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California wildfires prompt surge on campus in donations for relief efforts

Karmen Zhao • Staff Writer • Jan. 17

The Willamette community has been in the works to support LA wildfire relief efforts following California's first wildfires of 2025 that have spread rapidly through the Los Angeles area.

The initial fire, now known as the Palisades Fire, sparked on Jan. 7 in Pacific Palisades, a neighborhood east of Malibu. At the time of reporting, the Palisades fire had burned 23,448 acres, with 11 people reported dead and over 6,500 structures destroyed. Just hours after the Palisades Fire, the Eaton Fire erupted in the San Gabriel Mountains near the base of an electrical tower in Eaton Canyon, according to The New York Times. Due to winds reaching up to 90 mph, the Eaton fire quickly spread, burning over 14,000 acres, including schools, hospitals and neighborhoods.

According to CBS news, while firefighters at the Palisades and Eaton fires had taken major actions to contain the flames, on Jan. 22, the Hughes fire ignited. It began in northern Los Angeles County near Castaic Lake, burning over 500 acres in its first hour. This fire has burned well over 10,000 acres at the time of reporting.

Though the Palisades, Eaton and Hughes fires have been heavily reported, many smaller fires such as the Hurst, Sunset and Lidia fires have erupted, along with more continuing to burn, adding up to at least 10 fires impacting LA county since the start of 2025. Factors aiding the spread of these fires include the Santa Ana winds that move through the mountains of Southern California and California's "Dry Period," with downtown Los Angeles only having 0.16 inches of rain since October 2024.

Briana Lindh, a senior lecturer in biology at Willamette University, noted that fluctuations of climate patterns from El Niño and La Niña have impacted Southern California. Currently, California is undergoing La Niña conditions, resulting in more precipitation and wet conditions in Northern California while Southern California is left dry and barren. Additionally, elevating temperatures due to climate change has increased the risk of fires. "There is a lot of natural vegetation burning, like chaparral and other shrubs, in places where it is not wet enough to have a forest," Lindh stated.

Willamette student Megan Be-

tos ('27), a resident of Monrovia, California, reflected on her experience living 20 minutes away from the Eaton fire while home for winter break. "You know when you smell burnt steak that should have been taken off the barbecue 45 minutes ago? That's what it smelled like," Betos recalled, and noted that she started wearing masks due to the poor air quality from ash.

On the day of the Eaton fire, Betos said that windstorms had left the entire city of Monrovia without power for two days. Fortunately, the fires did not reach her family home,

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Smoke from the Palisades Fire visible near the Getty Center and Brentwood, Los Angeles on Jan. 8, 2025.

Photo courtesy of Shutterstock.

but she knew friends that had more unfortunate experiences with the property loss. Additionally, she noted that these wildfire impacts have remained damaging to the broader LA community.

Betos stated that not only were the fires destructive, burglary via breaking and entering became rampant as people fled to evacuate their homes, leaving valuables and costly possessions behind. "Our governor had to call on the National Guard to keep watch of all these places," Betos said. Governor Newsom deployed the CalGuard on Jan. 9 to help "build capacity of local law enforcement," releasing nearly 8,000 personnel to combat fires and ensure public safety. Newsom stated, "Looting will not be tolerated."

On Jan. 8, the Willamette University Emergency Response Team sent out an email to the Willamette

student community, expressing their concern for those who have been affected by the fires in the Los Angeles area. The email wrote, "These fires may affect you in different ways, including your return to campus. The Office of Student Affairs is available to support your personal well-being and academic success."

Returning to Willamette after winter break, organizations on campus have started putting together fundraisers to raise awareness and inspire donations towards fire recovery and relief efforts. The Willamette Sigma Chi Fraternity held a fundraising event on Jan. 29 in Jackson Plaza to support the wildfire relief effort. Nolan Wright ('27), the fraternity's philanthropy coordinator said, "We have a couple brothers who have been affected and lost houses in the LA wildfires. ... This issue is very personal to us." The fundraiser included the

fraternity brothers taking quick dips in the Mill Stream and shaving cream pies to the face for donations towards the Red Cross. The event raised nearly \$300 in donations.

Additionally, Annie Birch Wright ('27), a Willamette student and current president of the Climate Action Alliance, shared that the student organization would be collaborating with Willamette's Craft Club to put together an "L.A. Fire Relief bake and craft fundraiser" that will be held on Feb. 12 and Feb. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Jackson Plaza.

Birch Wright explained that QR codes of the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation, the California Community Foundation, and the United Way of Greater Los Angeles will be available to scan at the fundraiser, along with priced baked goods and other purchasable items. "People can choose what organization they would like to donate to ... choose an item they would like to buy, and donate what the item is worth to the organization," Birch Wright outlined. Grace Kosmicki ('25), a member of the Climate Action Alliance, added, "We're doing it around Valentine's Day. The idea was that people can have a Valentine's Day card, which is the craft aspect of it."

Along with the organizations the Climate Action Alliance has mentioned, Betos noted that GoFundMe is a way for Willamette students to support people directly, but also urged the importance of "spread[ing] resources and information [for] where people can find temporary housing, food, supplies, hygiene and clothing."

As the wildfires in California are moving towards containment, communities have begun the cleanup of the aftermath, opening up opportunities for donations and charity.

ASWU creates endowment task force for student input on management process

Amelia Hare • Staff Writer • Dec. 24

The Associated Students of Willamette University (ASWU) has initiated a “task force” of students, senators and faculty members to decide how ASWU’s \$385,000 endowment should be managed going forward. The task force is made of faculty advisors, students and ASWU senators.

The ASWU endowment, which is separate from the university’s \$370 million endowment, was created

in 2001 as a way to support student endeavors. It started with a surplus of \$33,000 Willamette had left over from the 2000-2001 fiscal year. According to the ASWU bylaws, 2.5% of student fees are put towards the endowment.

Currently, the ASWU senate has control over where they believe the endowment money should be allocated. The purpose of this new task force is to help ensure that the endowment is utilized properly for students and as a way to create dialogue between students and the university about how the money is used to benefit the Willamette community. “It is for the students, so it needs to go back to the students,” said ASWU senator and task force member Evyn Baker (’26).

ASWU President Anastasia Lemesh (’26) explained the importance of this task force, claiming that it was to learn how the endow-

ment works.” Zander Huston (’25), a former task-force student member, claimed that “we kind of have a lot of money in the endowment, and we don’t use a lot of it.”

According to Scott Schaefer, the university controller and an advisor to the task force, both the university and ASWU endowments are invested in around 680 funds to help the endowment grow. While most of that money is reserved, it has sometimes been utilized for students, such as in 2023 when ASWU voted to give \$42,000 to the Bistro. This money could be utilized for future student projects around campus.

Creating this task force, Lemesh thought that Schaefer would be helpful to have on their team. “I am here more as a resource,” said Schaefer. “I do all the accounting for the university.” ASWU is also being advised by Laura Taylor, the associate provost for academic finance.

Beyond the advisors, the committee is made up of students such as the ASWU executive team, ASWU senate representatives and non-ASWU affiliated student representatives. Through this variety, Lemesh hopes to “[give] a voice to different groups and perspectives.”

Some student members of the task force mentioned their participation stems from interest in the investments that the university makes, both with the ASWU endowment and the

larger endowment belonging to the university. This interest has been felt more broadly since the student occupation last spring that focused on the Willamette endowment’s involvement in the arms industry and potential impact on the current humanitarian crisis resulting from the Israel-Hamas war. Student involvement in the endowment has roots in activism on campus to divest from Apartheid in the 1980s. Huston emphasized the importance of being “ethical stewards of the money.”

Others on the task force are hoping to take a closer look at the money and how it can be utilized more effectively to serve student needs.

The next steps for this task force are to further investigate how to approach the issue of student fees and create smooth communication between faculty, senators and students.

While current meetings of the task force are not open to the public, Baker spoke about the possibility of the task force evolving: “The goal of the task force is to determine if we need to make a committee,” Baker explained. A committee would become a long-term team focused on the endowment, with more student representation present. Having the ASWU endowment as an autonomous committee would give Lemesh and others the opportunity to further explore where it could best be used for students.



University money surrounding a register.
Art by ELLIE STARR

Provost Carol Long reflects on her time at Willamette ahead of retirement

Nardin Ishak • Staff Writer • Dec. 2

After more than 30 years of dedicated service in various roles at Willamette University, Provost Carol Long has announced her retirement, marking the end of an era and leaving behind a legacy of commitment and achievement.

As the chief academic officer, the provost helps coordinate collaboration among the schools of WU and between students and academic affairs. Deans, staff of the provost office, the library, museum, registrar, office of international education and the vice president of student affairs all report to the chief academic officer. “I am never bored!” Long said.

Long started her journey at Willamette in 1972 as an English professor for over 30 years, followed by serving as department chair, then associate dean, then dean of the College

of Arts and Sciences (CAS) for seven years. In 2009, Long left her role as CAS dean at Willamette and served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at the State University of New York College at Geneseo for five years, followed by being president for her last two years. Long was planning to retire from her role there in 2016 until she got a call from President Steve Thorsett asking if she would consider coming back to Willamette.

At that point in time, Willamette had never had a provost office, but Long recalled conversations with the intent of integrating the university more fully before her departure to New York in 2009. The conversations later led to the decision of hiring a provost. The dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 2016 was initially supposed to step into that role, but her sudden decision to retire was the reason President Thorsett reached out to Long, as she recalled. “He actually really invited me for a year or two for the position to get set up,” Long said. “I don’t think he expected me to stay for nine years!”

As Long is turning 80 years old in July 2025, she decided it was time to retire. Long plans on spending the next months building the best platform onto which her successor can arrive. Her goal is to be sure all operations are left structured in a way that they can continue while allowing the next provost to make changes and evolve things as they see fit.

In addition to making sure all of her projects are structurally sound and can continue without her, Long also wants to make sure that her staff are secure in their positions and can have an easy transition after her departure.

“I like stability, and I like change, too, but I want to do it at a pace that doesn’t tear things apart,” said Long. “Willamette has been very good to me through all the years of my career, so I want to be sure that I leave it in good shape.”

Since the president supervises the provost, President Thorsett has the final decision on candidate hiring. He chaired the search while the hiring committee advised him, according to Jennifer Cole, dean of Pacific Northwest College of Art and member of the hiring committee. While Long was not on the hiring committee, she did get to meet the finalists. The new provost and senior vice president, Dr. Jennifer Jacobs Henderson, has been announced and is set to start on July 1, 2025.

As for Long’s post-retirement plans, she signed up for her first 5K



Provost Carol S. Long sits for a portrait in her office on Nov. 11.
Photo by PATRICIA KREPEL

run held on Earth Day by Run For The Trees. She is also looking forward to spending time with her daughters, grandkids and “grand dogs.” While Long is excited for her upcoming plans, she knows she will continue to watch how higher education evolves and grows over the next 10 years.

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Headband finds no treble taking first in International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella quarterfinals

Aubrey Tuttle • Staff Writer • Jan. 31

On Jan. 25, Headband took first place in the Oregon International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) quarterfinals. Because the top two competitors get to move on to the West semifinals, Headband plans to head to Redwood City on March 22. This is the first time ever that Headband will be advancing to the semifinals, and the team is excited not only to represent Willamette but also to make history.

The president of Headband, Ash Scott ('25), said, "It feels like we are pulling off what we've been shooting for." They attribute their success to the team environment that has been cultivated through years of just having fun and making music. Their dynamic is very close, said Scott, who has always thought of Headband as their "family on campus." Beyond the team's close connection, they said that "[the team's] big thing is that we ... are having a whole bunch of fun on stage and are really fun to watch."

Athena VanDyke ('24), having been on the team for four years now, looks back on how far they have come. "It wasn't really until last year when we were like, 'Oh, like we are actually decent.'" This discovery was made in 2023, when Headband took third place in ICCA, just one place from advancing to the next round. Before this success, the group didn't see itself as very competitive, but was having fun singing, competing and connecting with the other acappella groups in the area.

Along with valuing the communal aspect of their team, Scott finds great pride in the a cappella

community that has been cultivated between Headband and other groups on campus, including Up-Top, Tandem and the Mill Stream Sailors. Scott also values the a cappella community that has formed in the greater Oregon area through performance with the groups from other colleges like Oregon State University, University of Oregon and Portland State University. These groups have played a big role in Headband's preparation for ICCA, as collaborative performances leading up to the competitions have given the group fresh opportunities to practice their winning set. It has also given Headband an opportunity to perform songs that stray from their set, providing variety to their audiences.

With almost two full months to prepare for the semifinals, Headband is grateful to have the helpful feedback of the judges that they are excited to implement into their work. Generally, though, VanDyke says that they are "just so glad to even go."

The seniors of the group are savoring the experience more than most. VanDyke shared that she "really wants to go out with a bang and just have some fun."

To get ready for this new adventure, Headband will be keeping up with their normal rehearsal schedule, perfecting the routine that they have been practicing all term long. After putting the final touches on their well-rehearsed set, Headband will be ready to take the stage on March 22, when they will sing for the chance to win the ICCA semifinals and go to New York City for finals.



Members of Headband pose for a photo after winning the first place in the Oregon International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella quarterfinals on Jan. 25, 2025. Photo courtesy of Headband.

Navigating new beginnings: The challenges and triumphs of transfer students

Aubrey Tuttle • Staff Writer • Jan. 31

One's college years are often referred to as formative, something to soak in and take full advantage of. However, some find it difficult to take advantage of college when they feel they are at the wrong university. The transfer student experience is a varied one, but many share similar experiences when it comes to the process of assimilating into the Willamette student body.

For Natalie Brauch ('25) and Jimmy Ostler ('26), transferring to

Willamette University allowed them to make the most out of their college experiences.

After leaving her previous university, Colorado State, Brauch took a gap year in between transferring and found herself "missing math," something that she never thought that she would say. After realizing that she wanted to pursue a math major, Brauch decided to transfer to Willamette. Willamette's program proved to be the perfect place to quell these

longings, helping Brauch complete the college experience that she found lacking in her previous university.

However, Brauch also found that being thrown into her sophomore year here at Willamette was a little jarring. She stated, "There is a lot of sort of default treatment of like, 'Oh you've got four years. You can figure things out.'" Because of this, Brauch did not know about the requirements for classic majors and was unable to squeeze a double major on top of her declared math major.

Ostler recounted a similar experience after deciding that his original college, BYU, wasn't a great fit for him. Now, he wishes he had more time at Willamette to make the most out of his college experience.

While both encountered the frustrating process of switching schools part way through their college experience, the most difficult part of the transfer experience for Brauch was simply transferring over credits. One example of this was a GED class required for their previous university on the topic of how to use Microsoft Excel: "[Willamette] was like, 'What do you want us to do with this?'"

Despite their struggles with accounting for academic credits, Brauch and Ostler both remarked on having a smooth transition into the social sphere of Willamette. For Ostler, after experiencing a larger university, Willamette's closer environment was much easier to slip into.

Ostler even said, "It's a little easier to make [your college experience] what you want -- you can do so many things at a university like Willamette. You can build your own experience that you want. ... That would be a little bit harder somewhere else." For Ostler, building his own experience meant founding the computer science club and joining math club.

Brauch and Ostler attribute their smooth social transitions to the students, professors and resources for transfer students at Willamette, each of which helped them feel welcomed to campus. Ostler shared that he found his first taste of community within the transfer student Opening Days group: "You go through [Opening Days] with all of the freshmen, but we have all had college experience before." This common experience jump-started his connections at Willamette, paving the way for a memorable next three years. Brauch shared an appreciation for the program, saying, "It was really nice to be able to connect with other transfer students who had similar experiences."

Willamette might not be for everybody, and Brauch and Ostler's experiences may not be universal, but for these two students, transferring to Willamette was the right choice for their college careers. At a smaller university, they have been able to better build the experience they desired, completing their college experiences the way that they wanted to.



A view of one of Willamette's landmarks, known by students as the "chicken fountain." Photo by GRACE SHIFFRIN

Opinion: Ins and Outs of 2025

Maisy Clunies-Ross • Staff Writer • Jan. 21

Out: Gender Essentialism as Feminism

“Masculine energy,” “being in touch with your divine feminine,” “girl math,” and all of the surrounding nonsense is just sexism being re-packaged and rebranded. While many people find it empowering to embrace their womanhood via traditional femininity, the presentation of taking on a traditional role or hyper-feminine appearance as somehow subversive is an exercise in futility. While many men demean femininity, devoting oneself to a feminine ideal is not sticking it to the patriarchy. Femininity may be belittled, but it is still the desirable norm. Regardless of one’s intentions or internal motivation, the outward presentation of feminine beauty still pacifies and gratifies the male gaze. The complication about how to proceed with feminism and how to approach the notion of empowerment in a patriarchal structure is too complex for this paragraph. All I can confidently say is furthering gender division, perpetuating the idea that men and women are inherently different — even in the service of momentarily uplifting women — still feels like a regressive ideology.

In: Mediocre Art

Politically, environmentally and socially, the world is in a pretty tumultuous and troubled period. To cope with the overwhelming weight of tragedy and the insanity of trying to remain calm, many people need an outlet to express themselves and seek catharsis. Hopefully, this instinct, in combination with the growing recognition of artificial intelligence’s pitfalls, will spur people to create. Art doesn’t need AI gloss, practiced professionalism or anything near perfection. All this work has to be is authentic. Maybe that means it’s corny or mediocre, but there’s a place for creation nonetheless.

Out: Brandy Melville

There’s no denying, Brandy Melville is good at what they do. Unfortunately, all they really do is produce cutesy basics for thin women. There will probably always be a place for that, but the era of Brandy Melville as an arbiter of taste is over. Tides began to turn against Brandy after a recent documentary shone light on the company’s discriminatory and fatphobic hiring practices, the horrific impacts of the fast fashion industry, and the dubious labor practices employed by the company. The fantasy of thin, white Californian bliss the company sells is getting tired. Looking at their clothes feels like chewing on Wonder Bread. It’s 2025; let’s get more interesting.

Out: Video Essays

Video essays are to the 2020s what podcasts were to the 2010s — a new art form for information and entertainment, taking over the internet and burrowing themselves into people’s daily routines. However, as of late, it feels the market has become oversaturated. A lot of content feels repetitive and more concerned with internet discourse than the realities of everyday life. Everyone is thoughtful and articulate as they speak into the void. It’s an echo chamber. Video essays can still be a great method for teaching, learning and platforming

or problematic nature of a piece of art is overdone. It mostly serves to platform and draw attention to the media that’s being critiqued. Rage bait is low-hanging fruit. There’s a whole industry of critiquing cringe books and movies and music, but none of those people are offering alternatives or making art they feel proud of to balance out the ridicule. The best example of this is Colleen Hoover content. Colleen Hoover writes silly books with outlandish sentences, but making a video making fun of that doesn’t show you’re so much smarter than her. You still read her book. Grow up.



“Ins” are represented in a green box, while “outs” are represented in a red box.
Art by ELLIE STARR

people who otherwise may not have a voice in traditional media, but at a certain point, one needs to expand their media consumption habits. A great transitional point is listening to the works quoted in beloved video essays and then reading those books.

In: Scarves for Fashion (Not Just Function)

Scarves are a winter necessity, but the rise of accessorizing and genuine 2000s fashion, not just a Shein-ified Y2K, will keep them on our minds and around our necks further into the new year. A light or skinny scarf is perfect for spring: it can add fun colors, interesting patterns and unique flair to any look.

Out: Rage Bait Content

Relishing and creating content purely based around the cringe

In: Reading for Pleasure

This doesn’t mean embracing pure fluff all day everyday. Challenging and substantive literature is also a part of a balanced media consumption diet. However, picking up a book rather than one’s phone is becoming increasingly necessary. Don’t torture yourself with a book you don’t like, you’ll always pick your phone over that. But getting back into silly books, maybe revisiting a childhood favorite as a break from the cacophony and attention-span-ruining nature of the internet, could be quite enjoyable.

Out: Plumping Lip Gloss

Firstly, it hurts! Secondly, there’s been a shift away from lip filler in the past few years, and movement away from plumping gloss seems like the next logical wave of that trend. Beauty doesn’t need to be homoge-

nized. This feels especially relevant in the Kardashian era, where traditional features from people of color have been co-opted by mainstream white culture, leading to a standard of beauty composed of traditional features from a variety of ethnicities. Features that women of color have long been demeaned and brutalized for are now being praised on white women. However, the ideal is still whiteness — maybe a more racially ambiguous whiteness, but whiteness nonetheless. Chemical hair straightening, skin bleaching, and cosmetic procedures continue to harm women of color around the world, while the beauty industry continues to pick and choose which features they’ll profit from this year. As America embraces conservatism, beauty standards reflect as such. Ariana Grande has stopped her excessive tanning, the Kardashians are getting their filler and BBLs removed, undoing their cornrows and dying their hair blonde. The beauty ideal shifts in accordance with the social and political climate, and thus shaping one’s beauty routine, view of self worth, and even physical facial structure around those standards is a Sisyphean task. The uniqueness of one’s features can often be the most captivating thing about them. It’s time to embrace the beauty of individuality in 2025.

Out: Personal Taste as a Sign of Morality

It’s true that media one consumes can be indicative of personal beliefs. Consumption isn’t a neutral act. Yet, the representation of what someone likes as the deepest look into who they are or their beliefs is a foolish instinct. It leads to people justifying everything they like as the most morally pure creation in the world and positioning something they have a personal distaste for as problematic. Media and its creators still require critique, but consumption isn’t the purest expression of morality.

In: Following Your Heart Rather Than Trends

Okay, fine! The hypocrisy of a trend critique on an “ins and outs” list is clearly ironic to me. However, one can be aware of the flow of trends — the way individual action and perspective is shaped by cultural context — without letting it control them. Especially with the rapidity of the trend cycle and the fracturing of monoculture via the internet, trends are constantly appearing and shifting. While trends can be a force for good by introducing people to new styles or inspiring them to rediscover a hobby or look they already liked, a life lived in pursuit of the next best thing will be both wasteful and unfulfilling.

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Opinion: The brief TikTok ban unveiled a widespread social media addiction

Mari Kauffman • Staff Writer • Jan. 21

On Saturday, Jan. 19, 170 million users from the Chinese-operated platform, TikTok, experienced a sudden shutdown accompanied with a message: “A law banning TikTok has been enacted in the U.S. Unfortunately, that means you can’t use TikTok for now.” The shutdown was due to uncertainty after the Biden administration’s decision to leave TikTok’s existence up to the Trump administration. Enamored users and creators of TikTok released final tributes by recreating their first-ever published videos and relinquishing them into the app for (supposedly) the last time. However, the morning after the unexpected darkness of TikTok took place, President Trump announced on his own X-like app, Truth Social, that he would “save TikTok, keep it in good hands and allow it to stay up.” As the future of the app remains in the air, students should consider the role of TikTok and social media as a whole in their lives, with the grief that people have expressed during the TikTok ban representing a clear addiction to the platform.

Looking to previous concerns about TikTok’s mishandling of user data prior to the 2025 ban, over the summer of 2022, the Chinese parent company of TikTok, ByteDance, conducted an internal investigation of mishandling committed by its employees seeking to obtain some U.S. TikTok users’ data. This led to the data of two American journalists being targeted, along with other influential figures that the company refused to

identify. The historical data that was obtained was then moved to a cloud storage run by a software company, Oracle.

The idea of banning TikTok had been in Congress for years until April of 2024 when former President Joe Biden signed the Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act. The act required TikTok, “unless it sells to a buyer from America or one of its allies,” to be banned starting Jan. 19, 2025. On Jan. 20, Trump signed an executive action that has delayed enforcement of the platform’s ban for 75 days. This aligned with promises he had made prior to his inauguration, although the action starkly contrasted his earlier views: five years prior to this, Trump sought to ban the app over national security concerns.

But even with the 75-day extension, the structure of TikTok has been modified. One significant change is that Apple has already excluded TikTok, Lemon8 and other apps developed by ByteDance from being purchased on the App Store. Even if some students still have those particular apps, they won’t be able to receive regular updates or support. That means that although the apps may remain operable, new bugs will not be able to be fixed, along with other issues. Though Trump signed an executive action that allowed the ByteDance company to sell TikTok within 75 days, he did not, in fact, “save” TikTok. If anything, Trump ignited the fire that resulted in the ban by delivering the problems with TikTok to Congress.

Whilst some users are disregarding the politics behind the ban, it is unequivocal that individuals have become addicted to the short-form social media content offered

on TikTok, evident by the recent popularity of a similar platform. Hundreds of thousands of TikTok users have downloaded a Chinese-operated social media platform within a week, which exposes how quickly people jump from one app to another by the mere influence of others. It is a domino effect: one pushes its neighbor, the neighbor pushes the next one, and so on. It continues until all the dominoes are on the floor. This effect is exemplified by the newest replacement of TikTok, RedNote.

RedNote, an alternative social media platform, has recently come to light as “TikTok refugees,” as they call themselves, have been flocking in. The newest social media platform has ultimately uncovered TikTok users’ fear and grief and is now being used as a way to enable further social media addiction. Xiaohongshu, as it is known to the Han Chinese citizens, has a red background with the Mandarin translation of “Red-Note.” Though users of the app have been more than willing to welcome the TikTok refugees, the heavy Mandarin usage has spiked Duolingo’s users signing up to learn Mandarin. This is indicative of the lengths that users are willing to go to be able to feed their addiction to the short-form content on TikTok. The layout of Red-Note has analogous features to those of TikTok — shopping, going live, sending private messages, etc. — so it is no wonder that it charted No. 1 on the App Store.

Especially since TikTok is



Social media apps TikTok and RedNote. Art by ELLIE STARR

nowhere near being “saved,” people should use this time to comprehend the relationship they have with social media. The amount of time that people spend scrolling through their “For You Page” on TikTok is unhealthy. Users should be aware of the time spent on these platforms and limit their social media usage as a whole. The excessive usage has been known to be detrimental to young people’s mental health. Instead of spending hours admiring posts from exes and celebrity figures, it’s time to be more present with in-person interactions, rather than scrolling through curated videos designed to manipulate one’s attention.

STAFF PICKS

Compiled by Priya Thoren • Opinions Editor

Topic: What is your favorite book-to-film adaptation?

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

The Pick: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002)

Submitted by: Bjorn Domst, Managing Editor

Staff Comment: It’s got to be The Lord of the Rings for me (the whole trilogy, but specifically The Two Towers if I have to pick).

The Pick: The Perks of Being a Wallflower (2012)

Submitted by: Keenan Yoshizawa, Photography Editor

Staff Comment: (directed by the author!)

The Pick: Stand by Me (1986)

Submitted by: Skeet Starr, Sports Editor

The Pick: Twilight (2008)

Submitted by: Eleanor Hu, Editor-in-Chief

Staff Comment: The first Twilight movie — it’s a work of art.

The Pick: Little Women (2019)

Submitted by: Alma Snortum-Phelps, Layout Editor

The Pick: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004)

Submitted by: Priya Thoren, Opinions Editor

Staff Comment: The most aesthetically pleasing movie!

‘Bearcat Bowling League’ rolls onto spring rec club roster

Skeet Starr • Sports & Rec Editor • Jan. 30



Club President Izzy Long McGie (center), Vice President Cassie Thomas (left) and Treasurer Rachel Swenson (right) table at the Activities Fair on Jan. 27.

Photo courtesy of Izzy Long McGie.

A new student bowling club, likely the first at Willamette in 75 years, hopes to start hitting the lanes at Northgate Bowl as soon as Feb. 15.

The group will be open to all levels and plans to meet at the alley every Saturday this spring from 12-2 p.m. Lane and shoe rentals are on ASWU’s dime — participants will only be responsible for transport, which for the exec team means taking the bus as a group. According to club president and co-founder Izzy Long-McGie (’27), the “Bearcat Bowling League” clocked 30 sign-ups at the Jan. 27 Activities Fair.

As it stands, the “League” aspect acts more as an ideal as opposed to a concrete plan. Long-McGie said that she one day hopes to either form a competitive team and join an existing league, or form a league on campus. None of the exec members have bowled competitively before. The club’s first trips may feature a competitive and noncompetitive lane, but Long-McGie has opted to spare the details until club leadership can sort out the needs of their new members. “Right now we just want to get students out and bowling,” she said.

Long-McGie recalls a triumphant fifth grade field trip as the favorite bowling memory of her life so far. “I did so well ... they brought me to the teacher’s team,” she stated. Since then, Wii Bowling has helped keep her love for the game alive. She doesn’t feel there’s any replacement for the real thing, though, and hopes other students will agree.

Bearcat Bowling League will host its first meeting on Feb. 6 from 6-7 p.m. in Eaton 211, featuring Nintendo Switch Bowling and a coloring table.

Willamette Heritage Center opens local sports history exhibit

Ruby Hampton • Staff Writer • Jan. 31

Ever wondered how long the Willamette Valley has been playing baseball? Or the origins of the beloved sports games we share on campus? At the Willamette Heritage Center's (WHC) latest changing exhibit, "Let's Play," students can view sports memorabilia and read stories from the Mid-Willamette Valley's past. From gazing upon an old scoreboard from a local basketball championship game to learning about Willamette University's rich history, sports lovers and students alike can appreciate the exhibit.

Michelle Cordova, the executive director of the Willamette Heritage Center, explained in an email interview, "As a heritage invitational exhibition, this is a unique opportunity to see artifacts in one place from around the Mid-Willamette Valley. ... The idea is to broaden the voices being included in the WHC's exhibits but also offer some publicity and a public forum for these amazing museums in our region, and, by doing so, supporting our overall mission."

This season's exhibit is popular among the younger demographic in Salem and highlights some of the historic sports moments from surrounding the area, including a picture of the 1903 Willamette women's basketball team.

The Pop-Up Gallery is open from Jan. 24 to May 24, 2025, costs \$6 for students with an ID, and is located in the big, red Mill building right across the street from campus. During a quick visit, visitors can learn why recreational sports were an important part of the Oregon State Hospital or see proof of the unbelievable sport that is men's basketball on roller skates, featured in a 1906 issue of the *New York Times*.

Cordova hopes the exhibit shows students that "Willamette Heritage Center is committed to expanding the scope of historical narratives to better reflect the diverse experiences of those who shaped our region and reflect the full richness of our community's history."



From left to right: Ed Bennett, Otto Elkins, Oscar Ellis, Charlie Moyer, Clarence O'Brien, Jack Barber and Ted Cocharm ready to play an extraordinary game of basketball on roller skates on July 1, 1906. Photo taken by Ruby Hampton at the Willamette Heritage Center on Jan. 31.

Capital Fútbol Club cuts Salem's only semi-pro soccer programs

Kat Thornton • Staff Writer • Jan. 29



Krisna LaFrance ('25), who led the Bearcat men's squad in goals in the 2024 season, played for CFC. Photo courtesy of Krisna LaFrance. Undated.

Capital Fútbol Club's (CFC) sprawling east-Salem complex hosts some of the best youth talent in the Willamette Valley. Until earlier this month, it also housed Salem's only semi-pro soccer teams, CFC Atlético and Atlético.

On Jan. 15, the club announced via Instagram that in 2025 they will be withdrawing their membership from both the United Soccer League 2 (USL2) and the USL women's (USLW) leagues. The club will continue to offer opportunities for kids to play competitive soccer from ages three and up alongside their existing recreational teams and programs for adult players.

CFC was founded in 1993 under the name Salem United Soccer Club. In 2004 they merged with the

Cascade Surge, Salem's then semi-pro team, which played all of its games at Willamette's McCulloch stadium. Cascade Football Club was Salem's soccer hub until 2013, when they became an alliance partner club for the Portland Timbers, acquiring the rights for the Timbers' U23 USL2 team in 2017. The Cascade Timbers were born, and in that same year, they founded the women's Atlético program.

In 2022, CFC severed ties with the Timbers. In an old press release, Colin Box, the executive director of the club wrote, "The Timbers organization has shifted their focus and does not share some of the same values we have for the youth game that we originally had synergy around." The club then re-established

themselves as Capital Fútbol Club, changing the name of the men's team from Timbers U23 to CFC Atlético, partly in an effort to distance themselves from any association with Portland and to distinctly emphasize their belonging to Salem.

During the 2022 transition, both teams were competitive and saw success. In 2021 and 2022 the men's team won the division title in back-to-back seasons. In 2023 they placed 2nd in the northwest.

Yet back in 2022, Box had mentioned that "being a [Timbers] Alliance member meant that we [CFC] had a seat at the table when the state was Portland-centered and we [had previously been] left out of many conversations that affected our members. We received brand recognition, as well as several unique opportunities for our players that included time at Providence Park, a couple showcase events, and coach education opportunities." After severing ties with the Timbers, the club lost those opportunities.

CFC, which has yet to respond for comment at the time of publishing, stated in a recent press release that financial and resource burden has spelled the end of the Atlético and Atlético squads. However, they haven't closed the door on future reformation, classifying the cancellation of the 2025 season as "a break."

This change seemingly comes at a disadvantage to the Willamette soc-

cer programs, as many Bearcats over the years have spent time playing for the club in the summers as a way to stay competitive during the off-season. The end of the USL programs will mean less opportunity for Willamette athletes to be involved with competitive play. On the other hand, the Portland Pickles baseball franchise announced a USL2 expansion via Instagram on Jan. 21.

Oddly, the change also comes at a time in which soccer is growing in popularity nationally. According to the For Soccer 2024 census, "Roughly a third of people told us they've been fans for more than 15 years, while a third have been fans for five or fewer years. The latter group, which we've dubbed New Arrival fans, has grown by 57% year-over-year and those who became fans in the past year is up 400%."

As for Salem, one Instagram commenter on the CFC USL closure announcement expressed, "Gonna cherish the happy memories I had watching soccer in the summertime the last few years!"

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

SCAN ME



[HTTPS://WWW.WILLAMETTECOLLEGIAN.COM/SPORTS](https://www.willamettecollegian.com/sports)

Photojournalism: Student Tattoos

Iris McClure • Staff Photographer

Body art is one of the ultimate forms of self-expression. A few Willamette students share their tattoos, showcasing a variety of art styles and subjects.



Caramia Christensen ('27), Christensen's tattoo of an angel eating a cherry.
Photo by IRIS MCCLURE



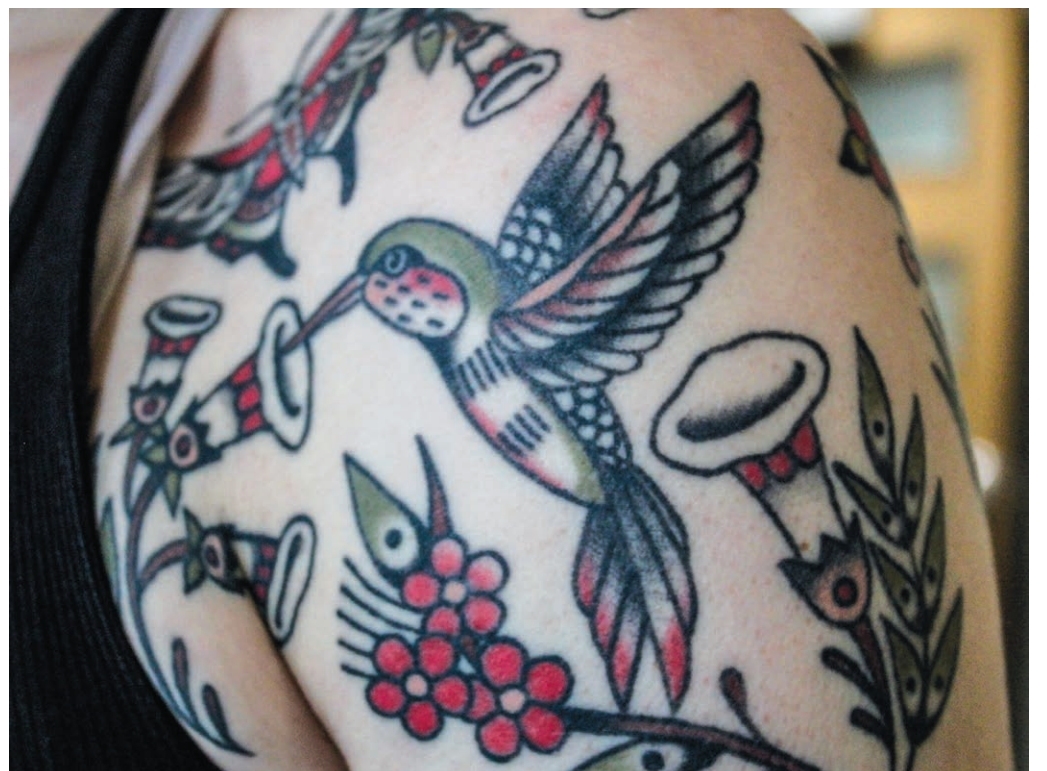
Hana Garcia ('27), Garcia's tattoo of two dragons.
Photo by IRIS MCCLURE



Maddie Lundamo ('27), Lundamo's colored tattoo of flowers..
Photo by IRIS MCCLURE



Brayden Gutierrez ('27), Gutierrez's tattoo of a bouquet of flowers (designed by Basil Allen ('27)).
Photo by IRIS MCCLURE



Ash Scott ('25), Scott's colored tattoo of a hummingbird drinking from flowers.
Photo by IRIS MCCLURE

Crossword: Early February Edition

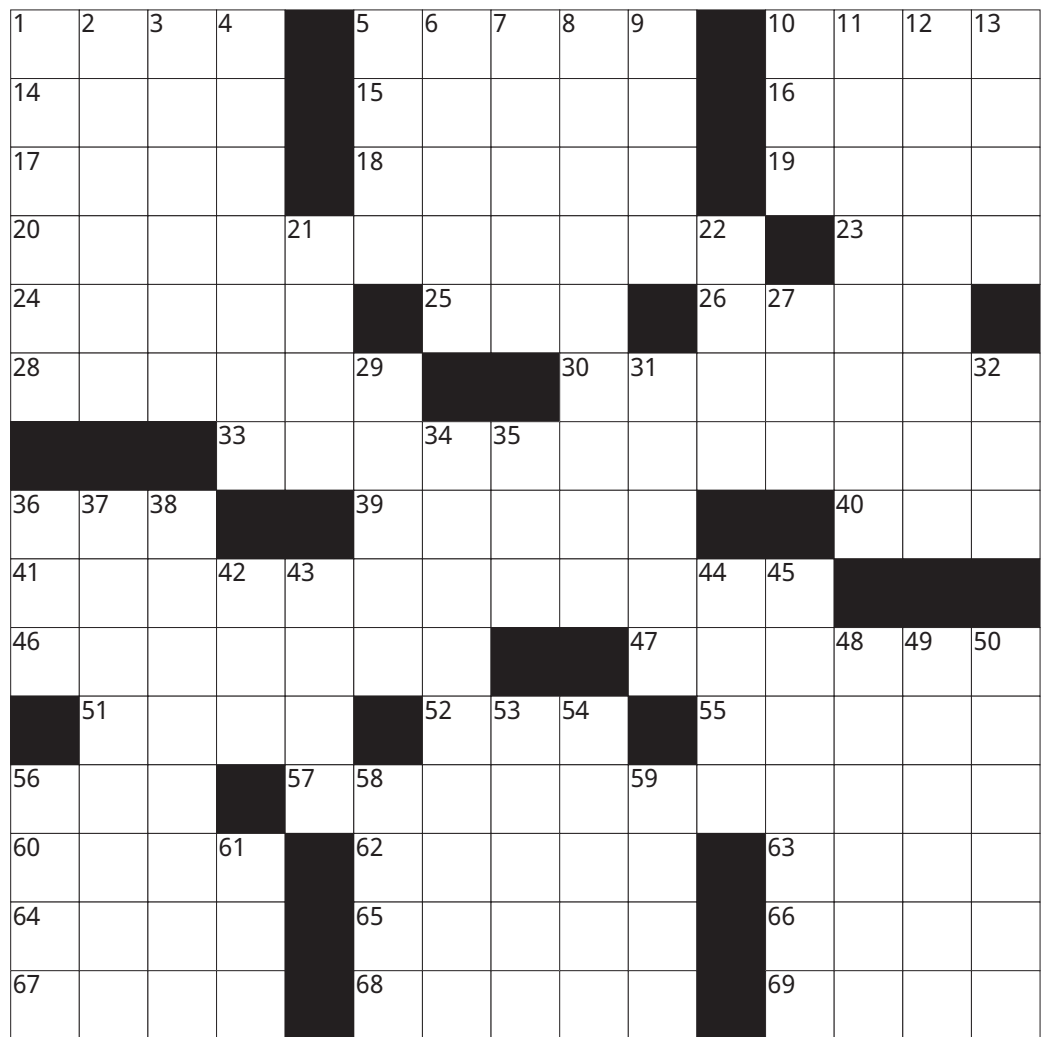
ACROSS

- 1 Battle of Normandy city
- 5 Dipper
- 10 Chinese dynasty 1,000 years ago
- 14 Folk singer, Guthrie
- 15 Disney mermaid
- 16 Amino _
- 17 Neck accessories
- 18 Jaffe and Barrett
- 19 Roman emperor during the Great Fire of Rome
- 20 Invest
- 23 US military award
- 24 Still
- 25 Egyptian snake
- 26 Job preceder, Abbr.
- 28 River that runs through Fairbanks
- 30 Home of Angels and anthropomorphic animals
- 33 Exercise
- 36 Informational broadcast, abbr.
- 39 Jack of "School of Rock"
- 40 Opposite of NNE
- 41 Avoid sweets
- 46 Metro and Mayer separator
- 47 Protozoan
- 51 Unsaturated with color

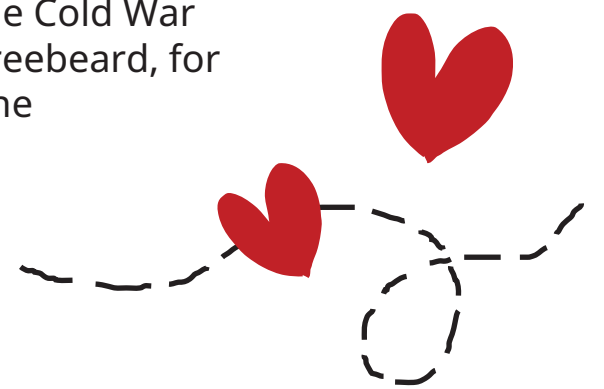
- 52 Canadian interjections
- 55 Icy shelter
- 56 Prefix to some California cities
- 57 Things made in the new year, and a clue to 20-across, 33-across, and 41-across
- 60 Renaissance instrument
- 62 Islands in Spain?
- 63 _ Dokie
- 64 Willamette University science center
- 65 Spaces in a melody
- 66 Tidy
- 67 Washington newspaper
- 68 Perfume compound
- 69 Govt. digits assigned at birth

DOWN

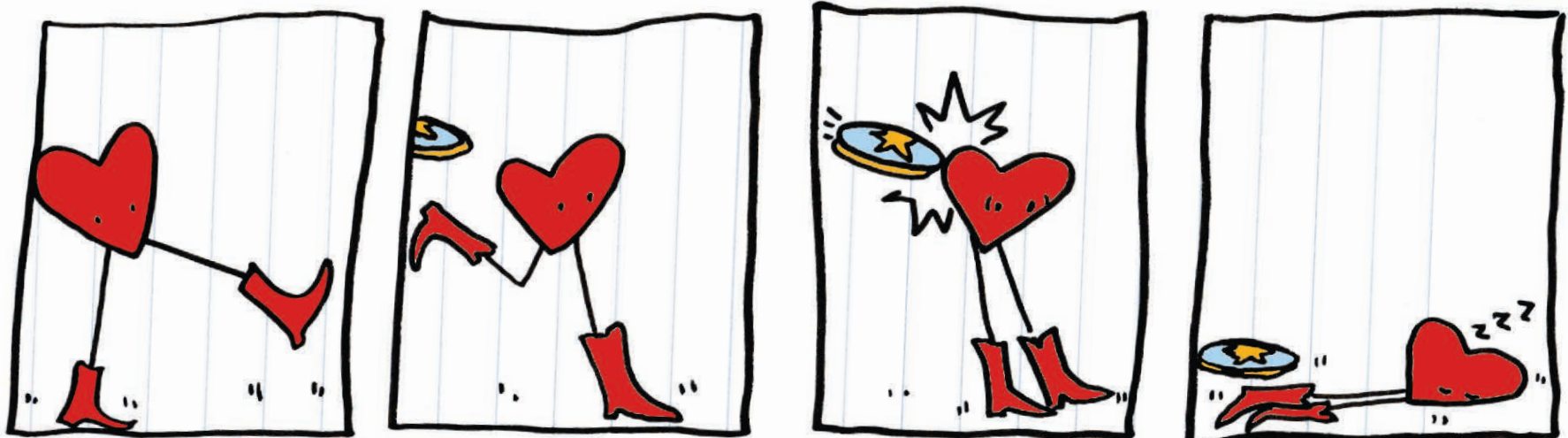
- 1 Look after a kitty
- 2 Grande of music
- 3 Opening time for lunch at Goudy
- 4 Handkerchief, familiarly
- 5 Acronym for an outdoor fantasy game
- 6 Scent
- 7 T. rexes, for one
- 8 A period of poor performance



- 9 Otherwise
- 10 PC linkup
- 11 Cold brews
- 12 Zeppelins
- 13 Leslie of Hamilton
- 21 Magazine, _ Reader
- 22 Affirmative votes
- 27 "Quiet!"
- 29 Held off
- 31 Finnish phone company
- 32 Kitty sound
- 34 Bugs
- 35 _ King Cole
- 36 Cribbage piece
- 37 Largest city in Brazil
- 38 Sea world?
- 42 "Good" cholesterol
- 43 Pitcher
- 44 Radiate
- 45 Areas
- 48 British dudes
- 49 Sea between Italy and Greece
- 50 Math groups
- 53 "The Planets" composer Gustav
- 54 List of candidates
- 56 Pig feed
- 58 Emerald Isle
- 59 US rival during the Cold War
- 61 Treebeard, for one



Crossword submitted by EZRA NELSEN



FRISBEE'S NEWEST RECRUIT RUNS DEEP

Comic by ALYSSA DIGGDON