

THE COLLEGIAN

Willamette's Independent Student Newspaper Since 1889

Your College, Your Paper, Your Stories



Staff Roster

Editor in Chief | Emma Innes
Managing Editor | Jett Starr
Media Content Manager | Josie Elicker
Business Manager | Gus Gunter
News Editor | Amaya Latuszek
Lifestyles Editor | Monte Remer
Sports Editor | Skeet Starr
Opinions Editor | Bella Montalvo
Assistant Media Content Manager | Assitaou Coyle
Advisor | Sarah Schneider
Mascot | Boots the Duck

Writers

Gia Patel, Alan Cohen, Bjorn Domst, Sean Olson, Ned Martin, Emily Embleton, Priya Thoren, Jimmy Simpson, Ernie Samora, Jackson Garrett, Mary Vickery

Photographers and Graphic Designers

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

In this issue:

News:

- PNCA Arthouse hit by gunfire at start of Winter Break
- Items stolen from the Outdoor Program office for the third time since 2021
- \$1.6M bill: WU upgrades Wi-Fi network

Lifestyles:

- UC Strikes Sends Waves Felt in Oregon
- An (Andrew) Fresh Start

for Willamette Campus Safety
- Finds from the Willamette Archives

Featured:

- Opinion: Ranking Taylor Swift Albums
- Willamette's Athletic Facilities Symbolizes its Past

Sports:

- What is a Sport?

- Willamette Rugby Club in Shadow of the Fall, Faces Uncertain Spring

Opinions:

- WU's "Strategic Plan" and "Climate Action Plan" Should Align in Order to be Effective
- Laundry Rooms on Campus are Suffering: What is the Solution?

FEATURES

Opinion: Ranking Taylor Swift's Albums

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"

"Reputation" flirts with the sound of EDM and modern rap without much success in either one. I understand what the album is going for—projecting a mean reputation only to reveal the real, vulnerable Swift finding love—but I also understand what the creators of "The Human Centipede" were going for. 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. This album is country trash, but it's my trash. 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. 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. Except for the great "Hey Stephen," every song in this album is simply good. From this point—in eight out of

MONTE REMER
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

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 impeccable. "Evermore" is the rain pattering against the library windows or pumpkin-spice coffee from the Bistrot. The album applies Swift's storytelling to a sound that's like something from Lord Huron. Swift in her Folklore-Evermore Era is like if the lo-fi girl became an indie musician.

Sixth: "Lover"

"Wait, what?" you ask. "This is so weird. What even is this beat? Oh, wait. 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.

Fifth: "Speak Now"

Taylor Swift's voice is the perfect complement to 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. "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 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 any errors.

Third: "Folklore"

I think storytelling is 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"

One day, when I was stopping by my dorm to exchange books for other books, I heard a song coming from my neighbor's window, "Sweet Nothing". I set down my things and listened to the rest of the song. When it was done, I listened to the birds chirping, to people talking and laughing outside. 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, listen and smile." There's a lot I could say about this album, but I know that it will always remind me of my time at Willamette, the future stretching out before me and the present insisting that I slow down and enjoy the now. Give "Midnights" a listen. I think it'll make you smile.

FEATURES

Willamette's Athletic Facilities Symbolize its Past



Art by Macy Loy

**NED MARTIN
STAFF WRITER**

and tennis teams. He retired from Willamette's faculty in 1962, but coached the tennis team until 1972. Sparks died at the age of 82 in 1979.

McCulloch

Bearcat Football plays home games within the gates of McCulloch Stadium, named after Charles McCulloch. McCulloch served as the president of Willamette's board of trustees during the late 1940s and early 1950s. In 1947, he donated \$50,000 to the stadium's \$1620,000 building budget. McCulloch also donated "the rare 1632 edition of Shakespeare's Second Folio to the university."

Cone

The Cone Field House got its name from June and Edwin Cone. The couple met at Willamette University during the 1940s and moved to Eugene after graduation. They must have kissed under the star trees. June was named one of the seven outstanding seniors of her graduating Willamette class. Edwin soon after became the mayor of Eugene for 11 years. June played an instrumental role in the community as the first lady. She won numerous awards, perhaps her most notable being membership in the Travelers Century Club. Only people who have traveled to 100 countries in their lifetime are members. Willamette honored the couple by naming the chapel and

field house after them in the 1980s.

Gordie James

The Gordie James court got its name from, you guessed it, Gordie James, who coached men's basketball for 22 seasons from 1987 to 2009. He guided the team to a 357-230 record. James helped the Bearcats to the 1992-93 NAIA Division II National Championship. The university dedicated the court to his name-sake on November 20th, 2010.

Roy "Spec" Keene

The baseball stadium in Bush Park is named for Willamette hall of famer Roy S. "Spec" Keene Keene's coaching career at Willamette was illustrious. However, nothing can top the unbelievable circumstances his team faced December 7th, 1941. His team was in Hawaii to play the University of Hawaii. After the attacks on Pearl Harbor, he and the players were enlisted to defend the beach and lay barbed wire. Not until Christmas day did the team make it back to the mainland, getting passage on a luxury cruise turned hospital ship. For his coaching career, his team won 19 conference titles across 36 seasons coaching basketball and football. In 1989 the school honored him with the construction of the stadium, 12 years after his death.

John Lewis

The John Lewis field gets its name from another hall-of-fame coach: John Lewis. From 1947-1973 Lewis served as the school's athletic director. Simultaneously he coached the baseball and

basketball teams for 24 and 20 years. He won 9 conference championships between the two teams.

Conclusion

These have all been important figures to Willamette's story, however, we must realize all but one of these people are men, and all are white. As this school claims to focus on the diversity of its student body, perhaps new buildings or remodels should be named for under-represented and diverse figures of Willamette's past. It is not to take away from these legacies of Willamette's finest, but to say Willamette has not named any of its buildings in a way that exhibits diversity.

The names of buildings and facilities not only shape the way we view our past, but also shape our future. Willamette's history is marked by progressivism. Its first graduate was a woman, and the first black man to graduate from the university was 20 years before Congress desegregated the nation. However, it is not free of white supremacy. Willamette's founder Jason Lee originally used the land that is now Willamette's campus as a Methodist mission school, with the goal of "educating and civilizing" the Native children. These types of schools anglicized native children and ran rampant with abuse and the erasure of native cultures. The message here is that Willamette's past is not perfect, but the university has an opportunity to take steps toward further progressive symbols to shape its future for years to come.

Items stolen from the Outdoor Program office for the third time since 2021



Art by Anaka Ramakrishnan

On January 6, 2023, during winter break, Baxter and Montag complexes were broken into by an unidentified individual with criminal intent. This unauthorized entry caused several items to be stolen from the Outdoor Program office. Items were also stolen from a dorm in Baxter and a bike from the Baxter bike storage, as reported in the Campus Safety report.

According to Outdoor Program Coordinator Aliya Schwartz ('23), the break-in occurred right before a week-long training trip, and several items necessary for the trip were stolen from the office, including sweatshirts, food, and two pot sets. "We got out later than we wanted to, but we didn't cancel [the trip]," Schwartz stated.

"This is not the first time we've been broken into. We asked for security cameras last year. We hope that whoever keeps getting our stuff is putting it to good use."

**ALAN COHEN
STAFF WRITER**

Schwartz mentioned concerns regarding Willamette's response to the incidents. "What's not good is how the University has handled it," they concluded, referring to the number of thefts at the Outdoor Program Office despite the new security cameras and other measures.

Andrew Fresh is the new director of Campus Safety and Emergency Management. Fresh stated that the individual had entered Baxter through a window, although specific details about the entry are not publicly available due to security reasons. Fresh added that the individual "found their way through Baxter, down into Montag, where the thefts occurred. Things were already set out in plain view for a group that was leaving that next morning."

In attempts to increase security, Willamette has installed additional alarm systems throughout Baxter and Montag, as well as increased lighting and camera surveillance. Currently, there is no identified suspect, although Fresh stated that the individual was probably "a homeless person in the area, by way of the items that were taken, as well as the mode of entry." He additionally mentioned that "if a suspect is identified, they will be fully prosecuted."

"The criminal ele-

ment that we have around the Salem community is targets of opportunity. People are looking for things to steal. I would recommend that everybody locks their doors, makes sure that their windows are properly secured and their blinds are closed, especially over extended breaks. It is a community effort; we need to look after one another. If you see something that looks wrong, call [Campus Safety]," Fresh concluded.

This is not the first security incident the Outdoor Program office has experienced, since similar break-ins were reported in November and December of 2021. After both incidents, former Director of Campus Safety Ross Stout stressed the unlikelihood of new break-ins in Montag thanks to added security measures. Yet, the Outdoor Program office has had three in slightly over a year, which resonates with Schwartz's concerns over Willamette's handling of the security incidents. In addition, a recent spike in bike thefts (in Baxter and other halls) raises security concerns and mistrust from members of the Willamette community in fear of being subject to theft or other security violations.

As new security measures are created by Campus Safety, students are left with uncertainty and skepticism, hoping this is finally the last security incident the Outdoor Program office has to experience.

A Letter From the Editor

Dear Readers,

During the Fall 2020 semester, The Collegian moved completely online to comply with Willamette policies for the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, The Collegian executive team has made the decision to return to print. Our goal is to publish once every three weeks, while continuing to publish on our website.

The mission of The Collegian is to accurately report on matters of interest to the Willamette Community. This mission is best served by being an in-print newspaper, easily accessible and visible to everyone on campus.

This is a new chapter for us, as all the current staff joined after the switch to online publication. As we adapt back to print publication we appreciate the Willamette Community's support and understanding. I would like to extend a special thanks to my staff, who worked hard to put this issue together and conducted excellent journalism.

Sincerely,
Emma Innes
Editor-in-Chief

\$1.6M bill: WU upgrades Wi-Fi network

Regardless of your device or location, chances are high that you are currently using a Wi-Fi network to view this article. If you are almost anywhere on campus, you are very likely using any of the networks that Willamette University provides. But, did you know that these networks were changed during the summer, and many important changes to them are still being made by WU?

According to Casey Feskens, director of infrastructure at Willamette University, the Wi-Fi network was changed “primarily because it was aging beyond the standards of client devices, and we didn’t have wireless access points that were up to modern standards.” Feskens noted that WU also changed network providers from Cis-

co to Aruba, and that “we’re still in the middle of adding the wiring that’s needed to support additional access points.”

Campus-wide changes to the Wi-Fi network are still in progress, but Jackie Barreta, the chief information officer at WU, stated that the total cost of the upgrade is estimated at 1.6 million dollars. This includes new access points across campus (including in residence halls), switch devices compatible with the new access points, licenses and contracts with the network provider, infrastructure upgrades, and new wiring, among other costs.

During the beginning of the fall semester, many students and faculty members reported poor network connectivity and limited access to

the Wi-Fi network, especially in Eaton hall. Nonetheless, Feskens stated that there have been no recent reports of the network not working, and the temporary issues that caused limited coverage in Eaton are now fixed. In addition, he mentioned that “there are some areas of coverage in large classrooms of the law school that [they] are trying to address.”

Despite the new access points installed and infrastructure upgraded, some students still have concerns about connectivity in some parts of campus. Kate West (‘26) reported having problems with the network in Eaton Hall at the end of the fall semester, and Lucas Da Veiga (‘26) stated that the third floor of Eaton “has gotten better over the course of

ALAN COHEN
STAFF WRITER

the [fall] semester,” although speed remained poor. Da Veiga also stated that some parts of Mathews Hall also lack proper connectivity. In addition, Elliot Earles (‘26) claimed that the Wi-Fi network works “very well most of the time, but there are a lot of deadzones.”

Students and other members of the WU community remain hopeful that the final stages of replacing Wi-Fi networks on campus will leave WU with high-quality, fast and widespread access to the internet. In addition, users are encouraged to report poor connectivity, slow speed and ‘deadzones’ to WITS so they can utilize user-provided information to address network issues accordingly.

PNCA Arthouse hit by gunfire at start of Winter Break

The ArtHouse Residential building located near the Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA) campus was caught in the crossfire of a shooting on Dec 17, 2022. Two residential windows were hit, with one of the residents being inside when the bullet struck their window. Additional bullets from the shooting hit the first floor of the building as well. The shooting occurred in a city park across the street from the residential building, and there is no evidence that points to the ArtHouse being the target for this incident. This is not the first incident with Arthouse,

as it was hit with gunfire over fall break 2021.

M Powell, the area coordinator of the ArtHouse building, was in their room when one of the stray bullets hit the window next to their bedroom, and explained their experience and the response PNCA had to the shooting. “Police were on the scene really quick,” they said. “Luz [RA on duty] and I went through with the police, looking for any evidence like the bullets. We taped up both of the windows just to hold them together as best as we could.”

Powell specified that they wanted to make “sure

we [them and Luz] were there the next morning for anybody that wanted to talk to us, for anybody that wanted to ask questions and process what had happened. It was move-out day, so it was really tough timing to try and hold any collective space, but we just offered that space and at the very least offered donuts. We also offered to hold conversation space for students when they came back.” After the ArtHouse shooting, Powell emphasized that PNCA would be increasing its mental health resourcing presence on the campus, stating “we are now going to have some-

GIA PATEL
STAFF WRITER

body eight to five on PNCA’s campus, like at a counselor Monday through Friday. And that was not the case before.”

Powell highlighted the importance of counseling and therapy during these critical times for recovery saying, “I still feel some anxiety in my body about it. I’m working out with a counselor that I’m seeing myself through our employee assistance program, and I encourage others to do

Continued on pg.5

NEWS

Continued from pg. 4
the same.”

When asked if Powell anticipated a similar incident happening again, Powell responded, “I think it very well could, we are in a really urban area and there’s a lot of stuff that goes on at night.” The new Director of Campus Safety and Emergency Management, Andrew Fresh, had a very similar response when asked if PNCA anticipated a similar circumstance. “It is in an urban environment of downtown Portland, and unfortunately we face the same problems as any urban city here in the US, with those

random acts of violence. There was nothing upon reviewing this incident that we could have done differently to prevent or mitigate that incident.”

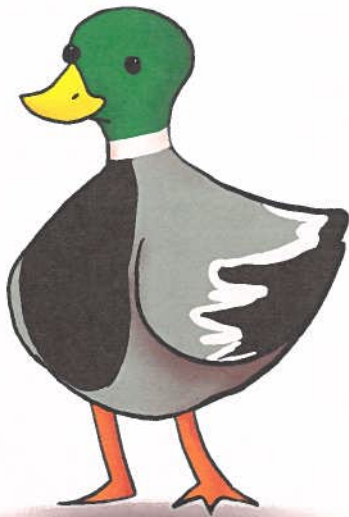
Fresh, who has been in his position for about 90 days, brought to light that the ArtHouse building is leased through private companies for residential housing purposes, which could account for any delays in the security process. He also expands on the counseling events that were staged after winter break, saying “we actually staged, on the first-day people came back, a social at Art-

House and campus safety, as well as administrators from PNCA there in the lobby, to welcome students and confront any issues or answer any questions.” He goes on to say that “to just anyone that was affected by this, we are offering up counseling services and such through Bishop.”

However, these narratives contrast the ones sent to The Collegian anonymously, as the tip states “The day it happened, I reached out to the PNCA dean’s office asking what would be done to improve student safety, calling the email urgent. I only got a response 11 days later

after I emailed again saying their response would determine whether I return for another semester.” The tip continues on, saying there was little to no communication from PNCA about the incident to students who were not directly involved. A similar incident occurred during fall 2021 over thanksgiving break, when the ArtHouse was caught in a similar crossfire, which the tip emphasizes as well. Overall, both Fresh and Powell stress that they and PNCA are extremely concerned with student safety and continuously hope to provide resources for students

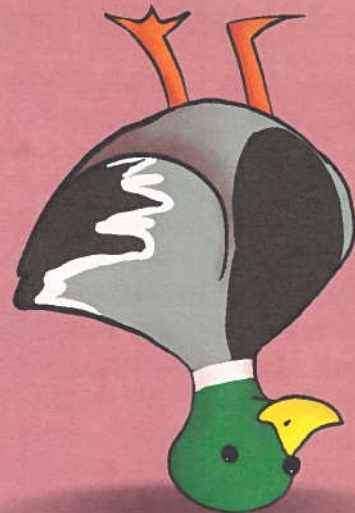
GET QUACKING!



YOUR AD HERE!

Contact us at
collegian-editor-in-chief@willamette.edu

Have an Event?



SEE IT HERE

LIFESTYLES

UC strikes send waves felt in Oregon

In December of 2022, California workers engaged in the largest higher education strike in the country. Almost fifty thousand workers across nine campuses up and down the Golden State used their power to force a new “national standard” for workers. But why did education workers need to stage a strike? After all, college professors make six figures on average, a much higher salary than the average American worker.

Employees in universities have little job security, without the promise of tenure (a permanent post at the university). Until recently, Ph.D.s were available to too many candidates. This trend caused a glut of eligible professors for universities to choose from while the applicant pool had to deal with a lot of debt. Instead of raising wages to account for inflation and expanding staff to account for the debt these universities burdened students with, schools decided to shrink the availability of Ph.D.s by requiring applicants to not only be admitted to the program, but also receive grants. Over time this may result in better conditions for workers. However, in the short term, workers decided their employers needed to do better.

All concessions were the result of union negotiations with the administration. As a result, employees received a 66% wage increase over the next three years. Additionally, there was an agreement to include child-

care benefits for graduate assistants. While in smaller cities this raise is enough, but some locations, such as where University of California (UC) Berkeley and UCLA are, like UC Berkeley and UCLA are more expensive to live in than other schools, yet the pay increase is marginal to less expensive cities.

With all the facts of increased pay, it remains clear whether or not this is truly a win for labor organizations. The answers will come in the next few years when the current contracts expire. But this major win for labor did happen first in California. Instead, it was the result of years of organizing across the country to combat the same problems UC employees ran into, a study found that “between 2013 and 2019, 188 new faculty unions were certified or recognized.”

This begs the question: what has Willamette done differently than the UC schools? And what can we learn from their approach? Seemingly Willamette has much less revenue, relies on the staff more so than the UCs, and champions progressive politics in their classes. The reason for this is a mixture of in-house work by the university and the legality of organizing a small liberal arts school.

The “in-house” work was done years ago by a past Dean that changed the system by which tenured professors receive wage increases. Before the current system, professors

negotiated their base salary, then each year the administration would raise these salaries by a percentage, say 5%. This system created an unfair pay scale because professors did not start with the same base salary. To solve this issue, the administration placed all professors onto the same 30-year payment plan that started at 60 thousand dollars a year and could end at around 120 thousand dollars a year. Additionally, the University has worked at creating a much more secure job in comparison to larger state schools.

Who better to explain the security of employment than Willamette’s History Department head: Professor Bill Smaldone. He has taught in Salem since 1991 and has been witness to multiple administration shifts throughout the years. Smaldone has authored five books and numerous scholarly articles focused on class struggles. Describing struggles on behalf of Willamette faculty, he explained that this job security is quantified with “about 85% of all faculty now are on the tenure track, whereas nationwide, it’s like 30%, 40%, depending on where you are...We also have a group of non-tenured track but permanent faculty who are paid a higher rate at a higher rate and sometimes have benefits that adjuncts who teach course by course don’t get right...Then we have a small minority of people who are what we call continuing non-tenure track.” This has kept the professors

NED MARTIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

satisfied and minimized the need to unionize.

But why are they legally unable to organize? This is due to a court case from the National Labor Relations Board v. Yeshiva University 1980. The court decided (5-4) that, “faculty members of a private university were de facto managerial employees and therefore were not entitled to the protections afforded to regular employees by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), or Wagner Act (1935), about forming collective bargaining units.”

While state schools will likely experience similar union activity to California this past month, professors at private universities won’t have the same legal protections. The key issue has been tenure, or the lack thereof. Universities are trying their best to end tenure for professors.

This is incredibly important because of the debt one must incur (in the USA) to earn a Ph.D. and then teach at a college. Willamette has been at the forefront of increasing the job security of professors and minimizing turnover. Hopefully, this trend will continue and Salem can remain a safe place for experts to teach the next generation.

A recent development on campuses is that student workers have tried to unionize at the Universi-

LIFESTYLES

Continued from pg.6
ty of Oregon. In Eugene, the goal has been asking for better mental health resources, more flexible scheduling, and a pay raise due to high inflation." And while the 1980 Supreme Court decision barred full time employees of private schools from union, there has not been a determination on the legality of student-workers forming a union. The University of Oregon union has not yet gathered enough traction to force the administration's hand. Al-

though, it is worth noting this union is still in the early stages of organization. If given the legal protections this group should receive, there is no reason to doubt the potential power they can wield on campus. There is good reason to believe labor will continue to organize in higher education because, as Smaldone said, "the victory in California is a clear victory...It's a sign, a signal to other places, other states," that organizations will improve their wages and workplace experience.

An (Andrew) Fresh Start for Willamette Campus Safety



Photo of Andrew Fresh from willamette staff website

At the end of a 35-year career as Willamette's Campus Safety Director, Ross Stout left large shoes to fill. Though we won't be seeing a massive revamping of the overall system anytime soon, it's safe to say that Andrew Fresh understands the challenges that will come with being the new Campus Safety Director. "There is institutional knowledge that is gained over a 35 year career with Ross and that is something that can't be taught out of a book," he said. Fresh also noted that every location has its own quirks and difficulties. So long as he goes in expecting them, they shouldn't be too hard to manage.

Fresh comes into

the job with a vast array of tools he plans to utilize. "I'm bringing my own institutional knowledge from the outside," Fresh claimed, and with a 20 year career in various law enforcement positions—including the FBI and the DEA—he'll be drawing from a lot of experience.

Fresh hasn't made any sweeping changes so far, and that's for good reason. As he believes, "in any type of new environment, there should be a 90 day soak time" at the very least. He's been spending the past months identifying problems and places for improvement, hoping that he'll more clearly be able to understand what needs fixing before jumping in too hastily. "The last thing I want to do is come in and make immediate changes until I've had a chance to observe and see what needs to be fixed, if anything."

One thing he has been working toward is a stronger network of security blanketing the local Willamette University area.

BJORN DOMST
STAFF WRITER

With the Capitol Building right across the street and Salem Health only a short walk down the road, it makes sense that the three important complexes should work together to solve the issues confronting them—many of which are the same. By not treating each location as an individual entity, Fresh hopes to form a "synergistic relationship" that will benefit everyone.

Fresh also said that he's enjoyed Willamette's culture and that everyone has been welcoming. He has felt a sense of freedom in the new position, as Willamette has been very accommodating of his plans for implementing new programs and strategies in the future. "There are always places for continuous improvement," he said, and with the authority to make alterations, Campus Safety can keep moving forward in the right ways.

Improving is important, especially when

LIFESTYLES

Continued from pg.7

problems lurk around every corner, often when you least expect it. Fresh hopes to increase awareness of the various measures we can all take to keep ourselves and our belongings safe. Campus Safety will use what resources it can, but "there is nobody more responsible for a person's security than themselves," he emphasized. One potential change he hopes to establish in the near future is a public safety awareness campaign through weekly updates or something similar. Remembering to lock doors is a good start, but staying safe on campus goes beyond that; it takes conscious effort to avoid danger. If people ignore the safety measures already established, then bad things

can happen.

A public safety awareness campaign would also allow Fresh to aspire to an important ideal of his, keeping Campus Safety "student facing and student focused." He believes that there should always be open avenues of discussion between students and security officers and invites student groups that have questions to come in and speak about their issues. Not only are there opportunities for solutions to arise from such a meeting, but more importantly it can achieve a mutual understanding between Campus Safety and the student body.

It's no secret that when people talk about Campus Safety, it tends not to be in the most positive light. Fresh understands this, but also asks that stu-

dents keep in mind that "whether it be security or public safety in general, unfortunately our interactions have to do with a negative event which has impacted someone's life." When a Campus Safety officer provides assistance in painful circumstances such as an assault, burglary or theft, there is an automatic negative association that's likely to leave a bad memory. It's important to remember that the officer was not at fault for the initial problem, though. Campus Safety responds as they can and deals with the policies and procedures they are allowed to work within. Fresh added that even if there might be things they'd like to do differently, they either lack the necessary resources or are limited by formerly established

policies.

As a final thought, Fresh wants to remind students that Campus Safety provides a multitude of services at Willamette, beyond security on its own. Many are likely aware of the officers' ability to assist you when you're locked out of a dorm, but if you ever feel unsafe, they are available to escort individuals across campus during the night as well. A Campus Safety officer is never too far away on Willamette's grounds—even through potentially short-staffed hours, response times have remained quite fast. Even handling 30-35 different calls in a day, Fresh and the entirety of Campus Safety will strive to maintain a "service-related mindset" in everything that they do.

Finds from the Willamette Archives

The beginning of Greek life

An issue of "The Willamette University Alumnus" from January 1927 observes the beginning of Greek life in real time.

The uncredited author of the article "New Societies for Old" says that fraternities are usurping the place in campus life once held by literary societies. "This is an age of specialization," he says. "General erudition is generally looked upon with disfavor. We seek specialized scholarship rather than culture and

with this change comes change in student societies." Instead of joining societies which study Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony, members of the author's generation were joining fraternities focused on subjects like forensics or the social sciences. Alpha Phi, for instance, began as a fraternity for the dramatic arts.

Campus was a battleground

1919 was the first year of "Alumnus," but the magazine's writers still had decades

of Willamette history to look back on. In fact, the June issue featured Charles B. Moores, who described himself as a "...reputed relic of prehistoric times." He recalls how the campus used to be enclosed by a railway fence and that Willamette's west end was a wheat field.

Moores also painted a picture of Willamette during the Civil War. He said "...the campus was something of a battle ground, with Union troops greatly predominating. Republican and Democratic families seldom communed

and among the students there was great political friction."

The only Civil War battle of note on campus was between students Bill Cross and Lafe Williams on the athletic field. Williams was a Democrat and Cross a Republican, and the two wrestled on behalf of their respective sides. It was a Union victory and—fifty years later—Moores got in touch with both to find that Williams had been voting Republican ever since.

MONTE REMER
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

SPORTS

Willamette Rugby Club in the Shadow of the Fall, Faces Uncertain Spring

Willamette Rugby Club (WRC) players are stirring from winter hibernation, but remain shadowed by the uneasiness of their fall season. Following a handful of semi-serious to serious injuries, and confusion surrounding the school's guidelines, fall rugby season was clouded by general discontent. While culprits and blame are difficult to pin down, the fact remains that the WRC demands an examination.

According to co-captain Nate Rutter ('24), and club president Aiden Schubert ('25), issues arose for rugby from the outset of the school year. A first year player put his head on the wrong side of a tackle during a reportedly low speed drill, concussing him and putting him out of action for the semester. Rutter explained, "Everyone going into this has to understand there are risks associated with rugby." Truer words could not be spoken. According to Wayne State College Nebraska, rugby union players run into contact more than 20 times per game. Considering the experience level of most Willamette players, the risks may not be so clear to them.

SKEET STARR
SPORTS EDITOR

Rutter himself only began playing the sport last year, and most players have even less experience. The violent nature of the game causes less experienced players to not only receive more injuries, but cause them. New players tend to tackle higher, create more haphazard tackles by being weak in contact, and move the ball poorly, leaving their teammates scrambling and vulnerable. Rutter explained that the club saw three notable in-game injuries during the fall season. Team captain Adam Remily ('25) suffered a broken pinky, and in WRC's game against Western Oregon, two WOU players received injuries including one involving a player's neck, which required an ambulance. Such instances are not uncommon in the sport. In Willamette's case, without film their cause cannot be perfectly identified. However, their occurrence contributes to a general mood surrounding Willamette men's rugby. According to a representative from the Lewis and Clark and Reed College joint rugby club: "Their [WRC's] tackling is too high, they are uncontrolled in the rucking area, and



Photo by Macy Loy

their lack of a coach made for an extremely unsafe tournament environment." They continued: "Our coaches brought these issues to the league and while what the team was doing was technically legal, the league is going to be changing rules to provide a safer environment for rugby moving forward after the Willamette tournament." Club president Schubert mentioned the issue in conversation. He explained that the club has had problems with high tackling in the past, and that they are now working hard to remedy through better training.

Men's rugby's shaky track record in the fall speaks not necessarily to any negligence or malice, but rather to a lack of resources. Speak with any rugby higher up and you will most certainly find a person who seems to work hard for the game and their teammates, and wants to have the best club they can. However, for the WRC, im-

provements can be made. Since rugby includes more violence than other sports, it requires more care. According to Rutter, rugby has had major problems with funding. Schubert explained that the club missed their funding window this fall, and had little recourse but to pay for supplies out of pocket, which they did. Rutter specifically noted a lack of quality equipment. Willamette Rugby Football Club (Willamette's predominately non-male rugby club) president Mary Vickery ('24) explained via messages that her club experiences similar problems navigating Willamette's club funding system. She also described an instance which occurred last season in which a player suffered an ankle injury due to the poor quality of the quad. More so than money, however, rugby requires time and attention. Like most all Willamette students, rugby players have many commitments

SPORTS

that outrank club sports. Rutter remarked, "That's the Willamette way." Each rugby club expresses a good attitude towards safety. Rutter specified, "I would rather people prioritizing their safety over prioritizing the game." However, a higher prioritization of the game improves safety.

Neither club has a true coach. For comparison, the Lewis and Clark and Reed club has four, each certified by USA rugby. According to Schubert, he technically has a USA rugby coaching certification, but faced several computer crashes which impeded his learning process when obtaining the license. Furthermore, it's unrealistic to expect Schubert to be able to take on the coaching duties of such a high impact sport alone, while also practicing himself. One player-coach cannot reasonably maintain perfect focus on both their own training and the training of brand new players. For the fall 15s (fifteen a side rugby) season, tackle training for first-time players was structured around a system older club members had learned in past years. Rutter, who helped lead the training admitted, "There wasn't as much structure to it as I would have liked."

USA rugby will host a coach's training session in Chuckanut Bay, WA in February, where

the clubs can certify more players as coaches. Club president Schubert stated that the club plans to certify one more player coach for the next season. However, on the WRC's small budget, a trip to the Canadian border as well as the fee for the class may be out of reach. Alternatively, the Salem Rugby Football Club (SRFC) which participates in the Pacific Northwest Rugby Football Union, hosts open practices for adult men and women in NE Salem. Even better than an increase in player coaches would be a genuine coach, which admin loosely, and somewhat enigmatically prohibits. The Willamette Men's Soccer Club has two "tactics advisors" serving functionally as coaches but not official coaches (granted they both attend Willamette and play soccer for the Men's squad). Willamette may be able to find a coach within the SRFC's four teams who would be willing to take on a role at the Willamette clubs. Again, such a move would likely require an increase in club funds, and a bending of school rules.

An experienced coach or a more experienced set of players could help guide the team to a higher quality rugby future, and keep an eye out for unsafe situations. Rugby is a beautiful expres-

sion of human capability, and it deserves a place in the Willamette community. Given its inherent violence, the game demands respect as a sport and art-

form. For Willamette, that respect could start in the form of funds for a trip north, and a stronger relationship with the SRFC.

What is a sport?



Art by Macy Loy

ERNIE SAMORA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During my latest poker night, I brought up that poker used to be broadcasted on ESPN, resparking an old debate I've been having since high school. Can poker, and other niche athletic activities, be considered a sport? It doesn't feel like a sport to me, but if it airs on the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, how could it not be? As the world grows more complex, our understanding and definitions of concepts within the world must carry more nuance. With the growing popularity of esports in recent years, it seems our understanding of sports is vastly different than what it used to be. Now that I am a sports writer, I should probably know what a sport is. So, I set out to answer the question: "What is a sport?"

Oxford Dictionary defines sport as an "activity that you do for pleasure and that needs physical effort or skill, usually done in a special area and according to fixed rules." This definition feels rather vague to me. It leaves too much up to interpretation. Looking into ESPN's broadcast, you'll find the usual suspects, soccer, football, basketball, and other widely popular sports. The network is also known to air other more niche programs such as poker, horse racing and eating contests. Does this mean ESPN considers these activities sports? Labeling some of these as sports feels a little overzealous to me even though they fit Oxford's definition. As

Continued on pg11

SPORTS



Continued from pg. 10

a result I decided to search elsewhere for the true definition of a sport.

In order to answer my question, I spoke with three individuals who could provide a valuable perspective in my search for sporting truth: Leslie Shevlin, Associate Director of Athletics, Taylor Hamura ('23), member of the Willamette Dance Company, former cheerleader and lifelong dancer, as well as JD Willis ('24), pitcher for the baseball team, avid golfer and fishing enthusiast. There were some commonalities across each of my interviews. Every interviewee seemed to agree that sports require a few key components: competition, skill and some degree of physical exertion. The skills involved in sports were often said to be ones that not everyone can do, a talent that has been honed through extensive training. Even if others can do your activity, not everyone can be great at it. Take bowling for example. Bowling is a popular recreational activity that most people can participate in. Being able to participate in competitive bowling requires a great deal of skill.

PAGE II

“People train their whole lives to bowl 300s,” said Willis. Dance and cheer are other activities which require a great deal of skill. “I know I couldn’t dance or cheer, it takes skill,” said Willis.

The element of competition does not necessarily mean an activity is a sport. Shevlin spoke on the idea of an outcome, a clear winner and loser; an objective way to tell who performed better. However, with dance and cheer, the judging is based on more subjective measures. “Was it clean enough? Was it creative enough? How much energy did it give?” are just some of the factors dance and cheer competitions are judged on, said Hamura ('23). This is part of the reason why Hamura argues these are more art than sport. Their main purpose is to tell a story and express yourself rather than to determine athletic superiority. It should be noted that cheer competitions are generally considered to be a sport by those interviewed, and tumbling is listed as an emerging sport by the NCAA Cheering on the sidelines of sporting events lacks a competition element, which causes some to hesitate in labeling cheer a sport.

The idea of an objective outcome continues with the topic of fishing. Willis argues that fishing is a sport, citing skill, knowledge and a degree of talent, but Hamura disagrees. “There are a lot of outlying factors, like luck,” she said. This is consistent

with Oxford’s definition requiring a set of fixed rules. So sports are standardized, looking the same anywhere you may play them. Fishing could look vastly different at different locations, leaving its sports status up to question.

A sport requires some exertion of physical energy. Each interviewee was quick to dismiss poker as a sport on the grounds of little physical exertion. While there is a great deal of skill involved in poker, it doesn’t take a great deal of energy. Despite airing on ESPN, it seems that poker cannot be considered a sport. It is here where I began to discover the subjectiveness in the physical action required to deem an activity a sport. Your skill is important, but a certain level of effort must be displayed. Eating competitions seem to hit most of the requirements of a sport; they are competitive, you have to train and not everyone can eat food at that rate. While Hamura considered them sports, there is not enough physical activity for Shevlin and Willis to be able to consider them as sports. “I consider it more like a skill,” said Willis.

Horse racing and other equestrian activities are similar points of contention in the discussion of sports. Willis and Shevlin believe these to be sports as it takes some level of control to excel in them. Not everyone can do it. However, Ha-

mura argues, “no, because there are no humans doing anything. It’s a competition.” Shevlin brought up that other activities, such as band and orchestra, require “a certain physical threshold that you have to have to participate and be able to do those things,” without a certain level of exertion they are separated from sports.

Exertion remains a problem when discussing billiards and cornhole. To some, the hand-eye coordination and level of control needed was enough athleticism to deem them a sport, but Shevlin argued against this, claiming “I’d more consider them a game as opposed to a sport.” Esports were generally considered a sport by all. Although the level of physical exertion is not as high as other sports, a great deal of concentration, precise movements and hand-eye coordination is required. It seems the complexity of esports as compared to billiards and cornhole allow it to elevate to the title of sport.

Sports seem to be a physical activity that is standardized and scored objectively. There needs to be a level of talent involved, it cannot be done by just anyone. Although the level of physical exertion required is rather subjective, there needs to be more than you may exert during everyday activities. If these all apply to your activity, well then you just may have yourself a sport, my friend.

Opinion: Laundry rooms on campus are suffering: what is the solution?

PRIYA THOREN
STAFF WRITER

Piles of clothes sit on chairs and machines stay full in the Southwood second floor laundry room. The backlog of students needing to do laundry grows as some clothes remain in the small room for weeks at a time. The laundry system at Willamette University needs to have more enforced rules and regulations in order to stop inconveniences like these from happening.

As a first year student at Willamette, I was unaware of the past laundry system. Resident Advisor (RA) Safia Goldsmith ('24) described the situation: "What happened was [the university] actually put the laundry payments on pause for Covid-19, but it was only because it was a state of emergency. It was unexpected and so they managed to find the funding to allow students to not have to pay. They simply brought it back once they found that Covid-19 was not as big of a deal any more," she said. The cost of the machines brings up the question of whether this is having an effect on the untidiness and crowdedness of the room, because this seemed to be less of a problem last year. People may be desperate to get a large

amount of clothes done in one load of laundry. In addition, the influx of freshmen this 2022-23 school year has filled up Baxter Hall and caused Kaneko to provide first year housing as well.

The same pile of laundry sitting on machines for days at a time with ambiguously washed or unwashed clothes is a concern that has not gone unnoticed by a handful of residents. "I noticed a couple weeks ago that someone managed to leave their laundry in a pile in the laundry room for like a week. And I was really surprised because if I do laundry, it's because I have to do laundry, like I'm out of socks type of thing, so I can't manage to go a week without getting my laundry. So honestly, that was a little bit surprising, but people just forgetting about it for a day or two is not surprising and not uncommon," Goldsmith said. The laundry room is a shared space, making it all the more important for cleanliness to be a team effort. Taking out your laundry when it's done will not only benefit you, but is a simple sign of respect and consideration for your peers

whom the room also belongs to. Residents having a bit of leeway while keeping this in mind is okay, but it is vitally important to set boundaries when it comes to laundry and picking up after themselves. At a certain point it needs to be brought to their attention that incidents like this are not okay.

A possible solution to prevent forgotten clothes finding a home in the laundry room could be to enforce stricter rules on residents. RAs are assigned to the laundry rooms, and they are able to send out emails to their halls regarding any concerns and reminding them of certain tasks, according to Goldsmith.

Besides issues caused by students, Goldsmith explained how the laundry rooms do come with their own set of hindrances. Donney Hall flooded in the middle of last year, Goldsmith mentioned. Overall, the laundry rooms have been the main source of flooding on campus. The upkeep of the machines are not that great, but requests regarding them do normally get fulfilled within 24 to 48 hours. "Even though they're washing clothes, they don't really get washed themselves," she said. This is something that only the university can take care of, maybe pivoting some attention to the upkeep and sanitation of the washing machines and dryers.

Goldsmith explained a bit about the money system that the machines are currently using. When asked about her opinion on the charging for laundry this year, Goldsmith's response was: "I do think that we should go back to making it free, or maybe charging everyone a standard fee for upkeep instead of making people pay. That's what we do for a lot of the other plumbing stuff, like the CAFES; everyone is just opted into a 25 dollar payment and then that goes towards the funding that anyone can use for any program. It seems a little bit more appropriate," she said.

The laundry rooms appear to be an aspect of campus that many students are seeing issues with. In order to combat this and make the spaces better, it is important to address the problem head on and make sure residents take accountability for their actions and that the institution as a whole does its part in remaining diligent when it comes to cleaning these facilities. Emails are a great way to avoid calling out singular people and address the community as a whole. By keeping the laundry rooms clean and organized and being aware of fellow residents' time, the system will be more cohesive.

Opinion: WU's "Strategic Plan" and "Climate Action Plan" Should Align in Order to be Effective

Since the start of the Fall 2022 semester, President Thorsett's weekly "Words from Waller" emails have been focused on Willamette's new "Strategic Plan". The Strategic Plan outlines a new direction for the university that will allow it to stand apart from other liberal arts institutions and better prepare students for the complex challenges facing our generation. The plan was modeled to uphold the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets three areas on campus to invest and expand on: Big Data and Human Centered Computing, Democratic Institutions and Climate Change.

The President's Office's dedication to sharing the Strategic Plan through the "Words from Waller" emails could be an exciting opportunity for the student body to get involved—if these emails contained any concrete actions or plans about the ways in which the university intends to implement these changes. Unfortunately, they do not. Instead, the "Words from Waller" surrounding

PAGE 13

EMILY EMBLETON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

the Strategic Plan dole out vague information alluding to structural and curricular changes that occur beyond the realm of student participation. This is particularly questionable when it comes to the plan's climate focus and taking action towards becoming a sustainable institution, because that necessitates student participation.

So far the "Words from Waller" updates on the Strategic Plan have only mentioned the climate change focus once, in an email sent out on September 21st, which was a brief overview of the three targeted areas void of any planned actions. All the president's office had to share in regards to targeting climate change was that it is founded on the UN's SDG 13 ("Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts") and that "Climate is deeply interdisciplinary: entwined with topics such as ecosystem integrity, food and water security, public health, geopolitical stability, manufacturing and industry, transportation,

and technology. Over the years ahead, Willamette must integrate resources from across the university to prepare students for this complex, cross-disciplinary work."

The lack of concrete actions or opportunities for involvement in campus sustainability provided by the Strategic Plan shared through the "Words from Waller" complicates opportunities for student involvement in sustainability. Our university has an incredibly active and engaged student body that has proved commitment to ethical change and sustainability through student-led demonstrations and movements such as the climate rally against the Keystone XL Pipeline in the fall of 2021. Yet the general student body's willingness and ability to engage in sustainable change on campus is dependent on outreach, transparency, and guidance; three things the Strategic Plan and its climate focus are failing to provide.

I reached out to The President's Office's Provost Carol Long, Climate Action Alliance President Ian Curtis ('23), and Environmental Science Department Chair Professor Katja Meyer for clarification and elaboration on the Climate Change focus of Willamette's new Strategic Plan. Provost Carol

Long did not respond and Professor Meyer informed me that the Environmental Science Department has had no involvement in the creation or implementation of the Strategic Plan; they have no more information than what's been made available to the student body through "Words from Waller" and the Strategic Planning page on the WU website. Ian Curtis was the only person who agreed to an interview.

Ian Curtis (a senior Politics, Policy, Law, and Ethics (PPLE) and Economics double major, Environmental Science minor) is the standing president of WU's Climate Action Alliance (CAA) and was a member of the University Sustainability Steering Committee during the '20 - '21 and '21 - '22 school years, making him an excellent resource for issues of environmental sustainability and climate action on campus. Curtis "was a little bit disappointed in... the total quantity of how much content around environmentalism and climate change there was in [The 'Words from Waller'] emails..." noting that "a lot of what the administration has been working on [in terms of campus sustainability] has been pretty behind the scenes, which has been pretty frustrating as

Continued on pg. 14

OPINIONS

Continued from pg. 13 an activist.” Yet, the Strategic Plan’s Climate Change Focus is “not the whole picture” of sustainability efforts on campus. Willamette’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) has been a long time effort of the University Sustainability Steering Committee. Like the Strategic Plan, the creation and conversation around the CAP has been largely behind the scenes, but unlike the Strategic Plan the CAP was spearheaded by The University Sustainability Steering Committee, a diverse group of Willamette student representatives, administrators, and professors, rather than the distant Board of Trustees.

The Climate Action Plan is completely separate from WU’s Strategic Plan. Where the Strategic Plan alludes to structural and

curricular changes to address climate change challenges without stating any concrete goals, the CAP has an obvious overarching goal of making Willamette carbon neutral through five identified strategies, all with concrete action plans. These five strategies are: 1) Pursue on campus energy efficiency; 2) Switch to natural gas and electricity for space and water heating; 3) Lower transportation emissions; 4) Enhance flexibility to do online work and study; 5) Commit to fossil fuel divestment.

You can find out how The University Sustainability Committee intends to implement these strategies yourself by following the provided link in this article, and I implore you to do so. This is one of the first times outside of CAA/student activist



Photo by Macy Loy

outreach that the Climate Action Plan has been made widely available to the student body, thanks to Ian Curtis. Curtis informed me that the administration has been hesitant to publish the CAP partly due to not wanting to be held accountable to “follow [the plan] to a T” and partly because “they’re in the process of trying to link [the CAP] up with Salem’s Climate Action Plan, which... has been dealing with a whole bunch of problems itself”. Regardless of their reasoning, this admin hesitancy has ensured that “very few people on campus even know we have a Climate Action Plan”.

My purpose here is not to explain to you the contents of either WU’s Strategic Plan or The University Sustainability Steering Committee’s Climate Action Plan, but rather to question why we haven’t been made aware of these sustainability efforts

in the first place. Committing to sustainability is a communal act that will not succeed if there aren’t varying levels of involvement, from personal responsibility to major institutional change. Furthermore, I question why there is no overlap between these two projects as our only two institution-wide sustainability plans. Collaboration is essential if the university wants to actually achieve any of their sustainability goals, rather than dividing their resources between two separately functioning plans. The best way to implement both the CAP and the Strategic Plan’s climate focus is for the two to work together employing greater public transparency (eg. collaborative emails sent to the whole student body, adding the CAP plan to the WU website, etc.) and blatant opportunities for student involvement.

The Collegian is Online!

Twitter:
@WU_Collegian

Instagram:
@willamette_collegian



BOOTS AND GIGGLES

The Collegian Crossword



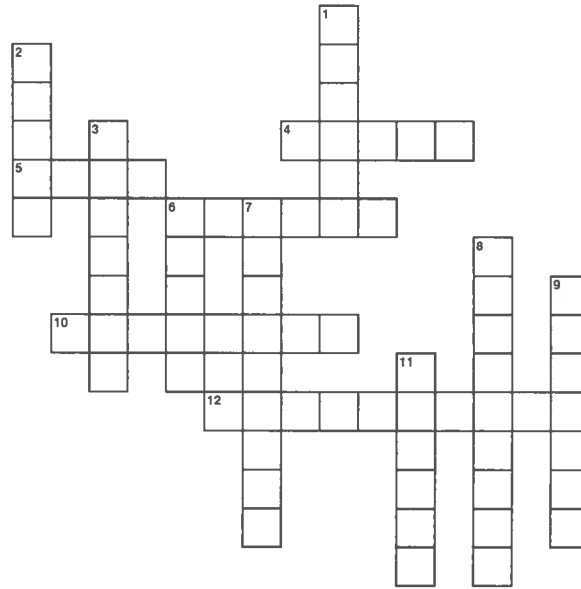
Boots the duck. Art by Minna Zhou



Boots the miscommunication. Art by Maille Olgay



Boots the almighty. Art by Chrissy Ewald



Across

- [4] The Willamette President
- [5] Don't step on the ___
- [6] Coffee and chill vibes
- [10] What WU sports team was in Hawaii during Pearl Harbor?
- [12] Monte's lowest ranked Taylor Swift Album

Down

- [1] This building was broken into over break
- [2] New Campus Safety Director
- [3] Across the street
- [6] The Collegian's Duck's name
- [7] This plan is disconnected from the Climate Action plan
- [8] Monte's top-ranked Taylor Swift Album
- [9] These rooms are now a mess
- [11] Willamette's former mascot

Finds from the Willamette Archives Contd.

MONTE REMER
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The January 1960 issue of "Alumnus" unearths knowledge that probably ought to have stayed buried in the past. Did you know that before Blitz the Bearcat, there was a monstrosity known as Barney Bearcat (pictured right)?



ney

Crossword answers- Across: 4. Steve 5. Seal 6. Bistro 10. Football 12. Reputation
Down 1. Baxter 2. Fresh 3. Capitol 6. Boors 7. Strategic 8. Midsights 9. Laundry 11. Bar-