the critique will ring hollow.

To be a good hater, you must fundamentally be an optimist. You must believe things can be improved, or there is no reason to critique them as they are. If doom and gloom is the only option, why resist? Why not accept your dismal reality? A hater stands up against this passivity and says, "I am upset. I will not accept this reality. I don't like it." This act, acknowledging the darkness of the present, is the first step towards imagining a brighter future. That is why, at its best, hating is a simultaneously cynical and hopeful act.

When we lose this hope, this curiosity that is at the true heart of critique, we fall victim to stupid nonsense. I believe stupid nonsense is an inalienable human right,

as important to our survival as food and water. That being said, I want us to be a little more honest about our stupid nonsense, rather than dressing it up in a costume of intellectualism. We hear it. We speak it. We perpetuate it. And that is why we must all be more thoughtful, more informed, in our commentary, before all this stupid nonsense makes language meaningless.

I hope someday I can live in a world that is thoughtful and empathetic enough that I can receive all criticisms with open arms. I hope someday I can dance with my hater brethren in a golden field, as we gleefully complain about the scratchiness of grass and the overbearing nature of sunshine. I hope someday I can read the comments of my peers with confidence, knowing that they will broaden my perspective and my understanding, rather than prompting me to write a judgemental screed on the nature of commentary.

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Opinion: Fennell's 'Wuthering Heights' does Brontë an injustice

Gimena Baez Baez • Staff Writer

As of 2024, 54% of U.S. adults have a literacy rate below the sixth-grade level, and film director Emerald Fennell has demonstrated the scope of the issue with her recent adaptation of "Wuthering Heights" based on the 1847 novel by Emily Brontë.

Considered one of the most controversial novels of its time for its intense depictions of violence, generational trauma and its perspective on racism, it is only fitting that the recent film adaptation has also received immense controversy. But that's where the similarities end. Suffice to say, it's devastating to learn that Fennell has an English degree from the University of Oxford.

Since the film takes almost nothing from the novel except for the general location and part of the cast, it leads one to wonder why not create an original film entirely?

The novel touches on the issue of racism through the character Heathcliff, a man of color who becomes violent because of the abuse he suffers at the hands of others through structural racism.

He is constantly othered by his adopted family and is horrifically abused, making him an abusive person in turn. Fennell's choice of Jacob Elordi, a white man, to play Heathcliff is the first sign of the film's total ignorance of the source material.

By erasing Heathcliff's racial struggle, a key part of understanding the story is lost. Yes, the novel is



Can they stick to the script?

Art by BASIL ALLEN

about class struggle, but it is equally about racial struggle. In the novel, Heathcliff is described frequently as "dark-skinned" or a "lascar" and is also subjected to a slew of racial slurs directed towards people with darker skin.

Fennell has defended her choices, saying that they were "wish fulfillment" and that she wanted to make something that was her "response and interpretation to that book and the feeling of it," not a faithful adaptation.

However, if her casting choices show the wish fulfillment she sought, then that says something much deeper about her. She cannot see a main character in the story as

non-white but can make originally white, lesser characters people of color. The most glaring examples of this include casting Nelly, Catherine's maid, as a Southeast Asian woman and Edgar, Catherine's unjust husband, as a Pakistani man. If this is Fennell's interpretation of "Wuthering Heights," then perhaps she ought to have her literature degree exchanged for a certificate in Aryan BDSM videography.

Other problems with Fennell's adaptation include the erasure of Hindley, Catherine's brother, and the last half of the novel failing to exist. Hindley, as a character, is meant to be someone the reader can compare Heathcliff to and abuses both

Heathcliff and Catherine after their father dies.

Hindley's son, Hareton, is saved by Heathcliff from sudden death, giving him a reconciliation within the story. Without Hindley and Hareton, Heathcliff is entirely the same throughout the film and exists as a one-dimensional character. Due to this, there is no resolution to the story; Hareton and young Catherine do not exist to end the generational trauma suffered by the family, since Catherine miscarries at the end of the film. Without a resolution, the characters fall flat, and many of the central themes that made the original story a literary classic fall short of

their true potential.

One of my final annoyances with this adaptation was the choice of turning Isabella, canonically a victim of domestic violence at the hand of Heathcliff, into a sex freak and making Catherine vanilla in comparison.

At the beginning of the film, Catherine is introduced as a child who maniacally cackles at the sight of a hanging. However, when Catherine sees two of her servants having sex with whips and a horse bridle, she is aghast. At this point, it seems Fennell forgot that Catherine's ideal gift as a child in the novel is, in fact, a whip.

In contrast, Isabella is presented in the film as a bookish girl who still plays with dolls. At the same time, she demonstrates a liking for roleplay as a dog for Heathcliff, which would have been impactful if her dog were slaughtered by Heathcliff, like in the novel. But the film refuses to expand upon the symbolism from the novel and uses sexual desires as a shock factor.

Now, if Fennell had chosen to create an original film inspired by "Wuthering Heights," à la "50 Shades of Grey" to "Twilight," there wouldn't have been so much to complain about. "Wuthering Heights" is, understandably, one of the hardest novels to adapt to film. All adaptations so far have lacked at least some important aspects of the novel because there is so much content and symbolism to sift through that it's hard to pin down what is most important to focus on.

But choosing a story known for its criticism of institutionalized classism and racism and turning it into a horny romantic drama will never be appealing.

If media literacy is dead and buried, Emerald Fennell is among those holding a shovel.

New Geer skate park strengthens Salem skate community, provides challenging new obstacles

Virginia Vaughan • Staff Writer

In October, the city of Salem unveiled a brand new skate park in northeast Salem.

The project had been underway since January of the same year, and after a few delays, the park was finally open for business and quickly surged in popularity. In the first few months since its completion, Geer Park has been making waves through the Salem skate community.

Joshua Santos-Díaz ('28) is from Salem and has been around the city to many skate parks. "I know the skate parks around here are not really liked because they are older or not taken care of," he said. Geer Park, on account of its newness, is nicer than many others around the city. For Santos-Díaz, the new park has sparked increased interest in skating in the Salem community.

The increased interest is evident in the variety of ages that show up to skate at the park. Both Santos-Díaz and Jack Godsil ('28) mentioned that younger kids are usually at the park, but there are also plenty of older adults showing off their skills. "I was just out last weekend, and there were a bunch of new and older people from the '80s generation coming out," Godsil commented.

Godsil was interviewed for the initial article by The Collegian on Geer Park in February of 2025, and The Collegian followed up with him now that the park has been open for a few months. He explained that the park was a replacement for an old BMX, or bicycle motocross, track, so there are some obstacles that are geared toward bikes rather than Godsil's chosen skateboard.

Godsil explained that these obstacles can be dangerous to skateboarders with "zigs and zags that are hard to navigate," but, undeterred, he sees it as a fun challenge because "it poses a new way to skate the park." The difficulties the obstacles present don't take away from the park or steer skaters around Salem away, he said.

However, because the park is so new and popular, it can be very crowded. Godsil explained that one of the biggest issues is that the amount of people standing around the obstacles sometimes makes them "unskateable."

New skaters aren't always aware of the skate park etiquette that keeps things smooth and safe. Expanding on the hazards created by the crowd, Godsil mentioned a recent time he was trying to pull off a trick



A rainy day at Geer skate park on Feb. 7, 2026 in Salem, Oregon.

Photo by SOFIE SZIGETI

and there was a group of younger kids standing a little too close to where he would be speeding by.

The crowd is full of people with different skating abilities, and the park does well to accommodate that. There are difficult sections, like the steep walls and old bike tracks, but there are also obstacles that are designed for beginning and intermediate skaters. Godsil emphasized, "It's

a skate park that's pretty designed for everybody because there are so many different ways to skate it."

Reflecting on how skating has impacted him personally, Santos-Díaz said, "In skating you learn how to fall, pick yourself up, and try again. I think that really shaped a lot of my mentality. As long as you get up, you'll eventually get it."

'You have to be a little crazy': The mentality of a goalie

Virginia Vaughan • Staff Writer



Goalkeeper Siera Edwards ('26) dives for the ball at Sparks Field on Sept. 14, 2025. Photo courtesy of the Willamette Athletics Department

For most goalies, their journey in the position starts about the same: no one else on their team wants to be a goalie, so they are forced into it. "It kind of just became who-

ever isn't scared of the ball flying at their face just stays in goal," said Willamette's women's soccer keeper Siera Edwards ('26), recalling how she started between the sticks in youth soccer.

It's not surprising that, even so young, being a goalie isn't exactly a coveted job. As the last line of defense, there is a weight that rests on the shoulders of the single goalie.

Mikkel Jensen ('27), keeper for the men's soccer team, summed up the pressure by saying, "If you make a mistake, it's over. If you mess up, it changes the whole game."

Willamette University's lacrosse goalie, Olivia Austin ('27) said, "I don't think people realize how mental being a goalie is. It is one of the most mentally tough positions ever."

All Bearcats goalies agreed, the pressure of being a goalie is one of the hardest parts of the job. "Sometimes the pressure can weigh down on you. If you fail, everyone can see it," said Austin. The goalie making a split-second mistake that leads to a goal is a lot more obvious than a defender in the outfield making a mistake, and comes with immediate consequences.

Goalie positions come with other responsibilities aside from saving the ball. There is an underlying leadership that comes from the goal. Goalies can see the whole field and are expected to tell their players where to be to help other members of the team. Keepers are also responsible for distributing the ball from the backfield, either after a save or from an opposition turnover, which can be just as crucial in regulating the team's

play as a good clear from a center back or a fast break from a midfielder.

For Austin, the demands of the position require incredible mental resilience and an ability to shake off any mistakes. "You have to be able to ... show up and do the work every time."

Sometimes, the mentality derived from goalkeeping to experiences outside of sports. "If you're able to shake [mistakes] off on the field, why wouldn't you be able to shake it off in real life?" Jensen asked.

Edwards explained that her goalie position has thrown her into a leadership role that a field player might not have, and that has helped her self-confidence when applying for jobs and interviews.

Every goalie has one trait in common, according to Edwards: "For any goalie, you have to be a little crazy. ... You are having objects thrown at you at very high speeds."

There are also plenty of positive feelings with the goalie's job, moments that remind goalies why they do it. Perhaps the most obvious is the feeling after making a great save and celebrating with the team, Austin said. Another is the community of other goalies that is built within a team that Edwards carries with pride.

"When people realize how important you actually are and how hard it is, that's very rewarding," Jensen said.

Fast Break: USA beats Canada at its own game, basketball concludes regular season

Catie Mohr • Sports & Rec Editor

Welcome back, Bearcat Fan! I am in another week of fast break-writing hell, because dear God we have so many sports competing. On the bright side, we found lots of success this last full weekend of February. Let's get the news over with!

Men's basketball capped off their regular season by splitting the weekend series 1-1, trouncing the Linfield Wildcats 83-69 on Friday and falling to the River Otters 83-92 in Portland on Saturday. Our 'Cats head off this weekend to Spokane for the NWC Tournament, their first appearance in the contest in 11 years.

Women's basketball also finished up their regular season by splitting the weekend, barely losing to the Wildcats 55-58 on senior night but beating Lewis & Clark in Portland 86-67. In the latter, senior **Kaitlin Imai** ('26) capped off her career by dropping 26 points on the River Otters and shooting over 56% from the field. Congrats to our Bearcats on a great season!

Baseball faced the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) in a doubleheader on Saturday, losing the first game 8-10 and rallying back to win the second 14-10. The Basecats were meant to face the Lutes on Sunday, but the game was cancelled outright due to rain. Shocking.

Softball also split their Saturday doubleheader (I'm sensing a theme here) against Warner Pacific, losing the first 10-14 and winning the second 11-8.

Men's tennis lost both outings over the weekend, falling to the George Fox Bruins 2-5 on Saturday

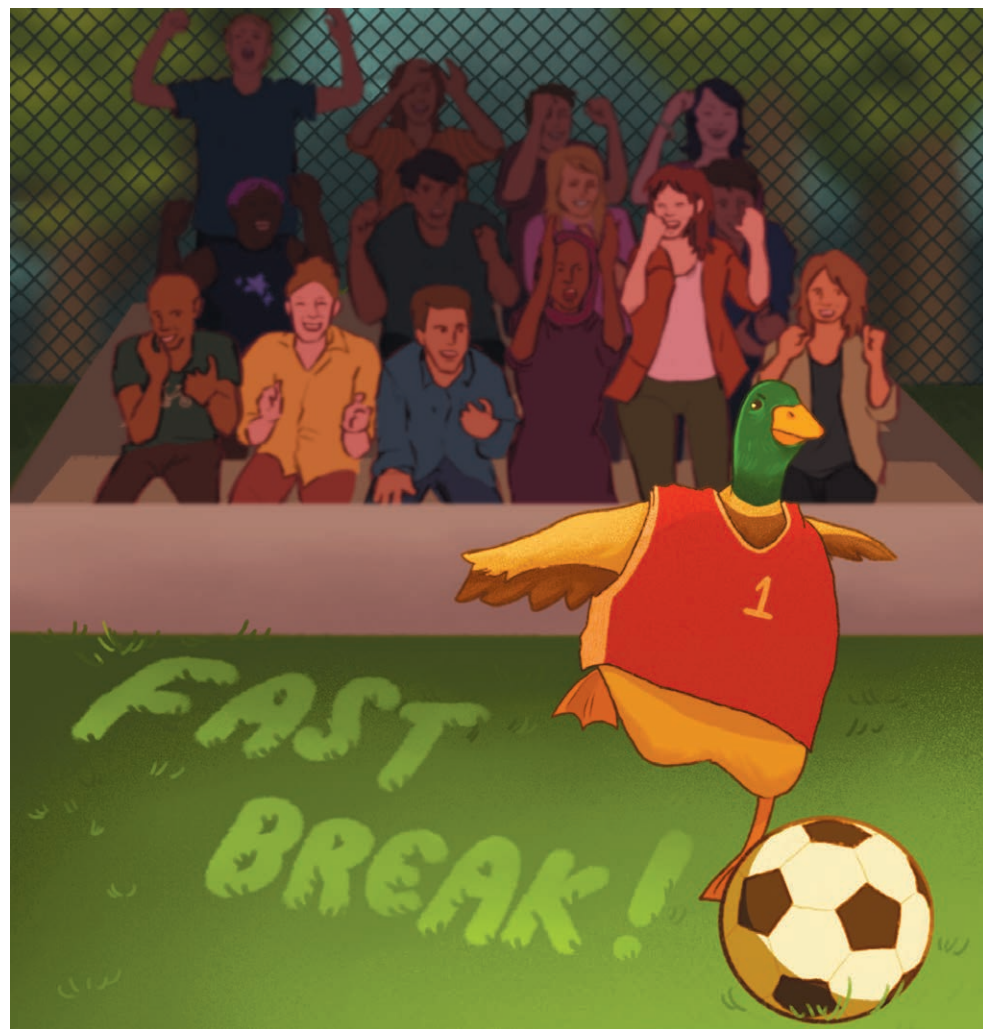
and the River Otters 1-6 on Sunday. That said, this year has been a significant improvement for the Bearcats, as men's tennis the year prior did not win a single point in team scoring against any conference opponent. The same cannot be said for this year, as the 'Cats have seen success particularly in their doubles matchups.

Women's tennis also lost their outings over the weekend, going 1-6 against the Bruins and 1-6 versus the River Otters. In the former match, track defector **Katrina Briggs** ('26) secured the single point for the 'Cats by brutally defeating the Bruins' No. 6 singles player, not permitting her opponent a single game and winning both sets 6-0.

Women's track concluded their short indoor season, with **Whitley Stepp** ('26) placing No. 2 at the second George Fox Indoor Meet by clearing 1.65 meters.

In the wider world of sport: Team USA destroyed the Canadians in their own sport, with both the men's and women's teams securing gold in hockey over the weekend. This marks the first time in 40 years that the Americans have won gold in men's hockey. USA! USA! The U.S. also dominated in figure skating, largely thanks to Alysa Liu's gold medal in women's singles and gold in the team event ... whatever that is.

In the coming weeks: Men's basketball will face the No. 2 Puget Sound Loggers in Spokane on Friday for the conference semifinals, surely to an inevitable victory. Softball heads south to the Lone Star State to face Southwestern in a doubleheader on Friday and then against East Tex-



Art by WES MOWRY-SILVERMAN

as Baptist on Saturday, staying in the state for a long weekend of competition. **Baseball** heads to Forest Grove to face Pacific on Saturday, and then plays the Boxers at home on Sunday. **Track and field** heads south to Rose-

burg to face Umpqua Community College in a meet that doesn't count for national rankings, and **tennis** faces Puget Sound in Tacoma on Saturday. ... I think that's everything. Yay Bearcats!

Photojournalism: Bearcats' bold bags

Mac Childers • Staff Photographer

On Feb. 12, Willamette University's Art Department showcased their multimedia art with a fashion show. "CARRY ON" demonstrated the fierce attitudes and commitments of Willamette University's students, giving way to boisterous designs and character imbued by the artists. Each student struck a pose, showing their work to the world. As each artwork was exquisite, the judges were all ready with their 10/10 scorecards. All photos taken by Mac Childers.



(Left) Lacie Wheeler ('26) struts on the runway on Feb. 12, 2026.



(Above) (Top to bottom) "I craft, therefore I am" by Alma Snortum-Phelps ('27) and "Reverie" by Armondo Valdez ('27). Photo taken on Feb. 18, 2026.



(Above) (Top to bottom, left to right) "Insides" by Fenn Corsello ('26), "Everything, Everywhere" by Ava Goldberg ('27), "Enigmatic Swag" by Aissatou Coyle ('26), and "Jurse" by Kendall Hall ('27). Photo taken on Feb. 18, 2026.



(Right) Art students show off their bags on Feb. 12, 2026.





(Left) A full view of the gallery displaying the multimedia purses. Photo taken on Feb. 18, 2026.



(Above) Hanna Futrell ('26) takes center stage on Feb. 12, 2026.



(Above) The purses were displayed in the main gallery in the art building after the the fashion show. Photo taken on Feb. 18, 2026.



(Right) Art students receive high scoring marks from the judges at the fashion show on Feb. 12, 2026.



Late February Crossword

Crossword by EZRA NELSEN

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Check your answers or fill out the puzzle online on our website: www.willamettecollegian.com

ACROSS

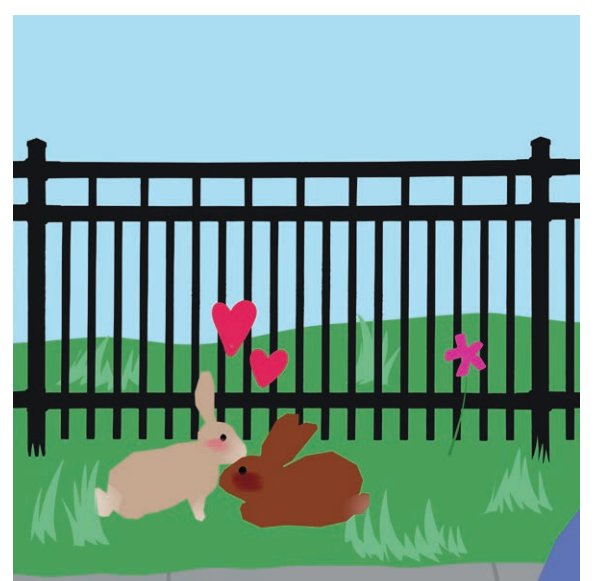
- 1 Music's treble __
- 5 Sugar suffixes
- 9 Nudges
- 14 Nothing more than
- 15 Interpret
- 16 Send a payment
- 17 The Batcave, for example
- 18 Golf goals
- 19 The creators of pizza?
- 20 Company that fixes tube coral?
- 23 Mountain range in Kyrgyzstan
- 24 Wide shoe size
- 25 Tools for the common sea creature?
- 33 Figure of speech
- 34 Corner key
- 35 Victory, to Einstein
- 36 Peanut butter brand
- 37 British cookie
- 41 __-Wan Kenobi
- 42 Chinese sports equipment company
- 44 __Tok
- 45 Sluggard
- 47 Restaurant that serves plankton?
- 51 Nickelodeon show, "Keenan & __"
- 52 Greek god of love
- 53 Suspicious acts, or what 20-across,

- 25-across, and 47-across are
- 59 "The Right Stuff" author, Tom
- 60 Bone prefix
- 61 Salt Lake's state
- 63 Cookies with a creamy filling
- 64 Brooks and Gibson
- 65 Star Wars, for one
- 66 Target rival
- 67 Author Harte
- 68 1990 video game console, abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Roman 950
- 2 Jump
- 3 Buffalo's lake
- 4 The first female vice president nominee by a major political party
- 5 Batman, for example
- 6 Deep-sea cucumber, familiarly
- 7 Banjoist, Scruggs
- 8 College in SoCal
- 9 Examined
- 10 Rotten Tomatoes write-ups
- 11 Warning sign
- 12 Toaster sound
- 13 Roads, abbr.
- 21 Ascend

- 22 Thanks, to Napoleon
- 25 Muslim head covering
- 26 Twin cities suburb
- 27 Cracks
- 28 Very, in slang
- 29 College in Phoenix
- 30 Garlicky mayonnaise, in 38-down
- 31 Ally to 41-across
- 32 Female internet-dweller
- 38 Carlo Gambino's birthplace
- 39 Paul McCartney, for example
- 40 Tiger and Lion offspring
- 43 Wants
- 46 "The Cat in the Hat" author
- 48 Command
- 49 Food company that makes Crunch bars
- 50 Least wet
- 53 Sculpt
- 54 Intestinal parts
- 55 Box office flop
- 56 Computer operator
- 57 Eminem fan
- 58 Culinary herb
- 59 Cantonese cooker
- 62 Holds



Comic by BASIL ALLEN

