

## Lifestyles

Looking for a new place to munch on burritos? Head to downtown's La Tolteca.

P. 4

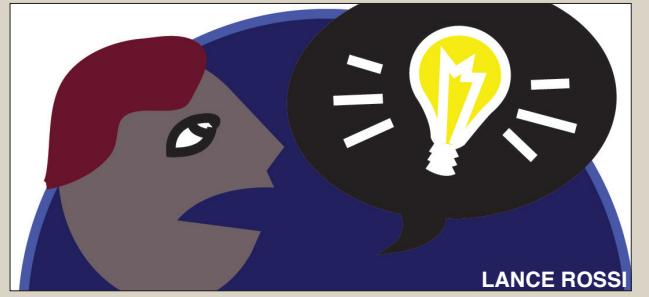


KELLIE STANDISH

## Feature

What has changed in the American ethnic studies program that most students are unaware of? Find out.

P. 6-7



LANCE ROSSI

# THE WILLAMETTE COLLEGIAN

WINNER OF 21 2013-2014 ONPA AWARDS • VOICE OF THE WILLAMETTE CAMPUS SINCE 1889 • VOL CXXV • ISSUE 1 • AUGUST 27, 2014

## SPORTS

### Football sets sights on playoffs

EVAN GIDDINGS  
CONTRIBUTOR

Coming off back-to-back third place finishes in the Northwest Conference, the Willamette football team is looking to make the adjustments necessary to become the first Willamette team since 2008 to make the NCAA Division III play-offs.

The past two seasons under head coach Glen Fowles have seen an overall record of 15-4 (8-4 in conference), which is an impressive feat — especially considering the .789 winning percentage. But as he explained in an interview at the end of last season to the Bearcat Network, "In the Northwest Conference, anybody can beat anybody on any given day, and our focus is just going to be on what we're doing in order to try and be a better football team than we were before."

See **BEARCATS**, Page 8



KELLIE STANDISH

The Willamette football team runs drills in order to prepare for the approaching season.

## NEWS

### Study: 10% considered suicide over past year



WORDLE.COM

The study also found that 70 percent of students felt "very lonely" at least once in the last 12 months.

ALYSSA MILSTEAD  
CONTRIBUTOR

According to an American College Health Association, National College Health Assessment given to Willamette students, 9.6 percent said they "seriously considered suicide" at least once in the past 12 months.

In spring 2013, approximately 500 Willamette students completed the survey, which contained questions about their physical, mental and emotional health.

"[The data] mostly aligned with national trends and was consistent with the types of issues students

share with us in counseling services," Director of Counseling Services Don Thomson said.

One area that differed from national trends for Willamette students was a lack of sleep. According to the survey, Willamette students get less sleep than their peers at colleges and universities.

"Being an overcommitted student is the Willamette way, and sleep is often the first thing that is compromised," Thomson said. "This pressure to do it all often comes at the cost of a healthy school/personal life balance, and can negatively impact many spheres of a student's life."

Since the results were released to Bishop Wellness Center, Thomson has incorporated the data into training he conducts with groups on campus, such as opening days leaders and community mentors.

Though the majority of students experience emotional distress at some point during college, they do not typically admit it to their peers.

Junior music education major and community mentor Sara Williams said that she wasn't surprised by the results of the survey.

See **BISHOP**, Page 2

## OPINIONS

### Two parties may be too confining for Americans

ZACK BOYDEN  
GUEST WRITER

If you're angry about having only two mainstream political parties to vote for, you're not alone.

Talk to nearly anyone and they will express at least some discontent with our dichromatic choice on Election Day. It's not a poorly founded critique—

there are certainly more than two ways to think about politics, and there are factions in each party dissatisfied with the dominant platform.

Libertarians feel like the Republican Party largely ignores their social concerns, while progressives and socialists believe that Democrats won't offer economic reform that's much different than our current policies.

In effect, these factions don't vote for their own party, they vote against the opposition.

However, voting for a lesser evil isn't necessarily the wrong thing to do. With the current system, it's actually the best thing. If you agree with 35 percent of one candidate's platform and 5 percent of another's, it makes sense to vote for the one you have the

most in common with, even though you strongly disagree with them on some issues.

Voting for a third party is out of the question. That move just takes away votes that could be used to defeat the party you don't want to win.

See **PARTIES**, Page 10



## BRIEFS

A community vigil for victims and survivors of power-based violence will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 8 p.m. in Jackson Plaza. According to the Facebook page, the candlelight vigil supports "people in regions such as Ferguson/ St. Louis, the Gaza Strip, Artesia and Syria." Any questions, comments or concerns should be addressed to Lizzy Smith at <emsmith>.

\*\*\*

Join the Willamette Events Board on the quad Friday night for an open mic, free food and a sing-a-long version of "Frozen." Let the first week of classes stress go on the quad Friday night at 8 p.m. Contact Lexi Hamersley at <lhamersl> with questions.

\*\*\*

The Willamette Events Board is offering a \$200 stipend each semester for organizing and marketing events on campus. A co-chair position is available for both performing arts and awareness, discussion and dialogue. Three positions are open on the marketing team. Check your email for applications, due Monday, Sept. 8. Contact Samantha Martinez <martines> or Audrey Mechling <amechlin> with questions.

\*\*\*

Got tips? Email News Editor  
Bronte Dod <bdod>

# Ask Andrés: An interview with the 2014-2015 ASWU president

BRONTE DOD  
NEWS EDITOR

Andrés Oswill won 60 percent of the student body vote in spring 2014 for Associated Students of Willamette University president. Not bad, for the senior who says he struggles with interacting with large groups of people. Since coming from California in fall 2011, Oswill has joined Greek Life and the Queer Student Union. He pioneered the gender-neutral restroom campaign and traveled to Mexico with the debate team. Andrés spoke to the *Collegian* about dropping it all and focusing on ASWU, the students and his final year at Willamette.

**Collegian:** What do you want to change at Willamette this year?

**Andrés:** That's something I'm still trying to figure out. I have a lot of trouble narrowing things down. That's just a personal struggle, that I don't know how to limit what I'm doing. Chronic Willamette problem: I don't know how to say no to commitments.

**C:** Do you think that's still Willamette's problem?

**A:** There are some students who learn how Willamette works and get involved, and then they subsequently get involved in everything until all the positions are filled by the same small group of students who are hyper involved and over committed...I don't think that all students are over involved, and I think the ones that aren't almost feel ashamed or embarrassed about it because everyone says that



KELLIE STANDISH

Willamette students are over involved, so if you're not, then what are you doing wrong?

**C:** And now you've taken on ASWU president.

**A:** The balance between explaining what I've done [at Willamette] and introducing myself and not sounding like an asshole is really challenging. The way I explain it to everyone is that it is a capstone because I'm dropping everything else. I really wanted to leave everything and do one thing, because I've never done that.

**C:** What made you want to write the letter to Willamette that you used in your campaign?

**A:** I knew I could do a good job articulating what my goals for the position would be or what my qualifications would be, but in order to get my story across and connect emotionally, that

is not something I do well on a large scale... It was an idea to try to personalize [the campaign] and reach out to people and connect with them individually and find something in common even if we didn't know each other personally.

**C:** What are your goals for this year?

**A:** In the most abstract sense, I want the students to feel that the student representatives are more interested in their perspective and more willing to come to them and engage with them directly. I don't know exactly what that's going to look like...taking on investigative projects that could show the student body that the government is trying to do something while also trying to make the situation better for everyone.

**C:** What advice do you have for Willamette students?

**A:** I think students should be more comfortable doing what they want to do and worry less about what other people are doing or how you stack up next to other people. I've found that people who are self-assured and aren't worried about how they're competing with other people or comparing with other people and are comfortable being themselves are the ones who do the best and are the happiest...I also think people could be a lot nicer to each other. At the end of the day, we are all here to learn. We should recognize that everything that happens at Willamette can and should be a learning experience.

bdod@willamette.edu

## Students seek safety

KATIE DOBBS  
CONTRIBUTOR

This summer, a campus safety focus group was formed as a result of a suggestion from the President's Working Group on Sexual Assault and Harassment committee report.

Co-chaired by ASWU President Andrés Oswill and Director of Campus Safety and Card Services

Ross Stout, the group consists of five student representatives and met periodically throughout the summer.

One of the goals of the group was to create "an opportunity for people to have

a formal channel of communication to provide input and express concerns about safety on campus," Stout said.

The group sent two surveys to the student body. The first covered general concerns about safety on campus and related policies; the second asked students to identify areas on campus where they felt the least safe.

A lack of blue emergency phones, not enough lighting and inadequate door access were the most common responses about safety on campus.

While the group does not

wield any formal power to investigate change on its own, the students sent recommendations to appropriate organizations on campus to investigate implementing their suggested revisions.

"There is something to be said about a sense of safety," Oswill said. "Students feeling like they aren't safe and like they can't go around their campus is dangerous. I have seen a genuine student interest in the safety climate on campus and I think that whenever you have concern and see things being done poorly you should try and fix it, and this group was created to try and fix some of those problems."

While members are still deciding what the group will become in its official form, the primary goal right now is to provide a space to ensure students can express their worries about campus safety.

Senior Lizzy Smith is a member of the group.

"Feeling safe and secure is important," Smith said. "People can't learn and grow if they don't feel safe. And that is why we are here, isn't it?"

kdobbs@willamette.edu

Feeling safe and secure is important. People can't learn and grow if they don't feel safe. And that is why we are here, isn't it?

LIZZY SMITH  
focus group member

## Bishop to add 'mind spa'

CONTINUED from Page 1

"I think that mental health is something that a lot of college students struggle with and that a lot of Willamette students in particular struggle [with] because of the way that so many students here are involved in many groups and activities on campus," Williams said.

She added that Thomson advised students to be alert to signs of mental health issues in their peers, have conversations with residents about mental health and refer them to the resources that are offered at Willamette.

"I think that it would be a good idea for continued edu-

cation about these issues to CMs and also other people on campus," Williams said. "This seems to be a prevalent issue on Willamette's campus that I personally think needs more attention."

To combat the reported stress and anxiety present on campus, Bishop Wellness Center has plans to establish a Mind Spa for students who need to take a break from their rigorous schedules. They are creating a room that students can access through Bishop's front desk at no cost, which will feature a massage chair, a full-spectrum light, soothing music and a bio-feedback computer program that will teach students how to

moderate their physiologic reaction to stress.

Director of Bishop Wellness Center Margaret Trout declined multiple requests for an interview for this article. A formal announcement will be made when Bishop's Mind Spa is officially ready for students.

Thomson said he hopes Willamette students will be more honest in their discussions about mental health.

"I think it's important to normalize, talk about and make explicit the difficulties that we know Willamette students are experiencing," Thomson said.

amilstea@willamette.edu

## Survey Results:

In the last 12 months...

39.2

percent of students said they were "so depressed that it was difficult to function."

51.9

percent of students surveyed said they "felt hopeless."

93.0

percent of students marked that they felt "overwhelmed by all they had to do."

10.2

percent of students said they "intentionally injured" themselves.

70.4

percent of students said they felt "very lonely."

58.5

percent of students said they felt "overwhelming anxiety."

9.6

percent of students said they "seriously considered suicide."

# Locker survey sparks faculty discontent and debate

ZANE SPARLING  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

An email survey about gym lockers became a tipping point for inter-faculty debate after several Willamette educators alleged “diminishing benefits” and a breakdown of community standards at the University.

The controversy was sparked by news that reserved athletic lockers, a longtime perk that allowed staff and faculty to rent gym space for about \$10 to \$15 a year, would no longer be available at Sparks Athletic Center after phase two construction ends this fall.

An email chain responding to the change—obtained by the *Collegian*—began with a 775-word message sent by Peter Harmer, a professor of exercise science and department chair of Human Anatomy. Harmer’s reply-all response was sent on May 23, 2014, after the end of CLA classes last semester.

In his response, he complained that the recreation department had sought input

through the email survey only after the locker rental decision had been made, and that the policy had never been raised before faculty governance for a vote.

“The bottom line is that the administrators of Sparks consider faculty and staff too lazy, dirty or stupid to be allowed to keep their work-out clothes, etc... in lockers,” he wrote. Harmer declined to be interviewed for this article.

## A problem of space

Previously, Sparks had two large, public locker rooms shared by faculty, students and Salem community members, as well as dedicated team rooms.

The new floor plan emphasizes smaller, more specialized areas. Staff and faculty now have separate, gender-segregated changing rooms. Two private, gender-neutral bathrooms, one equipped with a shower, are also new to the building.

Under the new plan, each

staff changing room has only 16 half-locker compartments.

“What we have told people about lockers, is, ‘We are going to have way fewer lockers,’” Athletics Director David Riggsby said in an interview. “We may still have room... to have some that can be reservable. We thought it would be premature to do that in the fall.”

Administrators said the update addresses several Title IX compliance issues relating to equal access. The women’s varsity soccer team now has a dedicated locker room equivalent to the men’s, and women’s basketball and volleyball no longer share a space.

Director of Media Relations Adam Torgerson said that students’ needs were prioritized during the redesign.

“I could certainly see why people are frustrated, by things they might prefer to have happen in a different way,” Torgerson said. “But there’s a perfectly reasonable basis for the decisions that were made, and there are tradeoffs in any shared space. There’s only so much you can do.”

## From community to company

Professor Christopher Harris of Theater added to the email chain on May 25, writing that he believed the commodification of education at Willamette had reached higher levels now than ever before during his 30 years at the University.

“We are complicit as our students are transformed... into the role of consumers, and we are complicit as faculty are transformed into a product,” Harris wrote in his email. “And

this educational process is managed, quantified and measured increasingly by those outside the classroom.”

University President Steve Thorsett responded to Harris’ email, highlighting both the relevance of faculty governance in University decision-making and the overall quality of the refurbished Athletics center.

He said that—while education has become more of a business—the University itself has moved in the opposite direction.

“I am sorry, Chris, that you are feeling ‘estranged,’ and like an ‘old dog,’” Thorsett wrote. “I suggest you actually get out into the campus, talk to some of the newer faculty, and learn about the interesting ways in which they are continuing to build a thriving academic community.”

Thorsett declined to be interviewed for this article. Harris agreed to speak with the *Collegian*.

“Now I’m at a point where I ask myself, ‘Why should I sit howling in the middle of the quadrangle late at night disturbing the neighbors?’” Harris said. “Because all they say is, ‘Oh, feed the mangy wolfhound and shut him up ... or take him out and shoot him!’”

## Faculty priorities

A final salvo came on May 25 and 26, when several professors shifted the discussion to comments Harris made regarding part-time faculty who live outside of Salem.

Comparing them to shift workers, Harris said this re-



Athletics Director David Riggsby said rentable lockers could return.

flected the University’s slide from a center of learning to a business; others replied, taking issue with Harris’ comments.

“It is frankly upsetting to hear folks squabble about locker space... when so many members of this community remain unable to earn a living wage here,” Sarah Tiedemann, an adjunct professor who teaches flute and aural skills on a part-time basis, wrote in an email. “The sense of our faculty’s priorities escapes me.”

Tiedemann, who agreed to be interviewed for this article, but did not respond to later emails, has worked at the University for six years.

Adjunct pay is set at about \$4,100 per course. Those who work part time usually do so on a semester-by-semester contract basis, without medical benefits or job security.

zsparlin@willamette.edu



Willamette spokesman Adam Torgerson said tradeoffs are inevitable in a shared space.

ADVERTISEMENT

EAT. DRINK. WATCH MOVIES.

# cinebarre

## All movies

# \$6

## Monday thru Thursday

**Cinebarre Salem**  
501 Marion St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Telephone:**  
(503) 364-2627

Cinebarre is an 18 and up establishment

## CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

July 3 – Aug. 23, 2014  
Information provided by  
Campus Safety

### CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

**July 19, 2:35 p.m. (McCulloch Stadium):** Campus Safety received a call that the locking mechanism for the stadium’s pedestrian gate had been damaged. The officer responded and determined that the magnetic lock had been dislodged from its base. A work order was put in to repair the gate’s lock.

**August 21, 2:47 p.m. (Softball Parking Lot):** An individual came in to report that someone attempted to break in to their vehicle. The officer met with the caller to inspect the damage to the car. Upon further inspection, it was determined that the lock on the driver’s side had been popped out. The individual reported that nothing had been taken and no other damage had occurred.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

**July 19, 5:24 p.m. (Sparks Center):** Campus Safety received a call that an injury had occurred at a basketball tournament. The officer assessed the injury of the player, who reported that they had fallen. After an assessment, the officer found no evidence of a concussion or any other severe injury.

**August 1, 8 p.m. (Kaneko Commons):** Campus Safety received a call that a conference attendee had injured their foot and need-

ed to go to the hospital. The officer arrived on scene, and transported the individual to the ER for further evaluation.

**August 22, 10:54 p.m. (Kaneko Commons):** Campus Safety received a call about an intoxicated student. The caller reported that the student had been helped to their room by friends and did not seem to be able to walk on their own. The officer on duty arrived on scene and began to assess the student. Paramedics were called and the student was transported to the emergency room.

### FIRE

**August 15, 10:21 p.m. (Doney Hall):** Campus Safety received a call that the construction dumpster outside of Doney had caught fire. The officer arrived at the scene and called 911. The fire department arrived and put out the fire. Salem Fire also observed the fire most likely occurred from spontaneous combustion of material within the dumpster.

### PROPERTY DAMAGE

**July 22, 8:30 p.m. (Doney Hall):** During a fire watch check, the officers on duty discovered severe flooding damage inside one of the first floor guest rooms. A sink had been left on and the drain was closed. Further inspection found that the damage had also made its way to the basement, where more damage occurred

CONTINUED on Page 12

# La Tolteca tastefully replaces the late La Perla

GORDIE CLARY  
GUEST WRITER

The comfortably familiar — feeling La Tolteca Mexican Restaurant has all the makings of a Salem hit.

The restaurant, located on the second floor of downtown's Reed Opera House, can be easy to overlook when visiting the historic multiplex. With the allegedly beloved La Perla closing shop, this low-key chain restaurant takes its place but still offers patrons the feeling of a small local business.

The eatery is not far from campus and its windows overlook the streets of downtown Salem—a refreshing change of scenery from Goudy Commons, yet with comparable room for friends to gather.

Its newly remodeled bar has an attractive selection of beer and spirits.

La Tolteca's staff is knowledgeable, and they greet customers with a great attitude and exude the desire to please. Our waitress was kind and, on top of things, allowed us to order in a rush.

The thoroughly cooked dishes also arrived rather quickly, which was yet another positive part of my experience at the restaurant.

The food served is traditional, quality Mexican food that rivals local competitors. La Tolteca's breakfast menu offers sizable breakfast burritos and tasty huevos rancheros.

Later in the day, you can

choose from a menu with a vast array of classics such as chimi-changas, taquitos and burritos. These items can be ordered a la carte, or purchased as a combination meal, which includes beans and rice.

I decided to go with the fish tacos, a personal favorite, and it did not disappoint. The versatile "secret sauce" is fantastic and left me wanting more.

For friends who do not enjoy Mexican food, La Tolteca provides an American plate menu, which features choices such as cheeseburgers, sandwiches, salads and fish and chips.

La Tolteca's prices are fair and will not endanger your college-sized budget. The ample portions come with the expected serving of chips and will leave all members of your party happy and satiated.

The newly minted restaurant also posts regularly on Facebook and has a pleasant web presence. They use these various social media platforms to advertise adventurous specials, such as tongue tacos and burritos.

The funky atmosphere inside the Reed Opera House smoothly accompanies a delicious meal at a reasonable price and leaves no one mourning its predecessor. Everybody needs a favorite Mexican spot in their neighborhood to brag about discovering. I urge you to let La Tolteca have a chance to be yours.

[gclary@willamette.edu](mailto:gclary@willamette.edu)



KELLIE STANDISH



KELLIE STANDISH

## 'Guardians of the Galaxy' sets standard for space thrillers

ALISON HSIAO  
CONTRIBUTOR

From Superman to Spider-Man to Captain America, the list of Marvel and DC comics reproduced on the big screen is endless.

With so many superhero movies and their remakes available, audiences have no compulsion to buy tickets. Yet, "Guardians of the Galaxy," directed by James Gunn, successfully satisfies and updates the genre with a star-studded cast.

Released Aug. 1, "Guardians" tells the tale of Peter Quill, otherwise known as "Star-Lord," (played by Chris Pratt), and his band of oddball crew members as they go on an adventure to defeat the evil Ronan (Lee

Pace) and upend his universe-wide domination.

This team of misfits proves to be unforgettable, with the lovable tree-creature Groot (voiced by Vin Diesel), feisty raccoon Rocket (Bradley Cooper), warrior Drax the Destroyer (Dave Batista) and of course, in a hallmark of Marvel romance, earthling Peter and space assassin Gamora (Zoe Saldana in a lovely shade of green).

The film is a mind bender at first because it eschews the typical superhero narrative. Instead of a super-charged protagonist with preternatural powers, "Guardians" gives us five ensemble characters, each with extremely different natures and forms.

Each member of this quintet is immersed in dark and complex circum-

stances, but comes together for one purpose—to save the universe.

As the plot unfurls, "Guardians" makes use of its vibrant setting and embellishes the theme of good versus evil. The way each character signifies specific feelings of love and loss forges a deep bond between the screen and the audience, allowing viewers to lose themselves in the movie and forget the world at large.

In various areas, "Guardians" is a marvelous summer flick. The grandeur of intergalactic imagery inspires the audience, much like "Gravity" did in 2013. America has replaced its sweetheart Sandra Bullock for the chiseled and dreamy Pratt.

"Guardians" keeps its viewers engaged in a gripping underdog story of

true love and selflessness, justifying the continuing popularity and box office dominance of super hero cinema.

However, its complexity waned near the end of the film, and the movie left me questioning its cult-like hype. I expected more. Marvel movies all seem to end in the same fashion: a happy ending with a few strings left untied, leaving just enough mystery and fascination for a sequel.

And although this has an unquestionably great effect, one begins to yearn for a new spin on the age-old movie ending equation. Perhaps Gunn will tweak this formula in the sequel, due out in 2017.

[ahsiao@willamette.edu](mailto:ahsiao@willamette.edu)



MARVEL.COM



MARVEL.COM



MARVEL.COM



MARVEL.COM



MARVEL.COM

Watch Chris Pratt get upstaged by a raccoon in "Guardians of the Galaxy."

# Kimbra: somebody you used to listen to

ELISABETH SAUL  
GUEST WRITER

Casual pop listeners may find Kimbra's second studio album tricky. "The Golden Echo" strays from the previous work of the Kiwi singer-songwriter, last heard in 2011.

After winning a Grammy for her feature on Gotye's "Somebody That I Used To Know," Kimbra must prove her staying power and credibility.

Unfortunately, Kimbra's experimentation falters, rendering her creativity bizarre and creepy throughout "Echo." Even consumers with an open mind may be disappointed by the record, which was inspired by a dream (and the Greek myth of Narcissus).

Those looking forward to a return of 2011 Kimbra's strong, sultry vocals will balk at the unnerving use of her upper register on the opener, "Teen Heart." "Carolina" and the final track, "Waltz Me to the Grave," employ overproduced vocals that verge on robotic.

"Goldmine" and "Miracle", however, do make use of Kimbra's gorgeous, authentic voice. Unfortunately, these tracks are hidden in the middle of the album. After listening to earlier songs like "90s Music"—with its poorly chosen spoken word chorus and frantic transitions—by the time listeners reach the album's mid-section, they may have already lost faith in this release.

Despite the creepiness of many of the tracks, some did show potential.

"90s Music" seemed, at times, to have aspirations of being a Friday night out-with-the-girls jam. Even though this goal ultimately gets lost in the jumble of genres crammed

into the song, the pursuit was a noble one.

"Miracle" possesses the most potential of any of the twelve tracks. It's a danceable number that's perfect for fans of pop divas like Madonna and Mariah Carey. For the rest of us, though, the track doesn't move much beyond catchy.

This album's weaknesses stem from delving so far into electronic influences that the humanity of Kimbra's voice is lost. The bright synths of "Teen Heart" aren't strong enough to counteract the heaviness of the bass, and the strangely layered vocals are easily forgotten.

Throughout the album, I was straining to pay attention to the lyrics, but other aspects of the songs

were too distracting. "Carolina" produces some pleasant lyrical imagery, but the vocals sound cold and distant in contrast.

I am normally a fan of all things "weird," but this album just wasn't my type of weird. The only expectation I had was that Kimbra's vocals would take center stage for the length of the album, and that simply was not the case.

While I have found a new workout song in "Miracle," I don't think I'll ever bother revisiting "The Golden Echo."

Even for fans of pop, this album is just too bizarre.

esaul@willamette.edu



Can Kimbra wow audiences after peaking in 2011? The answer is no.

## Despite wet blankets, 'ice' charity scores

ANDREW MELL  
GUEST WRITER

Before losing his battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Lou Gehrig led the New York Yankees to greatness during the 1930s and mastered the position of first baseman with seven All-Star appearances, six World Series Rings and two American League Most Valuable Player awards.

After playing 17 seasons at a nearly unmatched level, Gehrig's abilities began to rapidly decline. His brain deteriorated completely, costing the beloved athlete his motor skills and his life at the age of 37.

Even after decades of research, scientists and doctors still lack treatment options that can lengthen the survival of a patient with ALS for longer than a couple of months.

College students reading this article have likely seen their peers participate in the "ALS Ice Bucket Challenge" en masse, taking their cues from celebrities and politicians who want to show support for those affected by the disease.

This viral phenomenon puts all other charity movements to shame. In under a month, the ALS Association

has received \$41 million from over 739,000 participants, an achievement that warrants respect.

Critics of the challenge need to consider the impact of \$41 million going toward research for treatment and a cure, which will help the 30,000 Americans alive today but plagued with this disease.

**“The connection across long distances unites people that may have political or personal differences.”**

Nominating friends to participate in the challenge has positive social ramifications. The connection across long distances unites people that may have political or personal differences. If someone has thoughts to add, an audience is present to hear a viewpoint through video—a rarity on Facebook, which usually revolves around text conversation.

It is uncommon for anyone to lack

an opinion about the trend, especially if they hail from California (like many university students), which is suffering from a major drought. Some believe dumping water on one's head will worsen this ecological disaster.

Others accuse participants of not honoring their pledge to donate or using the event as an excuse to show off their bodies. A recent Time article pointed out that those talking about the challenge on social media largely avoid other topics, like the unrest in Ferguson.

Whether or not these statements are true, remember to see how the ends justify the means and to look at the cold, hard facts (pun intended).

Detractors lament this phenomenon for being fun and refreshing on a hot summer day, yet ignore all other charity events that are enjoyable, like fun runs and bake sales.

Those who treat this challenge as a joke degrade the seriousness of ALS and disregard the millions of people now aware of the disease and willing to be a part of the cure.

amell@willamette.edu

# BEARCAT BULLET

## You can't take liberal arts home



JULIANA COHEN

LIFESTYLES EDITOR

When I applied to more than a few liberal arts colleges during my senior year of high school, my limited understanding of institutions like Willamette included lots of writing, small class sizes and boys wearing skinny jeans.

This is what people think of when you tell them the particularities of where you study. Friends and family often fail to anticipate the extent of your fiery activism and conviction. Brochures rarely warn parents that the young person returning home for the summer is a powder keg of criticism and political fervor.

It's safe to say that concentrated anger is a norm at Willamette. In convocations, class readings and heated discussions with fellow Bearcats, we take for granted the "safe spaces" that allow us to talk brashly about far-reaching issues.

The deeper a person falls into the pattern of always having radical conversations at school, the harder leaving that mode of thought becomes. Maybe your personality has adapted to the hypervigilance needed to live with others, queer-ness has come to bloom in your identity or you've come to a realization about the diversity of your hometown that nobody wants to hear.

There's no textbook "right way to act," but Willamette can make a person feel like their moral compass is relatively accurate. But when you're used to saying, "if it's yellow, let it mellow," after spending two semesters in Terra Hall—or acting indignant over someone's choice in hip-hop—it's easy to become clouded by one's haughty pretentiousness.

Before Thanksgiving break freshman year, a politics professor of mine mentioned some interesting fact that, he said, would help spark a lively discussion with one's family over dinner. His suggestion failed to trigger anything but my parents' appreciation that I was attending class in general.

Looking back, the dining room table is a far cry from academia.

A similar disconnect between what you may find "stimulating" and general courtesy occurs in Salem as well. Before calling someone a racist due to their word choice, ask yourself what purpose that action will serve, other than an ego boost for yourself.

Exchanges regarding the summer's most popular touchy subjects (Gaza, Ferguson, U.S. intervention in the Islamic State) may have derailed interactions for Bearcats coming home to roost.

While it may be tempting to butt heads and have the upper hand simply by virtue of knowing words like "praxis," one should control this instinct by honoring the existing relationships they have with people who matter.

Just because my mother tells me to be "ladylike" does not put everything about my upbringing into question. Similar situations can become very tense if everything is dissected from a women and gender studies viewpoint.

If a thirst for debate must be quenched while away from Willamette, consider joining a private group that allows for insulated discussion, like the Willamette University Students for Justice in Palestine group. Because without the proper context, many statements will ultimately sound pretentious.

jacohen@willamette.edu

Are you trend savvy?

Have clever insights?

Write for Lifestyles!

Email <jacohen> for more information.

# Loss of American et leaves program's

JESSICA MEZA-TORRES  
FEATURE EDITOR

The Willamette community is one that is ever changing, constantly welcoming and saying goodbye to students, faculty and professors. Though one may argue that change is good, falling into the old cliché that, "everything flows, nothing stands still," is it possible that recent changes are actually hindering the growth and progress of Willamette?

## Changes on campus

Last semester, the Willamette community said goodbye to four professors: professor Megan Ybarra, who taught in the politics department, professor Lynn Makau, who taught in the English and women and gender studies departments, professor Brianna Dávila, who taught in the sociology department, and professor Stanislav Vysotsky, who taught in the sociology department.

Despite their varying specialties, all four professors contributed to the American ethnic studies (AES) program, teaching classes like literature of diaspora and transnational migrations, which serve as electives for the AES major.

Though professor Emily Drew of the sociology department and professor Roy Pérez of the English department teach the core classes for the AES program, without the support of professors Ybarra, Makau, Dávila and Vysotsky, the future of the program is uncertain.

"Our plan right now is to continue to offer the program as a minor," Professor of History Seth Cotlar, chair of the AES program, said. "Given the recent departure of several faculty members who taught classes that served the AES program, it is not possible for us to offer enough classes to staff the major."

## A program's history

Junior AES major Tiffany Chan was told she might be one of the last two students to graduate from the program last semester. She was told that students who have already declared as AES majors will be able to fulfill their requirements, but no new students will be added to that list.

"The shitty thing is that a professor told me," Chan said. "I was sitting in class one day and a professor just told me. Like, I wasn't informed by a campus-wide email or a forum or something public. Nothing from President Thorsett or a dean. They were just like, 'Well, it's no more.' It's almost as if they don't see it as a big deal."

The AES department, however, was certainly a big deal to the students who worked to create the major. Margarita Gutierrez (class of 2012),

Brandi Miller (class of 2012), Leanna McClure (class of 2012), Rosie Glade (class of 2012), Elizabeth Calixtro (class of 2013) and Rachel Krow-Boniske (class of 2012) wrote proposals for AES to become an official major in the spring of 2010.

"The process was long and we received extensive critiques on our proposals," Gutierrez said.

AES finally became an official major in the fall of 2011.

Before Gutierrez and her peers, there had been individual students who had submitted proposals that were not approved.

"Five of us wrote our proposals simultaneously in 2010 and a year later, AES became an official major due to the proposals being seen as an increase in interest," Gutierrez said.

## The battle continues

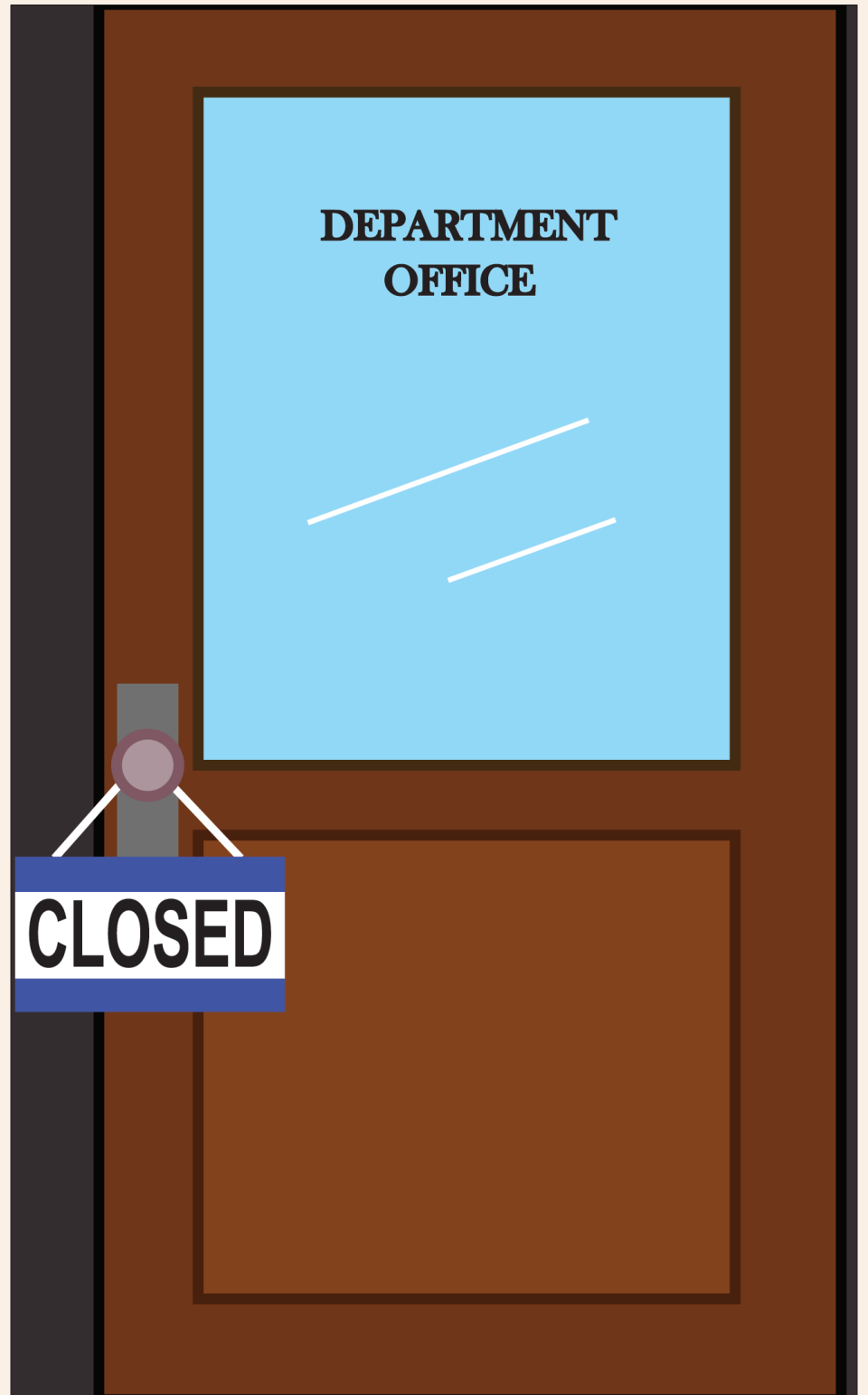
Years later, students continue to advocate for the future of the program, and the professors teaching in it. Just last semester, a town hall meeting organized and run by students was held at Cone Chapel, in which students presented their proposals for change.

In their proposals, students asked the administration for greater transparency during the hiring process, the inclusion of student representatives in committees that determine faculty tenure and increased institutional support for the hiring and retention of professors of color.

"Looking ahead, we will be strenuously advocating for the university to hire both more faculty of color and more faculty members who can offer classes that contribute to the AES program," Cotlar said. "That's about all I can say with certainty right now. The AES faculty will be meeting this fall to discuss how we best move forward with the program and make it as robust as possible."

Professor of English and Associate Dean of Curriculum Gretchen Moon said that, as of now, the University is conducting a national search for new tenure-track professors in the English, sociology and politics departments.

"Visiting assistant professors have also been hired so that students can continue their academic programs in a timely fashion," Moon said.



Assistant professors hired include professor Jennifer Devine in the politics department, professors Kia Sorensen and Christina Ergas in the sociology department and professor Balbir Singh in the English department.

There continues to be discrepancies and uncertainties in regard to the program's future on campus.

A statement from the administration is yet to be released.

[jmezator@willamette.edu](mailto:jmezator@willamette.edu)

If you want to read the proposals for change from last semester's town hall meeting, follow this link:



[willamette-transparency.tumblr.com](http://willamette-transparency.tumblr.com)



Associate Dean of Curriculum Gretchen Moon said that AES has not gone through the official process for editing and revising academic programs, though students no longer have the option to declare as an AES major.

The process of creating or revising a curriculum may begin with a faculty member who wants to offer a new course, or a department/program that is reconsidering ways to achieve their objectives.

Faculty members complete a series of documents about their proposed curriculum or alterations, which have to consider the impact on students both inside and outside of their program, their teaching rotations and the resources available to them.

# ethnic studies faculty future uncertain

## TIFFANY CHAN

Junior, AES major and music minor:

"The impact AES has had on me is that I can see myself in the classroom. Like yeah, I can see other Asian peers on campus, but to actually see myself in the curriculum, see queer Asian writers as something we get tested on, is something that is really powerful; not just dead white guys but alive and kicking people of color who are writing scholarly things that blow my mind in a million different ways. I'm always like, 'Wow, I never thought of that and this white guy didn't either 'cause how could he have?' It's like being able to find a place in academia where PoC historically haven't been welcomed before. That's not to say AES isn't a place for white folks. We read things by white people too and about whiteness and white supremacy so there really is a place in AES for everyone to see themselves and get to know who they are."

## MALORIE HILL

Sophomore, undecided:

"I have met professors who have taught AES courses, and being in a classroom setting taught by someone who understands you and where you're from is so much more comfortable than being in a classroom taught by a white professor, who can say fetishizing things about who you are, or your friends or just generally racist comments. Being in a class taught by professors of color makes you so much more susceptible to the subject, like you want to learn, you want to be there and you want to engage. It's so much better than being in a class where a professor looks at you as a number or to say things that a white kid can't. I don't want to be in a class like that and I'm not going to learn and that's what I'm supposed to be here for."

## What does AES mean to you?

### LARK SEALINE-SMITH

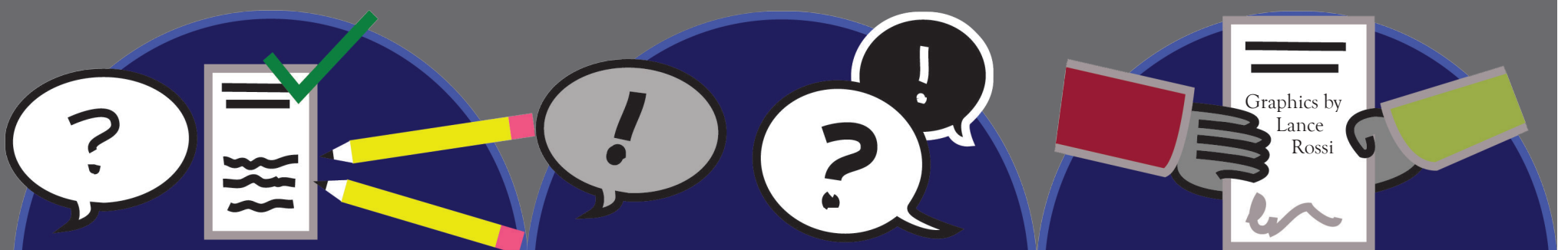
Junior, English major and AES minor:

"As a white student in the AES program, I am constantly learning and shifting my ideas and pre-judgments in a way that I haven't been challenged to in other departments. In AES, when we talk about oppression, we are talking about institutions. For Willamette, an institution, to eliminate a department that critically discusses oppression at home and around the world, it sends a message that the topic doesn't matter; that student's work doesn't matter and that our identities are somehow separate from our work. Willamette, as an institution, has a responsibility to its students to ensure that our concerns, struggles and identities are visible and valid. AES is a unique space at WU and without it, everyone will suffer."

### SURABHI MAHAJAN

Senior, biology major:

"I'm not an AES major, but it was like a whole new world when I took AES and I found out professors like Pérez exist, that actually want to talk to you outside of class and about what you think is next for you. I learned about how you can talk about your identity and apply it to your work, and that was very eye opening to me; so many opportunities opened up. Even when I couldn't take classes like Makau's, she gave me her syllabus and would invite me to talk about the readings. There is just so much effort and it's something that I haven't seen in other departments. Their effort has had a very personal impact for me."



The proposal documents then have to be approved by the program/department's faculty. The dean, Hatfield Library and WITS review the proposal for its impact on resources. Once approved, the proposal moves on to the academics program committee, where the proposal can be approved, rejected or asked to be revised.

If the proposal is approved, an announcement is made to the entirety of CLA faculty, where it receives comments and suggestions for one week. If the CLA faculty suggests further revisions, it may be returned to the academic programs group for more work.

Changes to majors and minors go from the academic programs committee to the academic council for more review. If changes are deemed significant, academic council announces the proposal at a faculty meeting and then it can be brought to a vote one month later.

## The fifth major sport



JESSE THOMPSON  
COLUMNIST

You hear the term “four major sports” all the time in this country, referring to American football, baseball, basketball and hockey.

Growing up, this confused me for several reasons, and it wasn't just because no one I knew gave two shits about hockey.

What confused me the most about the “four major sports” was the exclusion of the biggest sport in my life—soccer.

While I am a huge fan of the NFL, MLB, NBA and even lately the NHL, soccer (or football, as the rest of the world calls it) has never been something for me to simply be a fan of. It is a lifestyle.

I know I am not alone—there are millions like me across the globe of all creeds and colors whose lives revolve around “the beautiful game.” If you took a worldwide poll and asked what the greatest sport in the world was, the winner would certainly be soccer.

So why can't this universally loved game even crack the top four here in the USA? Why is it relegated to the second tier of American sports, along with golf, NASCAR and beer pong?

Some say that the game is too slow-paced and boring. The people who say this clearly have not watched baseball. I love baseball, but I mean, come on. The players literally eat snacks while on the playing field.

Others say that it is too low scoring. This complaint seems to come from those who have dismissed soccer before even giving it a chance, as it is not only the goals that make a game exciting. It is the near misses, the saves and the swings in the game's momentum that make soccer so compelling.

Although it's hard to say exactly why soccer has never been considered a major sport in this country, I do know that a change is slowly occurring.

Ann Coulter recently wrote an article about how soccer's growing popularity is a sign of our country's moral decay. The article was comically bad. It was so poorly argued that I was originally convinced that someone who really hated Ann Coulter had written it in her name to make her look bad.

But while she may have gotten just about everything wrong, she got one thing right. Soccer IS growing in popularity in the states, and fast.

Mixed in with the Kobe Bryant, Peyton Manning and Derek Jeter jerseys being worn across the country, you'll see more and more names like Messi, Ronaldo or Dempsey mixed in.

Our domestic league, Major League Soccer, has made remarkable strides in the past 10 years and the level of play continues to rise year by year. MLS teams have begun bringing in world-class talent, and many clubs have the rabid, devoted fan bases to back it up.

For proof, you need not go further than practically our own backyard. If you are a fan of sports (or maybe just cool things) I encourage you to see a Portland Timbers game. The atmosphere is one that can stand up to any sporting event in America or around the world.

Every World Cup sees a huge swell in soccer's popularity, and while many people forget about the game in the weeks and months afterward, each time there are still many fans who stay on board. Every time we creep closer and closer to having five major sports.

jdthomps@willamette.edu

# Bearcats have high hopes for upcoming season

CONTINUED from Page 1

Entering the season, the NWC football preseason poll has Willamette again coming in third place behind Linfield College and Pacific Lutheran University, who are ranked fourth and 19th, respectively, in the D3football.com preseason top 25 selections.

“We play in a very tough conference. In 2013, there were four teams from the NWC ranked in the top 25 at one time or another. The top four teams in the NWC can compete with most playoff teams,” Fowles said.

These are the same two teams who have been responsible for all of Willamette's losses each of the past two seasons. They also broke the national polls after the final game, ranking No. 25 in the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA).

The schedule does not make it any easier, as the 'Cats will be pitted against each of these teams in back-to-back road trips, playing the Lutes on Oct. 25th and then traveling to McMinnville to face the Wildcats on Nov. 1st.

However, with a solid returning core of players, including NCAA Division III Second Team Preseason All-American senior linebacker Jack Nelson, Willamette will be ready for the challenge.

“When you focus on doing your job, it makes it easier for the other guy, so that's what we need to do,” said Nelson, who was a finalist for the 2013 Cliff Harris small college defensive player of the year award, in an interview with the Bearcat Network. “In every game you learn from your mistakes and you have to move on in order to prepare for the next one.”

Although graduating seven starters on defense, including First Team All-NWC Cornerback Tyson Giza, the team will still have plenty of depth, especially with senior outside linebacker Brendan Manion, who was third on the team in total tackles and second in tackles for loss last season.

On offense, the Bearcats are return-

ing most of their key players, including First Team All-NWC senior wide receiver Derek Traeger who led the team with 67 pass receptions for 808 yards and 11 touchdowns. He was also first in the NWC in touchdown catches and second in yards and receptions.

Leading the running attack for Willamette last season was Second Team All-NWC selection senior Taylor Wyman and Honorable Mention All-NWC senior Dylan Jones, who will look to do the same again for a quite diverse Bearcat offense.

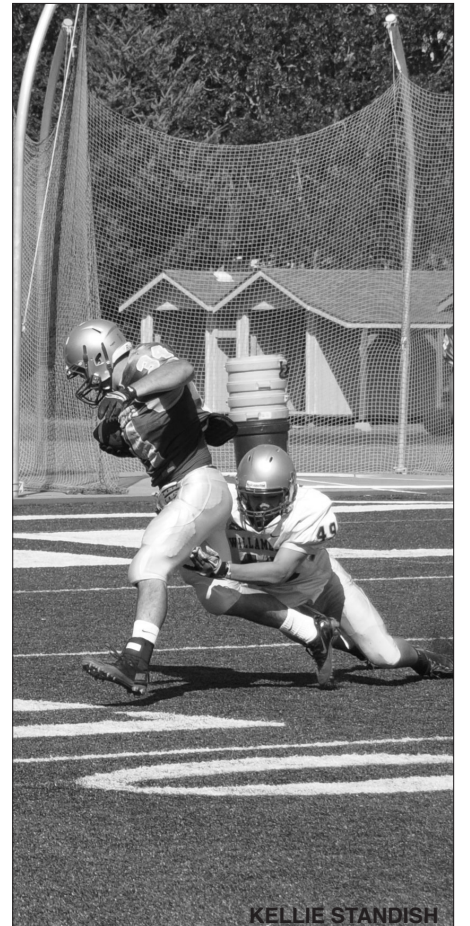
“We're a team that can pass the ball, but can also run it so it shows we have both sides of the offense,” Traeger said, via the Bearcat Network. “Having both really helps us put points up on the board.”

While this season will present new challenges for the 2014 squad, Fowles thinks the team is capable.

“We never let any element dictate the way we play,” he said.

The first game and home opener is set for Sept. 13 at McCulloch Stadium at 1:30 p.m..

egidding@willamette.edu



KELLIE STANDISH



KELLIE STANDISH



KELLIE STANDISH

Our Bearcat football players work hard in practice to overcome the new challenges that they will face this coming season.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE 8/27-9/2

Sport	Date	School	Location
Men's soccer	Aug. 29	Lake Forest	Lake forest, IL
	Aug. 31	Loras	Dubuque, IW
	Sept. 1	Carthage	Kenosha, WI
Women's soccer	Aug. 31	Cal Lutheran	Thousand Oaks, CA
Volleyball	Aug. 29	Fairleigh Dickinson	Seguin, TX
	Aug. 29	Wisconsin Oshkosh	Seguin, TX
	Aug. 30	Concordia	Seguin, TX
	Aug. 30	Schreiner	Seguin, TX

## Knickerbocker incites change for Willamette rowers

HOLLY PETERSEN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Reba Knickerbocker was just hired as the head coach of the Willamette rowing team last November, and she is already making moves to revamp the program.

Her first order of business is to introduce rowing to more people on campus and raise awareness of the sport.

In the past, the team has tabled at the annual activities fair in order to try to recruit rowers.



KELLIE STANDISH

Coach Knickerbocker welcomes a challenge.

"The problem with the activities fair is that people don't realize that we are a varsity NCAA team," Knickerbocker said. "It's a time commitment, there's traveling involved, you're part of a team. It's not a recreational thing."

Therefore, she has set a new plan in motion.

"We are now offering a three week class, so it's an easier way to see if you like it. If you do like it, you can join the team and become a novice rower," she said. "The class will teach the introductory basics, like the parts of the boat, how to carry it, how to put it in the water and everyone will also get a chance to actually get in the water and row."

What separates rowing from other collegiate sports is that every school has both a novice and a varsity team.

"It is a sport that you can step into without having any experience rowing, or any experience being an athlete really. Students get to come on and be brand new and compete against others who are also brand new," Knickerbocker said.

In fact, only three of the eight women currently on Willamette's varsity team had rowing experience prior to entering college.

One of those three, junior Sarah

Fish, has high hopes for the upcoming season under the new leadership of Knickerbocker.

"It's great to be in a program with someone who not only has high expectations for us, but actually believes that we can achieve them. It creates a great cycle of positive reinforcement leading to better results," Fish said.

After establishing more of a presence on campus, Knickerbocker has other big goals for the year.

"Next, I want to create a culture of rowers who are proud to be a Willamette rower, are competitive against other crews and are willing to push themselves as far as they want to go in the sport. Then, I want to take the team to an NCAA Championship," she said.

While Willamette only has a women's crew team, the class will also be open to men who are interested in learning about the sport. An informational meeting will be held this Sunday, Aug. 31, from 2-3:30 p.m. in the Prothero classroom on the first floor of Sparks.

The class will begin on Sept. 2, and the rowing season will kick off on Sept. 16.

hpeterse@willamette.edu

## A late season Mariners fan



MAX  
CRADDOCK  
COLUMNIST

Many of the complaints lodged against baseball have to do with its slow pace, long, open-ended duration and lack of excitement.

These complaints reverberate especially with those poor souls who have been Mariners fans this past decade.

Since Seattle last made the playoffs in 2001, the team has amassed a record of 904-1040, resulting in an average record of 75-86 per season. The team has also often failed to generate enough offense to support their typically solid pitching rotation, as well as often overpaying washed-up players past their prime (I'm looking at you, Richie Sexson).

However, a new day appears to be upon us.

In this past offseason the Mariners parted ways with their mustachioed manager Eric Wedge and replaced him with a fiery hitting coach named Lloyd McClendon.

The team also signed Robinson Cano to a 10-year, \$240,000,000 deal that will be giving him \$24,000,000 per year until he's 40. Although it is terrifying to think of paying a 40-year-old man \$24,000,000 to be a productive baseball player, Cano, as of now, is still tremendous and has injected the Mariners with a much needed dose of talent and turned a team full of hacks into a legitimate playoff contender.

But these aren't the only reasons you should start paying attention.

### Offense is back

Alright, I may have exaggerated a little bit. The team is still batting a disappointing .246, but the team is hitting the ball better than last year and have seen some impressive individual performances.

And along with Cano, 2014 has seen breakout seasons for third baseman Kyle Seager, who improved his batting average from .260 to .275, and Michael Saunders, who went from hitting .236 a year ago to .276 this season. The Mariners are finally watchable again.

### Pitching is still king, and The King is still pitching

The King, Felix Hernandez, is having perhaps the most underappreciated season of all time.

Hernandez is 13-4 with a 2.07 ERA, and just had a record-breaking streak snapped in which he had 16 straight starts of at least seven innings without allowing more than two runs. The 28-year-old is pitching in meaningful baseball games for the first time in his MLB career and has the potential to win another Cy Young award.

The soft throwing but surprisingly effective Hisashi Iwakuma and 35-year-old Chris Young are also having great years on the mound.

### Baseball matters again in the Pacific Northwest

To put some perspective on how long it has been since the Mariners were in a playoff series, the country was barely a month removed from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the first Shrek movie was No. 1 at the box office, and Kylie Minogue's "Can't Get You Out Of My Head" was the No. 1 song on the radio. Ever since then, the Mariners' seasons have been meaningless by mid-June.

So I urge you, in the name of Ken Griffey Jr., to show some Pacific Northwest pride and cheer the Mariners on to the postseason.

mcraddoc@willamette.edu

# Sometimes Sparks doesn't have it all

NINA BERGER  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

First off, let me put it out there that ever since the remodel, Sparks has been one of the best gyms I have ever worked out in. The possibilities are endless. You have fantastic cardio options, free weights and machines and exercise classrooms that make those quarter-credit classes seem pretty enticing.

The only problem is that I lack the motivation and creativity to go to Sparks and create workouts that target my cardio, strength and core. I have therefore found that, for me, the best way to work out consistently and have fun is to participate in exercise classes.

But when it comes to exercise classes, I have found that Sparks is ultimately lacking.

Sure, you can sign up for a class or two, but you are stuck and committed to that same core/body or yoga class for three months at the same bloody time every day. When I look at exercise classes I want to be able to choose what I want, when I want it and when I want to go to it. Thus, I made the decision to join a gym off campus.

After examining my options, I finally settled on Courthouse Fitness in West Salem. The drive typically takes me 10 to 15 minutes, but it is worth it every time.

The gym offers your typical weight room, a cardio floor, a six-court basketball gym, an outdoor and indoor pool, a locker room with full sauna facilities and over 60 different group exercise classes weekly.

They offer everything—your typical cycling class in a 30 or 60 minute format, strength training, dance classes, mixed martial arts, yoga, pilates, core, water aerobics and some that combine cardio, strength and balance into one class.

Plus, these classes are offered at various times of the day, so I can fit them into my busy school schedule.

Now, this all sounds fine and dandy in writing, but actually experiencing

these classes is a whole different story.

My first class at Courthouse was a 30-minute core class. I entered the room, and the first thing I noticed was the giant fan on the ceiling.

The fan was so powerful that there was a strong breeze in the room throughout the duration of the class. Sometimes, in workout classes, the rooms get too stuffy and the experience is ruined. But this classroom was designed perfectly to prevent that sweaty stuffiness and allow maximum space.

I was welcomed into the room by the class instructor and a staff member of the gym. They soon realized I was new to Courthouse and they helped me set everything up and gave me the rundown on what was to come, with some of the most positive attitudes I've ever experienced. It must have been all the endorphins, or maybe something in the water, because these ladies were energetic balls of fitness sunshine.

The class was the quickest 30-minute class I have ever taken. We went through about 20 different core targeting exercises working my obliques and lower and upper abs.

By the end of it all, I was completely satisfied with my workout. The staff members from earlier met with me to discuss the core class and other classes that would be good for the style of workouts I am looking for.

They gave me some real perspective on what Courthouse Fitness has to offer, and promoted the fact that the gym is a community and not just a place to work out.

I am excited to try out all the classes that Courthouse Fitness West Salem has to offer. I am even more excited about being part of a community of people who want to see everyone thrive and achieve their fitness goals. If you are looking for a gym that offers instruction along with workout equipment, I suggest you look to Courthouse.

nberger@willamette.edu



NINA BERGER

After the 5 p.m. active class, Anna Walling sports a sassy confident pose.



NINA BERGER

A class attempts to recuperate after class.

# Parties are the problem

CONTINUED from Page 1

Calls for a dismantling of the two-party system are merited in every way, but these criticisms imply that the two parties are the source of the problem. They're more likely a symptom of current electoral policy.

According to Duverger's Law, it's common for a first-past-the-post (FPTP) voting system to end up with two major parties.

So, if the voting public is angry with a two-party dichotomy, it would make sense to act on electoral reform. Given that the rhetoric has been around for as long as our country has (even George Washington stated his concerns regarding the two-party system), why haven't Americans at least tried to change the way we vote?

FPTP isn't the only method used to democratically elect politicians. For instance, the proportional representation system allocates seats in the legislature based on the percentage of votes political parties receive at the polls. As a result, there are more than two parties in the countries using this system, giving more representation to different political ideologies.

However, the public consciousness does not seem to blame the system for allowing a two party duopoly to occur. The political woes in Congress are more often attributed to greedy and ineffective politicians, not voting systems.

Perhaps that's the case—electoral reform may be absolutely futile in changing American politics. It's not as if those countries that adopted proportional representation suddenly resolved every single problem that politicians elected by 51 percent of voters could not.

However, perhaps some of these issues could be related to problems in our electoral system. Voter participation could certainly be improved, and if people had more than two choices, they might be more likely to cast a vote.

By increasing participation, people may end up being more active in politics and not just during election cycles. Politicians would be under far more public scrutiny and would feel more accountable for their actions.

Proportional representation is an extreme example of electoral reform and perhaps not even possible in the United States, but if we want to inspect and evaluate the problems with a two party system that we complain so often about, maybe it's our election process that should be altered in order to be made more accessible to a wider variety of ideas.

[zboyden@willamette.edu](mailto:zboyden@willamette.edu)

## Letters to the Editor

We invite you to submit letters to the editor. Letters are limited to 150 words, must include your name and must be submitted by Monday at noon on the week of intended publication.

The *Collegian* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. Please email letters to <[zsparin](mailto:zsparin@willamette.edu)>.

The *Collegian* invites its readers to submit corrections for publication. Errors found in print can be sent to <[zsparin](mailto:zsparin@willamette.edu)> and will be corrected in the next edition of the paper.

# Don't stay a tourist in your new home

KYRA SUTHERLAND  
GUEST WRITER

I grew up a proud Seattleite. Starbucks was my coffee of choice, I laughed at people who carried umbrellas and I was a loyal part of the twelfth man, whether I liked it or not.

I loved my little suburban town by the airport. So when I enrolled here, one state over, I felt like a confused tourist.

College often means finding oneself starting over completely, as if for the very first time, and it can be terrifying.

Everyone and their mother has advice for us on how to feel comfortable at college and avoid homesickness.

Freaked out freshman or still squirming senior, I have one tip: GET OFF CAMPUS.

Not just once in a blue moon for a movie or shopping spree at the Salem mall, but frequently and with a spirit of exploration. The self-sustaining community of a college campus means that we don't need to step foot off campus for an entire semester, but I implore you to do so anyway.

Some people are completely self-sufficient and don't need to feel connected to their surroundings and their community in order to feel comfortable with themselves.

More power to them. The college campus can be enough for many students, but there are plenty of people out there who need a community larger than a city block to feel at home.

However, for anyone attached to the idea of home, feeling like a part of our community is as important as the classes we take, because it adds to the college experience and helps us understand ourselves.

Take this advice from someone fresh out of the transitional period. Even though I worked off campus for the entirety of my freshman year, driving



EMMA SARGENT

Bubbles. Bubbles everywhere. Maybe you should leave your dorm room for once and see what the rest of Salem has to offer?

straight to and from work three times a week did nothing to get rid of my vague feeling of discomfort.

That feeling changed when I got an apartment in Salem and stayed for the summer. Suddenly I had to find the nearest bank, the cheapest grocery store and the best burger place.

I have gotten to know the town so well in the last three months that I rarely have to use GPS. Getting my bearings here comes with an attendant sense of belonging in the town, of not just being a confused, long-term tourist. I feel more confident and ready to handle school, work and everything else because I feel at home in Salem.

That being said, you don't need to own an apartment or even a car to get Salem feeling like home.

You can wander aimlessly downtown with friends, get to know all the best shops or hop on a bus (on weekdays) and take a trip out to Lancaster

Drive to the east or Commercial Street to the south.

Volunteer at a charity for a week or make it your mission to try a new restaurant every Saturday.

Just find a way to get to know the town, and soon you will find the same joy and excitement opening your dorm room door as you do opening the door of your childhood home at the beginning of winter break.

I still enjoy visiting Seattle and seeing my old friends and cats and parents, but I am proud to call myself a blossoming Oregonian.

When I drive familiar roads in Seattle, I have fond memories of my childhood, and though I will always have roots in a little town called Burien, I am happy to have found a new home for myself where I can grow beyond who I was as a child.

[ksutherl@willamette.edu](mailto:ksutherl@willamette.edu)

# It's her hammer

MAGGIE BOUCHER  
OPINIONS EDITOR

"Whosoever holds this hammer, if he be worthy, shall possess the power of Thor."

While this might be the current inscription on Thor's hammer, there will be a slight change to it this October.

Marvel Comics has announced that Thor will now be a woman in the comic books.

Even though Marvel is not completely devoid of heroines—they are the creators of Black Widow, Captain Marvel (formerly Ms. Marvel) and Elektra—this will only be their eighth title to star a female protagonist, behind a never-ending list of male characters.

Thor has been a man since 1962, and most of us probably think of the superhero as Chris Hemsworth, who will remain the face of Thor in movie theaters for the next three installments. So it's no surprise that this change has sparked some very mixed reviews from fans.

Some are calling her "Whor" and are complaining that the writers have taken feminism too far.

But they haven't.

Times are changing. According to market research, 46 percent of comic fans are female. Axel Alonso, Marvel's editor-in-chief, said in a statement to comicbeats.com, "If you go to conventions and comic book stores, more and more female readers are emerging."

However, Thor's change of gender isn't the only modification that has been made.

The African-American character Sam Wilson will now hold Captain America's shield and DC Comic's

Green Lantern was re-launched as gay.

Why? Because white males aren't the only ones who like comics. If almost half of your readership were female, don't you think it would make sense to give them more characters with whom they can relate?

If characters can change race and sexuality, characters can change gender, too.

Call it feminism. Call it a wise business choice. Call it attention seeking.

Yet, whatever we call this change doesn't matter, because we are focusing on the wrong side of the relationship between character and reader.

Instead of asking why Thor is now a woman, we need to ask ourselves why we read comic books.

Do we only read them because a character is a man or a woman? No. We read books because we can relate to their characters and situations. Or,

as British novelist and screenwriter William Nicholson put it, "We read to know we are not alone."

A story is about the reader, not the character. Just because Harry Potter is a boy doesn't mean I can't see myself in him; just because Katniss Everdeen is a girl doesn't mean guys can't relate to her.

Why should Thor be any different? It's great that Marvel has started to reach out to those of us who are underrepresented in comic books—but if the story is good and the characters are real, gender, race, sexuality and everything else that makes up a character shouldn't come into play.

Who cares if we are reading about a guy or a girl or a blue unicorn? As long as we aren't alone, that's all that matters.

[mboucher@willamette.edu](mailto:mboucher@willamette.edu)



Although Thor has been male for over 50 years, this October Marvel is changing the character's gender to female.

# Finding your niche

JESSICA DAVISON  
GUEST WRITER

I will probably forget my first night at Willamette, but for now, the memory is still strong in my mind.

We had finished our area parties and my roommate and I had migrated back to Baxter around 11 p.m., but we didn't end up in our room until 2 or 3 a.m.

We met our hall mates and began chatting in the middle of the hallway. Eventually we sat down, and before we knew it, two had turned into four had turned into over half of our hall getting to know each other.

The next night was the Decades Dance, and my roommate and I found ourselves drawing tattoos in eyeliner on some hall mates. From then on, we decorated our hall for Halloween together, watched movies together and ate dinner together.

My hallway was the first place at school where I felt like I was part of a community.

My experience living on campus that first year is the reason that I, as a senior, still live on campus.

Here are a few reasons why you should give on-campus housing a second chance:

You know those hall programs your community mentors throw? Go to those. Because whether or not you participate in that particular event, your fees paid for it, and there will probably be free food.

And who doesn't like free food?

Also, as a community mentor, I am sure your CM would love for you to get involved and help plan an event that might be more to your liking.

Your CM is also a great resource. Yes, they are employees of the University, but they care about you and their hall.

If you need help, ask them.

Even if they don't know the answer right away or can't help, they can probably find out or point you toward someone who can.

I opted this year as a senior to have a meal plan. Why? Because the never-ending possibilities for involvement on campus keep me so busy, and I don't want to waste time cooking.

I want to make music with my friends, sit in the Bistro and go to club meetings. Plus, many good relationships start over a tasty meal.

Ultimately, you learn a lot about yourself—which TV shows are the best to binge watch in the hall lounge with your friends, the best flavor of ice cream at Montag and which friends are worth staying up for.

I will forever remember my Opening Days experience and first semester; staying up to the wee hours of the

morning chatting with my roommate about important things and then making weird noises and faces at each other the rest of the time.

I have fond memories of the community built in my hall during my first year at Willamette, and now, in my final year, I find myself living on campus, still holding dear the value of community.

My best piece of advice for everyone on campus is to seek out a community here.

Whether it is in your residence hall, a club, your work or your academic department, find somewhere that you want to be, with people that you want to be with.

That will make your four years here feel like home more than anything else.

*jldaviso@willamette.edu*

## Who's your 'anam cara?'



KELLIE STANDISH

Ninety percent of college friendships are sparked by students complimenting each other's sun dress. Don't become a statistic.

KELLY ROSE OSTER  
GUEST WRITER

I get to see my best friend about once every year and a half.

A few weeks ago I went to visit her, and two Christmases ago she came to my house. A year and a half before that, we met for the first time on a warm, early September evening on the banks of the Mill Stream during a game of truth or dare, just a week into my freshman year at Willamette.

Maybe it was the heightened emotions of those first weeks away from home, when it seemed like everyone you met would become a fast friend. Maybe it was the fact that my previous best friend of four years had ended our friendship suddenly, on the second-to-last day of senior year, with a Jane Austen-style letter detailing her hatred of me.

All I really know is that I was ready for a change. However it happened, one thing is for sure: That night next to the Mill Stream, I met my soul mate.

I don't mean soul mate in the romantic, Nicholas Sparks, Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet,

Disney movie kind of way.

Kayleen is the salt to my pepper, the Wayne to my Garth, the Amy Poehler to my Tina Fey. She's my other half, my missing piece, and I didn't even realize she was missing until I found her. She is my soul mate because we can spend a year and a half apart and when we finally meet up, it's like we've been side by side the whole time.

Last summer, I stumbled across a Gaelic phrase, "anam cara," which means "soul friend" and references ancient Celtic spiritualism. In this tradition, the soul radiates out from the physical body, and when you meet your anam cara, your two souls begin to meld together at the edges.

Your anam cara is a person with whom you are completely open and trusting, whom you hold in the highest regard. They can see the true light and beauty in you—being around them makes your soul brighter and stronger.

I didn't know it the night we met. I didn't even know it at the end of the first semester, when we had to say that gut-wrenching goodbye. But I know it now.

Kayleen is my anam cara.

They say that in college you meet people who you will know for the rest of your life.

In addition to the deep bond with Kayleen, I have formed other strong friendships in my three years at Willamette. I would be truly surprised to hear of a student who spent four years here and left without forming at least one friendship that deeply impacted his or her life.

With this in mind, I encourage you—the members of the class of 2018, to cast aside your fears and reach out to your new community. Perhaps you too will be lucky enough to find your anam cara in these first few weeks.

To returning students, there is still time. Take advantage of this community—this group of special people—and make the most of your ability to form a friendship with a classmate, co-worker or fellow Bistro-goer.

So go ahead, reach out your hand—your anam cara could be waiting just around the corner.

*koster@willamette.edu*

## Smooove move



MELE ANA KASTNER

# SUDOKU

Input a digit from 1 to 9 in each box, so that every row, column and 3X3 subregion contains each number exactly one time without repetition.

							2	
		5	1					
		7				6	9	
				6	9			
8								5
								4
6							1	
			4	7				
2	9							

	9				1	2		3
		2	3	4	8			9
5						8	7	4
3	8			9				
		9	6			3	2	
	6	7					8	
7		8						9
	4		7	3		6		
1				5				7

8				9				4
5			6	7				
6	1		8	3				
	6			2				
					8			5
2					1			
4	5							
			7				6	
1	6			8	9		3	2

7	5				4		2	8
			2	5				3
			9	8				5
1					8			9
3					6			
						8		6
					2		3	
	8	3			9	4		
	9							

# CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

CONTINUED from Page 3

July 3- Aug. 23, 2014 | Information provided by Campus Safety

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**August 11, 12:45 p.m. (Smullin Hall):** Campus Safety received a call that an individual was exposing and playing with himself in front of the caller. The caller reported that as she was calling Campus Safety, the individual fled. The officer arrived on scene, but was unable to locate the suspect. A short time later, Campus Safety received another call, stating that a man matching the description from earlier was leaving the University and heading across the street to the Capitol. The officer made contact with Oregon State Police and together they went over the security footage for the capitol grounds, but they were unable to identify the suspect.

## SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

**August 20, 5:20 a.m. (Physical Plant West):** Campus Safety re-

ceived a report that a suspicious individual was attempting to steal equipment. The officer was unable to locate the suspect. The caller reported that the suspect had been carrying a container full of tools that he "found in a trash can." Once the caller began questioning him, he put the container down and immediately began to leave the area.

## THEFT

**July 3, 12:30 p.m. (Art Building):** While on a routine check, an officer found that the fire extinguisher in the Ceramic Studio had been stolen.

**July 6, 5:05 a.m. (University Apartments Parking Lot):** Campus Safety received a call stating that two male subjects were breaking into a car. When the caller saw these individuals, they immediately fled the scene in their vehicle. The officer arrived on scene to find a vehicle with its rear passenger window shattered. After locating the owner, it was determined that the only missing item was a printer that had been in the back seat.

**July 13, 12:40 p.m. (Doney Hall):** An officer responded to a call regarding a stolen backpack. The reporting party showed the officer where the backpack had been set before it had been taken.

**August 22, 12:52 p.m. (State Street):** During move-in, a student noticed that some of their bags that they had arrived with had not made it into their room. A report cataloging the contents of the bags was made and information for an insurance claim was gathered.

**August 23, 12:45 p.m. (Matthews Hall):** A student called to report that their bike had been stolen. The student stated that the bike had been secured outside with a cable lock. The student reported that the bike had been seen roughly 45 minutes prior to the cable being cut. The student was given the number for Salem Police Department's non-emergency services.

**\*PLEASE CONTACT CAMPUS SAFETY IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THESE INCIDENTS.**

## Opportunities to get involved on campus through ASWU:

- All Sustainability Committee
- Board of Trustees
- Campus Religious, Spiritual & Ethical Life Committee
- Committee on the College of Liberal Arts
- Academic Status Committee
- Late Night Eats Director

## Columnists wanted:

Check your inboxes! The *Collegian* is currently accepting applications for columnists in the Sports, Lifestyles and Opinions sections of the paper.

## Freshmen, are you interested in serving on ASWU Senate?

Check you inboxes for an email coming this week!