

The Collegian

April 11, 2025

Your College, Your Paper, Your Stories, Since 1889.

Issue 6, Vol. CXXXX

ASWU and Task Force to vote on divestment bylaws in coming week amid push from students

Amelia Hare • Staff Writer • March 31

The Associated Students of Willamette University (ASWU) Endowment Task Force held a town hall event on Thursday, March 13 to discuss their findings along with public comment on thoughts regarding divestment and use of endowment funds for students. The task force was created to “evaluate if the endowment is being used in the best way possible,” according to Treasurer and President-elect Stevie Bergstrom ('26).

The Task Force committee and town hall panel featured ASWU executive members including President Anastasiia Lemesh ('26) and Bergstrom in addition to ASWU senators Ernest Jones ('28) and Eryn Baker ('26). Ronan Cole ('28) and Ben Delevaux ('26) contributed to both the task force and the town hall as student representatives. The variety of individuals involved was done in hopes to reflect the desires of the student body.

The ASWU Task Force has come to two options regarding the future of the endowment— either ASWU can continue with the current plan and invest alongside the university, or they can divest and use a separate endowment management company. Currently, the ASWU endowment is a quasi-endowment, meaning ASWU can allocate funds where they think necessary. Up to this point, it has been invested the same as the university endowment.

Each College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) student pays approximately \$142 towards the ASWU endowment each year. The ASWU endowment currently stands at around \$394,452, and approximately 2.5% is invested, which is around \$9,861.



Montag Center on April 8, 2025.

Photo by IRIS MCCLURE

The company both ASWU and Willamette use to invest is Global Endowment Management (GEM), an investment service that was founded in 2007 and runs an “endowment-style investment program” according to its website. This means that the company attempts to invest in multiple forms of asset classes, from real estate to private equity.

The Task Force will vote on the two aforementioned options within the next two weeks, and then they will create draft bylaw amendments regarding the endowment. These changes will be presented to the ASWU senate to be voted on. If they vote to divest, and ASWU approves the bylaw changes, it would mean that the ASWU endowment would find a

different investor. This decision would also make the ASWU endowment entirely separate from the university endowment, giving full authority to the ASWU treasurer. Ultimately, to divest from the current status-quo of GEM would be “leaving the comfort zone” according to Bergstrom.

This creation of a task force comes at a time when college students across the country are pushing for their universities to divest from companies that are complicit in the Israel-Hamas war. Students at Willamette have organized multiple times since the push in the 1980s to divest in companies that were complacent with Apartheid South Africa. Recently, in the spring semester of 2024, students participated in an occupation of the

Putnam University Center, calling for Willamette’s general endowment to be divested.

One of the concerns regarding ASWU divestment is the workload presented for the future treasurer, adding onto a large to-do list. The ASWU treasurer manages the funding of over 90 clubs and organizations on campus, such as the Outdoor Program and the Community Action Fund for Equity and Sustainability (CAFES). Currently, ASWU is reaping the benefits of investment without the work, considering an outside manager through GEM works solely on both ASWU’s and Willamette’s endowment. “Whatever decision we make eventually falls on the shoulders of the treasurer,” said Bergstrom.

An expressed criticism among students at the town hall was a perceived lack of urgency in both ASWU and the treasurer to investigate the endowment and add it to the forefront of the responsibilities of the treasurer. Bergstrom stated in an interview that she felt ASWU had let students down by not prioritizing timeliness or attention with regard to the endowment earlier, noting that “ASWU dropped the ball on that.”

The ASWU Task Force will be voting on the endowment sometime in the coming weeks and, if the amendment is passed, will present to the senate soon after. ASWU assured a full, detailed report of their reasoning behind any decision they reach on the amendment of the bylaws.

This is a developing story. Further coverage will be posted online as more information is received.

Oregon Senate Bill 702 introduced to tackle rising youth nicotine consumption

Karmen Zhao • Staff Writer • March 20

On Jan. 13, 2025, Senate Bill 702, a progressive piece of legislation that aims to ban youth access to flavored tobacco and nicotine products, was introduced by Oregon lawmakers.

The bill addresses the rising youth addiction rates to flavored vapes and other nicotine goods, listing specific flavors or scents like “menthol, mint, wintergreen, chocolate,

cocoa, vanilla, honey or molasses or any fruit, candy, dessert, alcoholic beverage, herb or spice.”

Willamette alumna Hayley Freedman ('09), the 2024-25 Mark and Melody Teppola distinguished presidential visiting professor in the Public Health Ethics, Advocacy, and Leadership (PHEAL) program, explained that the bill predominantly targets nicotine delivery devices,

such as vapes, Juuls and other e-cigarettes that are flavored. “Vapes are pretty much exclusively flavored. It’s a chemical version of a tobacco product, right? Otherwise, without flavor, smoking is not very attractive,” Freedman said. “Who are they targeting? Kids and young people. They are selling products that are attractively packaged, appear fun, and mask the awful taste of tobacco or chemicals.”

Freedman noted that even though there are restrictions on tobacco and nicotine products being purchased for or sold to minors under the age of 21, youth are still able to access them illegally if they can obtain them from older siblings, friends, relatives or tobacco retailers who do not scan for ID.

(continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE



News—pg. 2

- Salem Talks Science
- Flavored vape ban



Lifestyles—pgs. 3-5

- Asher animal sanctuary
- Vintage fair
- Cool classes
- Patricia Price profile
- The Devil’s Advocate



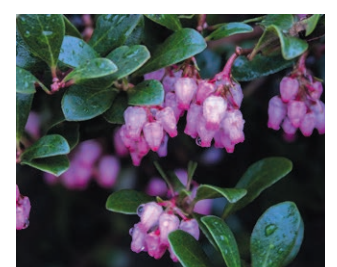
Opinions—pg. 5

- Goudy meal plan



Sports & Rec—pg. 6

- Tennis deep dive
- Elijah Schwartz & Special Olympics



Photojournalism—pg. 7

- Spring flowers

Additionally, 2022 data provided by the Truth Initiative, released on April 5, 2024, highlighted the statistics of different nicotine products used by youth. Specifically, the data noted that “10.8% of 11th graders in Oregon used electronic vapor products on at least one day in the past 30 days.”

With most brands of vapes such as ELFBAR, Juice Head, and Flum coming in bright-colored packaging while advertising flavors such as cotton candy and watermelon, Freedman noted that “the biggest danger of vaping is people getting hooked on nicotine at a young age when they aren’t even aware of the harms.” She expressed that the health consequences of vaping are still actively being researched, however, nicotine addiction is its current most harmful effect. With smoking being the number one leading cause of preventable deaths in the United States, vapes are an important component of the smoking epidemic.

Though it is commonly known that vaping is the act of inhaling aerosol nicotine, “some people argue that it is a cessation device,” said Kiera Atkinson (’25), an economics and public health major who actively leads efforts to raise awareness about the tobacco epidemic. Atkinson explained that smoking cessation devices are products that help people quit smoking by replacing nicotine cravings with nicotine patches, gum, prescription medication or other methods without cigarettes. “These flavored vapes aren’t FDA-approved as cessation devices,” Atkinson said, clarifying that Bill 702 states that FDA-approved cessation devices would not be illegalized if the bill passes.

On March 4, 2025, a public hearing was held, during which the floor was open to verbal testimony and submitted written testimony about the public’s thoughts behind this bill. In attending the hearing regarding Bill 702, Atkinson reflected that there were people who attended in support

of the bill but also people who were in opposition of it. She stated, “There were people wearing these blue T-shirts that said, ‘Save Our Stores,’ who were people who owned a small franchise like a convenience store that sells flavored nicotine products.” These small business owners argued that they have always scanned IDs for any sales made on tobacco and nicotine goods, expressing that the concerns lie in improper training of employees, which is a solvable issue.

“I think the biggest argument this bill makes is to try to turn you away from tobacco by showing how gross it can be. You might try a cigarette or a non-flavored vape and it just tastes gross without the yummy flavoring. I think that the goal of the bill is just to get youth to stop smoking,” Atkinson stated. “It’s not directly targeting adults and their smoking usage.”

Freedman noted that campaigns such as Flavors Hook Oregon Kids and progressive research like the 2018 Oregon Tobacco and Alcohol Retail Assessment (TARA) Project help in highlighting nicotine misuse within minors. Flavors Hook Oregon Kids is a movement of over 60 organizations with the united purpose of protecting youth from tobacco addiction through passing Bill 702. Its website argues that the tobacco industry builds lifelong customers by “targeting children and other vulnerable groups with candy-like flavors and deceptive marketing.”

As an active advocate for the TARA Project, Atkinson outlined that its purpose is to gather data about all the tobacco retailers in the state of Oregon. Having surveyed over 2,000 tobacco retailers across Oregon, the TARA Project is continuously obtaining data about the tobacco product placements and availability within each franchise. It observes how these goods are advertised and who target audiences are, providing information for how future guidelines could be written to combat the tobacco industry.



A sign announces the ban on ELFBAR vapes.
Art by ELLIE STARR

Along with being an advocate for the TARA project, Atkinson has also created a survey in order to “understand the Willamette Community’s interest and familiarity with current bills proposed in Oregon regarding tobacco.” It outlines the objectives and varying perspectives of

Senate Bill 702 and also makes note of other bills, such as Senate Bill 544, House Bill 2053, and House Bill 2528. Additionally, the American Cancer Society (ACS) has released a statement regarding Bill 702, stating, “Cancer patients, survivors, teen advocates, and others from throughout Oregon” have spoken to legislators on April 1, 2025 with hopes to end the tobacco industry targeting their products towards youth. April 1 has been named “Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action,” in which youth communities express their concerns about the tobacco industry. Advocates within the ACS note that companies utilize flavored products to draw in a

certain crowd of customers, which ultimately leads to a rise in death rates and health care costs within Oregon.

According to the ACS website, they are partnered with a wide range of governing cities, including Oregon City, Salem, Happy Valley, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Newport, Depoe Bay, Siletz and Waldport. They also collaborated with various school boards, such as Parkrose, Tualatin-Tigard and Klamath Falls. All these cities and school boards working alongside the ACS have made statements towards the Oregon State Legislature to end the sales of flavored tobacco products.

On April 8, a work session was scheduled for the Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health to discuss the topics of Bill 702 and voted to send it towards further processing by the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue.

“There’s a lot of bipartisan support for Bill 702 now that the initial hearing has happened and it is in its next stage,” Freedman stated. Should this bill be passed, it will not go into full effect until the summer of 2026, allowing time for tobacco retailers to enact changes to their businesses to fit the demands of the bill.

As Bill 702 targets the root problem of youth nicotine addiction, Freedman noted, “It’s really easy when we think about habits like vaping and smoking to assign blame to the person who’s vaping and smoking. I think we need to do a better job of really pointing blame where it’s due, which is the Tobacco Industry which is predatory and aggressive.”

Freedman concluded that though it is an individual’s choice to purchase and use these items, “we’re neglecting the power of social pressure, marketing, social media, and advertising, all of these things coalescing together to be really influential.”

More updates on the movement of this bill can be seen on the Oregon State Legislature website under SB 702.

David Craig wants to spread the word about white oaks. Salem is willing to listen.

Alan Cohen • Staff Writer • April 2

Biology professor David Craig, wearing his distinctive green glasses, walked around a crowded restaurant with a large bag of acorns, giving them out for people to plant. It was an original start to the first event of Salem Talks Science, an initiative started by local couple Taylor and Dylan McDowell to make the Salem community more engaged with and interested in science.

Dozens filled Venti’s Cafe, the

restaurant where Craig presented his work, “The Decade of the Oak,” on Thursday, March 27, and listened as he presented the curiosities and importance of the Oregon white oak. In addition to his teaching work at Willamette, Craig has been involved in researching human interaction in the environment and the behavior of multiple species for years.

Attendees first played a quiz led by Craig that revealed everything

from how to say oak tree in Chinook Wawa — the Indigenous language of the Kalapuya peoples and other tribes in the Pacific Northwest — to what the science community calls a person who studies tree rings. The answer to the latter is a dendrochronologist, Craig revealed, as there happened to be one in the audience.

Craig then stressed the importance of protecting old white oaks, as they are “water conservation wizards” essential to the wellbeing of many other species in the Willamette Valley, especially the white breasted nuthatch bird, which has a very high affinity to white oaks. At the age when humans start using glasses and getting visibly old, oaks are “just getting started,” Craig said. He also joked that the oaks are the “same color as money,” signifying their capacity to protect the fertility of the land — an especially important task as the world gets hotter and drier due to climate change.

Oaks are present in Oregon residents’ lives in a more meaningful way than they might think, including making up a substantial portion of the new terminal at Portland International Airport and the floor at Venti’s — where the event was held — Craig noted. The trees are in parks and people’s backyards, and oaks are also instrumental to the well-being of multiple species, including humans

and their interaction with the environment.

Craig argues we should protect the Oregon white oak by planting more, protecting the existing trees, especially the old ones, and tracking their development. He is deeply involved in preserving white oaks in the Salem community, from documenting the history of one of the oldest in Salem — removed last year by the city due to a fungus spread — to partnering with his students to study them closely after an ice storm damaged many.

Craig also founded Growing Oaks, a project that “entails collecting acorns from Oregon Oaks and growing them into saplings to be planted around Willamette’s campus, the Zena property, as well as public and private properties around Salem,” according to its website.

Referencing the acorns he gave out at the start of the talk, Craig talked about his interest in planting more oak trees in Salem. “You plant acorns in your yard. I plant acorns in other people’s yards,” he joked.

Taylor and Dylan McDowell have not announced the next speakers of Salem Talks Science but plan to make their science pub a long term and regular occurrence, especially after the success of Craig’s talk, which filled up the restaurant.



Professor David Craig speaks at an event entitled The Decade of Oak: Oregon’s Mighty Tree for Common Ground, at Venti’s on 325 Court St NE, Salem, Oregon, on March 27, 2025.

Photo by IRIS MCCLURE

Meet Asher House, Salem's unique local animal sanctuary

Maya Darski • Staff Writer • March 14

Willamette University students share their city of residence with a variety of folks, including over 100 rescued dogs that have found a home at the Asher House, a 240-acre sanctuary that houses a variety of animals and boasts a multi-million social media following. According to its website, the Asher House “currently has over 140 animals, including dogs, cats, birds, donkeys, llamas, alpacas, cows, horses, pigs, goats, sheep and even a ram.” The unique aspect of Asher House is that its animals live in a home environment instead of in cages like they would at many other shelters.

As Asher House owner Lee Asher described, “There is nothing like it in the entire world to have 160 dogs all live together in a house. We wanted them to feel that family environment, so if and when they go up for adoption they can know this environment well.” Some animals, such as horses and llamas, live on farmland and in stalls, while domestic animals such as dogs and cats live in a huge house filled with beds and structures. Fields stretch out throughout the hills of the sanctuary where the dogs can run and the farm animals can graze freely.

Asher has always been working to help animals find homes. Before COVID-19, he would visit various animal shelters and do whatever he could to promote the animals on social media to get them adopted. He focused especially on the animals that had been in shelters for a long time. Once the pandemic hit, Asher realized that he could no longer visit these shelters as frequently as he wanted, but he still “wanted to make a difference and save animals.” This desire led him to create his own sanctuary in Estacada, Oregon, before

moving operations to Salem in 2022. Asher emphasized that the current sanctuary would not be possible without his team of workers. “I’m very lucky to have a team of people who understand that some of my ideas can be outrageous. They are able to take my dreams and make it into reality.”

As for why Salem was chosen to be the place to build the sanctuary, Asher explained, “One of the beautiful things about Salem that’s uncommon for a city is [that it has] such beautiful land to be able to use, while also being close to grocery stores and veterinarians.” He feels that the community has been very welcoming, with “neighbors coming up with new ideas and helping [them] improve [Asher House] every day.”

One of the biggest challenges for Asher when creating the Salem sanctuary was bringing his vision to reality. He was told by many that “it was ... significantly easier to build what I wanted on flat land.” The rolling hills and the weather did make building much more difficult, and Asher realized that they needed to get the fencing down first because they “had a lot of dogs and not a lot of fencing.”

Social media has been a big part of Asher House’s success. Asher reflected on how “[they] were able to build a really beautiful community which is very unique, special and supportive.” Because the online community “is so supportive and believes in the Asher House’s mission,” Asher feels “a responsibility to show up for them by filming and posting every day.” He uploads stories on Instagram for his 2 million followers and does livestreams of him walking with dogs

and answering viewers’ questions because he wants others to be able to watch the progress of the sanctuary. The Asher House also has a TikTok with 2 million followers, as well as a YouTube channel where videos about daily life in Asher House or the animals’ stories are posted frequently.

The best part about working at an animal sanctuary for Asher is getting to see these animals “get a second chance” and undergo a transformation where they “learn to trust and love again.” He added, “It’s really beautiful to see the animals succeed and see them go from a shelter environment to a sanctuary like this. A dog wouldn’t be able to imagine it.”

Asher offers encouragement for Willamette students who may be looking towards a future of doing work similar to his own. He encourages starting with volunteering at a local animal shelter, such as Marion County Animal Services or Oregon Humane. “There’s a lot of foster programs, so many different things people can do in terms of giving back and spending their time wisely.” He said that the most important thing students can do to pursue working in animal rescue and care is to “learn as much as you can,” from volunteering to going on to getting a job at a shelter or sanctuary. Asher said that whether it be animal sanctuary work or any other job, “once you feel a confidence to go in your own direction, that’s exactly what you should do.”

Asher said that the biggest way students can support Asher House is by “sharing our mission and to treat each other and animals with kindness.” Visit asherhouse.com to learn more about Asher House.



Animals waiting to be adopted from the Asher house. Art by BASIL ALLEN

Two Willamette students combine their passions for upcycling and fashion at the Vintage Craft Fair

Maya Darski • Staff Writer • March 31

On March 20 a Vintage Craft Fair took place on campus, bringing in students, crafters and resellers to Willamette. Featuring a collection of attractions including handcrafted bags, vintage artifacts, second-hand clothes, and even a raffle to win a vintage item, this craft fair ensured that any student could find something that interested them.

Sabella Piscicoli ('27) and Aiden Dopson ('25), the two organizers for the event, decided to host this fair to contribute to the campus community and to “celebrate the spring.” Numerous vendors spread out on the second floor of the University Center for the event, some having travelled into Salem for the event and others currently attending Willamette.

Piscicoli has a unique background in reselling, which made her perfect for the role of organizer for this event. Her parents were some of the first eBay resellers, giving her early insight into and experience with the practice, and as she got older, she progressively became more interested in fashion. Piscicoli also has experience being a “contract worker at different music festivals,” and she has “set up different flea and vendor markets” in addition to reselling her own clothing. Back at home in Southern California, she explained that she has “a lot of partnerships with estate sale companies [that] would let [her] know when there is an estate sale going on.”

To Piscicoli, the Craft Fair was

a combination of both her passion for reselling and fashion. Piscicoli’s booth was clothing-based, with her clothes acquired from estate sales and various second-hand and thrift stores.

On the other hand, Dopson has a passion for clothes and selling them, but “hasn’t done many pop-up shops or flea markets before.” This is his second time doing an event like this. He felt that it was “nice to have more people coming together and engaging, trading, selling, and upcycling clothes and to see people come out and work on projects together.” At the Vintage Craft Fair, Dopson also had a clothing booth where he sold clothes he no longer wore. He said that although he didn’t use these clothes anymore, he knew that “other people might like to wear them.”

Dopson sees fashion as “very individual and a form of self-expression.” He noted feeling fortunate to have the opportunity to “give clothes to people who like doing the same thing and putting different clothes on and having a good time,” and was glad that this event was able to become a reality because “fashion can make [his] day, like when someone [has] a good outfit on.”

Some vendors, such as Oregon State University third-year student Evany Noriega, came to expand their small businesses. She sold crochet goodies such as bags, beanies and accessories. Noriega is “Corvallis-based right now,” but she travels to different cities to sell her goods and



Glen Kloster, a vendor, smiles in front of his stand as he shows off his vintage finds at Willamette University on March 20, 2025.

Photo by SOFIE SZIGETI

get her name out to the world.

Ariana Elsberne, who specializes in hand-carved stamps with original designs, came to sell her hand-printed clothing and accessories. Two years ago, Elsberne formed an interest in clothing and was “trying to figure out how to put something on clothing and started with vinyl,” but upon realizing that vinyl fails to hold up in the wash, she transferred to screen printing. When Elsberne

“remembered how much [she] loved carving stamps ... [she] got back into that, learning how to transfer [the stamps] onto clothing.”

Piscicoli has another sustainability-based event planned to take place on April 24 at Brown Field, where there will be vendors selling goods that use recycled materials. The theme of the event is reselling and upcycling, similar to the Vintage Craft Fair.

Navigating the course catalog: A look at fun classes for fall term

Aubrey Tuttle • Staff Writer • March 14

Course selection is coming up! While this means that some are locked into required courses, others might be looking for a class or two to fill in the gaps. There are so many fun and interesting classes being offered next term, it can be hard to choose. Here are a few that professors and students on campus find interesting:

INTST-199 Top: Negotiation and Diplomacy with professor Greg Felker

Instead of focusing on the subject matter of international or comparative politics, this class is focused on the more practical aspects and skills that are involved in negotiation and diplomacy. Professor Greg Felker describes the class as “learning by doing.” Students in this class will take part in a two-credit course teaching the material and a one-credit lab in which they are given the opportunity to exhibit what they have learned. This lab consists of a model United Nations, where students simulate the United Nations structure, each representing a different country and using negotiation and diplomatic skills learned in class to properly navigate the situations. This well-rounded class is the perfect way for students to further their understanding of international studies and comparative politics through application in modeled to real-life situations and examples.

ENGL-101W Multi Ethnic Adolescents with professor Janet Cho

English 101W classes come in a multitude of formats, but they all share the goal of providing students with the critical thinking and writing skills necessary to navigate their college journeys. In this particular iteration of the class, professor Janet Cho’s goal is to provide students with these tools while also giving them unique opportunities to express themselves and relate to the characters that they read about. Cho said this course was

best served as a 100-level class because “most of the students [in 101W] are first- and second-year students. Their memories and experiences as high schoolers or teenagers are very much alive in comparison to juniors or seniors, so they can make connections between the characters’ experiences with their own experiences.” Through better connection to the source material and engaging projects such as zine or podcast assignments, this class is designed to provide a memorable English 101 experience. This writing-centered class is a great opportunity for students to accomplish both their Writing Program and Arts and Humanities requirements.

HIST-131W Demand Democracy 17th c. with professor Sammy Basu

This course covers the English Revolution spanning from 1640-1651, ending with the beheading of King Charles the first. Professor Sammy Basu, who teaches the course, describes this time as “a fun period — it’s surprisingly modern; it’s surprisingly radical.” What makes this revolution so particularly interesting is the new form of media that was erupting during this time: print. Through this medium and expanding literacy rates, the people living under the monarchy were given a voice for mass communication. This explosion of literature served to educate the lower classes at the time and today serves as a useful tool for students, providing them with a plethora of primary sources to learn from. Basu commented on this unique course, sharing that “even though this is a 100-level class, this is a chance for students to actually work with primary source documents ... and try to make sense of this stuff themselves.” With this class, students can chip away at their Social Science requirement.

BIOL-246 Human Anatomy with professor Lucas Ettinger

In Human Anatomy, students



An empty classroom in Eaton Hall on the Salem campus, on April 1, 2025. The Oregon State Capitol stands in the background.

Photo by SOFIE SZIGETI

will be given the tools to learn the human musculoskeletal, neural and organ systems. While this course might seem daunting based on the title alone, students like Sage Julia Miller (’27) are excited for the opportunity to take the class. Miller said, “I guess [that this class is] not what typically draws people, but I think it’s really cool,” adding, “You get to look [and learn] about bones! So cool!” Human Anatomy is a great course for students interested in going into the medical field; it also fulfills the Natural Science distribution credits.

SOC-199-01 Top: Sociology of Gender with professor Sarah Chivers

Open to students of all disciplines, this intro course takes a deep dive into the sociology of gender. Starting first with how gender is a part of our identities as something that we express, the course then moves on

to focus on how gender is an aspect of our everyday interactions that is contextually and relationally specific before then moving on to talk about how these gender identities and expressions structure our institutions and shape structures of power. Professor Sarah Chivers, who will be teaching this class in the fall, said that “through this process, we try to build connections with each other around both our personal experiences and the larger structural force in society that can strain a lot of choices that we think that we have in society.”

These examples are only a small sample of the incredible courses being offered for the fall term of 2025; the remaining classes are available for viewing on the course catalog. With class registration dates rapidly approaching, there is not much to say other than, “May the odds be ever in your favor.”

The Devil’s Advocate

Lee Parsons • Lifestyles Editor

Disclaimer: The Devil’s Advocate is a satirical column that does not reflect the views or opinions of The Collegian. The Collegian and columnist do not recommend the advice and are not responsible for its consequences if acted on.

Goudy keeps changing the tofu recipe, how do I survive this hardship? -Jazz

Goudy tofu is so reliably bland that I doubt a changing recipe could affect the taste buds much — but either way, you should just cover up the taste. The spices Goudy offers near the utensils are your best bet. Find a combination of spices that is bearable on the tofu and season it yourself. This should work regardless of the supposed flavor of the tofu, as it is generally tasteless. Your unique spice blend should cover up any weak flavor they have offered.

I’m almost ready to graduate and I have a deep fear of the future ... I wanted some [advice] on how to savor the moments I have being so close to [my friends] now instead of worrying about when we will ultimately have to part ways, at least for a bit. How can I be ok with starting over socially

in a new place? (abbreviated) -Scared and Alone

The light at the end of the undergraduate tunnel awaits us all, and I have found the best way to survive is to ignore its all-encompassing brightness. If you would prefer a more concrete solution, you should begin making enemies of all your friends. Some quick ways to do this include keying their cars, replacing their shampoo with permanently altering hair products of any kind, being a bit too honest, or attempting to steal from them. Once all your friends hate you, you’ll be ready for a life alone after graduation, just in time for much of the class of ’25 to leave the state. Once you’ve struck out on your own, you could attempt to make more permanent friendships and hope your reputation has failed to precede you — it probably will.



Submit to The Devil’s Advocate here to see your complaint in the next issue!



AIRPORT SELF STORAGE

Move-in Specials
50-75% OFF

Easy Access
From Campus!

About The Property	Features	
Located on Turner Rd. near Salem Airport and Walmart Supercenter - just off I-5 for easy access. Store your belongings in a locally operated facility that offers secure hassle free storage in small to large sizes!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ On-site Management ◆ Gated Access ◆ Rent Online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 24/7 Cameras ◆ Dollies & Carts ◆ Packing Supplies ◆ 5x5 to 10x25 units





971-239-0388
2142 Turner Rd. SE
Salem, OR 97302

From Bearcat to founder of a major classical music firm, Patricia Price ('04) shares her memories of Willamette

Alan Cohen • Staff Writer • March 3



Patricia Price ('04) poses for a portrait.
Photo courtesy of Fadi Kheir

Having already mastered piano as a child, Patricia Price's ('04) high school choir teacher inspired her to choose a career in music. This career began with her music and philosophy degrees from Willamette University, and the alumna now leads one of the most prestigious classical music firms in the world.

"Like most careers, it starts out with an inspirational teacher," she said. Price, who goes by Trish, also credits Willamette for allowing her to

combine her passion for music — the "center of (her) world" — with a business education.

"Willamette had a great music program and offered a well-rounded portfolio of options for me to explore both performance and a different field with the intention of going to graduate school," she said. While at Willamette, Price double-majored in piano performance and philosophy and participated in study abroad programs in Austria and Greece. Embracing the Willamette tradition of overachievement, she noted she was "pretty busy as a student" throughout her education.

"The liberal arts education in general is an important way of exploring who you are at that stage in life. And Willamette's backdrop afforded me the opportunity to explore music, philosophy, a little bit of political science, a lot of different disciplines," Price said.

After graduation, Price was awarded a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship and returned to Vienna, making many friends through a unique opportunity she "wouldn't have been able to do without Willamette." She noted the university was a "very supportive presence" throughout her time in Europe.

But as Price's Fulbright assistantship came to an end, she had to make difficult choices. After realizing that a career in music performance was not for her but still wanting mu-

sic to be part of her life, Price decided to return to the United States to continue her education in music management.

"I realized that I wanted to make sure that my life is focused on music and musicians," she said. Price, originally from Spokane, Washington, returned to Willamette to complete an MBA — which she obtained in 2009 — and quickly proved her talent and expertise by rising in the music industry. While a graduate student, she served as an assistant at a music distributor and later ran the classical music division at Portland-based Allegro Media Group, a nationally recognized record label. Right after graduation, Price was chosen as executive director of Portland Piano International, a "wonderful recital series and festival in Portland."

Both positions allowed the Willamette alumna to get acquainted with the music industry, with the latter giving her the opportunity to experience the "nonprofit side of things," she said. After serving in other positions and working as a consultant in the industry, Price's work "quickly grew to be what is our company today, which is 8VA Music Consultancy," she said.

The company, which was founded in Portland and later relocated to New York City, provides marketing and public relations services to orchestras and classical musicians. According to its website, 8VA Music Consultancy also provides ar-

tistic planning and event production and has worked with groups like the American Symphony Orchestra, Taiwan Philharmonic, National Children's Chorus and Seattle Chamber Music Society.

Many professionals in the music industry either have music or business expertise, but rarely both, Price said. Thanks to Willamette, she noted, she is an exception. "Even though I was a piano performance major, having that MBA education gives me more confidence in business settings and business people with a fluent vocabulary of terms while also being able to speak to musicians on a similar plane," she said.

Apart from aiding her success, Price cites Willamette as impacting her personal life too. "I'm lucky that my best friends still to today are from Willamette, from both undergrad and graduate school," Price said. She connects with her group of Willamette friends often, and "that's really special."

"I hope students today realize what a wonderful opportunity four years to explore passions can be," Price said, despite noting that the university has changed significantly since she was a student in the early 2000s. "It's something I look back on with fondness. The ability to learn and focus on curiosity is something you only get during that period of your life."

Opinion: Calculating the cost: Goudy meal plans are not worth it

Aubrey Tuttle • Staff Writer • Feb. 12

Goudy has received a multitude of complaints throughout the years. From "Chicken Gate," a scandal involving undercooked chicken being served to students in 2023, to simple criticisms of the quality, student complaints always seem to be about food. The prices that students and parents are paying to experience Goudy, however, are not as thoroughly discussed. When presented with the meal plan options, it is easy to recognize that the prices are high. However, without doing the math, it can appear that this is just the fair price students have to pay for 15 weeks' worth of meals. This is not the case, though; buying your food in cash can cost up to \$1,782 less than buying a meal plan. This statistic, as well as the evidence presented below, begs the question of whether or not the meal plan is worth it and if not, why it is the only option provided to students who are already paying so much for room and board.

So let's do the math together, and see if meal plan holders are getting their money's worth. Holders of the 19-meal plan pay \$3,985 per term. If we subtract the \$50 of flex dollars that this plan provides, we are left with \$3,935 left over for housing to provide you with a guaranteed ticket to every meal that Goudy serves. For students, breakfast is priced at \$5.80, Lunch/Brunch at \$8.50 and Dinner is \$9.90. If students went to all 19 meals for the week, they would spend \$157.80 per week buying them outright. If we multiply this number by the 15 weeks of school, the cost totals \$2,367. This is a whopping \$1,568 less

than the meal plan that students are paying for to get 19 meals.

There is a similar price gap in the other plans as well. Using the same math as above, if a student went to the most expensive combination of meals throughout the week, they would be spending \$1,932 for 14 meals and \$1,422 for 10 meals a week. Even if we subtract the flex dollars from the price of the meal plan, buying each meal separately would save you \$1,782 for the 14 meal plan and \$1,728 for the 10.

Information regarding individual meal prices cannot be found on the Willamette website, nor is it listed on the Bon Appetit Willamette website. The only way to obtain this information appears to be to read the list of prices off of a flier sitting at the front kiosk in Goudy. When contacted with questions about the price of meal plans Bon Appetit let us know that housing determines those prices. Housing did not respond to a request for comment.

Students living on campus who do not have a kitchen amenity are required to have and pay for a meal plan. This seems like an obvious stipulation for a college student living on campus, given that they have few other ways to feed themselves. However, the cost of the meal plan is the true issue — because the plan is required, prices can be set with little room for alternatives.

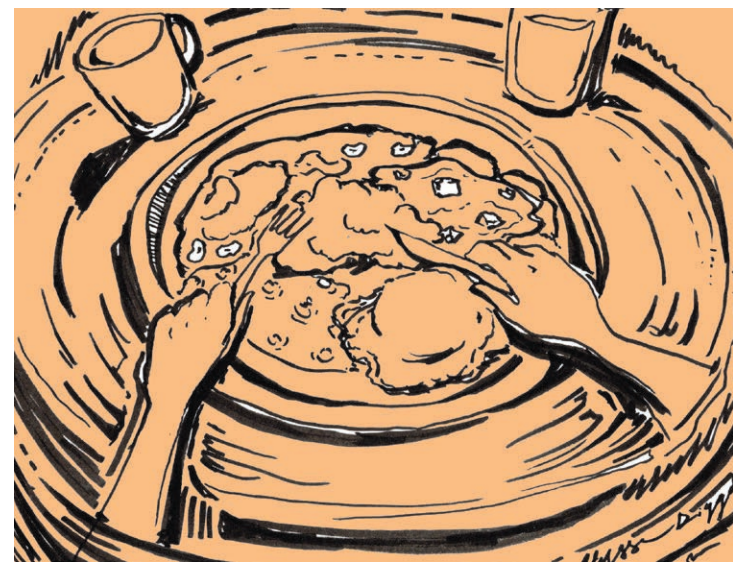
Of course, the benefit to paying extra for the meal plan despite the price gap would be that meal plans can be paid for by scholarships or loans. Not everyone can afford to pay

the price of tuition, housing and dining upfront, and this system creates a delayed convenience for the student. It does not, however, seem fair to only give students this one option.

After hearing about the size of this pricing gap, Andrew Henne ('26) found the situation to be unfair, and said "[they think] the fact that the university doesn't really make that information clear, like the fact that doing the math is the only way to figure that out, is kind of shitty." Furthermore, they added, "Framing the different meal plan tiers as budget options for a student, then, it is very misleading for them to all be more expensive than it would be to just not do any meal plan at all."

Ezra Neely ('26) added that the lack of information regarding these numbers and the breakdown of the cost of meal plans is doing a disservice to the tuition payers. "It seems like we are more focused on trying to help the university and not the students," said Neely.

This theory would make sense if the price gap was going towards the betterment of Goudy — it is possible



The Goudy experience.
Art by ALYSSA DIGGDON

that the extra costs paid by students on a meal plan go towards staffing, supplies, materials, etc., in order to keep the price down for those not in the meal plan. The current meal plan structure is thus in the best interest of students or other customers without a plan, but certainly not for those who are required to have one.

Even so, this information should be disclosed to those paying inflated prices or at least be transparent regarding this price bump. Alongside transparency, students living on campus should also have the opportunity to choose another option for their dining pleasures, one that might grant a bit more grace to their pocket-books.

Bon Appétit's Elijah Schwartz shines at Special Olympics Regional basketball tournament

Kat Thornton • Staff Writer • April 4

When asked if he was the best player on his basketball team, Elijah Schwartz answered, "Yes. I don't want to brag, but yes. I'm one of the best players." In addition to being a familiar face on campus, Schwartz is a star player for the Marion County Capitals, who, on March 16, secured the Division A victory for Oregon's annual Special Olympics basketball tournament at North Salem High School.

When he's not playing ball himself, Schwartz can be found at basketball games supporting the Bearcats or in the Goudy Commons cafeteria where he works for Cafe Bon Appétit. Schwartz is also currently the team manager for Salem's professional basketball team, The Salem Capitals.

According to Schwartz, alongside their tournament victory, his team also won the tournament sportsmanship award. "It was huge all around. My coach said, 'Most importantly is to win the sportsmanship award no matter what cause that's just bigger than basketball.'"

When asked about his favorite part of the tournament, Schwartz responded, "The last game because everyone played and we scored 50 points, and that was the highest of the season." Schwartz said he had "about 12 points and eight or nine assists in the final game personally."

A prolific outside shooter, Schwartz also values his role as a team player. "There's value in everyone. Find that value and latch onto it. ... You don't have to be selfish about how you play. You don't have to be selfish about how you coach. Figure out the pieces to the puzzle, and it can really work," he said. When discussing his current teammates, he made sure to name all of them and reflected on each of their additions to the game. "[Peyton] was one of our funniest teammates. ... Joey was our best one-handed full-court shot," he said.

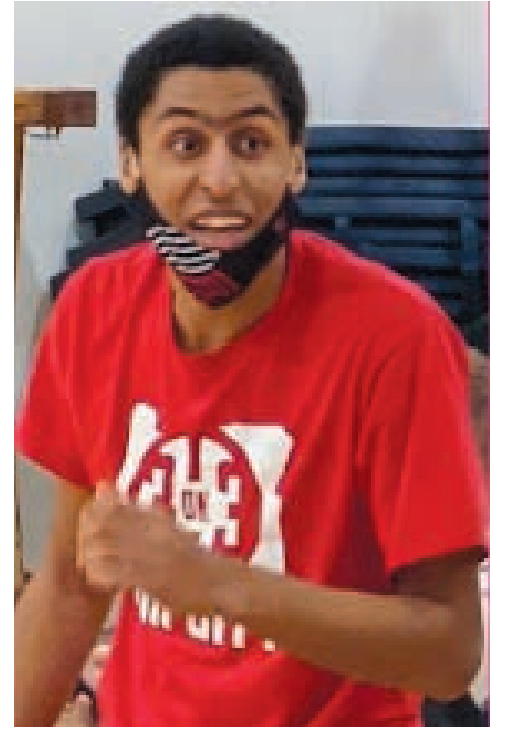
Schwartz began his playing career at Crossler Middle School before first managing and eventually making the varsity team at South Salem. During the Saxons' 2016 senior

night, Schwartz played as a starter. "I hit the first three of the game," he said. "It was so much fun."

He said his current Capitals teammate, Ryan Hopt, inspired him to pursue team management when they both attended South Salem High School. "He was a senior when I was a freshman. [He was] one of my biggest role models in high school just as a team manager. ... I wanted to be a team manager in high school my first year cause of Ryan," he said.

In regards to the Marion County Capitals, 2024-25 was only Schwartz's second season playing. Their next season kicks off in January, and Schwartz hopes that many of his teammates will return and they will get to keep working on the game together and refining their skills.

At present, Schwartz is excited about the upcoming games for the Salem Capitals. "We have a home game on April 11 if people can come out to that."



Elijah Schwartz.
Photo courtesy of Elijah Schwartz

'People want it more': A struggling women's tennis finds hope through first-ever derby victory

Catie Mohr • Staff Writer • March 27



Ruby Thompson (MBA '25) strikes the ball against Pacific on March 2, 2025.
Photo by SOFIE SZIGETI

The past decade and a half has not been kind to Willamette women's tennis. Should results hold, 2025 marks the program's 14th straight losing season. But according to veteran player Ruby Thompson (MBA '25) and new Director of Tennis Samuel Fecteau, a light may be shining at the end of the tunnel. Much of this newfound optimism comes from a historic 4-3 win against Lin-

field in Salem on March 9, marking the first time in recorded conference history that Willamette downed the Wildcats.

The win against Linfield was hard-fought even before the match began, as the Bearcats were down their number one player, Alexa de Crinis ('26), to illness. Tennis, although an individual sport, is played in ranked positions. With de Crinis out, every singles player on the team had to move one rank up — thus facing a harder opponent than they had prepared for. Despite the odds, the Bearcats hung on to victory.

Some of the most decisive wins for the 'Cats in the Linfield match came from unlikely doubles pairings; again, due to the absence of their number one, all the doubles teams had to be rearranged, too — not just their singles rankings.

First-year duo Gio Horner ('28) and Sofia Spencer ('28), who had practiced together just once before the Linfield match, narrowly won No. 2 doubles 7-6. Ruby Thompson and Marie Tarrab ('26) also won No. 3 doubles 6-2. Finally, to clinch the W for the Bearcats, Horner, Thompson and Alicia Sola ('26) won in No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6 singles, respectively.

For Thompson, the key to the Bearcats' win wasn't talent, but tactics. A way to make up for the lack of experience and chemistry between teammates due to the doubles shake-ups was by playing patiently and wait-

ing for the right opportunity to win rather than coming out aggressive. In her eyes, one of the main reasons the 'Cats have been a struggling program for so long is a tendency to try to play at a level they simply aren't capable of: "We used to play so much for show. And we would just lose every match for ourselves. ... We got so stuck in losing repetitively for so long that we just wanted to make it look good."

This shift in the Linfield win towards a slower, more intelligent playstyle marks a huge step forward for the program, according to Thompson. "That whole match was kind of [us] just outwitting Linfield. ... Everybody was very patient and focused on strategy, thought through their points, and literally just played a better game than Linfield did."

Thompson gave a lot of credit to the individual improvements she saw from her returning teammates, as well as the way the first-years stepped up and performed in such an important moment. The Linfield match allowed the team to demonstrate a certainty in their own skills that just hadn't been present in prior years: "The confidence and the energy and the talent that was on the court was just so much better from [where we were] last year."

Thompson, at the very least, attributed this particular win to the current director of tennis, Sam Fecteau.

Fecteau, who replaced Tyler Linscott as interim director in August 2024, officially assumed his new role in November. He had previously served as the assistant coach for the program. Discussing the transition, Fecteau said that "things have been relatively seamless. I have a great rapport with the players. I've really enjoyed getting to work with them."

Willamette tennis has had one director of tennis for both the men's and women's teams since 2019, a feature that is not necessarily uncommon for similar programs but that comes with its own unique challenges. "Bal-

ancing two programs can be tricky, [as] making sure that everybody feels seen is really important to me," said Fecteau. "And that can be tricky when it's just me and generally just one other."

For Fecteau, the small successes the team has experienced this year have more to do with the culture the players have established among themselves than anything he's done. "I don't know, maybe I'm just inheriting something that has developed over time. I'm not gonna sit here and say that I've done anything new or special. People want it more," he reflected.

There's a long road ahead for women's tennis, but Fecteau feels there's more reason for optimism than pessimism: "There's no saying what the future is if we work hard and we kinda put our heads down and focus on our own development. We could be a program that could succeed in the future; we just have to lay the groundwork for that success." For the whole team, Willamette's tennis program has nothing to lose — and everything to gain.

The women's tennis team faces Linfield at home on Sunday, April 13 at 11 a.m.

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



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

Photojournalism: April showers bring spring flowers

Sofie Szigeti • Staff Photographer • April 4

One of the most telling signs that spring has arrived is the blooming of flowers. Finally, Mother Nature can emerge from winter with a beautiful rainbow of colors. I have tried to capture this lovely celebration of resilience through close up shots of blooming spring flowers.



Japanese pieris.
Photo by SOFIE SZIGETI



Kinnikinnick.
Photo by SOFIE SZIGETI



Catawba rosebay.
Photo by SOFIE SZIGETI



Grape hyacinth.
Photo by SOFIE SZIGETI



Baby's breath spirea.
Photo by SOFIE SZIGETI



Common camellia.
Photo by SOFIE SZIGETI

Early April Crossword

Crossword submitted by EZRA NELSEN

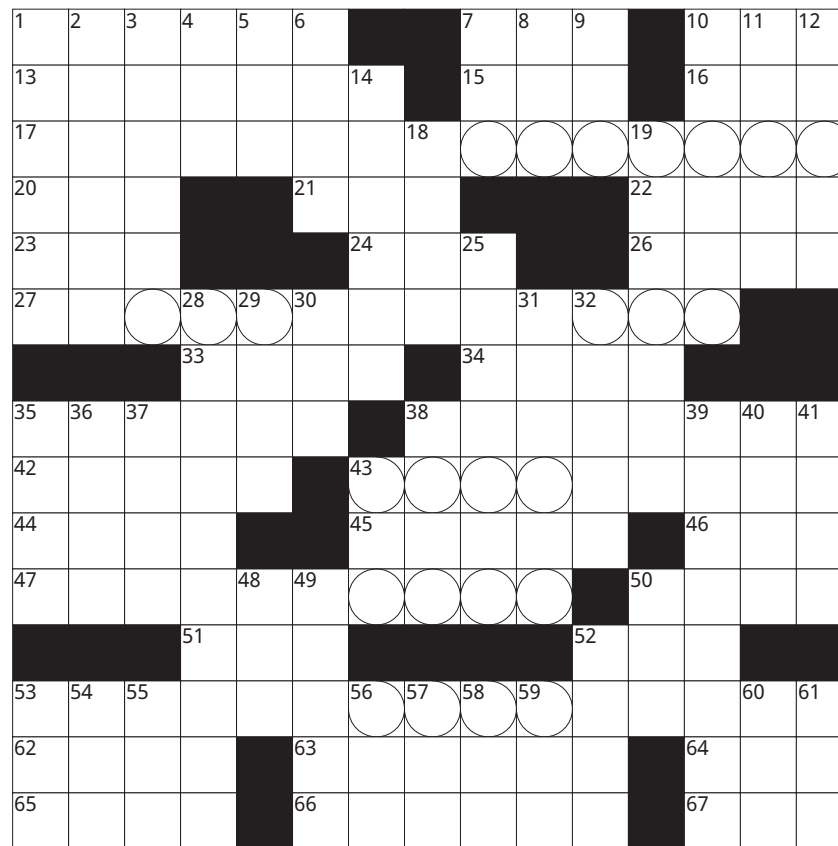
ACROSS

- 1 Graffitiist, for one
- 7 Subtract to reverse
- 10 Currency of a SE Asian city-state
- 13 Essayist, Ralph Waldo
- 15 Its raised or lowered after a performance
- 16 Rope on a square-rigger
- 17 Gave an inquisitive look
- 20 Sixteenths of a lb.
- 21 Skating surface
- 22 "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" Mutagen
- 23 Negatives
- 24 "Yeah, right!"
- 26 Invasion of Normandy
- 27 "__ and a tooth for a tooth"
- 33 Flying saucers
- 34 Prefix meaning Chinese
- 35 Provide passage online
- 38 Jaw
- 42 Makes a reservation
- 43 Like some seats in a stadium
- 44 Actress Hathaway
- 45 Like some tales
- 46 Plus
- 47 Bush Sr. quote before tax promise

- 50 Dr. Jones, familiarly
- 51 Three, to Caesar
- 52 Priest's robe
- 53 Small, American west-coast mollusks
- 62 Honolulu's island
- 63 Soccer star, Messi
- 64 Opening
- 65 "__ , crackle, pop"
- 66 IHOP competitor
- 67 Home of 53-across

DOWN

- 1 "Romeo and Juliet" city
- 2 Home of the Jaguars?
- 3 German/Polish border river
- 4 MLK and 9-down
- 5 Enzyme suffix
- 6 Creedence Clearwater Revival B-side to "Bad Moon Rising"
- 7 Presiden, Lincoln, familiarly
- 8 Calendar box
- 9 "Still __" (1999 rap song)
- 10 Walked briskly
- 11 Pot sticker
- 12 Library decimal system
- 14 Cheesy chips
- 18 Close
- 19 Lotion alternative



- 25 Tastes, say
- 28 Laughed heartily, say
- 29 Young newts
- 30 Dave Grohl fights this
- 31 Bay footballers, familiarly
- 32 Not go beyond
- 35 Metal letter
- 36 Skye of "Say Anything"
- 37 Soul singer, Hendryx
- 38 Easter decorations?
- 39 Squishy chairs
- 40 Give for some time
- 41 Whirlpool
- 43 Association for 31-down
- 48 Thousand times thousand, abbr.
- 49 Words on a yellow triangle
- 50 Sick
- 52 Knee parts, abbr.
- 53 Angeles and Alamos prefix
- 54 "The Lord of the Rings" actor, McKellen
- 55 Article in some Hip-Hop titles
- 56 Never, in Germany
- 57 A long time
- 58 Atlanta news network
- 59 Florida island
- 60 Astronaut, Jemison
- 61 Relaxing resort



Comic by ALYSSA DIGGDON

YOUR AD HERE

Contact The Collegian to have your ad included in the next print!
collegian-ads@willamette.edu

COLLEGIAN STAFF ROSTER

Exec

- Eleanor Hu • Editor in Chief
- Bjorn Domst • Managing Editor
- Rohan Srinivasa Babu • Business Manager
- Devyn McMillen • Digital Media Manager

Writers

- Karmen Zhao, Amelia Hare, Alan Cohen, Aubrey Tuttle, Maya Darski, Violeta Basenko, Mariana Kauffman, Maisy Clunies-Ross, Thalia Reddall, Ruby Hampton, Kat Thornton, William Weeks, Catie Mohr

Editors

- Robin Linares • News Editor
- Lee Parsons • Lifestyles Editor
- Priya Thoren • Opinions Editor
- Skeet Starr • Sports & Recreation Editor
- Keenan Yoshizawa • Photography Editor
- Eli Fukuji • Digital Art Editor
- Alma Snortum-Phelps • Layout Editor

Media Staff

- Iris McClure, Patricia Krepel, Mac Childers, Sofie Szigeti, Ellie Starr, Wes Mowry-Silverman, Basil Allen, Alyssa Diggdon