

THE COLLEGIAN

Willamette's Independent Student Newspaper Since 1889

Your College, Your Paper, Your Stories

In the Opening Days Issue...



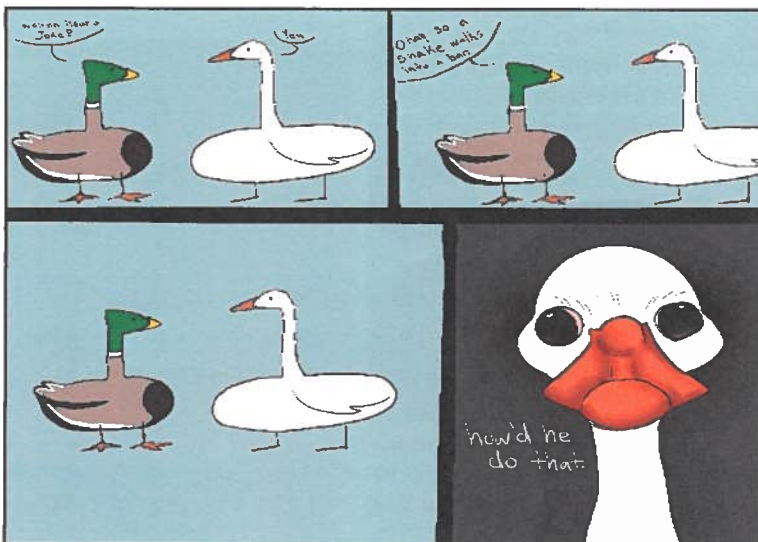
Popular articles from last year!

pg 1 *Finding Truth in a World of Lies: A Brief History of Willamette's Traditions*

pg 2 *A Simple Guide to Student Life*

pg 3 *The Collegian: (Almost Always) Newsworthy*

- pg 4 *Food And Politics Don't Always Mix At The Table, But What About Outdoors?*
- pg 7 *Searching For Downtown Salem's Skate Scene*
- pg 8 *Tina Kotek Visits Willamette*
- pg 9 *Jazz Collective Excites With Creative Approach To Performance*
- pg 10 *Ranking Taylor Swift's Albums*



Staff Roster

Editors

- Editor in Chief | Bella Montalvo
- Managing Editor | Eleanor Hu
- Media Content Manager | Isis Coyle
- Business Manager | Brice Hoerauf
- News Editor | Emma Innes
- Lifestyles Editor | Monte Remer
- Copy Editor | Bjorn Domst
- Sports Editor | Skeet Starr
- Opinions Editor | Priya Thoren
- Layout Editor | Josie Elicker
- Media Editor | Anushka Srivastav
- Advisor | Sarah Schneider
- Mascot | Boots the Duck

Writers

Alan Cohen, Gia Patel, Sage Lamot, Ernie Samora, Jackson Garrett, Mary Vickery

Artists

Anaka Ramakrishnan, Rori Wenger, Salem Keller, Maille Olgay, Lucia Alday, Macy Loy



Lifestyles

Finding Truth in a World of Lies: A Brief History of Willamette's Traditions

*Bjorn Domst
Copy Editor*

Rumors fly from one ear to the next like gusts of wind on a particularly breezy day. Once the spark catches, it can take a long time for the ensuing flames to die down. A detail is lost here or there in the muffle of the moving air, but the talk moves swiftly nonetheless.



Photo from Willamette University Instagram

Incoming first years at Willamette are likely to hear a barrage of myths regarding the history of traditions at Willamette. Many of these legends have become distorted over the years: the longest imaginable game of telephone does no favors to stories that already blur the line between fact and fiction. Certainly some traditions will find themselves altered after just the first few days on campus by overeager students desperate to impress.

All this being said, it's important to get the facts straight, at least for the most significant student events and urban myths.



Photo from Willamette University Instagram

Remain attentive and you will be rewarded with a trove of knowledge to draw

from as you work to survive your first year on campus.

As Matriculation will begin your Willamette experience, the event deserves to be mentioned first. Simply put, it is the official ceremony that marks the beginning of your journey at Willamette. While that may sound rather boring, the night itself is certainly not. The most beautiful and memorable part of the event is the sending off of candles down the Mill Stream, a symbol for the different paths each student will take at the school. It is also designed to mirror a student's graduation four years down the road, complete with a march and bagpipes.

A tradition to keep in mind at all times when crossing the Jackson Plaza in front of



Photo from Willamette University Website

the library is the bronze seal of Willamette, which sits in the square's center. The official legend states that any student who steps on the seal will be cursed to fail a class. Accounts vary on timing, so don't be overly confident because you made it out of your first semester after taking a wrong step early on. The jinx might follow you into later years, striking when you least expect it.

It is possible to nip this curse in the bud, although the true method of doing so gets a little hazy. In a short time—anywhere from 5 to

10 seconds—one must run either to the Chicken Fountain or the Mill Stream and jump directly in the water. Some versions also state that you must then run back and touch the seal again. Either



Photo from Willamette University Facebook

way, this must be a split second decision, requiring you to drop everything and go.

Taking an unplanned swim in the Mill Stream is also a core aspect of another Willamette tradition: birthdays. Your personal annual holiday may actually provide a reason to avoid your closest friends because the law of the land states that they must try their hardest to throw you in, willing or not.

Finally, on a quest for true love? Look no further than the Star Trees, which sit adjacent to the Capitol Building. If two students share a kiss beneath these trees,



Photo from Willamette University Website

allegedly their futures will be locked together in a fated marriage. The only way to break this curse—should

Have an Event?

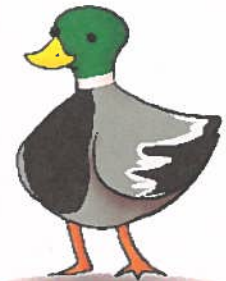


SEE IT HERE

it become one—is to spend a solemn moment together at the "breakup bench," which lies near to, but facing away from the Star Trees.

These traditions will only become as special as you choose to make them. Ultimately, your Willamette experience is truly up to you. Just as the rumor buzz can sweep through unexpectedly, however, don't act so surprised if you get caught up in the myths and legends that came before you. Maybe you will even write a few stories of your own before you graduate.

GET QUACKING!



YOUR AD HERE!

Contact us at
collegian_editor_in_chief@willamette.edu

A Simple Guide to Student Life

Monte Remer
Lifestyles Editor

Cars in Willamette's hometown often bear the slogan "Keep Salem Lame." Perhaps as a response to Portland or just in the way that long, tree-lined streets feel during a light rain—what we Oregonians call "spitting"—the city enjoys its reputation as a quiet place. Willamette, small as it is, might seem to offer the same vibe. Nestled beneath that quiet veneer, however, is a whole world of things to do on campus and in Salem.

On campus, there are a variety of settings to choose from. Some prefer the background noise and conversations in between studying—or the other way around—that the Bistro offers. Goudy is a similar option, either for frenzied, lunchtime work before class or extended study sessions fueled by a concerning amount of *Cocina Latina*. The library is a quieter option, especially the silent second floor. For a late-night vibe that still has enough people to avoid being spooky, the library's fishbowl and Ford Hall are both open 24/7. For those who enjoy said spookiness, other halls close their



Photo of inside Hatfield Library

doors at 10 p.m. but students are allowed to remain inside. Some might venture off campus to study. There are

many cafes within walking distance of Willamette, in-



Salem's Green Spaces. Art by Maïlle Olgay

cluding Venti's Cafe, Archive and Taproot. For somewhere outdoors, Bush Park is nearby. On 90 acres of paths, woods and fields, the park is sure to provide a perfect spot you will avoid telling other people about in the future.

Salem's food scene is also full of hidden gems. A popular choice is a McDonald's on Center Street, but some of the more hidden haunts include the Habanero's on State Street with affordable burritos, Fork Forty with a variety of different restaurants for a group with different tastes, and The Yard with food trucks for most cuisines. Directly across the railroad tracks from the university there are usually a number of barbecue restaurants, as well as Mediterranean food at Al Aqsa, Indian at Cuisine India and diner style American at Sassy Onion.

There are also a number of shops to explore in Salem. The city's antique and thrift scene is vibrant. A number of Goodwills always have an interesting selection. A place more local is Engelberg's, which looks like a nice little boutique from the outside

but is in fact a two-story plethora of oddities including baskets of severed doll heads, various taxidermied animals and plenty of Ouija boards. Blast Off Vintage is more clothing oriented, with lots of affordable dresses, sweaters and all sorts of fun hats. There are also regular punk concerts in the basement.

The world of Willamette and Salem offer all sorts of things students often wish they knew earlier. There are examples in everything above, but here are some more rabbit holes you'd do well to find yourself going down. First, Willamette's gym is essential



Photo by Macy Loy

to many students' physical and mental health. Sparks has hours every day of the week, and one can quickly figure out times when it's quieter than usual. In Ford Hall, the Language Learning Center offers tutoring for various languages and the Writing Center offers helpful advice on projects at any state of completion.

Another resource that often goes underused is the library. On the library website, virtually any book or

GET QUACKING!

YOUR AD HERE!

Contact us at
collegian_editor@chief.willamette.edu

article—even deeply obscure ones—are available through Summit or inter-library loan. This isn't limited to academic texts, either. If your desired esoteric fanfiction was ever put to print, there's a chance it's available.

Despite the slogan, Salem and Willamette are only as lame as you make them. This is a difficult task to accomplish given all of these opportunities. Whether off the beaten path or with a whole crowd of friends, sheltered from the rain or out in bright green Oregon nature, there are countless things here that make this place a home.

Have an Event?

SEE IT HERE



Lifestyles

The Collegian: (Almost Always) Newsworthy

Eleanor Hu
Managing Editor

In 1946 newspapers across the world published articles as the first meeting of the United Nations was held in London, the bikini made its debut on runways in Paris, Italy became a republic, and the world's first theme park, Santa Claus Land, opened in Santa Claus, Indiana. At Willamette University, the Collegian was concerned about a Dr. Robert E. Lantz, who had thrown out his shoulder while sneezing.

Though perhaps not always reporting on the most earth shattering, breaking news à la the Associated Press or BBC, the Collegian has been steadily covering stories that capture Willamette students' attention for nearly 150 years. Yes, that long—our small, student-run paper was founded in 1875 and has been steadily in print or online since 1889.

"The Sneezer" Treats Dislocated Shoulder

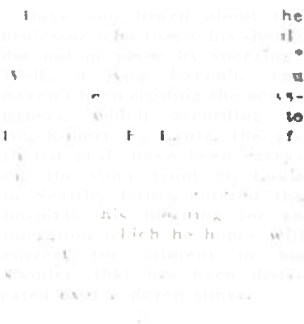


Photo from the Willamette Archives.

Perusing the Hatfield archives one can easily explore online scans of Collegian all the way back to that very first print. Every issue details the minutiae of the life of a Bearcat, from student elections to athletic wins to relevant cultural phenomena. No matter the year it's evident

the Collegian has remained true to its motto, "Your College, Your Newspaper, Your Stories"—though in 1875 this was phrased as "Devoted to Literature and Information Incident to the Student Life."

In past issues we learn of beloved traditions such as

Seniors Protest Written Exam, New Requirement

Dissatisfied with the prospect of facing a comprehensive written examination as an additional requirement for graduation this year, the senior class at Willamette University yesterday appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of having the test order withdrawn. Robert Houck of Portland was named chairman of the

The faculty, which imposed the new requirement, will not rescind the test. Dean Frank M. Erickson later decided and added that every senior expecting to be graduated will have to fulfill the requirement.

Photo from the Willamette Archives.

May Day celebrations and campus-wide "Glee" competitions, read advertisements for businesses that haven't existed for fifty years (Bob's 19¢ Hamburgers) and, soberingly, see the faces of the people who are no longer with us. Various stories lend a different level of humanity to Willamette's long history, in which we are able to see ourselves in students born decades prior, such as the seniors in 1933 who formed a committee in order to do away with a newly instituted written exam required for graduation.

In a way these trivialities captured by the Collegian are invaluable. They're one of the most continuous documentations of our university's history and a window into a past era that, despite

being wrought with its own failings, has a certain nostalgia. Larger papers may have covered events that rocked the world, but the Collegian has documented the little bubble of Willamette's own campus climate.

However, all this talk of a quaint student paper isn't to say the Collegian hasn't had its moments of glory. Over the years the publication has won recognition from the National Pacemaker Awards and the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, and though most consistently staff has pushed out articles about Blitz the Bearcat or changes to the Goudy menu, the Collegian has received the occasional chance to cover larger stories and interview bigger names.

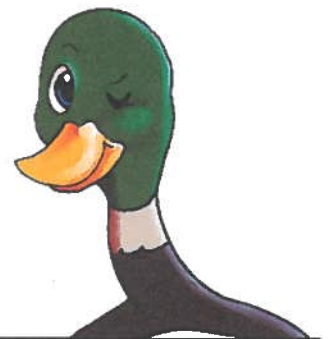
It's a good thing we didn't let the fame of interviewing 1940s Senator John Hubert Hall get to our heads—though in 1908 copies of the Collegian were selling for a dollar, at some point in the next hundred years they became free. Today's students can now find copies available for the taking in various spots across campus, including the library, the UC and the Bistro.

This year, like every other, the Collegian will continue to print stories of our campus, our students and the news

that happens at or affects our university, whether that be a presidential visit or a nutria sighting. Some things stay the same, even if we no longer have advertisements for egregiously cheap off-campus meals.



Photo from the Willamette Archives.



DO YOU LIKE READING THE COLLEGIAN'S NEWSPAPER? DO YOU WANT TO GET PAID FOR WRITING OR MAKING ART? APPLY TO WORK FOR THE COLLEGIAN TODAY! APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE VIA HANDSHAKE AND WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15TH.

Food and Politics Don't Always Mix at the Table, What About Outdoors?

Bjorn Domst
Copy Editor



Photo by Bjorn Domst.

Nestled within Willson Park on the western edge of the Oregon State Capitol grounds are two food trucks filled with an astonishing array of choices. Curbside Bacon, owned and operated by Chef Rudy Garcia, has made quite a splash in the area. It is well complemented by the adjacent In-Fusion Coffee & Such, run by Carmen Nguyen. Both trucks have been there since mid-November, but are yet to see a large influx of university students.

Part of the low turnout is due to the relatively hidden location. Although just across the street from the Art Building and Star Trees, the trucks have set up shop a little bit out from under the park canopy (with a close-up view of the never-ending Capitol Building construction).

Whatever urge brings you the



A pesto grilled cheese with bacon and a chicken burger with a side potato salad.
Photo by Bjorn Domst.

50 or so meters from campus to the food trucks, you likely won't regret it. The option-crammed lists and rotating menus sported by both aren't going to exhaust themselves anytime soon. Among other things, Curbside Bacon offers pulled pork sandwiches, grilled cheeses and burgers along with a few sides, from coleslaw to potato or green salads. Prospective eaters can expect some spring menu changes in the form of added berry salads.

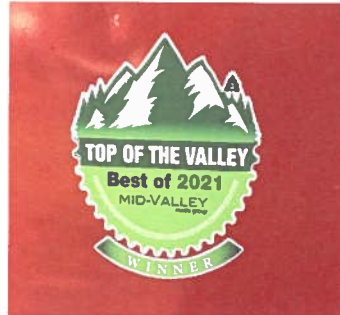
At In-Fusion Coffee & Such, you'll find a varied assortment of options that live up to the "& Such" part of



An In-Fusion maple-drizzled biscotti, partially eaten. Photo by Bjorn Domst.

its name. In addition to the named coffee, Nguyen also sells breakfast items, certain Vietnamese options and other rotating items. In-Fusion's website infusion-coffee.com will help you keep up with the changes. On the whole though, the trucks have been getting steady business without the assistance of hungry college kids. As emphasized by both owners, it was the State themselves that asked for the two trucks to come down and sell as they have been. Due to COVID protocols and on-

going remodeling, the Capitol Building shut down its



Curbside Bacon's "Top of the Valley" award sticker. Photo by Bjorn Domst.

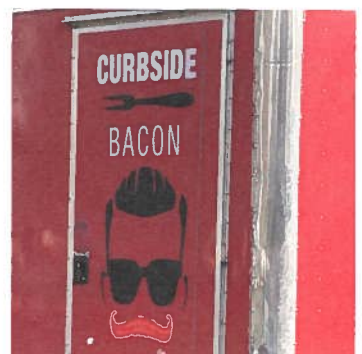
cafeteria—and consequently its only access to a quick hot meal—at a time when construction workers have joined the many politicians around. To that degree, the trucks have brought in the business they were meant to, with a majority of their customers coming from some form of work at the Capitol.

Business has increased further after a recent Statesman Journal article gave loud praise for Chef Rudy's Curbside Bacon. As Garcia himself said, "Fine dining is more my forté," and he certainly brings that to his menu regimen, undaunted by the confines of his truck to provide a high quality lunch. His "Best of 2021 Mid-Valley" sticker is proudly attached next to the window of his vehicle.

The easy access and quality of food are not lost on the trucks' customers, either. Lawmakers and construction workers alike frequent the locale, waiting in quick lines for a lunch break before getting right back to work. Rob Nosse, State Representative of Oregon District 42, visits the trucks "at least once a week," and has enjoyed those few chances for

a good hot meal whenever he can get them. In between messy bites of a Curbside Bacon sandwich while hurrying to get back to his political duties, Nosse noted how nice it was to get out of the office for a little fresh air at lunchtime. Consistently "scheduled to death" and thus lacking the ability to visit some of Salem's other downtown restaurants, he was glad for the convenience. Willamette students shouldn't be as busy as Mr. Nosse, and could even go downtown for lunch. Even if you already have a special place, it's certainly worth a shot to try out the food trucks. Even the most expensive item on Curbside Bacon's menu is \$15, and most full-meal items across both trucks fall within the range of \$10-15.

The Curbside Bacon sells weekdays at lunchtime: roughly 11 AM – 2 or 3 PM. In-Fusion Coffee & Such ex-



Curbside Bacon food truck logo. Photo by Bjorn Domst.

tends to breakfasts as well: Tuesday through Thursday from 7 AM – 1 PM. With enough college support, they might continue to stick around long after the Capitol Building cafeteria returns. One State Representative in particular would remain satiated, for sure.



Lifestyles

Searching for Downtown Salem's Skate Scene

Skeet Starr
Sports Editor

Tired of Opening Days and faced with the prospect of another first year ice-breaking event, I slunk back to my dorm to grab my skateboard. A quick google search for "Nearest Skatepark" led me ten blocks northwest to four quarter pipes, a low flatrail, and a concrete pyramid in a grove of Douglas Firs on the far side of Marion Square Park. Shouldered out of the transition section by BMX-ers and relegated to the more mellow street section of the park, I plied my trade, trying back 180s on flatground. It was a moonlit, t-shirt-wearing night in August, and no other skateboarder was in

puts it simply: "The scene around here is so minimal, y'know? It's bare minimum."

The older generation of skaters in the area have more to say. In the late '90s and '00s, "we'd have 25 people trying to skate SP (Marion Square Park, otherwise known as Salem Park) on a Friday night," says seasoned local Max Carlson. Pete Ingram, owner of Blast Off Vintage clothing store and skate counter, agrees: "There was more people putting in effort." Each of these long-time scene members attributes a large portion of the success of the old downtown Salem scene back to one shop: EXIT Real World. Founded in 1993 by Missy Samiee, a graduate of Willamette's Atkinson School of Management, EXIT led the skate culture of the downtown area for over two decades. At SP, Max Carlson regaled me with tales of EXIT's skate team. Pro skaters Sebo Walker (Krooked, Spitfire, Bones Swiss etc.), and Tyler Bledsoe (Quasi, HUF), among others, got their first break in the industry at EXIT. Former EXIT Real World co-owner Jake Hauswirth explained, "Those guys would just meet up at the shop and go filming. They just needed somewhere to be a part of." The team was "pretty elite and pretty hard to get onto," says Carlson, who used to work at the shop. Between Hauswirth, Carlson and Ingram, I listened to hours of tall tales about the happenings during the EXIT era. A vert ramp on the stage of the Elsinore Theater, a frontside flip over the SP pyramid to flat performed by Baker Skateboards' renowned Andrew Reynolds, free shoe giveaways at SP, and so on.

All agree that EXIT was the downtown skate community's cultural hub. As online sales became more popular in the 2010s, "it got harder and harder to have a retail store," says Hauswirth. In

tem. Between transactions, he explained to me that he first opened the skate counter using surplus products from the defunct EXIT Real World. Today, there does not seem to be too much surplus to go around in terms of skate gear at Blast Off. Ingram helps keep skaters supplied, but vintage clothing remains his main focus.



Photos by Macy Loy

2014, EXIT packed up for good, leaving behind a void.

Shops

Today three skate shops operate within the central area: Blast Off Vintage, Caakes, and Zumiez. Blast Off Vintage, run by Pete Ingram, houses a small skate counter near the front desk of a large store which primarily focuses on vintage clothing. When I first entered the store, I immediately saw who I thought must be Ingram hanging out next to the counter. He wears a healthy white beard, a trucker hat and board shorts. The joint was full of customers. When I first approached him, we could hardly understand each other over the punk rock blaring from his sound sys-

A few blocks down High Street from Blast Off lies Caakes. The banner on Caakes' website proclaims, "Caakes is a street inspired lifestyle brand... that collaborates with inspired individuals to produce custom, one-of-a-kind designs to connect you to your authentic self." Struggling Caakes ownership has recently placed Aumsville born vert skater Nolan Roebke at the head of day to day management. Stepping off the busy street into Caakes, I was immediately greeted by Roebke, glossy concrete flooring, bare white walls, and a perfectly windexed skate counter. When I spoke with Roebke around 4 p.m., he told me, "It's been slow today. We haven't had a customer." Charged with bringing the apparel-based Caakes back from the brink of closure, Roebke hopes to refocus the



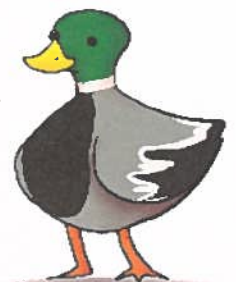
Photos by Macy Loy

the park. A new Willamette student skater may find themselves wandering aimlessly through the brick and granite buildings of the central area. A trained eye may land on a statue of a traveling minister perpetually riding a horse on three grindable granite ledges. A stone plaza lined with small varying stair sets lies a block from the office of revenue, which holds two mellow kicker ramps, a handful of stair sets and a perfect metallic ledge on a sculpture in its courtyard. Although the central area houses numerous temples to street skating, one may struggle to find any monks. Local skater and Zumiez employee Roman Carden



Photos by Macy Loy

GET QUACKING!



YOUR AD HERE!

Contact us at
collegian_editor@willamette.edu

Lifestyles



storefront towards skateboarding retail with a special interest in vert. Vert is a form of skating that requires Tony Hawk-esque skate ramps, which are hard to find in the Salem area. "I don't want to completely change the skate scene, but I want more people to know about vert skating." As I left the shop, he offered a customer 35% off a new pair of Lakai's, but in the end Caakes didn't have the correct shoe size in stock. Lastly, nestled within Salem Center Mall, across from the Foot Locker and adjacent to the Hot Topic, one of 739 worldwide Zumiez storefronts supplies the Salem populace with "...many brands; Vans, Nike SB, Obey, Adidas, RIPNDIP, Thrasher, Primitive, Diamond Supply & more," according to their website. "Zumiez seems to try...at least the workers seem to try...that's all we got," says Carlson. Roebke, a former Zumiez employee, put his feelings more bluntly: "As a skater I absolutely despise Zumiez." Pete Ingram



Photos by Macy Loy

is in the planning stages of a new sticker design to sell at Blast Off which reads, "We're small but we're not in the mall." Roman Carden, a current Zumiez employee, holds a more nuanced viewpoint of the corporate issue. "I'll skate corporate stuff, I'll fucking skate Nikes. I don't give a shit." Still, he admits, "I'd rather go to Caakes or Blast Off Vintage up here if I

have the option to, but it's not often that I get the option to."

Parks

Shops and culture are important, but skate scenes are built on concrete foundations. In terms of parks, the central area's begrudgingly



Photos by Macy Loy

beloved SP has remained unchanged since its opening in the early '90s. Meanwhile, nearby Carlson Skatepark in Keizer (Keizer Park) has recently been revamped by the legendary Dreamland skatepark company. Dreamland, which was founded by the concrete guerillas who created Portland's iconic Burnside park, fixed structural issues at Keizer. They also added brand new features to make the already huge complex irresistible to local skaters. Carlson explains that over the years, the younger generation of SP skaters weaned out. "Maybe it's because there's so many good parks around here." When I met Carden at SP, he explained to me that he preferred to go to Keizer Park, but wound up at SP out of necessity. Referencing Salem's unhoused population, Roebke remarked, "The parks are fine, it's the people that go to them that suck."

The central area's surplus of street spots are guarded by

local state and government regulations. A "pedestrian safety zone" encompasses a vast swath of the downtown area, and from the river to the capitol, skating is prohibited even on public sidewalks. Of course, government buildings that

lie beyond the safety zone also prohibit skateboarding. "There's a rumor that the inventor of skatestoppers is from Salem," claims Carlson.

Despite the lack of easily skateable infrastructure and cultural backing, the downtown scene's faint and hopeful heartbeat can still be heard. Carden explained a theory of his to me: "if we just start skating all the shit in the world and make every business complain about how skaters are skating their stuff, eventually they're gonna have to revamp this [Salem Park] so skaters stay away from those businesses, right?" In terms of SP revamp plans, Carlson hopes to see a park that extends all the way under the bridge so that there will always be a dry place to ride. In order to restore the scene of the '00s he says, "we would just need a shop like Missy's again." The old growth firs pose a problem for park expansion plans, but both Carden and Carlson imagine them protectively

surrounded with skateable transitions. Furthermore, salvation could await the scene three miles east of SP at Geer Park, where the City of Salem plans to break ground for a new 20,000 sq. ft. skatepark in 2024.

The Willamette street skater of today stands on the edge of a neglected frontier. The perils of this frontier must be met with optimism, and a true love for skateboarding. Come rain, cop, security guard or forgotten park, downtown Salem skaters must brave the elements to reach their potential. At SP, I asked a kid who couldn't be more than 15 what he thought I had to include in this article. He thought for a moment then responded: "Keep pushing, don't give up."

Have an Event?

SEE IT HERE

GET QUACKING!

YOUR AD HERE!

Contact us at
collegeian.editor.in.chief@willamette.edu



Tina Kotek Visits Willamette

Gia Patel
Staff Writer

On Nov. 1, 2022, Tina Kotek, Democratic nominee for Oregon's gubernatorial race, visited Willamette University. The event was organized by Sophia Rosenberg ('25) from Students4Tina, Willamette College Democrats, Climate Action Alliance, Choice Action Team, and Queer Student Union.

Students4Tina is a coalition of university students across the state of Oregon that support Kotek as the next governor of Oregon. In a speech, Rosenberg said, "I am personally a big fan of Tina because she supports my values, and I trust that she is going to get things done in office and I especially trust that she is going to fight for what I believe in." They further elaborated, saying, "Republican candidates want to make sure that our voices are silenced. They want to take away our bodily autonomy. They want to make sure that the climate isn't in our hands. They want to make sure that we have no voice and take away our rights. This is not what democracy looks like."

Emma Innes ('24), events chair of College Democrats and editor-in-chief at The Collegian, Ava Digre ('26), an



Photos by Josie Elicker

Advocacy Leader for Choice Action Team, and Ian Curtis ('23), president of Climate Action Alliance, were stu-

dent speakers at the event. The student speakers continuously emphasized the need to have Kotek in office, as she is the only candidate endorsed by Planned Parenthood, proposed measures to



Photos by Josie Elicker

combat climate change, and addressed disparities in Oregon that have directly impacted marginalized groups.

When Kotek entered the room, the student body cheered, as she remarked she hoped everyone enjoyed the campaign pizza. Kotek said this election year is "monumental for our whole country, and Oregon's no different." She went on to say, "I would love to have your support as your next governor because I want to make sure your future is going to be safer, more sustainable, more affordable, so that you can follow your dreams. I mean, it's that simple. And I want to make sure we have an Oregon where everyone feels like they can be successful." Kotek further elaborated that as governor, she intends to progress the state forward, emphasizing that voices of younger Oregonians matter to her, especially in this election.

When asked what her plan was to support the LGBTQ+ community in Oregon, Kotek said that she and her wife "decided to get in this race because we want to have a state where it can be a place

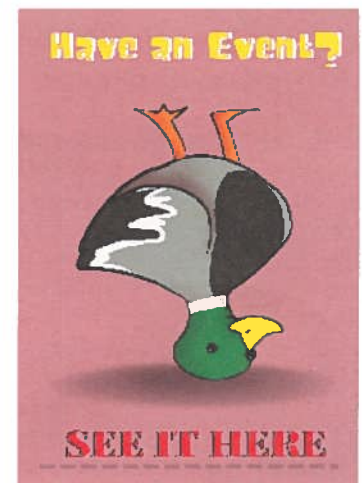
to be themselves, whatever that looks like. It's just so frustrating to me that we're still having these discussions about what it means to just let people be who they are." Her plans include "enforcing anti bullying laws, enforcing our hate crime laws, and working without an attorney general to make sure no one is harassed or intimidated in our community," as well as "making sure that health care is accessible to folks who need it, particularly, in our transgender community."

Kotek explained that her main priorities as governor would be addressing the homelessness crisis, as well as related issues of mental health and addiction. "What we are going to have to do is get out there on the streets, work with people one on one, help them get connected to services and meet them where they are. There are people who have

been on the streets for years, and they need to feel that they can trust somebody to get connected to services like getting into a shelter or to a rehab. That's why I've been a big fan and proponent of converting motels to shelters. Because it's easy to do, it's quicker, and it's effective." She provided the statistic that "in Oregon, we are thousands of housing units behind. We need 36,000 housing units per year for the next decade to really meet the needs of who lives here now, and who will be living here in the future."

When asked why they support Kotek, Abbi Richeson ('26) said, "Kotek is the best eligible candidate and supports most of my opinions." Kathleen Snyder ('26) said, "I am voting for Tina because she is advocating for rights that queer women have been relying on for years." Overall, Tina Kotek emphasized the importance of voting, encouraging students to vote, reach out to those they know and participate in campaign activities.

Tina Kotek was elected Governor of Oregon in a tight race.



Lifestyles



2023 Willamette Student Organizations

Willamette has a variety of groups that students can join varying from multicultural groups to fraternity and sorority life to intramural sports. These are some of the student organizations on campus as of August 2023, but be on the lookout for information regarding the annual club fair, where ambassadors from various organizations will be gathered to meet you in person. For further information and contacts for any of the groups listed visit the Student Engagement & Leadership section on the WU website.

Academic

Archaeology Club
Biology Club
Chemistry Club
Debate Union
Eye Health and Pre-Optometry Club
German Club
Institute for Healthcare Improvement & Health Professions Club
Math Club
Museum Club
Philosophy Club
Physics Club
Psychology Club
Politics, Policy, Law, and Ethics (PPLE) Club
Slavic Club
Spanish Club

Fraternity and Sorority Life

Interfraternity Council
Kappa Sigma
Sigma Chi
Panhellenic Council
Alpha Chi Omega
Alpha Phi

Media

The Collegian
Film Studies Club
The Mill
Radio Club

Multicultural

Alianza
Asian Coalition for Equality

Black Student Union
Sinophone Cultural Association
Hawaii Club
Japan Studies Student Leaders
Native & Indigenous Student Union (NISU)
Pro Immigrant Rights Student Union (PIRSU)
Queer/Trans People of Color (QTPOC)

Performing Arts

Bearcat Band
Headband
Millstream Sailors
Poi Club
Student Theatre Arts Group for Equity
Tandem
Up Top
Willamette Dance Company

Religious

Campus Ambassadors
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Jewish Student Union

Service

Burning Bright
Sexual Assault Response Advocates
Willamette Emergency Medical Services
Zena Farm Club

Social and Support

Bearcat Pantry/SOAR
Bearcats Empowered

Chess Club
Choice Action Team
Climate Action Alliance
College Democrats
College Republicans
Disability Advocacy Club
Fabric, Yarn, and Textiles Club
Millstream Board Games Collective
Neurodivergent Student Union
Non-Traditional Student Union
Restorative Justice Coalition
Poetry Club
Queer Student Union
Student Athlete Advisory Committee
Tabletop RPG Club
Thoreau Understanding
Video Game Club
Willamette Events Board

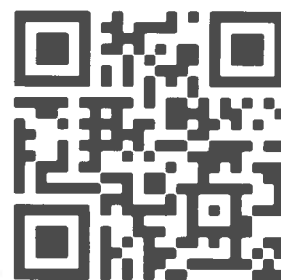
Sports and Recreational

Badminton Club
Basketball Club
WU Gaming and E-Sports Club
Men's Rugby Club
Men's Soccer Club
Nerf Club
Pickleball Club
Skate Club
Taekwondo Club
Ultimate Frisbee
Volleyball Club
Willamette Rugby Football Club

Have an Event?



SEE IT HERE



QR CODE TO STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

GET QUACKING!



YOUR AD HERE!

Contact us at
collegian_editor_in_chief@willamette.edu



Lifestyles

Jazz Collective Excites With Creative Approach to Performance

Ned Martin
Staff Writer

When you think of the USA, most people picture pickup trucks, McDonalds, hot dogs and American football. People rarely associate jazz with their stereotypical image of America. But as Dr. James Miley, professor of music and director of jazz studies at Willamette, explained, "Only in America could jazz have been created." That cultural explosion from the 20th century has cemented itself in Willamette's music program.

Most students at Willamette have heard of jazz, and many went to high schools with a jazz band. According to Miley, this is thanks to the growth of bands in schools across the country in the 1950s. This growth included Willamette. However, back then, it was nowhere near the work we enjoy on campus for free. At Willamette, the jazz collective represents a different organization for a band. That is because most jazz ensembles are working on sheet music that they will perform, often off of memorization. Willamette's band and many jazz ensembles take a different approach that adds to the artistic value of their product.

These bands improvise, but this does not mean the musicians are playing random sounds with the hopes that people like the music. Instead, the music is a cohesive attempt to take different paths than the traditional band. Miley explained, "You follow the bassist, maybe one song, then the next song, you follow the saxophone." In the audience, it is impossible to see this dance the musicians are doing, but in jazz, generally, the steps are done by all. Saxophonist Max Kass explained how he goes about improvising: "I mainly play by ear and feel. I listen to the

song and the chords, the feel of the rhythm section, and try to let that guide my playing. I also work out the technical aspects of the solo, the tonal and modal ways to nav-



Photos by Karina May

igate through a solo section, but when in doubt, I always tend to come back to just playing by ear and letting the song and the rhythm section guide the solo." He also discussed how the band's size and shape are ever-changing.

At Willamette, the steps are constantly changing because the collective does not cap admission based on instruments. Instead, all are welcome to join and work towards a common goal of art. This style surprised us as a listener because we did not expect such a loud show when attending a jazz concert, yet that is what you can experience with this collective. Usually bands are controlled for size because of past norms in the genre, luckily for us, Willamette is interested in pushing boundaries on sounds and band make-up.

Kass explained his expe-

rience at Willamette has been different from when he participated in high school. He explained that, in high school, he "played in a competitive and mechanical jazz

joyable event for the listener. "This semester we played a couple of old-style big band charts, in the style of Woody Herman," Kass explained. "We also played some more modern arrangements written by newer composers, along with a ballad arranged by Professor James Miley of Willamette University. The range of music and tempos creates a great setlist."

Miley emphasized how important it was for the collective to play recognizable music, both for the growth of the group and the evolution of the genre: "There are more younger musicians who are instrumental jazz artists that are playing music they want everyone to hear." The audience became much more engaged when hearing more recognizable music.

band. The same structure was mostly replicated every year, a certain quota of genres and song lengths catered to competing with other bands." It took him a while to adjust to the freedom he found in Willamette's jazz band. "It took me a while to remember that music does not need to be competitive." That idea of having fun with the music and not competing resonated with the audience—you could tell the band members were enjoying themselves, unbothered by outside opinions.

Of course, the collective still works on performing music they already have heard. For instance, in past years, the group has played a mix of artists like Duke Ellington, a jazz musician from the mid-20th century, paired with songs from current pop stars, such as Justin Bieber. Their flexibility in musical taste lends itself to be an en-

Unfortunately, the jazz collective has already performed for the last time this semester, but students and community members will be able to attend more shows next fall. However, for all interested in listening to live music now, there are some venues where you can do just that, both in Salem and in the surrounding area. In Salem, just north of campus, you can find a bar/ live music venue named Christos. And for those interested in a bit more adventure, Portland has probably the most recognizable location, 1905, which is a relic of Portland's great jazz history. Additionally, the Jack London Revue in Portland is a wonderful location for live music.

Overall, Willamette's jazz collective represents one of many opportunities students have to be creative and experience art. It just goes to show how accessible cultural experiences can be in Salem.

Ranking Taylor Swift's Albums

Monte Remer
Lifestyles Editor

A friend of mine once described me as a walking hot take. Taylor Swift is the second greatest musical artist of all time. This is a definitive ranking of her ten studio albums. If you have issues with my ranking or comments, meet me on the Quad at dawn—I do not fear you.

Tenth: “Reputation” This is the only Taylor Swift album I dislike. More than dislike: I hate it. “Reputation” flirts with the sound of EDM and modern rap without much success in either one. Obnoxious beats (and other singers) overshadow Swift’s vocals and lyrics. I understand the kind of bait-and-switch the album is going for—projecting a mean, uncaring reputation only to reveal the real, vulnerable Swift finding love—but I also understand what the creators of “The Human Centipede” were going for.



Nonetheless, finishing both left me with a vague, queasy feeling and a general sense of disappointment.

Ninth: “Taylor Swift” I was born and raised in Idaho—horses and cows, tractors and plows. I know that a lot of this album is country trash, but it’s my trash. Swift’s vocals in her first album don’t aspire to the heights of any albums that follow, nor does her songwriting. There is, however, a twangy guitar that

opens the album with the song “Tim McGraw,” asking me to picture a Chevy truck and back-country stars. For me, that’s not so hard to do. Home sticks with you, and I think it stuck with the earliest Swifties, too.

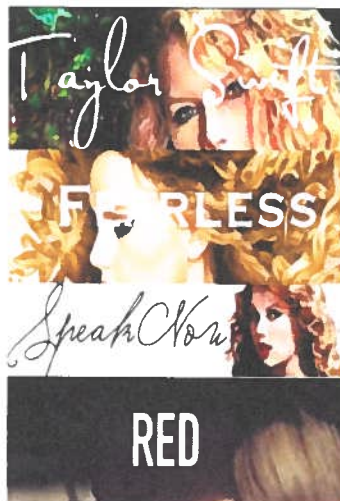
Eighth: “Fearless (Taylor’s Version)” Taylor Swift’s re-recordings of “Red” and “Fearless” [give her more control over her own work], so those are the versions I listen to. Listening to this album gives me the same vibes as “Taylor Swift” but with an improved country sound. Except for “Hey Stephen,” which almost brings the album up to the top five, every song is simply good. That’s actually saying a lot. From this point—in eight out of ten albums spanning almost two decades—Taylor Swift does not make anything less than good.

Seventh: “Evermore” The fall and winter vibes of “Evermore” are not just good, but impeccable. “Evermore” is the rain pattering against the library windows or pumpkin-spice coffee from the Bistro. The album applies Swift’s storytelling from country music to a sound that’s like something from Lord Huron. Taylor Swift in her Folklore-Evermore Era is like if the lo-fi girl became an indie musician and I am here for it.

Sixth: “Lover” “Wait, what?” you ask. “This is so weird. What even is this beat? Oh, wait. That’s a cool shift. Why am I dancing? Why can’t I stop?” This is how “Lover” takes you. It’s pop hypnotism, each song a little sermon. “The Archer” is a case study in this: a bunch of discordant sounds probably ring strange in most listeners’ ears until they coalesce in the chorus, making you sway in something like small worship. The songs in this album generally sound the same without many standouts, but the sound they share is really good.

Fifth: “Speak Now” I know that there are a lot of things to think about right

now, but at least a little bit more attention should be devoted to how well Taylor Swift’s voice pairs with a fiddle. “Speak Now” is the height of her country era. Swift’s vocals and the band are in perfect harmony, and her songwriting in “Dear John” is testing the waters



of brilliance on the level of “All Too Well.” The album is also pure Gen Z nostalgia—it was released within a few months of the show “Good Luck Charlie” in 2010. That just seems right, doesn’t it?

Fourth: “Red (Taylor’s Version)” From this point on, we tread on holy ground. “Holy Ground” is just one of countless bops in this album, however. “Red” has a little bit of everything. There’s a touch of sentimentality from her country era but also a bit of the sad Taylor we see in newer albums. There’s a saxophone in many songs and dubstep elements in “We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together.” There’s occultist messaging in how Swift clearly channeled the ghosts of Jane Austen and William Shakespeare when writing the ten minute version of “All Too Well.” This album is trial and error for making future albums, but Swift forgot to include an error.

Third: “Folklore” This one’s the hardest to pin down. Maybe it’s simply a matter of vibes? Storytelling

is my only definitive reason for why I like “Folklore” so much. “The Lakes” is like the intersection of Faulkner and Bo Burnham’s “Inside.” There’s more power in “This is Me Trying” than most people’s actual life stories. “The Last Great American Dynasty” is a thesis on the culture of the American small town, the perception of women in society, the history of Swift’s own house and a biography of the real life socialite [Rebekah Harkness]. “Folklore” is like a library full of novels.

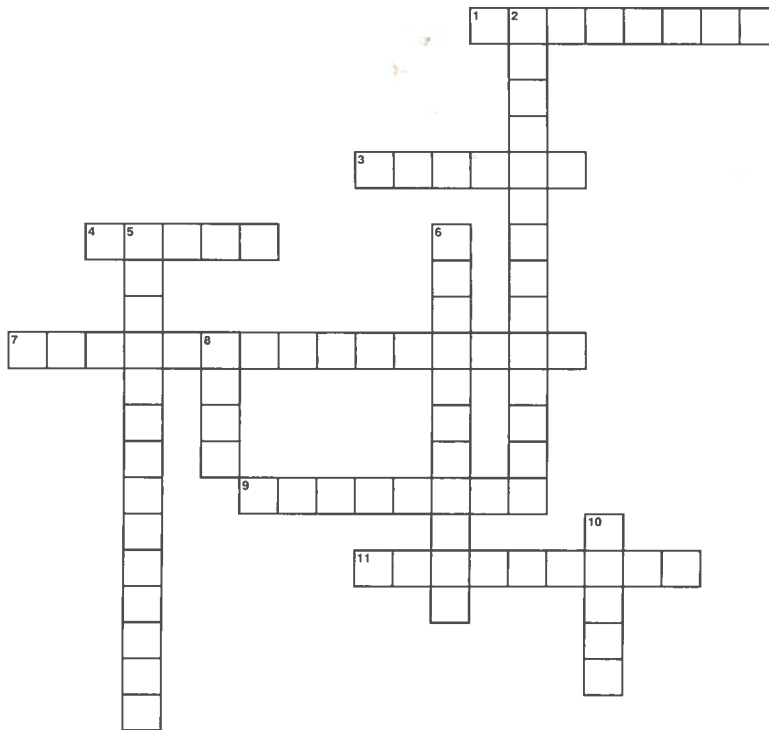
Second: “1989” If “Lover” is pop hypnotism, “1989” is pop perfection. “1989” rolls its eyes at the idea that pop is any kind of lesser genre and proves it, too. This album contains so many iconic classics that most people just review it with a list to justify their opinion. As for me, I’ll refer to the list you’re probably thinking of right now. It starts with “Shake it Off” doesn’t it?

First: “Midnights” College gets busy. Midnights become my afternoons, if you will. Except for when I’m sleeping, I’m only in my dorm for thirty-second increments. One day, I was stopping by to exchange books, halfway out the door when I heard a song coming from my neighbor’s window. The wind carried it along with a couple of autumn leaves, holding both suspended in the air for a moment as Taylor Swift sang “Sweet Nothing.” I set down my things and listened to the rest of the song. There are times when time itself grabs you and says “Hey, this is beautiful and—for better or for worse—it will never be like this again. So settle down a minute, and listen and smile.” The storytelling, the vocals and the 80s synth of “Midnights” are all fantastic, but I know that my thoughts on this album will always turn to my time at Willamette, the future stretching out before me and the present insisting that I enjoy the sweet nothings of falling leaves and good music before I make my own name. Give “Midnights” a listen. I think it’ll make you smile.

Boots and Giggles



Opening Days Crossword



Across

- [1] Type of "birds" atop the Hatfield fountain
- [3] Rodent often seen by the Mill Stream
- [4] The Collegian's mascot
- [7] Name of Steve Thorsett's campus-wide emails
- [9] A capella group known for their signature accessory
- [11] Price of a Bistro chocolate chip cookie

Down

- [2] The quietest place on campus
- [5] The organization to go hiking, climbing, and kayaking with.
- [6] WU's restroom-located, second best news source
- [8] Home to the Digital Learning Studio and the Writing Center
- [10] Everyone's favorite bearcat

Have an Event?

SEE IT HERE

GET QUACKING!

YOUR AD HERE!

Contact us at
collegian editor in chief@willamette.edu

The Collegian is Online!

Twitter: @WU_Collegian **Instagram:** @willamette_collegian



DO YOU LIKE READING THE COLLEGIAN'S NEWSPAPER? DO YOU WANT TO GET PAID FOR WRITING OR MAKING ART? APPLY TO WORK FOR THE COLLEGIAN TODAY! APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE VIA HANDSHAKE AND WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15TH.

Important Phone Numbers

Marion County Psychiatric Crisis Center	503-585-4949
SafeRides (Willamette Valley Yellow Cab)	503-362-2411
Safety Escorts	503-370-6911
Salem Hospital Urgent Care (non-emergency)	503-561-5554
Salem Hospital Drug/Alcohol Hotline	800-621-1646
Salem Parking Enforcement	503-585-6471
Salem Police Non-emergency	503-588-6123
S.A.R.A. Sexual Assault Response Allies (weekends)	503-851-4245
Weather/Campus Closure Advisories	503-370-6300
Willamette Emergency Medical Services (WEMS)	503-370-6911, ask for WEMS
Center for Hope and Safety	503-378-1572
WU Accessible Education Services	503-370-6471
WU Bishop Wellness Center	503-370-6062
WU Safety Committee	503-370-6907