

COLLEGIAN

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WU student, protestors assaulted by far-right hate group at capitol



A truck adorned with American flags drives past the capitol.

KEGAN RASCOE | PHOTOGRAPHER



Armed men stand by the protest.

KEGAN RASCOE | PHOTOGRAPHER

BY SOPHIE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

A crowd of armed right-wingers known as the Proud Boys gathered at the Oregon State Capitol Building on Monday, Sept. 7, drawing a group of counter-protestors that included several Willamette students. Online footage shows far-right demonstrators assaulting counter-protestors, including

a Willamette student, resulting in the arrests and release of two right-wingers. Men affiliated with the Proud Boys also entered campus, University officials confirmed.

New York Times correspondent Mike Baker reported that a group of right-wing demonstrators, including other militant groups in addition to Proud Boys, gathered in the Portland area for a motor vehicle caravan demon-

stration on Labor Day. Footage shows the demonstrators illegally driving with covered license plates, the Statesman Journal confirmed.

A portion of the group traveled to Salem yesterday afternoon, where they gathered on the steps of the Capitol Building. The Statesman Journal reports that some in attendance were armed with guns, knives and bats.

A group of 30-50 counter-pro-

testors, including several Willamette students, gathered on the other side of Court Street. Oregon Public Broadcasting journalist Sergio Olmos reported that the right-wingers soon bull rushed the leftist group, physically assaulting and macing counter-protestors. A Willamette student is among the assaulted counter-protestors, according to Director of Campus Safety Ross Stout.

Two right-wingers, Ty Anthony and Trenton Wolfskill, were arrested for and charged with fourth-degree assault, reports the Statesman Journal. Anthony was also charged with first-degree intimidation, or a bias crime, for shouting slurs at a counter-protest. Both men were released later yesterday evening.

WU STUDENT, 3

Relationship starved: most stay distanced, others risk it

BY OLIVIA FRENKEL
STAFF WRITER

Relationship building is often a complex and graceless dance, even in the best of times. Students have made small talk with a stranger they now call their first roommate. They've taken a leap of faith and joined a new group for a hike or a trip to the coast. They've "watched a movie" with someone in the absence of that roommate. Friendships, romances and even hookups are vital to connecting and growing as people, so how do you do it in what is considered the worst of times?

There is unfortunately no good answer. The addition of social distancing, masks and a looming fear of a virus with no vaccine has brought further nuance to one of the most nuanced aspects of humanity: relationships.

Stepping Out and Opening Days leaders, along with first-year students, felt this pressure immediately after setting foot on campus. "It was really difficult at the very beginning," recalled Julius Wilhelm ('24). "Not being able to see how people talk or react was hard and it took time getting to know people."

Maintaining past relationships is just as vital as creating those that are new. Though socializing among teams and close-knit friend groups continues to thrive, Willamette students mourn the loss of acquaintances that once filled the in-between moments of busy schedules. With the partial loss of in-person classes and the reduction of shared spaces, the Bistro regulars and that one friend you had from an intro Spanish class last year are no longer easy to socialize with.

RELATIONSHIP, 5

Air quality in Salem rises to dangerous levels due to fires 20 miles east

BY NOAH DANTES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

At 2:47pm, President Thorsett sent out an email announcing that due to diminished air quality caused by fires 20 miles east of Salem, classes will be remote through the end of tomorrow. One air quality reader is above 500, and the other is above 220, as of 2:55pm. Normal air quality is under 50, according to the weekly monitor of Salem by Purple Air.

Thorsett said the following in his email:

"Supervisors are encouraged to be flexible in allowing employees to work remotely and to reach out to Human Resources with any questions."

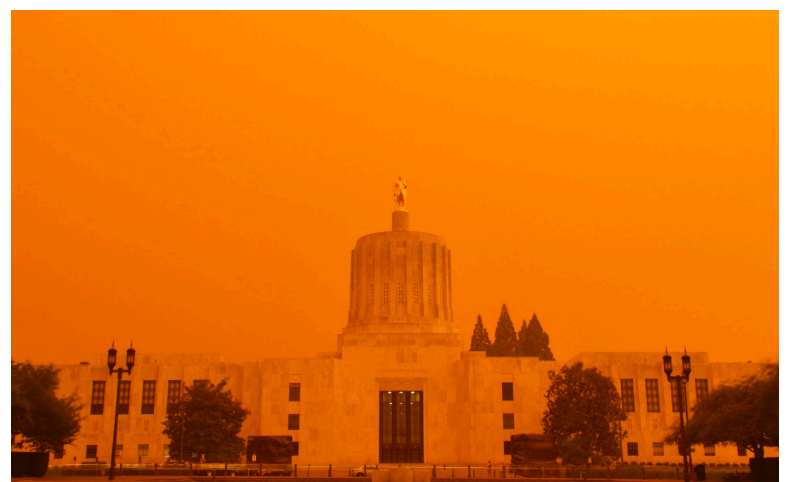
"Among the recommendations are: avoid strenuous outdoor activity, keep windows and doors

closed to reduce the smoke that enters your room or home, if fresh air intake, set the system to you have an HVAC system with a recirculate mode, or close the outdoor intake damper."

ngdantes@willamette.edu

Images continue as a part of the addition of photojournalism to the Collegian.

WILDFIRE, 7



State capitol lit orange from the nearby fires. KEGAN RASCOE | PHOTOGRAPHER



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Health opinions on WU's COVID-19 protocols. p. 6

Conversation starter: staff, professors lead anti-racist discussions to build equity

BY REMY GOTTSCHLING
STAFF WRITER

Willamette University's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion has planned a series of discussions based around the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge. These discussions are on a number of subjects surrounding what the Willamette community can do to become more anti-racist in the midst of the Black Lives Matter movement. Discussions, held over Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays, include such topics as social identity and dismantling myths around race that one might hear in a classroom setting. You can find information about upcoming meetings on Willamette's website under the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

The 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge is part of a larger movement of the Willamette community towards becoming not only a more diverse community, but a more equitable place. "A good first step is just to get educated on a basic level," says Jade Aguilar, vice president of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, "this is what these conversations provide for everyone in the audience who is there to listen."

"These discussions are really open to anyone who wants to come, but they're really geared towards white students and faculty who want to learn how to be actively anti-racist," says Emma Coddington,

an associate professor of biology who spoke during Tuesday's discussion on social identity. "It's one thing to read and listen to people, but actually having a discussion is what really leads to people learning in an effective manner."

One of the most important actions made during the planning of the conversations is making sure that people from every area of the school are represented. "We're really trying to get everyone on campus a platform in these discussions," says Aguilar, "this means we'll hear voices from coaches, professors, students, faculty and staff members."

"My goal with my presentation was to really get a discussion started in the community I spend my time in," says Kip Ioane, head coach of the men's basketball team. "I've led conversations like these in the past but most of them were centered around gender, so putting a race or ethnicity lense on it all just put it into view how similar a lot of these issues are."

"We're trying to create an environment that leads to more equitable experiences for everyone," says Aguilar, "this is still only the first step in our process, but once we get to an understanding on what equity is, then we can move to the next steps."

rmgottschling@willamette.edu



GRACE SHIFFRIN | PHOTOGRAPHER

WEEKLY REPORT BY CAMPUS SAFETY

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

September 13, 3:30 a.m. (Ford Hall): While on patrol, an officer witnessed an unknown individual attempt to steal a bicycle from the bike rack. Officers responded to the area and stopped the individual but the individual ended up running. Salem Police were then contacted and the officers provided a description of the individual.

September 13 12:30 p.m. (Matthews Parking Lot): Campus Safety received a call from a student reporting the back window of their vehicle had been smashed. An officer responded and met with the student who showed them the broken window and reported nothing missing from the vehicle. A report was filed and the student was also encouraged to make a report with Salem Police.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

September 6, 4:41 a.m. (In a Campus Residence): Campus Safety received a call from a student requesting transport to the ER. An officer responded and transported the student. The on-call area coordinator was also notified.

September 7, 1:16 a.m. (In a Campus Residence): Campus Safety received a call from an RA requesting a transport for a student to the hospital. An officer responded and transported the student. The on-call area coordinator was also notified.

September 9, 12:49 a.m. (In a Campus Residence): Campus Safety received a call reporting a student had fainted. An officer responded and evaluated the student. The student requested a ride to the hospital and the officer transported the student.

HARASSMENT

September 7, 5:16 p.m. (Ford Hall): Campus Safety received a call from a student who reported being chased by protesters from the Capitol. The student was able to make it back safely to their residence hall safety. A Campus Safety officer responded to check on the student along with Salem Police to gather more information. The student was informed to contact Salem Police if they would like to file a report.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/PERSONS

September 6, 8:00 p.m. (Lau-sanne Hall): Campus Safety received a call reporting two

individuals smoking on the balcony. An officer responded and searched the area, but could not locate anyone.

September 7, 7:44 a.m. (Matthews Parking Lot): Campus Safety received a call reporting an individual yelling and screaming. An officer responded and searched the area and saw the individual leave as the officer approached.

September 7, 12:28 p.m. (Law School): Campus Safety received a call reporting an individual with no shirt on acting erratically. An officer responded and met with the individual who then quickly left campus.

September 7, 4:55 p.m. (Goudy Commons): Campus Safety received a call reporting individuals on bikes and scooters doing tricks in front of the building. An officer responded and met with the individuals who were informed that the campus is closed to visitors. The officer escorted the individuals off campus.

September 7, 11:30 p.m. (Smith Auditorium): While on patrol, an officer encountered a suspi-

cious individual passing through campus. The individual was informed the campus is closed to visitors and was advised to leave the campus.

September 8, 2:02 p.m. (University Center): Campus Safety was contacted after an employee saw an unknown individual enter the Bistro. An officer responded and checked inside the building and the surrounding area, but was unable to locate anyone.

September 8, 2:08 p.m. (University Center): While on patrol, an officer encountered a suspicious individual carrying black bags passing through campus. The officer kept visual contact on the individual until they were off campus.

September 10, 12:19 p.m. (Botanical Gardens): While on patrol, an officer encountered two individuals sitting in the garden. The individuals were reminded the campus is closed to visitors and they promptly left.

September 10, 12:59 p.m. (12th Street): While on patrol an officer, reported encountering a suspicious individual passing through campus. The officer

kept visual contact on the individual until they left campus.

September 10, 3:54 p.m. (Law School): Campus Safety received a call reporting a suspicious individual sitting on the steps outside the building. An officer responded and searched the area and surrounding areas, but was unable to locate anyone in the area.

September 12, 11:00 p.m. (University Center): While on patrol, an officer encountered a suspicious individuals in the area. The officer met with the two individuals and informed them the campus is closed to visitors. The individuals refused to leave campus, but quickly left when the officer called Salem Police to have them arrested for trespassing.

**PLEASE CONTACT
CAMPUS SAFETY IF
YOU HAVE ANY
INFORMATION
REGARDING THESE
INCIDENTS.
(503) 370-6911**

COLLEGIAN STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Noah Dantes | collegian-editor-in-chief@willamette.edu
MANAGING EDITOR Kathleen Forrest | keforrest@willamette.edu
PRODUCTION MANAGER Mary Wang | mjwang@willamette.edu
BUSINESS MANAGER Bryce Henshaw | bvhenshaw@willamette.edu

NEWS EDITOR Jake Procino | jprocino@willamette.edu
LIFESTYLES EDITOR Jesse Buck | jbuck@willamette.edu
OPINIONS EDITOR David Flanagan | dflanagan@willamette.edu
LAYOUT EDITORS Jennifer Antonson • Andrea Griffin
PHOTO EDITOR Benjamin Burton | bburton@willamette.edu
DIGITAL MEDIA MANAGER Quinna Sypher | qasypher@willamette.edu

Willamettecollegian.com | IG: [Willamette_collegian](https://www.instagram.com/Willamette_collegian)
(503) 370-6053 | Facebook: [Willamette-Collegian](https://www.facebook.com/Willamette-Collegian)

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WU student, protestors assaulted by far-right hate group at capitol

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Stout also said members of the far-right pursued a student onto Willamette's campus. The student made it safely into the Baxter complex.

On Tuesday night, Lisa Landreman, vice president for Student Affairs, Jade Aguilar, vice president for equity, diversity and inclusion and Chaplain Karen Wood emailed the student body to share information and resources about how to stay safe while protesting. University President Steve Thorsett also emailed the student body on Tuesday to address Monday's events.

Since yesterday's events, Willamette students on social media have offered mutual aid to one another, offering to deliver food or medical supplies, as well as financial support.

slsmith@willamette.edu

Willamette merges with Pacific Northwest College of Art

BY NOAH DANTES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA) is merging with Willamette University, President Stephen Thorsett announced over email Thursday morning. The merger was approved by both institutions' boards Wednesday, but talks began five years ago, according to The Oregonian. Thorsett said to The Oregonian that no money will change hands as part of the merger, since both institutions are nonprofits.

"Dean Ruth Feingold to serve as special assistant to the president and provost to help coordinate and introduce the PNCA faculty to the various Willamette faculties," Thorsett said in his email to the student body. Sarah Kirk, professor of chemistry and director of the first year experience, will serve as the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). Both appointments will last through the end of 2020.

In an email interview with the Collegian, Thorsett said that Feingold plans to return as dean of the CAS next semester.

Thorsett also said that no changes to Willamette's art department are planned: "I expect Willamette will always offer art

major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Once the merger is completed, though, there will be broadened opportunities for students in studio arts, theatre, music, creative writing, and other fields to also draw on the very broad expertise of their faculty and many of their course offerings, and I expect the faculty in CAS and PNCA will find many points of common interest and collaboration."

In his email to the student body, Thorsett said: "In the coming months, and as our faculties begin to engage more closely with each other, we hope to design innovative new degree programs and pathways in fields such as arts management, museum studies, and more."

However, there is a lot of work to be done in prioritizing areas of program development. New ideas for program development will emerge from faculty conversations: "[That] is one of the things that Dean Feingold will be helping facilitate through the rest of this semester. It is already clear faculty have lots and lots of ideas, the question will be what comes first and how fast can we move," Thorsett said to the Collegian.

The Oregonian reported that under the merger agreement, PNCA will retain its name, fac-

ulty and campus in Portland. PNCA's academic centers and collections, including the Center for Contemporary Art & Culture, will become a part of Willamette. Regulatory and accreditor approvals for the agreement are expected in 2021.

Willamette's new graduate school of data science is currently located in the Atkinson building but "both the data science and the management schools will eventually move into PNCA's campus," The Oregonian reported.

Thorsett clarified this planned move in his Collegian email interview: "An important goal of this merger is a consolidation of Willamette's presence in Portland, but the details of who moves where and when will be worked out in the months ahead. Certainly nothing changes through this academic year."

According to the Willamette website's official page on the merger: "PNCA students will have access to the breadth of curricular offerings at Willamette, including business and science courses, and benefit from its proximity to policymaking and government in Salem. Willamette students will benefit from the broader fine and visual arts and design offerings provided by PNCA, as well as the culture and

creativity of its community in Portland."

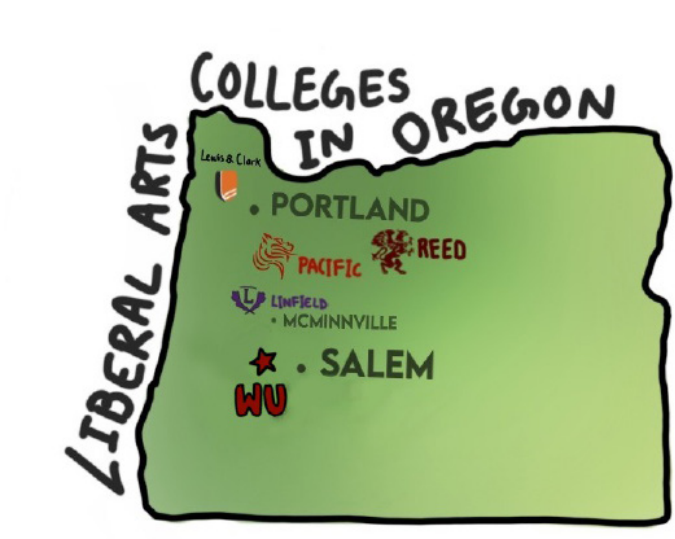
PNCA has been struggling financially in recent years. PNCA currently has 642 students, far short of its goal of 1000. In June, The Oregonian reported that the school was: "downsizing, laying off some professors and cutting other costs. It had borrowed millions from the city, the Meyer Memorial Trust and others to fund an ambitious expansion plan." On top of previous struggles, COVID-19 also had a huge impact on PNCA's finances.

Thorsett said that Willamette remains financially strong, even as it faces the same "demographic and cost-issues many colleges are encountering."

In 2019, the Claremont School of Theology (CST) merged with Willamette University. PNCA will become Willamette's fourth graduate program, joining CST, Willamette University College of Law and the Atkinson Graduate School of Management. PNCA offers 11 undergraduate and eight graduate art programs. Founded in 1909, it is the oldest arts and design school in the Pacific Northwest.

ngdantes@willamette.edu

Uncertainty and caution highlight private universities' reopening plans in Oregon



BY EMMA INNES
STAFF WRITER

As Willamette students adapt to new routines and new habits in the time of COVID-19, other students across the country are doing the same. While Oregon State University, University of Oregon, Portland State University and the University of Portland all moved online for the fall 2020 semester, Willamette University, Reed College, Lewis & Clark College (L&C) and Pacific University have reopened with hybrid approaches. As Bearcats try to gauge how well they're being kept safe, they can look at other Oregon colleges that have reopened to compare actions taken.

Face coverings, six feet of distance, dots on the floor marking where to stand, signs marking exits and entrances and online classes being held

MAIZY GOERLITZ | GRAPHIC ARTIST

alongside in-person classes can be seen on opened campuses throughout Oregon. These campuses are also closed to the general public.

Another common theme among reopening colleges is justifying their hybrid approaches with the fact that students want to come to campus. Reed's justification was based on its students, according to Reed's Director of Communications and Media Relations Kevin Myers, "Early on we did a survey and overwhelmingly, people wanted to come back to campus."

Myers also had another reason for why Reed opened its campus: "One of the big considerations was for some, not all, but some, coming to campus was going to be a safer place for them... then when we determined this was going to be a too students, then it was like we need to have all the

same staff. Whether we're servicing a hundred students or 700 students, we more or less need the same staff. Campus being a safe place for certain students is not isolated to Reed alone. Willamette, Pacific and L&C all likely have students where campus is the safest place for them to be."

The Pacific Index's Co-Editors-in-Chief, Ella Cutter and Bren Swogger, both felt that Pacific believed people wanted to come to campus, "I'm really happy to be here and be surrounded by my friends again," Cutter said, "but I know there are other people who just want everything shut. It really depends person by person."

According to their reopening website, all L&C students attending in-person classes will have to take a saliva test for COVID-19 within the first few weeks of the semester. L&C will also be sewer testing residence halls. Samples from sewers connecting to residence halls will be tested weekly for COVID-19. Reed's website says they are using saliva tests as well, but they are testing all students and faculty living on campus twice a week, while testing a pool of about 200 randomly selected students and faculty who go on campus but reside off campus once a week. Pacific has the same approach as Willamette, testing students and faculty in the case of symptoms, but not testing the general population.

L&C's website and Reed's website both say they will provide two reusable face masks to all on-campus students, staff and faculty. Meanwhile, Willamette's website says they will only provide one and only if someone

is without a mask. Willamette did hand out one mask to each student during Opening Days, and Colloquium Associates have been given reusable masks to hand out to their Colloquium classes.

Reed made all dorms single occupancy, according to Myers. Reed has also set aside a residence hall for up to 53 students to quarantine in. Comparatively, Willamette has banned triples for this semester and has "several isolation spaces identified on campus, each with the capacity to hold between 10 and 20 students," according to Don Thompson, the director of Bishop Wellness Center.

Each college's changes to on-campus dining mirrors the others. At Reed, there are stickers on the floor marking places to stand six feet apart, just like the ones at Goudy Commons. While Reed and L&C both closed their cafes, Pacific kept their coffee shop open like Willamette did. But, Pacific did close their bookstore and Reed won't be stocking the convenience store section of their bookstore. Meanwhile, Willamette has kept both its bookstore and the convenience section open.

For student activities, it's too early to tell exactly what they will be like. All sport competitions have been canceled until January 2021 by the Northwest Conference. Willamette, L&C and Pacific are all part of this conference. Reed has no athletics, since they were banned in Reed's founding. Pacific student-athletes are practicing unofficially since coaches are not allowed to go on campus to coach, according to Cutter. L&C

has not posted anything official on their website about the status of practices, but during athletic department live streams a member of the track team and the women's basketball head coach said team workouts and practices are happening.

Pacific's website reports that full time students during the 2020-2021 school year will be offered a tuition free semester following their graduation to allow students to partake in student activities or extra coursework that was disrupted for the fall 2020 semester.

There have been difficulties along the way in colleges' implementation of reopening plans, including wifi issues and figuring out new technology. Pacific's online class hub, Moodle, crashed at one point. Swogger, who is attending Pacific remotely this fall, reported an issue with a Zoom orientation for remote students: "We went in and we had a bunch of questions... and the hour long zoom meeting answered no questions, we just played name games for an hour. And then at the end everyone was like 'what about online classes? Do we get any information?' and the person leading it was like 'I know nothing.'"

As the fall 2020 semester continues on, these reopening plans will continue to be put into place and tested as students across the state figure out their new routines.

eminnes@willamette.edu

MISSION STATEMENT: The Collegian is the independent student newspaper of Willamette University. It strives to represent the diversity of perspectives on campus, publishing news and opinion on subjects of concern and interest to all members of the Willamette community. The Collegian is dedicated to educating its staffers on best journalistic practices while producing content of quality. It is dedicated to handling all matters accurately, transparently and impartially.

Ideas for fun socially distanced group activities

BY PIPER LEHER
STAFF WRITER

With Willamette dorm complexes now restricting access to residents only, many students are wondering how they can still have fun with their friend groups while at home. Here are a couple of entertainment options to consider.

1. At-home coffee shop.

One fun way to hang out with friends is to create a makeshift coffee shop at your house. This can be accomplished by those living off-campus, those living within the same dorm complexes, or it can be moved outside. First, make coffee or tea, and some desserts or snacks. Second, find a phone or a speaker and situate it in your desired relaxing location. Then, play some music. Finally, invite your friend over and socially distance and relax together. This can also double as a work/study session if desired.

2. Take a walk, or jog, for some light physical activity

Taking a long walk with a friend can be an enjoyable experience. Recommended settings include the night time when it's not so hot (and a sunset may be out) or by a scenic location like a beach. Walks can be especially fun if dogs are involved. An alternative, but similar suggestion is to go for a jog together. Having a jogging buddy will not only motivate you to stay in shape, but also help you to escape the gym during pandemic season. The bonus of walking or jogging as opposed to other methods of at-home workouts is that it's very easy to socially distance while doing so.

3. Multiplayer video games.

A great way to interact with friends while socially distancing is by playing multiplayer video games. Minecraft is a go-to recommendation. It's easy for anyone to master, regardless of age or video game prowess. Also, the lack of rules makes it easy to goof off with.

4. Cards Against Humanity.

Cards Against Humanity is a favorite card game amongst many, but not many know about the online and app version. If one finds that their group is starting to get bored while on call, it can be fun to pull up the website and laugh together at some crude humor.

5. Heads Up app.

Another great app to make use of while on video chat is Heads Up. This app is basically charades, except there's a stream-lined selection of choices available. You can choose from many different and entertaining categories, including celebrities, Harry Potter, name that tune, tv shows, accents and many more. This app is best with a medium-sized or large group.

6. Photo Roulette app.

The basic idea of Photo Roulette is that it randomly selects a photo from players' camera rolls, and you then try to guess whose camera roll the photo comes from. This game is a fun way to find out how well people know their friends, such as who is the most likely to have memes, who typically poses in silly ways, etc.

7. Smule karaoke app.

The Smule karaoke app is good in pairs, with the caveat that premium is required to access its best features. The price can be split over Venmo if desired. In any case, once one of the two has premium, they can sing a song as a duet, and then invite the other to join them. With most apps, you have to do a second take if you don't like a recording. But with Smule you can just tap the screen, find the particular spot you didn't like, and only retake that bit, without having to delete the entire rest of the take.

agbryant@willamette.edu

Despite decreased dining options, students remain appreciative

BY BENJAMIN SNELL
STAFF WRITER

On-campus dining services are an often overlooked yet vital part of life as a college student. With COVID-19 continuing to affect the lives of many people, meal options and the availability of staff members have been impacting universities across the country. Willamette is one of many schools that have chosen to change its on-campus meal services, and students have mixed opinions regarding the decisions that have been made.

Those who still go to Goudy on a regular basis have noticed a decrease in the quality of the food provided, especially compared to previous years. Hannah Jones ('23) commented on this, saying it's gotten worse "by a noticeable amount," and that "it's not that the food quality is horrible, it's just in comparison [to previous semesters] there's a lot less variety."

While he agreed with the sentiment on variety, Ted Alberon ('23) shared a different view. He claimed that although there was certainly a greater lack in variety, he noticed that "quality-wise, it's been improved from last year." Because of the lack of options available, however, he felt that he was getting an overall worse experience at Goudy.

Another area of concern for students when examining dining on campus is the desire for further accommodation in terms of dietary restrictions. Lauren Redcay ('22), although sharing that she thought the current food system was decent, said that she would appreciate having different options. She shared, "I've been relying on [Goudy] a lot, and I haven't been able to eat that much food because I get sick really easily from different kinds of food." It is in this respect that adding more options to each meal, with the health of different students in mind, would benefit students' physical wellbeing.

However, one resource that Willamette has planned to implement to make dining on-campus easier is an app that would allow students to or-



Students line up inside goudy in a socially-distanced manner in order to pick up packaged meals from the various stations.

OLIVIA FRENKEL | PHOTOGRAPHER

der food from their phones and then pick it up at a certain time. Though Alberon thought this feature would be particularly useful, "especially [for] lunch lines when they get super long," both Jones and Redcay had other thoughts. Both agreed that there was a lack of any significant instruction on how to use this function that Goudy provided students with. This isn't to say they wouldn't use it, however; Jones said, "I would use it, but I honestly don't know how to do it." Redcay provided further insight, saying: "I've never received information, to my knowledge, of knowing how it works. But I think that's a good system to have, especially for people who might not feel great."

Although some students are conflicted about Goudy's lack of variety, they've also agreed that a decrease

in quality would be understandable. Jones said that "given the circumstances, they've been doing a great job," and that "you can always rely on the same things every day, which is really nice."

Redcay also showed concern for the safety of Goudy staff members. When asked about whether or not she thought food services should be improved, she stated, "I would like for them to improve, but given the current circumstances, like I think, honestly, even the fact that people are even just coming into work and coming in to serve students in this environment, and cook for students in this environment, is a lot for them to do in the first place."

In addition, no interviewees have noticed all that many complaints surrounding Goudy thus far. When

asked about whether or not he thought Willamette was under pressure to improve their food services, Alberon stated: "I don't think so. I don't think Willamette's been under a lot of pressure because I haven't heard complaints about the food quality so far."

Redcay said that as an RA, she has heard complaints from her residents about the food offered. However, she personally tries to be considerate given the circumstances: "Yeah, I don't like the quality all of the time, but I try to come from an understanding viewpoint. I'm just kind of happy to have food."

bcsnell@willamette.edu

Reopening draws concerns as students weigh decisions to live on campus

BY BENJAMIN SNELL
STAFF WRITER

Since March of this year, COVID-19 has had a drastic impact on the United States and its citizens. With widespread concern for peoples' safety in relation to the virus, one issue that has been debated over the past few months is whether or not college students should go back to campus. Willamette is one of many schools across the country that has chosen to reopen, and students have a vast array of opinions regarding this decision.

Many students have questioned the idea of schools reopening because it could lead to a COVID-19 outbreak on and around campus, even with masks and proper social distancing. Some students attending Willamette remotely agree with this. Online student Layla Hughes ('23) expressed concern about reopening because "there's almost no ways to avoid cases, realistically."

Mackenzie Johnson ('22) agreed, claiming that "with the imminent danger of it [Willamette] closing in the near future," there didn't seem to be much of a point to go back.

Despite the possibility of the university closing down due to COVID-19, some students have returned to campus simply because it is a better academic environment for them. In-person student Brianna Kurtenbach ('22) said that "I know that I'm not very good at studying at home, so I know that even if we're online and at Willamette, it provides me with an environment of learning."

Enku Castellanos ('21) shared a similar sentiment, stating that because she's in her senior year, she has "a lot of things to do and focus on, so being at home wasn't necessarily the most ideal environment for schoolwork."

Although some said that safety was a key factor in their decision to return to campus, there has also been pressure to return from a social perspective. Johnson said that there was a lot of incentive to go back based on social life alone, which made it more diffi-

surrounding the safety of Willamette's environment, academic pressure is a concern for those both at home and in person. Kurtenbach associates more stress with remote learning than in-person because of the lack of face-to-face connection to professors, saying: "Something we super-stress here, especially to first-years, is go talk to your professors, go meet them, communicate with them. They're here to help you. And when you're online only, you lose that human-to-hu-

also uncertainty regarding group work, and whether or not Zoom students will be paired with other Zoom students or if they will be integrated with those who are in-person.

In spite of these strange and trying circumstances, many students have nonetheless been finding professors to be encouraging and engaging with their students. Kurtenbach said her experience has been very positive, saying everyone is "very easygoing. [The professors] are all trying to adapt to technology, which is kind of funny and annoying at the same time."

Hughes agreed with this statement, saying "obviously there's been like little bumps in the road because we're all new to this, but the professors have been very kind."

Though no one is completely sure what turn COVID-19 will take next, most people agree that the only way to keep the health of the Willamette community in check is to continue following the protocol that has been laid down. Kurtenbach said that although the safety precautions are being followed so far, she is unsure of what will happen in the future. She stated, "I'm really hopeful we can stay safe, but people have to take this seriously, and I am really worried that the momentum going in is going to fall really fast. And people are going to think that we're safe... and we're not."

bcsnell@willamette.edu

"I know that I'm not very good at studying at home, so I know that even if we're online and at Willamette, it provides me with an environment of learning."
—Brianna Kurtenbach ('22)

cult for her to make a decision. Though it may be nice for students to get to see their friends again after being apart for summer, some noted that this may not be a good thing. Castellanos showed concern regarding the social aspects of campus reopening, saying she's "seen people gathering together, and we're starting to get into the winter months soon." She noted that since people tend to get sick during the colder seasons, she anticipates that "there's a real possibility we might just go home altogether."

On top of student's concerns

man connection."

Some interviewees also noticed the increased amount of accountability students have when going online for a semester. Johnson made note of a disconnect with the classroom environment when learning remotely, saying that it might be harder to speak up via Zoom than in person. She said that the main difference is "it's not like a classroom setting with people surrounding you. Like you feel a little more scared to talk, because your face is going to pop up on a screen in front of the entire class." There is

Students experience downtown dine-in, takeout during COVID-19

BY SANJA ZELEN
STAFF WRITER

Downtown Salem has a lot to offer Willamette students, from coffee shops perfect for homework and study sessions to restaurants to catch up with friends in. But ever since closures and restrictions were set in place in March due to COVID-19, the atmosphere of these businesses have changed. Masks and distancing are required, hours are limited and dining in is not always an option. Despite the changes Salem businesses have had to make, there are still ways for students to enjoy the local restaurants and cafes they loved before COVID-19, whether that be through a takeout or dine-in experience.

Cole Fetherston ('23) recently went to Ritter's Housemade Foods on Liberty Street. Ritter's gives its customers the option of dining indoors or outdoors. Fetherston observed that some of the customers and staff were wearing masks, while others were taking less precautions. "The staff were wearing either masks or face shields. Some even had a weird mask that only covered their mouth, maybe their nose," Fetherston said. "It didn't seem like there was any requirement for customers to wear face coverings even when they weren't eating, which I found odd. Most people waiting inside were not wearing a face covering."

Wearing a facial covering became a requirement for businesses and individuals gathering indoors on July 1st. The Oregon OSHA (Oregon Occupational Safety and Health) states that store managers should politely remind customers of the mask requirement if the customer is not wearing one. Masks are required outdoors when social distancing is not possible (govstatus.ecogov.com).

Fetherston detailed the experience of dining indoors at Ritter's. "I was hoping to get a table outdoors, but they didn't have any, [as] it was pretty packed outdoors."

Spacing between the tables and other people at Ritter's was possible, according to Fetherston. "I was able to distance from who I was eating with and the other tables."

Fetherston offered advice to students who are considering indoor dining: "I don't think they [Ritter's] were following enough precautions. I get it's hard, but it didn't feel safe. It's not something I would do again. The food was good, but I would not recommend indoor dining."



(Top) Outside Ritter's Housemade Foods. (Bottom) People dine outdoors in downtown Salem on a closed portion of the street.

KEGAN RASCOE | PHOTOGRAPHER

Students who want to experience outdoor dining can try alternative restaurants on or near State Street. The section of State Street leading from the intersection with Liberty Street down to Riverfront Park is closed off to cars to allow for Taproot customers to adequately distance from others and enjoy a relatively safe outdoor dining experience in the street. Taproot is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. from Wednesday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on the weekends.

Turning right off State Street onto Liberty, one can also try 503 Sushi, a restaurant that offers dine-in, takeout and delivery. 503 Sushi is currently open from 11:30 a.m.

to 8 p.m. or 9 p.m., depending on the day. Evan Kohne ('21) reflected on his experience getting takeout. "There were one way doors and restrictions on movement in the building, but besides a plexiglass screen in front of the entrance to 503 Sushi, there wasn't much different between the current pick-up process and the pre-COVID-19 process."

Similar to restaurants, coffee shops in Salem are enforcing new policies. Ike Box permits takeout from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Governor's Cup Coffee Roasters is one of the few cafes that does not have dine-in or delivery services, but still

permits takeout.

Regardless of a student's preferred method of enjoying Salem's restaurants, wearing a mask in public is required by Oregon's state law for all individuals who are able to do so. Delivery and takeout are always an option during COVID-19, but those seeking in-person dining still have ways to do so if they feel safe and are able to properly distance themselves from others.

szelen@willamette.edu

Writing Center consultants adapt to Zoom, discuss tutoring stigma

BY PIPER LEHR
STAFF WRITER

Despite a reduction in student job opportunities due to COVID-19, the student-led Writing Center is continuing to operate online. Sign-ups to talk with experienced student writing consultants can be made over Wise, and their hours of operation are Monday to Thursday from 6-9 p.m., and Sunday from 3-9 p.m.

Whereas previously they would edit paper copies in-person, their current method of operation is editing shared Google documents over Zoom calls. Two staff members described their experiences with this change by sharing their perceived benefits, as well as detriments, to using online resources in regards to tutoring.

Senior politics major Layce Yamauchi said that although there are some drawbacks to Zoom, overall she thinks that online appointments are working efficiently. "The transition has been like our regular classes-it's been difficult at first because we

had to jump into it all the sudden. We had to be the hosts of the Zoom meeting and that was hard to get used to at first. We have been getting a lot of appointments at first so that's good. I think they [students] find that meeting on Zoom has been much more convenient," she stated.

Junior English and PPLE double major Adina Goldstein had similar sentiments. "I had a little bit of trouble with the mechanics, like hosting the Zoom meeting, because I've never done it before. Overall though, I think it's working okay. There's been like no people at all. I think only one of the slots was filled, but I also think that's normal for the first week." Willamette students typically don't get many writing assignments until a significant amount of course material has been covered, so the amount of first-week Writing Center visits are usually low. She also pointed out that the lack of attendance may not be because of Zoom. "There's a stigma with getting help from tutors in general," she said.

Yamauchi has worked at the Writing Center for three years. Though she sees the benefits to working over Zoom, she personally prefers meetings to be in person. "Sometimes on Zoom it can be a little awkward when you're meeting someone for the first time. Google Docs can be more convenient because we're both looking at the same thing at the same time, but I personally just prefer a physical copy."

Goldstein, a first time staff member, said that she had no preference for in-person or online tutoring. She did note that, "I personally find it harder to pay attention, and I feel like a little bit of the human connection is lost through Zoom."

Yamauchi also had some opinions about the differences between interacting with coworkers. She said, "That's probably the thing that's been the most affected, the interactions with other consultants. Because usually if there's no walk-in appointments we'll talk to each other about what's going on or we'll go over articles on improving writing for

our next staff meeting, so yeah, I definitely miss someone to talk to during meetings. We can't sit together or have lunch together, so that's kinda sad, but what can you do?"

Going forward, Goldstein had no opinion on whether or not the Writing Center should stay in-person or online. "I have no preference personally. For the safety of everyone, we should stay online right now," she said.

Yamauchi said: "I think that it would be a great idea to maybe have Zoom as an option for people who don't want to come in in-person. Even when COVID is over, I think some people still feel uncomfortable meeting in-person, especially if you don't want to get out of your dorm or go on-campus for some reason. It is kind of convenient."

agbryant@willamette.edu

Relationship starved: most stay distanced, others risk it

CONTINUED from Page 1

"You have to be conscious about your time and the comfort levels of others," said Maia Masamoto ('23). "I have friends who live off campus and I don't get to see them unless I remember to reach out." These small bonds are vital for many in the Willamette community.

Dating is another aspect of life that has been turned upside down since March. New and long-term couples found ways of navigating through quarantine as well as through state, local and Willamette policies surrounding the pandemic. Online dates, Netflix Party and socially distanced dinners are just a few ways that students are able to spend time together.

To complicate things further, physicality is an important aspect of dating for many. Those living off campus are unregulated, however residence buildings have much stricter policies. Students have risked and will continue to risk contracting the virus for normalcy in dating. "People are following dorm regulations to a certain extent," says Andrew Kropp ('23). "But, I've also seen people from other dorms in my building as well as people from other years."

On the other hand, perhaps the safest way to reduce risk is to simply not risk it. Students like Kiana Gottschalk ('23) don't see the potential consequences as justifiable. "I just don't know if it's worth it," Gottschalk says. "I don't know where anyone has been or who they've seen or if they've been socially distancing." The CDC outlines these same concerns within their website. They urge individuals to ask themselves questions such as "Will you have a potential close contact with someone who is sick or someone who is not wearing a mask (and may be asymptomatic)?" and "Do I practice everyday preventive actions?" before venturing out.

In addition to dating, hookup culture is perhaps more taboo in the context of a viral pandemic. Sites like Business Insider, CNBC and BBC released articles throughout the last few months about the skyrocketing use of dating apps. Tinder, Bumble and Grindr have been frequented by the country at large to both pass time and to meet new people, regardless of warnings against it. An LA Times article published in early June explained that physical interaction has decreased and though casual sex is included, "a minority of people have been willing to assume the risk of one-night trysts in an attempt to ease stress, loneliness and boredom." Though caution and accountability are praised and abided by on campus, there is no controlling what occurs behind closed doors.

It's easy to point out that the rules and regulations have made relationships more difficult. The absence of body language, facial expression and physical touch is understandably difficult for many to cope with. However, these times give individuals the opportunity to do away with the more performative aspects of relationship building in order to focus more deeply on the connection between two individuals. Things like Netflix Party movie nights, Zoom or Facetime conversations, and virtual art and cooking sessions are simple activities that ease the difficulties presented by building relationships through the seemingly endless pandemic.

onfrenkel@willamette.edu

Opinion: Put others' health above your own convenience

BY SOPHIE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

As the United States' COVID-19 death toll nears, or perhaps surpasses, 200,000, Willamette's campus buzzes with energy as many students settle into another semester of in-person education. Now, all members of this community must burden the responsibility of making the right choices in order to keep students, staff members and other folks in Salem safe.

The University's decision to reopen has drawn criticism from many, notably the advocacy group Willamette University Alumni for a Virtual Fall 2020, which calls the decision "gravely irresponsible and dangerous." Despite these objections, the semester is now in full-swing, albeit with the option to attend classes remotely, a massive tent splayed across Brown Field, safety protocols taped up in well-trafficked hallways and recurring emails to alert readers whenever another person on campus tests positive. At the time of publication, the University had announced six people have tested positive, at least four of which are employees and one is a student living on-campus.

Whether or not you support reopening, throngs of Willamette

students have arrived, and now all community members must shoulder the responsibility of keeping one another safe. One crucial aspect of this collective responsibility is the act of monitoring oneself for possible COVID-19 symptoms, and to isolate at home for an appropriate length of time when a possible symptom arises.

Most people likely have the list of symptoms committed to memory by now: fever, cough, chills, headache, shortness of breath, nausea, sore throat, runny nose, vomiting, chest pain, rash, eye problems... on it goes. When allergies, period cramps and sensitivity to wildfire smoke can be so easily mistaken as COVID-19, the practice can be of great strain to one's nerves, but still. We should be doing it.

Not only is self-monitoring the ethical thing to do, it's also University policy. Students who signed the WU Well U Agreement at the beginning of the semester vowed to "check [themselves for COVID symptoms daily," and to stay home and contact a health provider should symptoms arise.

Willamette students also have access to #CampusClear, an app where one can voluntarily and anonymously record the symptoms they're feeling, and can be cleared

for campus access if they're feeling fine. The app's welcome page says, "Recent research has shown that daily self-reporting of symptoms, used in tandem with campus policies and procedures, can have a meaningful impact on keeping populations safe."

Clearly, it is in a community's best interests for individuals to stay home when they're feeling unwell. What's less clear is how long that period of isolation is supposed to last, especially if the symptom in question is a mild one that could also be attributed to allergies, PMS, wildfire smoke, anxiety, pepper spray, the common cold (on it goes).

The CDC offers guidance "for most persons with COVID-19 illness," saying their isolation periods can end once three criteria have been met: 10 days have passed since the symptoms arose, a fever has been resolved for at least 24 hours and all symptoms have improved. In reference to the seasonal flu, the CDC suggests people stay home for four or five days following symptom onset.

Neither the WU Well U Agreement nor the #CampusClear app indicates how long one should self-isolate in the case of symptom presentation, although both refer students to their health provider,

like Bishop Wellness Center.

Tim Cobb, Willamette's vice president for Marketing and Communications, said, "#CampusClear simply asks that you not come to campus on that day you endorse one or more symptoms... If you are no longer symptomatic the next day, and indicate this in the app, you are able to come to campus."

Public health guidance encourages people to err on the side of caution when they feel ill. So too should be the case on Willamette's campus. Employees are contracting the virus, despite not being in "close contact" with others on campus. Custodial staff members—many of whom are now contracted by the University and not entitled to Willamette's sick leave policies—are still working in-person. The stakes are too high not to take self-monitoring seriously.

Not everyone has the luxury of isolating at the onset of mild symptoms, and, of course, asymptomatic transmission of the virus is also a serious threat: one Italian study found that over 80 percent of people 20 years and younger with known coronavirus infections presented without symptoms.

"People should not rely solely on the app and an 'All clear to come to campus' designation as a substitute for any of the other very important interventions in place. We should all behave

as if we are all potentially contagious," said Cobb, citing the University's other precautions in place, such as the campus mask requirement, efforts to enforce social distancing and an adaptable sick leave policy for University employees, including student workers.

Still, diligent self-monitoring is an effective way for individuals to be mindful of their bodies' needs, hold themselves accountable and protect the people around them. This country's COVID-19 response has been a calamitous failure, due in part to authorities equipping the public with the ability to make potentially deadly choices: dine in a restaurant, or stay home. Wear a mask, or don't. Take your classes in a classroom, or take them online. Stay in your room when you have a headache, or go to class anyway.

In the absence of clear directives, it's the responsibility of those with the ability to make choices that determine the safety of others to be particularly cautious, and put others' health above their own comfort. So, if you find yourself with a headache and the privilege of choosing to stay home or go to class, slow down, think carefully, and make the right choice.

slsmith@willamette.edu

Opinion: Willamette's COVID-19 protocols are inadequate, risk outbreak

BY AVINASH NAIDU
STAFF WRITER

College campuses were shutting down in March when the number of COVID-19 cases in the US was still in the hundreds. Now, there have been over 6 million cases in the US, including roughly 600,000 new cases in the last 14 days. However, some college campuses are reopening despite the number of cases nationwide consistently increasing. Willamette University's reopening has led many to question whether in-person classes will last for the whole semester or if campus will close at some point in the coming weeks. Based on current statistics and comparing protocols at other universities with protocols at Willamette, a COVID-19 outbreak seems imminent on our campus.

COVID-19 protocols in colleges throughout the country vary in both policy and strictness, but Willamette's policies are less strict when compared to other schools. The similarly-sized University of Puget Sound and Whitman College, both in Washington, opted for remote learning this semester. Larger schools such as Northeastern University in Boston, MA tests students every three days. Dartmouth University in Hanover, NH requires students to be tested multiple times upon arrival, strictly quarantined for 14 days, and tested at the end of the quarantine and throughout the rest of the school year as well. The majority of universities around the country that are reopening to enable students to live on campus this fall have robust testing and quarantine policy for students.

Willamette's policies are nowhere near as strict. There is no way for

Willamette and its students to know who has COVID-19, whether symptomatic or not, upon arrival to campus since they do not do broader population testing. While there is a good quarantine policy in place for individuals who test positive, there

not mandatory and they could unknowingly spread the virus to other students. Since this is the current climate of testing, it can be scary for students to voluntarily test. It's also appalling that students must exhibit symptoms in order to get a test,

and isolating asymptomatic carriers is critical since they can spread COVID-19 completely unknowingly.

College students are going to be college students whether they are told otherwise or not. Social dis-

may not be as large as UNC or engage in as many violations of social distancing, it is likely that the virus is unknowingly spreading or has spread to students.

Professors Basu and Millen, who teach courses in Public Health, provided a statement on their perspective regarding the matter: "To date, given that current evidence indicates that a person who tests positive (who presents with or without symptoms) is only able to transmit the virus over the first 14 days, and that we are now 16-21 days through the semester, the university community would appear to have mitigated adequately the risks associated with opening and coming together. While it is wonderful that we have decreased risks, Basu and Millen also urge caution, 'this isn't to say that there won't be an outbreak.'"

Students agree on this matter as well. Payton Ives '24 and Tara Tosheff '24 stated, "2-4 weeks" and "4-6 weeks" when asked the question of when we will be sent to remote learning. Some are more optimistic—Lane Mikkelsen '24 believes we will be able to make it through the whole semester without an outbreak since we have made it through the first few weeks without one. While it would be tragic if in-person classes had to be shut down, the lack of robust testing and a mandatory quarantine period, students easily being able to violate the guidelines of social distancing and the fact that COVID-19 has spread on many other college campuses all combine to make it no stretch of the imagination that an outbreak at WU is unavoidable.

anaidu@willamette.edu

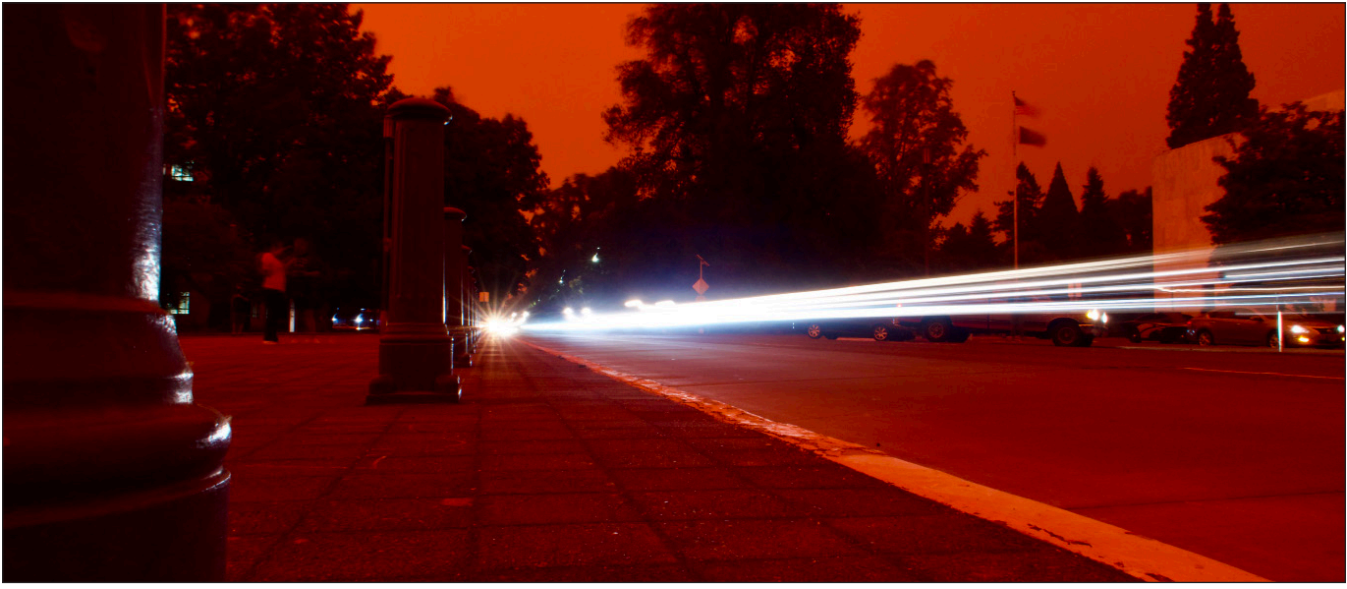
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is no required quarantine period for students upon arrival to the school. Furthermore, students could feel sick, but choose not to get tested. Nobody would know whether or not they had COVID-19 since testing is

given that a CDC study showed that nearly two-thirds of the COVID-19 transmissions in the USA come from asymptomatic carriers. Knowing this, to minimize and even eliminate the spread of the virus, identifying

tancing and mask policies should be followed, but they have already been broken. Schools like University of North Carolina Chapel Hill saw 135 cases in the first week of school and shut themselves down. While WU

Wildfire smoke affecting downtown Salem



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Protest on Sept. 7th



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