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Oregon rent crisis suggestive of local government issues

 **DORIAN GRAYSON**
STAFF WRITER

Oregon is the fourth state in the U.S. in housing increases and is the third most unaffordable rental market. Shelter is a basic necessity and, according to research, 55 percent of renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing.

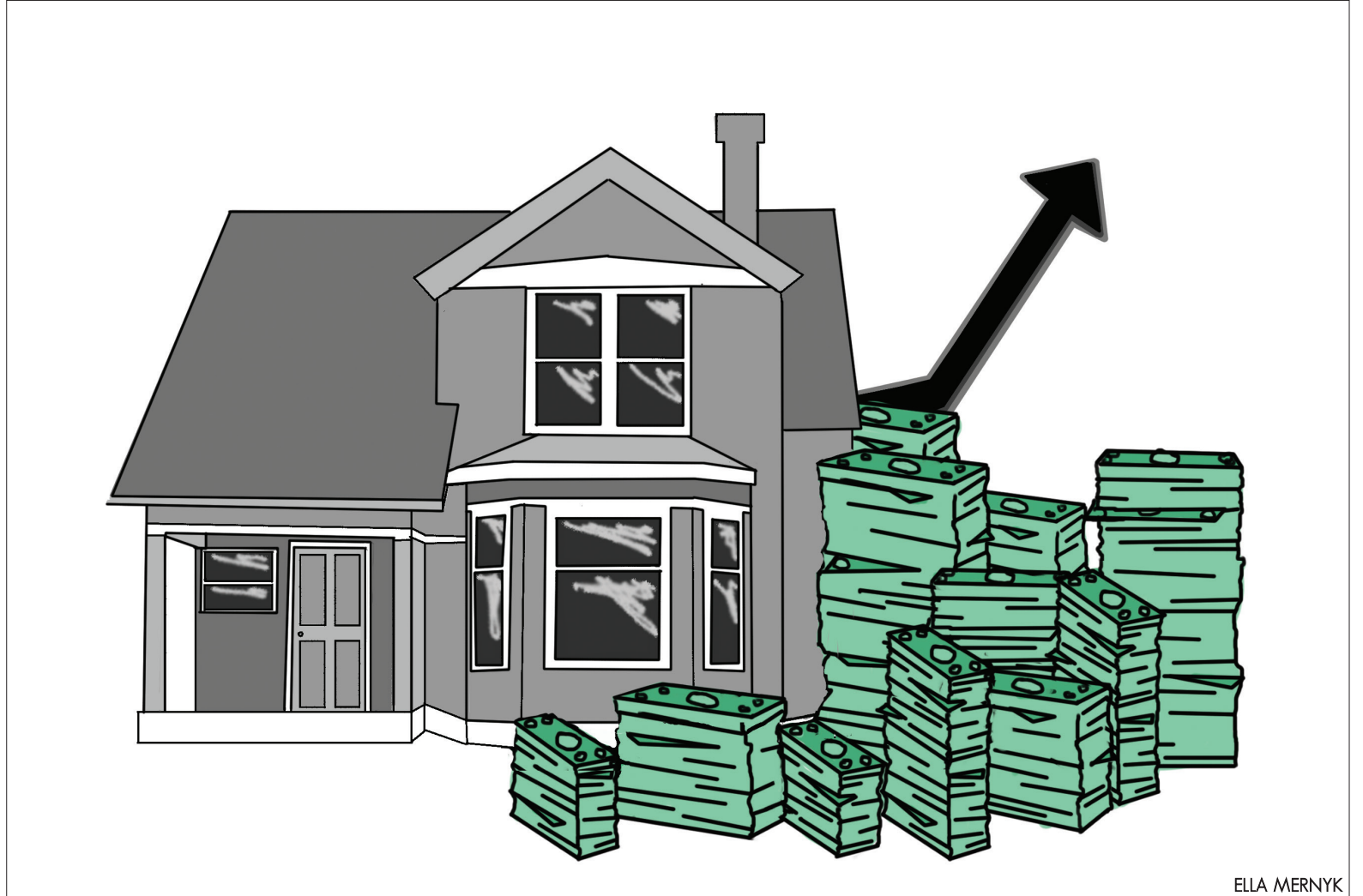
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon did some calculations to make the problem clear. The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$682. To spend 30 percent or less of their income on housing, the owners must earn \$27,298 each year. If earning minimum wage, that means working 74 hours a week, 52 weeks a year.

"There is not a single county in Oregon where a full-time minimum wage worker can afford even a one-bedroom apartment what HUD [Housing and Urban Development] determines to be the Fair Market Rent," Habitat for Humanity says on their website.

Some blame the new people in town. Portland, like the notorious San Francisco before it, has exploded in popularity. Apartments in Portland rise 14 percent annually. But the problem may actually lay in the city's practices, according to Alana Semuels for the Atlantic.

"In a city that prides itself on progressivism, many of the traditional tools used to create more affordability are off the table," Semuels wrote.

Inclusionary zoning determines that new buildings must



ELLA MERNYK

include a chosen number of affordable options. Oregon banned inclusionary zoning and only lifted the ban in March 2016.

More efforts have been put into the housing situation, as the Portland city council put forward a law that requires landlords give 90

days notice for no-cause evictions and rent hikes of over five percent. Portland's mayor, Charlie Hayes, budgeted \$20 million for affordable housing in North and Northeast Portland.

However, like the San Francisco crisis before it, many of the

city's citizens do not want the increase in density.

Minorities have been largely displaced to east Portland, commonly called "The Numbers" due to the high numbers of its street names. The Numbers is known for a preponderance of fast-food,

strip malls and polluted air. But now even that land is valuable enough to raise rents on.

See DEBATES Page 2

ACE hosts anti-Blackness workshop

 **CAROL LI**
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, March 15, Asian Coalition for Equality (ACE), an organization on campus that aims to bring awareness to Asian American identity and issues while supporting people of color, hosted "What's Really Good" Productions members Haniya, Adrianna, Jasmine and Malik who are from Oregon State University (OSU) and, "work to educate, advocate, resist, and turn up from a Black, queer, feminist, lens."

The workshop they presented entitled "Why You Always Hatin': Anti-Blackness in Communities of Color" aimed to promote a further understanding of how systems of oppression have, "perpetuated anti-Black and colorist ideals in past and present societies." About 30 people attended this "closed space for people with marginalized identities."

The presenters began by playing "Why You Always Hatin'?" by YG and gave introductions of their names, pronouns, and favorite quotes. To make

the point that anti-Blackness is global, the presenters mentioned how almost every country owned Black slaves at some point and how there is a derogatory word for a Black person in almost every language. One participant in the workshop conceptualized the idea that white supremacy is carried out through systems of oppression such as colonialism, capitalism and neoliberalism.

The presentation gave a few examples of anti-Blackness including microaggressions and cultural appropriation. To explain microaggressions, a video from Fusion played comparing microaggressions to mosquito bites. Some experience "mosquito bites" more than others and these can lead to the damaging or death of a person of a marginalized identity. One participant appreciated the comparison of a mosquito sucking blood to describe microaggressions because they are draining physically and emotionally.

See WORKSHOP Page 4

Softball goes 2-2 on the weekend



CONNOR WICKLAND

Freshman Maya Shipway, right, tries to get the out at first base against Pacific Lutheran over the weekend.

 **LOUIS KNOX**
STAFF WRITER

In a weekend consisting of two double headers, the Bearcats came out even. After being postponed due to weather, the series was moved from Saturday and Sunday to Sunday and Monday.

The first game was all Pacific Lutheran, who pulled off a 10-3 victory over the Bearcats. The Lutes offense combined for 15 hits, including a home run from junior the center-

fielder Emily McConnell.

The second game of the day was much closer. A 1-1 tie was taken all the way into the ninth inning. However, a big ninth inning for the Lutes left the Bearcats in a poor position and resulted in a 4-1 loss for the Bearcats.

On Monday however, the Bearcats had much more success. In just a five-inning game, they led by four RBI's from senior right fielder Stefany Dunn in route to a 11-3 Bearcat victory.

In the last game of the series, the Bearcats led off with a quick two runs, courtesy of a two run double from senior shortstop Mallory Asaro. The Lutes then came back with a three run second inning.

The Bearcats had the last laugh in the game with a clutch two run seventh inning giving the Bearcats just enough to win the last game of the series, 5-4. This would tie the weekend series at 2-2.

See BASEBALL Page 9

Debates over creating affordable housing

CONTINUED from Page 1

It isn't just Portland; all of Oregon is having these problems and so far, nobody can agree on how to solve them.

While the situation was initially caused by an increase in demand and decrease in supply after the Great Recession, it has grown beyond that. It seems that this trend will continue as long as some landlords and property owners are taking advantage of the situation to advance themselves.

"Here's one uncomfortable but very real problem," Tina Kotek wrote for the Oregonian. "Some developers and property owners are making excessive profit and benefiting from the housing crisis. Some may shrug and say that's simply supply and demand. But that doesn't make it right, and it certainly doesn't work for the Oregonians feeling the full brunt of this crisis."

In the article, Kotek advocates measures that will interfere in the market and ensure affordable housing through both suppression of rent and raising of wages. Others, like Jon Chandler, the head of the Oregon Homebuilders Association, believe that the solution is to increase the supply of housing to decrease costs.

"We needed to move forward," Chandler said. "Then you can actually have a productive conversation about how do you increase the supply across the board, none of which would have been possible if we were stuck on inclusionary zoning."

Whatever the solution, the housing situation is unlikely to improve until the state government addresses the issue.

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ASWU 2017-2018 election results:

President: Jack Wellman,
Class of 2018
Vice President: Joseph Landoni,
Class of 2018
Treasurer: Dana Morita,
Class of 2018

Al-Aqsa incident draws reactions

Conversations sparked about mental health and homelessness

JESSE SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

Hate crimes are often characterized by negative and harmful remarks about the perceived race or religion of a victim. The Salem community recently experienced an instance of hate crime close to home.

On March 11, 52-year-old Jason Kendall entered Al-Aqsa, a restaurant serving Middle Eastern cuisine, and began yelling slurs at the male owner. The incident began with an exchange of words during which Kendall yelled, "Get out, Arab!" in addition to other racialized, anti-immigrant declarations.

According to eyewitness accounts, the confrontation escalated when Kendall used what has been described as a plastic pipe to strike the owner in the head.

Community members immediately responded with support for the family in various forms. Locals came to eat at the restaurant to show support for the family, often leaving the owners with kind words of welcome and small gifts. The response was characterized as one of defiance and a show of the inclusivity of the local community in opposition to Kendall's remarks and actions.

Many locals expressed surprise at the incident, describing the attack as uncharacteristic of the Salem community. Others, including various Willamette students, took to social media to share how they felt that the incident was to be expected based on their own experiences of racism in the local community.

News of the incident spread far beyond Salem. On March 12, the Washington Post featured the headline, "Go back to your country, terrorist: Man accused of attacking restaurant employee with a pipe."

On March 17, an article appeared on mondoweiss.net titled "Victim's daughter responds to anti-Arab attack in Oregon: 'I don't want this to



52-year-old Jason Kendall verbally and physically assaulted the owner of Al-Aqsa restaurant on March 11.

be considered a hate crime." The piece is both a recount and an opinion on reactions to the incident by Laya Abdel-Jawad, a community health student and daughter of the restaurant's owners.

Abdel-Jawad notes that Kendall allegedly stated to police that he was attempting to free a woman he believed to be abducted and held in the restaurant. According to the daughter's report, the woman was her mother and was certainly not a captive. In an attempt to defend his belief that the woman was in captivity, Kendall said, "that's what Arabs do." This evokes racist stereotypes of Arab and Muslim men as more likely to abduct women.

Abdel-Jawad describes Kendall as a regular visitor to the restaurant and as one of a number

of people experiencing homelessness or housing instability to whom the family has given food.

The daughter's account complicates reactions to the attack. She clarifies that mental illness should in no way be attributed to the cause of the attack or that racism should be excused, stating that it is "way too convenient" for responsibility of violent racist incidents to be placed on illness rather than the perpetrator or the general social acceptability of Islamophobia.

Even so, the daughter felt that the incident did not occur out of hate, but of a state of mental distress.

According to the daughter, Kendall showed signs of mental illness and her parents showed generosity toward their attacker.

Her statements were meant

to add an intersectional lens to the matter. A state of mental illness raises questions about accountability, discrimination and the criminal justice system. Abdel-Jawad notes that a disproportionate number of people experiencing severe mental illness end up in prison and she further advocates for such people to receive mental health care rather than punishment.

Since the election of Donald Trump, an anti-hate crime assistance coalition has formed with financial backing from billionaire philanthropist George Soros. The group is made up of various civil and human rights groups across the nation offering a national database and hotline.

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CAMPUS SAFETY

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

March 13, 2:00 p.m. (14th Street): Campus Safety received a report of a broken car window on 14th Street. An officer was dispatched and the owner was notified. A report was filed and the owner was advised to also make a report with Salem Police.

March 19, 9:45 p.m. (Kaneko Commons): While on patrol, an officer found large ceiling panels that had been hit and broken. A report was filed.

March 20, 3:06 p.m. (Kaneko Commons): Campus Safety received a call from Facilities reporting a damaged wall within a residence hall. An officer was dispatched to photograph the damage. A report was filed.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

March 18, 2:09 p.m. (Hasel-dorf Apartments): While on patrol, an officer encountered an individual sleeping on the property. The officer attempted to wake the individual who was unresponsive. Medics were called and the individual was taken to Salem Hospital for evaluation.

March 19, 12:36 a.m. (In a Campus Residence): Received a call regarding an intoxicated student. WEMS and an officer were dispatched. WEMS determined further medical attention was needed. Medics were called and transported the individual to Salem Hospital.

March 19, 1:51 a.m. (In a Campus Residence): Received a call regarding an intoxicated

student who was not feeling well. WEMS and an officer were dispatched. WEMS determined that the individual needed further medical attention. The officer transported the student to Salem Hospital.

March 20, 12:18 a.m. (In a Campus Residence): Campus Safety received a call from a student who had collapsed in their room. Officers were dispatched to the individual's room and transported them to Salem Hospital.

March 20, 1:07 p.m. (Hallie Ford Museum of Art): Campus Safety received a report of an individual sleeping on the steps of the Museum. The officer attempted to wake the individual up, but the individual wasn't able to move due to a back injury. The officer

called Salem Fire Department who responded to the individual.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

March 19, 2:21 p.m. (14th Street): Campus Safety received a report that a softball broke the window of a student's car that was parked on 14th Street. The owner was contacted and an officer met with them to tape their window. A report was filed.

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

March 16, 5:20 p.m. (Doney Hall): An RA reported discovering marijuana paraphernalia and called Campus Safety to have the items picked up.

March 17, 9:10 p.m. (Doney Hall): Campus Safety received a call of the smell of marijuana in the hallway.

The room was identified. No one was in the room and a plain view search was conducted. Marijuana paraphernalia was found and confiscated.

March 18, 9:22 p.m. (Matthews Parking Lot): While on patrol, an officer smelled marijuana. He located the source of the smell and made contact with a group of students within a car parked on University property. A report was filed.

March 18, 10:16 p.m. (Lausanne Hall): An RA called to report marijuana and paraphernalia in a student's room. An officer was dispatched to confiscate the items.

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Student-run Campus Mental Health Awareness Week

MADISON MELENUDO
STAFF WRITER

Midterms have come along, and so have late night study sessions with seemingly endless amounts of coffee. It gets hard to keep morale up when so many students feel as though they have a million tasks to do and not enough time to accomplish them all.

Due to their workload, many students experience stress, increased anxiety and, in some cases, depression and feelings of hopelessness. This is a concerning trend among Willamette students. Data has shown that Willamette students are significantly more depressed and anxious than the national average.

According to mental health data discussed at the recent Board of Trustees meetings, 52 percent of Willamette students reported feeling so depressed that they couldn't

function, 93 percent reported feeling overwhelmed by all they had to do and 64.8 percent felt that things were hopeless. In all three of these categories, Willamette student percentages were higher than both the state and national averages.

A group of 12 students from Professor Jeanne Clark's Rhetoric and Leadership class noticed this upsetting trend and wanted to make a difference in the lives of students by promoting awareness of the importance of mental health and stigma around it. The students also wanted to offer positive outlets to help deal with the stress that being a Willamette student comes with.

The group created Mental Health Awareness week, which took place between March 13 and 17. The group created special events and activities throughout the week that were tailored to this cause.

Monday's event was held in Goudy Commons and was dedicated to the question, "What is mental health?" with whiteboard response writing as the activity.

Students who participated were asked to write down something that they struggled with in their everyday lives that centered around mental health. They first posed for a picture with their statement on the whiteboard. They then took a second picture with a whiteboard statement of the healthy outlet they use to deal with their health challenges.

Wednesday's event was located at the Bistro and was dedicated to relaxation and finding healthy activities to manage the stresses that come along with college. The activities included coloring, making clay figures and talking through the problems that students face during the semester and ways of offering support.

Friday's event was called "Take One Leave One," and centered around the idea of moving forward from the hardships of a mental illness or mental health-related issues. This activity allowed students to take words of encouragement along with them for the day.

Studies have shown that positive words and encouraging messages can strengthen the motivational centers of the brain, which can result in not only feeling better, but making smarter and healthier choices in everyday life.

Students of the Rhetoric and Leadership class wanted to end their event by showing students that there is always a bright side on the matter and that being surrounded with positive thoughts, despite life's hardships, is better for one's brain and improves the quality of life.

"I think it's so important to start conversations about mental health at Willamette because so many people not only struggle with it, but struggle to talk about it. When we talk about mental health we begin to break down the stigma surrounding mental illnesses and that opens up pathways for those who are struggling to get help," Natalie Lyell, a first year and one of the leaders of the Mental Health Awareness week, said.

The students of the Rhetoric and Leadership Class felt that mental illnesses should not be ignored and wanted to dedicate their assignment to spreading awareness of this problem. Their goal was that in finding healthier ways for students to deal with stress, students would thus become happier.

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Student production 'Whitelash' will show in May



CONNER WICKLAND



CONNER WICKLAND



CONNER WICKLAND

Students rehearse for "Whitelash," a theater production written, acted and directed by junior Johnny Echavarria, left. "Whitelash" will be shown on May 5 and 6 in Smith Auditorium.

ELI KERRY
STAFF WRITER

Junior Johnny Echavarria is hard at work this year writing, directing and acting in a major theatrical project entitled "Whitelash." The Facebook page for the production describes it as a "hip-hop musical based on the 2016 Presidential Election."

The musical's story, which is partially inspired by Echavarria's experience working for a progressive, pro-Bernie Sanders Latino group for half a year, consists of two acts. The first act centers on clashes between Sanders and Clinton supporters in Los Angeles during the primaries. The second act shifts its focus to Trump supporters in Central City, Kentucky. But

Echavarria is careful to clarify that his intent is not to make a didactic political statement.

"It's not just a diss on Trump and Hillary," he said. "It's an observance on factions, political beliefs. It doesn't focus on candidates as much as on interactions between people."

According to Echavarria, when he first approached the theater faculty about getting their support for the project, they suggested that he do a read-through of the script on Student Scholarship Recognition Day (SSRD) and present the finished project next year.

"I said, 'No, I actually just want to do a whole show this year.'"

Echavarria has been working on the project continuously in the lead-up to its performance. He and his seven actors rehearse for two

hours every weekday evening, with Echavarria often working on music for the show afterwards in Ford.

Echavarria's primary musical collaborator is a former Willamette student who, this year, moved back to Los Angeles and continues to help from there. This means more of the responsibility has fallen on Echavarria's shoulders.

"I don't care how hard it is or how much work it is," he said. "I'm just tired 'cause I don't sleep as much."

Echavarria has worked to attract attention for the show by putting up posters throughout campus. He performed an a cappella rough draft of the show's title-track at a recent open mic event in the Bistro. The track is available on Echavarria's Soundcloud page where he records under the name Jechava.

According to Echavarria, a major inspiration for the show was the work of Brazilian educator and philosopher Paulo Freire, whose book "Pedagogy of the Oppressed" is considered a foundational text of critical pedagogy.

Brazilian theater practitioner Augusto Boal applied concepts from Freire's book to a theatrical context in his "Theater of the Oppressed," in which the audience — referred to as spect-actors — actively explore, analyze and transform the reality they are living in through their interactions with the theatrical performance. Echavarria hopes that his production will have a similarly galvanizing effect on his audience that will prompt them to realize their status as oppressors or oppressed.

Other influences cited by Echavarria include Lin-Manuel Miranda of "Hamilton" and rappers such as Kendrick Lamar, Eminem and Kanye West. Echavarria also cites other cultural figures including Elon Musk, Bob Dylan, Bernie Sanders, Ron Paul and Ray Kurzweil.

Echavarria describes his other primary goal for the production as the establishment of, or connection with, a more politicized arts scene in Salem.

The show will take place on May 5 and 6 in the Smith Auditorium. Admission will be free but Causa, an Oregon immigrants' rights organization, will be present to collect donations.

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Sherlock & Watson

Dear Sherlock and Watson,
I am way behind on my senior thesis, what do I do?

-Stressed Out Senior

Dear Stressed Out Senior,

Don't worry! It'll all be ok. Put aside some time every day to work on your thesis. Maybe invite some friends and create a thesis-work group where you all take an hour a day (or more) to work just on the thesis. I find that if I work with other people, seeing others being productive inspires me to work harder. Another good alternative would be to create a schedule that is constructed specifically towards your thesis. If you complete a certain amount of work, then reward yourself with a treat from the Bistro, or an episode of your favorite show.

Overall, try not to stress yourself out immensely. If you continue to over-worry about it you may have the desire to put it off even more to avoid the uncomfortable feeling of stress, or develop writers block.

Happy Writing,
Sherlock

Dear Stressed Out Senior,

You sure are irresponsible! Luckily for you there are a few options for getting out of doing your thesis.

For starters, if you haven't done this already, it may be time to switch your major to biology. From what I hear, a thesis is not required for biology majors, and senior year is as good a time as any to make this change.

Another fairly easy option is to turn in someone else's thesis. It turns out that previous graduates' theses are available to any Willamette student online. It's simple enough to change the title and the author.

Whatever you choose, don't forget to double space and set your font size to the thousands.
Good luck,
Watson

Need advice? Sherlock and Watson are on the case! Email the Lifestyles Editor: cafobes@willamette.edu

Workshop does wonders for ACE

Anti-Blackness in communities of color



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACE

An ACE member presents to a workshop full of eager peers as they discuss cultural appropriation in Ford Hall.

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Amanda Stenberg, Hunger Games actor, explained cultural appropriation in a video they played.

"What would America be like if we loved Black people as much as we love Black culture?" said Stenberg in the last line of her video.

The presenters stated that cultural appropriation is harmful because there is no benefit for the original creators while non-Black people, especially white folks, who have the privilege to take the culture on and off, are seen as "cool," "trendy" and "hip." Another example discussed was the usage of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) in slang. Words from AAVE such as "lit" and "fam" are commonly used with no acknowledgement to the Black community. The term "on fleek" was invented by Kayla Newman

aka Peaches Monroe in a video that went viral in 2014 according to an article in Teen Vogue. The term has appeared on merchandise, on advertisements and in songs, but Newman is not profiting from her success. The presenters even mentioned that she has received skepticism when attempting to start her own beauty line, "On Fleek."

One participant asked what is the distinction between cultural appropriation and cultural exchange, giving the example of K-pop integrating hip-hop into their music. Jasmine replied by stating that cultural exchange cannot occur unless there is an invitation from the community that the culture originated from. Specifically for Black people, they are forced to code switch in the workplace and not use AAVE because they are seen as "thugs," rather than non-Black folks who are "cool" and "hip" for performing Black culture.

ACE co-Presidents Kristi Miyakawa and Montreal Gray both felt the workshop went well and felt this topic was important because anti-Blackness is prevalent in communities of color, including the Asian community, and it is important to recognize it in order to be a better accomplice or ally.

"Racism happens in communities of color. We are perpetuating our own oppressions in a way by fighting each other," said Miyakawa.

Both also appreciated the presenters stating that radical revolutionary activism can happen in many different ways without using a lot of money, and that everyone has their own method. What's Good Productions mentioned how they organized a "Speak Out" for students of marginalized identities to talk about their experiences at Oregon State University along with other events.

"If you recognize something messed up is being said... something as simple as being a distraction from something that can help perpetuate anti-Blackness can be helpful. It is possible with disrupting situations and complicating narratives," said Gray.

Miyakawa mentions that ACE is collaborating with Black Student Union to bring Dr. Myra Washington to Willamette on April 17 at 7 p.m. who will talk about what it means to be Black, Black and Asian, as well as her research on this particular topic. She says that it is not a topic often discussed but it is very relevant to what is happening today.

Both Gray and Miyakawa hope ACE can have more collaborations with other clubs and organizations both on and off-campus and to continue building presence on campus.

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Spring break spotlight: Vancouver, Canada

PAIGE MORRISSEY
STAFF WRITER

Spring break is quickly approaching, and students are beginning to finalize their plans for their week off. Numerous students are planning to go home and relax, while many others are planning to travel up north. Way up north. For those whom international travel is feasible for, Canada, specifically Vancouver, is the place to be this spring break. Vancouver is a bustling urban center with much to offer to young college students looking for a good time. Its

busy nightlife attracts city dwellers, and the natural beauty in its mountains and beaches are perfect for outdoor enthusiasts.

Many students northbound choose to rent out an Airbnb for a couple of nights. Airbnb prices seem reasonable, averaging around a couple hundred bucks a night. Students who want to save money tend to rally large groups of their friends to travel with them; this way they can lower the cost of lodging. One offer on Airbnb for a private penthouse (jacuzzi included) in downtown with glass windows that look out into the city

accommodates for seven people at a price of only \$270 per night.

Another reason Vancouver is an attraction for college students is because of its drinking age. The legal drinking age in Canada is either 18 or 19 depending on each province and territory; each province and territory is free to set its own drinking age. The legal drinking age in British Columbia, Canada, which encompasses the seaport of Vancouver, is 19. So, many students who are not allowed to legally consume alcohol in the U.S. will take advantage of the opportunity to do so without

stress of punishment. This means that students can enjoy a night on the town full of bar-hopping and dancing until dawn.

Vancouver is also brimming with a myriad of artistic and cultural events. Some of their festivals include the Honda Celebration of Light, the Vancouver International Jazz Festival as well as the Vancouver International Film Festival.

Students will also find an extensive collection of art in the Vancouver Art Gallery, as well as 2.25 million books in the Vancouver Public Library.

Students looking for an event-filled vacation should look north for all that Vancouver can offer.

Vancouver has been consistently included in the top five ranking of cities worldwide for livability and quality of life. If only for a week, students can experience a slice of that good Canadian life. This life is made even sweeter by the governance of Justin Trudeau, a fresh face that holds the promise of the future of Canada.

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Do not say “rats” to pet rats

MADELYN JONES
STAFF WRITER

When people hear “rat,” their first instinct is usually to label them as a pest or vermin, but today I ask you to think of them as something else: a loving pet. People often think of hamsters or guinea pigs when they plan on getting a pet rodent, but a rat is just as good of a choice, or in my opinion, even better.

In sixth grade, my aunt asked me if I wanted a pet rat for my birthday, and I was appalled. I had never heard of someone owning a rat, and I thought they were dirty and vicious. Then one day, I ran-

domly woke up with a change of heart, and went to the pet store to get my first rat. Since then, I have had seven rats who have all been amazing pets.

Rats are often associated with labs or the street. They have a reputation of being unclean and mean, but that does not ring true when they are domesticated. In fact, rats clean themselves more than cats. Wild rats are only dirty because of their environment.

If you get a rat when it is young, it bonds to you. People often overlook how emotional rats are, but pet rats genuinely love and care for their owners.

If you want a pet that loves at-

tention, rats are a perfect choice. They are pack animals, so they can easily get lonely, and, therefore, they are obvious when they want love, and they want it quite often. I had a rat that would stick her nose in between the bars of her cage when I walked into the room, and not stop until I picked her up.

I have had a good amount of experience with rats, and I have never met one that reminds me of another. They have complex and unique personalities, just like dogs and cats.

Rats are also incredibly smart. They love to be entertained with new toys and places to explore. You can also teach them tricks; you

can even teach them how to swim!

Another plus to pet rats is that they are not expensive to take care of. If you cannot afford a dog or cat, but still want an animal to love that will love you back, a rat is a good option.

In general, they are cuter animals than people expect. Many love to give kisses, play, cuddle and burrow in blankets. Some animals become attuned to their owner’s emotions and lend them support, and rats are no different. I had a rat that noticed every time I was upset, and when I took her out of the cage, refused to play, and stayed by my side until I felt better.

I introduced my rats to many people who were skeptical about them, and the vast majority ended up falling in love with how cuddly and sweet they are. The negative stereotypes about rats are not relevant to domesticated ones, and usually once people meet a pet rat, they change their opinions on them become positive.

It is important to teach people to throw away the stereotypes of rats because they are sweet creatures who just want to be loved.

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An open letter to the weather



CONNOR WICKLAND

Two sides to the weather that surrounds Willamette.

CAITLIN FORBES
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Dear Oregon Weather,

As you know, Monday, March 20, was the first official day of spring. I woke up expecting sunshine to greet me, and the trees to bloom. But what did I wake up to? Rain.

Now, I’m not trying to argue with you or anything, and I think that what you are doing for the environment is great, but I think we need to have a talk. I understand that rain is what sustains our ecosystem, and creates the beautiful greenery that we see; however, I don’t appreciate the teasing. If it is going to rain, then hit me with everything you’ve got. But if it is going to be sunny you better damn sure bet that I should be able to wear a sundress and sit by the Mill Stream in an elegant fashion with a novel in one hand and an iced coffee in the other.

I’m a Bay Area girl born and raised. Cold to me was 47 and warm was 75 and over. So one of the exciting aspects of moving to Oregon was getting actual weather. Moving into my dorm in 90 degree heat was definitely a shock, seeing as how I wasn’t tough-skinned like So-Cal people. So I depended on my favorite season to pick up my spirits.

Adjusting to the winter weather was an adventure, and when it got below freezing I said, “Sure, why not?” I enjoyed the snow, and had my first taste of what it was really

like to be cold. Hot cocoa and warm blankets — I wasn’t complaining.

However, don’t you think it’s about time to bring some sunshine back? And not any of this teasing stuff. Thanks for giving us a sample of the sun about once a week, but last time I checked this isn’t Costco. I’m not here for a sample, I’m ready to buy the whole product.

And while we’re on the subject, perhaps we can discuss that one day where all four seasons seemed to have a spotlight appearance. It was sunny, then rained, then hailed and snowed and then resided to a light misting rain. Who does that? Seriously? I get that you just want to show off all of the aspects of your wonderful personality, but some consistency would be amazing. I’ve heard a famous saying that in Salem if you don’t like the weather in that moment to wait a second because it will most likely change on the dime. Boy they were not wrong.

Look Oregon, I love you, I really do. The trees are lush and green and the air is crisp and clean. I love the squirrels and ducks that are native to your land. I am so lucky to live here, and I don’t ever forget that for a second. Some sun though would be wonderful. Please, as a favor to me and those who just want to be able to ditch the raincoats for more than 24 hours, just consider it.

Sincerely,
Caitlin

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Willamette’s Got Talent magician mismatch

DORIAN GRAYSON
STAFF WRITER

On March 16, current and prospective students gathered in Smith Auditorium, waiting for Willamette’s annual talent show. The Willamette Events Board put on the event, picking Steven Brundage, a magician known for tricks with a Rubik’s cube, to be the host. He has been on “Penn and Teller” and “America’s Got Talent.”

Brundage started off with a hand trick so simple that I can explain it to you in text. Put your arms out, palms facing out, then put your left arm over your right and clasp hands, with thumbs pointing down. Brundage distracted everyone by having them wiggle fingers. During that, he unclenched, rotated his right hand, then re-clenched. Thus, he was able to rotate his thumbs up while the audience was unable to. This is only to express that the majority of his tricks were simple and underwhelming.

The first act up was the dance team with a mash of current songs, allowing for some nice variation in the speed and rhythm. The dancing was great, but the sound quality was low.

Next was junior Laurel Styner, singing an Italian opera piece in a shimmering dress. The audio problems continued as the background music was too loud, covering up her voice.

Then was audience favorite, and eventual winner of the night, first year Yoojin Kim. He’s a dancer who mixed many different styles. People screamed and shouted when he came on stage and the energy continued all throughout his urban dance performance.

Afterwards was Devon O’Donnell with some slam poetry about a house. They performed a similar piece at the “Love Bites” Open Mic at the Bistro.

The audience was then subjected to more easily deciphered “magic.” Brundage specifically asked for a man from the audience, then had him read from a stack of cue cards, leading him through a trick where he pulls a named card out of an envelope. Obviously, there were enough cue cards for each card. Is magic still magic when it’s obvious? Is picking the same card someone said out of a deck magic?

The final performance was



SANJAY KAPILA

Percy Lounge rocks out at the talent show.

Percy Lounge, who were generally impressive and splashy, as usual. The group dressed up for the occasion, donning ties and jackets, except for sophomore Reed Bertran. They also suffered from poor sound issues, as well as some awkward dancing. However everyone enjoyed themselves.

There was a surprising lack of performances, leaving much more time for Brundage, who was turning out to be more of a comedian than a magician. He would commonly say he was going to do a trick, then fail to do the trick for laughs. He then started doing the Rubik’s cube tricks he’s known for. Brundage has said in interviews that his tricks would look exactly the same whether he was using a real or fake Rubik’s cube. While it might be impressive, it’s not exciting as an audience to see something easily faked. He only managed to keep the audience engaged through jokes.

A large portion of his sleight of hand was enabled by his setup: he performed into a camera which was projected onto a screen next to him. This screen enabled him to direct attention and stop people from noticing his tricks.

Brundage, however, made the audience uncomfortable. He continued to ask for gendered assistants, including when he asked for a “female: eighteen to twenty-five.” He then went on to make jokes about slapping them

on the bum and standing “back to back, cheek to cheek.”

“Who’s the funny person in the crowd? Can you point him out? ... I need a guy for this,” Brundage said.

Brundage defended his use of gender when picking out participants after the show saying, “Just picking the right people for certain tricks. The fart joke works better with a guy.”

That’s not to say he didn’t perform some impressive tricks or was a distinctly bad magician. In one trick, he showed off his sleight of hand by confusing an audience member about the location of increasingly large balls of toilet paper, while it was clear to the audience that Brundage was tossing them without the audience member noticing. But an audience member said something that highlighted the mismatch of this magician and Willamette.

“This is such a waste of toilet paper,” the audience member said.

There is no question that Brundage was at least partially impressive, but I and others will remember his performance not for the tricks, but for the regressive rhetoric he brought.

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Protests

Introduction

It seems that several times each academic school year tensions between the student body, faculty and Willamette's administration reaches a boiling point. As biting words and calls to action bubble up on this small campus, two camps always form: the community members who vocally support or join protests, and those who display indifference or other emotions ranging from skepticism to outright scorn for such tactics and demands.

Entrenched issues and obvious efforts to increase profit on the backs of students, as well as interpersonal conflict, can whizz by a Willamette student's head if they're truly happy, socially active and involved in an exclusive campus program or group. These supportive communities are intended to provide comfort and inspire hope for some students, whose optimism shields them from problems that other students are acutely experiencing.

Denouncing a problem on campus is stickier than rallying against Donald Trump or a political matter that doesn't directly involve community members. The following protests are fine examples of demonstrations that face backlash because of personal allegiances and the disruption to an otherwise calm, unchallenging and carefree college experience. To protest against one's friends, bosses, mentors and classmates is a significant social risk, and the choice to do so often causes participants lots of stress — and sometimes, the change for which they ask is imperceptible or nonexistent.

Offensive Halloween 2006

11 years ago, YouTube was brand new, and these ramifications for showing brazen misconduct definitely fit into the realm of unexplored territory. The weekend before that year's Halloween, students held an event off-campus called the "Most Offensive Halloween Costume Party Ever," and shortly thereafter, footage made its way to YouTube before being taken down by the poster. Social-justice-minded undergrads were appalled by classmates in blackface, KKK hoods and costumes that mocked 9/11 and stereotyped other cultures (the same "Native American" costumes that still make the rounds to this day).

Later that month, a group named the Concerned Students for Social Justice (CSSJ) organized a class walkout and drafted a list of demands as part of their platform against racism, sexism, homophobia and other oppressions. President M. Lee Pelton, who expressed solidarity with the protesters, made an official six-point plan to make Willamette more inclusive: he proposed a Council on Diversity and Social Justice, a "teach-in," revising curriculum and approaches to teaching, a CLA Resource Guide on Diversity, devoting extra care to the Office of Human Resources' Annual Report and increasing the salary of the "lowest paid WU employees" to a "living wage".

According to the editorials published by students at the time, those in opposition had qualms about the timing of the walkout and the manner in which protestors marched into classrooms — students worried about exams and papers were not in the mood for chanting; neither were some professors.

Other dissenters didn't understand the reasons why change was needed or thought CSSJ had made too many demands, such as asking for a more diverse faculty (students were worried about "affirmative action" bringing in less qualified professors). Still, one student quoted in the *Collegian* stated, "there are global issues; just one example is Darfur ... these people's time could be spent on other allocations."

The "teach-in," approved by the then-legitimate Council on Diversity and Social Justice, canceled classes for a whole day of anti-racist lectures, including an appearance from Tim Wise, a prominent educator on subjects like white privilege and discrimination. Professors like David Craig and Melissa Buis Michaux, in comments to the *Collegian*, admitted that canceling class was a burden, but a necessary step in working toward a more inclusive campus atmosphere.

Responses to the "teach-in" were mixed: CSSJ and affiliated groups were of course thrilled that the scheduling feat was pulled off, but unfortunately, the backlash against Wise's "antagonistic" lecture merely signaled the beginning of palpable public disapproval of the "social justice agenda." From the "teach-in" in March 2007 until the end of 2008 (when CSSJ dissolved), far more negative sentiments about the club were published in the *Collegian's* opinions section than statements of support.

After the "teach-in", a student calculated how much of his tuition was wasted on the walkout and the day of lectures, and asked CSSJ for a refund in the newspaper. A regular columnist wrote a handful of articles

mocking political correctness and CSSJ, even creating a Mad Lib from one of their open letters.

A year after the notorious Halloween party, students held another function with the same theme and a similar array of questionable costumes. When CSSJ expressed its displeasure, a student writer compared activists to Nazis and the KKK for trying to curb free speech, while another said that members of the CSSJ should stop sitting, "in your dorm bitching about Halloween costumes." The *Collegian* also ripped apart an anonymous insert titled "Another Voice" about content that "satirically" made fun of students critiquing white supremacy. That spring, a group of undergrads protested CSSJ itself as the organization sat on the Quad; the rallying cry was to separate the noble pursuit of social justice from CSSJ's character as a club.

Despite hostility at every turn, the CSSJ paved the way for future anti-racist organizing on campus, and contributed to making possible SARA, the option for queer-friendly, gender-blind housing and, albeit indirectly, the Center for Equity and Empowerment.

The Verdict: CSSJ was active at Willamette for almost two years and set precedents in discourse that are still visible today. In some ways, campus culture was more reactionary at that time — the *Collegian* essentially normalized the bullying of marginalized student activists — but President Pelton's critical support was a godsend that President Steve Thorsett should consider emulating.

Willamette Academy 2016

Although the status of Willamette Academy (WA) had been deteriorating for several years, alarming new information came out in early Feb. of 2016 that the administration had made a highly troubling decision to reduce the number of families reached by the program from 230 to 40.

In an unprecedented show of solidarity within students and faculty, there was almost uniform opposition to the changes, viewed as an extension of neglect that Willamette has shown in the last decade toward people of color. Scores of users on Facebook changed their profile picture to an icon that read, "RIP WA" with the tagline, "Smells like institutional racism."

Some players in this situation had history working for WA as student mentors; other current undergrads and alumni provided testimonials about how they had gone through the program as adolescents living in Salem. Like Zena Farm, this was a wedge issue that students interpreted not only as a betrayal to low-income students and English-learners, but as part of the administration's pattern of cutting costs in beloved aspects of Bearcats' lives.

There were many efforts to rationalize this to the Willamette and Salem communities that backfired, like an informational meeting for WA families and concerned students that was an organizational disaster, leaving parents in a panic and without adequate translation or explanation of the situation. The new director, Jacqueline Rushing, made callous statements about the nature of her job and ignored the seriousness of the complaints being made.

Current students and alumni drafted petitions to stop the proposed changes and made appeals to how the Board of Trustees seemed suspiciously bent on providing incentive for WA students to matriculate directly into Willamette, rather than just offering the college counseling and academic support that would help a college-bound high schooler attend whichever university they so desired, calling it a "pipeline" that was self-serving and exploitative.

Hundreds of students joined in a silent demonstration in front of Montag, where the earlier protests about faculty retention took place. Just days after the demonstration, Adam Torgerson, the face of Willamette PR, gave an interview with Natalie Pate, an alum

and Statesman Journal reporter, that misrepresented the course of action proposed by Willamette to a much larger audience. Students then clogged the #WU24 fundraising campaign with impassioned takedowns of President Thorsett and his colleagues.

Protests and awareness campaigns that centered WA students and families continued throughout March, and Willamette officially acknowledged near its end that the information they had passed along for over a month was false and inaccurate. This prompted several more open letters and petitions — then the good news arrived: all 32 seniors in WA were confirmed to have graduated and enrolled "in the school of their choice".

The Verdict: WA isn't dead, but confidence in the administration and Board of Trustees is on life support. President Thorsett changed WA directors and hired alum Emilio Solano '09 to lead, while committing funds to keep the program in motion — for now. However, it is paramount to commend the group effort at Willamette that stowed off utter, immediate decimation of an important community resource, even from Bearcats not physically present on campus.

at Willamette

Juliana Cohen
Staff Writer

Sigma Chi 2013

The weekend before finals week was perhaps the worst time for Willamette's campus to view a damning (now deleted), anonymous blog with screenshots of Sigma Chi's secret Facebook group, where members left dozens of obscene comments about women, including an administrator who wanted to investigate misconduct inside their campus residence (now Westwood Hall).

With finals going on, the irregular schedule allowed for meetings in the Center for Equity and Empowerment, a march around campus and a few days of sitting in front of Sigma Chi's campus residence. Feminists of all genders held up signs and made posts on Facebook expressing outrage and disappointment. In an embarrassing turn of events for Willamette's public relations department, this news story was picked up by local TV stations and newspapers; eventually, the fraternity's national leadership had to make a statement condemning the members' actions.

Sigma Chi's many members were involved in almost every corner of campus, and an avalanche of support for the brothers being targeted came from girlfriends, teammates and members of other Greek organizations.

Skeptics made a point of calling this movement part of a sustained effort to paint all fraternities as evil and roundly questioned the validity of survivors' allegations of abuse. When a car's tires were slashed that week, it was used as a tool to discredit anger among protesters.

About a month into the summer, Willamette published a letter by Dean David Douglass stating that the chapter had lost its on-campus house, was prohibited "from recruiting and initiating new members until remedies have taken root" as well as "social programming," and that members were required to undergo seminars related to, "healthy masculinity." Reportedly, few members attended these seminars, and Sigma Chi recruited members that next spring. Today, Sigma Chi has an unofficial fraternity floor in the newly renovated Doney Hall.

The Verdict: After less than a year of lip service, Willamette's administration ultimately abandoned their promise to support the students affected by Sigma Chi's actions and made little effort to enforce any of its sanctions.

Hiring and retention of faculty of color 2014/2015

The murder of Michael Brown and the monumental protests in Ferguson that gave birth to #BlackLivesMatter had a ripple effect on the Willamette campus. Students of color (and white classmates, in solidarity) adopted a sharper rhetoric in the ongoing discussion of Willamette's lack of diversity and named their grievances with intention.

Starting back in the spring of 2014 — before #BlackLivesMatter — calls to action were made about the future of the American Ethnic Studies department, the University's lack of professors of color (which has a negative effect on already underrepresented students looking for support) and inequities between adjunct and tenured faculty. There were intermittent discussions around police brutality too, in the name of Trayvon Martin and Jordan Davis.

Briefly, organizers formed the "Anti-racist White Privilege Collective," designed for white allies to talk amongst themselves in order to learn how to be less problematic in speaking about race.

At the end of the 2013-2014 school year, involved parties held their "Town Hall on Hiring and Retention of Faculty of Color" in Waller Hall during the usual Convo hours, but on a Tuesday. This may not have reversed the decision of the administration to not offer

tenure to three professors of color who left Willamette, but the town hall did give graduating seniors who were passionate about the issue a chance to inform Bearcats who still had time left as undergrads.

After the tumultuous summer of 2014, these issues from the past year had a new intensity and were ever more intertwined. Student-led educational efforts regularly took place. A huge group of Salem residents, including Willamette students, held a #BlackLivesMatter rally at the Salem Police Department. Virulent racism reared its head on Yik Yak, where anonymous posters indicated their fatigue with awareness efforts.

During the Midnight Breakfast in Goudy, which happens at the end of every semester for people suffering through finals, protestors came en masse through the event, chanting boilerplate #BlackLivesMatter slogans. It was mostly white students who took to Facebook in anger or irritation at this disruption, while supporters posted on the Midnight Breakfast event page with statistics and facts about the utter lack of Black representation at Willamette, from Bishop Wellness Center's all-white staff to the fact that no Black woman has ever been awarded tenure in the school's history.

The vigor continued when 30 students protested a faculty meeting with signs asking

administrators to "save AES" and to hire more professors of color in Feb. 2015. Those who still wanted to voice their dissent hijacked a promotional hashtag, #beabearcat, on Bearcat Day to warn prospective students and generally vent about their overall frustration with the school's lack of diversity, and also its lacking response to many instances of sexual assault.

Because this issue was not one that could be immediately solved or blamed on any one person, this movement had brief upticks of activity with increasingly long silences in the public domain, although students with eyes on the matter did and still reference the lack of tenured professors of color as one of Willamette's worst oversights and betrayals. ASWU President Shamir Cervantes took a stand near the end of the 2015-2016 school year by loudly quitting and indicating to the administration that their priorities were unacceptable.

The Verdict: It is unclear whether Willamette has become more institutionally inclusive since the three professors of color were not offered tenure, and it is not enough to point to new faculty as proof of the administration's commitment or lack thereof. There is reportedly more student input in screening candidates for hire than in the past.

Close games and upsets make March Madness

LOUIS KNOX
STAFF WRITER

As predicted, the NCAA tournament has been full of upsets and close contests. With no clear-cut best team in the country this year, it leaves the championship teams truly up in the air.

Each year has its upsets and its cinderellas, and that's why the country falls in love with the NCAA tournament. You never know what is going to happen.

People everywhere attempt to fill out their 68-team bracket in the hopes of getting the perfect bracket. Within the first weekend limiting the teams down to 16, it has been confirmed that there are already no perfect brackets remaining. With essentially infinite possibilities to fill out a bracket, it makes getting it right nearly impossible.

Last year's defending champion and No. 1 seed Villanova has already been knocked out by the eighth seed Wisconsin. Villanova was picked by many to repeat as champion, and this just shows how even the field is this year.

Another couple big upsets that occurred were from No. 11 Xavier who took down No. 3, Florida State.

Aside from just the upsets, there have been a plethora of close games in what traditionally should have been blowouts. Examples were No. 11 University of Southern California taking on No. 3 Baylor. Despite the vast ranking difference, USC just barely lost the game 82-78.

No. 13 Bucknell was in a very tight contest with No. 4 West Virginia University who are still in the tournament. They ended up



losing by a score of 86-80.

Out of the 16 teams that remain in the tournament, four were the result of a big upset of one of the top four seeds within their side of the bracket. This includes No. 7 South Carolina, who took down the powerhouse that is Duke. A traditional football school, this is the deepest the Gamecocks have gone in the NCAA tournament in school history.

Another big story in the tournament this year is Northwestern. The team has never gone to the tournament in school history, and they got their first tournament win against Vanderbilt. However, the great story ended when they went up against No. 1 Gonzaga. They were still able to

make it a close game, losing by just six points.

A potential cinderella story going into the sweet 16 is Xavier, which took down the No. 6 in Maryland and obliterated No. 3 Florida State.

Despite being nearly unpredictable, the NCAA tournament is potentially the most exciting tournaments in sports. It is the uncertainty that makes this tournament true madness.

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The total collapse of UW basketball

KELLEN BULGER
STAFF WRITER

News broke out last Wednesday that the University of Washington men's basketball head coach, Lorenzo Romar, was fired after the conclusion of an abysmal 9-22 season.

The firing should not have been a surprise to those close to the program; the team won a measly two games in the Pac-12 play this year and have failed to make the NCAA Tournament for the past five years. However, many weren't prepared for the events due to Romar being ranked No. 2 in the incoming recruiting class.

Here lies the real story: Washington has had five first-round draft picks since 2012, and is about to have another: Markelle Fultz. The only other teams that have a comparable number of NBA first-round selections are Kentucky, Duke, Syracuse, North Carolina, Kansas and UCLA — notice one outlier here?

Washington men's basketball has been floundering for years now. Whether it be the team's inability to make the NIT two out of the last five years, or embarrassing home-losses or bringing in players with questionable personal records like Robert Upshaw, Washington needed a dramatic change.

Before we discuss the treacherous path that lies ahead for the UW men's basketball program, let's look at just how talented the Huskies have been.

Terrence Ross: In the 2011-12 season for UW, he averaged 16.4 points per game and is now a starter on the Orlando Magic, averaging 10 points per game over his five year NBA career.

Isaiah Thomas: Spent three years as a Husky, also averaging 16.4 points per game while in Seattle; he's now a

two-time NBA All-Star and is currently fifth in preliminary MVP voting.

Marquese Chriss: Played only the 2015-16 season for the Huskies, and as a freshman averaged 13.7 points per game and now is a starter for the Phoenix Suns where he is averaging 8.3 points per game as a rookie.

I think you get the idea. The University of Washington has overwhelmingly succeeded when it has come to propelling young players to stardom in the increasingly tough-to-make-it NBA. It cannot be overstated though; there is an element of coaching that simply has to be there for a program to successfully approach the one-and-done system, and Washington miserably failed to find such.

It's not just the talent of players being reeled into UW that should make them a perennial contender; the makeup of the school begs for a successful basketball program.

The Sonics are long-gone from Seattle. UW does not have to compete for attention with any other major college basketball programs in the Puget Sound area. It is a school of over 30,000 students, located in one of the largest metropolitan areas in the western U.S. The facilities are incredible, and trust me when I say the lust for a good basketball team in the 206 area code is high.

Moving forward, it was announced on Sunday that the Athletic Director, Jen Cohen, had hired Syracuse assistant Mike Hopkins as Head Coach. Many anxious observers will be waiting to see whether the litany of talent will still be attracted to UW, and if so, whether Hopkins can do any more with it than his predecessor could.

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Here come the hot takes

Are the Warriors going to flame out in the playoffs?

ALEX GORDON
STAFF WRITER

Since the Kevin Durant injury, the Warriors are 5-4 with losses to Washington, Chicago, Boston, Minnesota and San Antonio. Three of those teams, on a good night, might have been able to beat the Warriors anyways, and considering they lost their best rim protector, and arguably best offensive player in Durant, the losses are understandable.

Yes they had to come back from a significant deficit against a Joel Embiid-less Sixers, but it's much more difficult than people are making it out to be for the team, to simply shift back into last years sets.

The major reason for this is that they aren't working with the same team they were last year. Harrison Barnes and Andrew Bogut were huge pieces of that team and it's offensive and defensive identity. Zaza Pachulia, Matt Barnes and Patrick McCaw are fine players in their own respects, but they don't allow for the team to simply drop back into their old habits. The same goes for Stephen Curry. A lot has been said about him not being able to simply

flick a switch and suddenly become "MVP Steph," which is understandable, because for the majority of the season he has had to adapt his

The Warriors did what they had to do in the off season. They made the cap room they needed to in order to sign Kevin Durant. In order to do

“It's a totally different mentality being the instigator of every offensive possession and having to integrate a player fully capable of carrying the scoring load for any team,”

game to another all world player. It's a totally different mentality being the instigator of every offensive possession and having to integrate a player fully capable of carrying the scoring load for any team.

this they needed to sacrifice some of their famous continuity, and if they will fall apart this will probably be the culprit.

The most concerning thing that I've heard about the Dubs this sea-

son is that their chemistry has not been the same. The joy that epitomized them so much over the last two or three years has simply been absent. As a fan of the team, that might be the thing I've disliked hearing the most because it made the team much more enjoyable. They loved being out there, and it was fantastic to simply go along for the ride with them. That being said, these aren't issues that can't be remedied. It's the first year of the Durant experiment, and if they don't immediately win the championship it certainly isn't the end of the world. They can retool, and hopefully reseed, those seeds of comradery.

In the meantime though, it's probably premature to write them off just yet. They were essentially playing as advertised up until Durant's injury, and if he returns at full strength then they really don't have much to worry about. People are getting flashbacks of Curry's injury in the first round last year with Durant, but that was during the playoffs, and his injury was almost a month before. Curry had a hard and fast timeline to come back. They could handle the Blaz-

ers without him, but if they were actually going to go for the title he needed to be back against the Thunder. Durant has the luxury of making sure he is totally set before returning, and odds are there won't be much to worry about as a result. Losing the No. 1 seed wouldn't be the best thing, but it's not a death sentence by any means either.

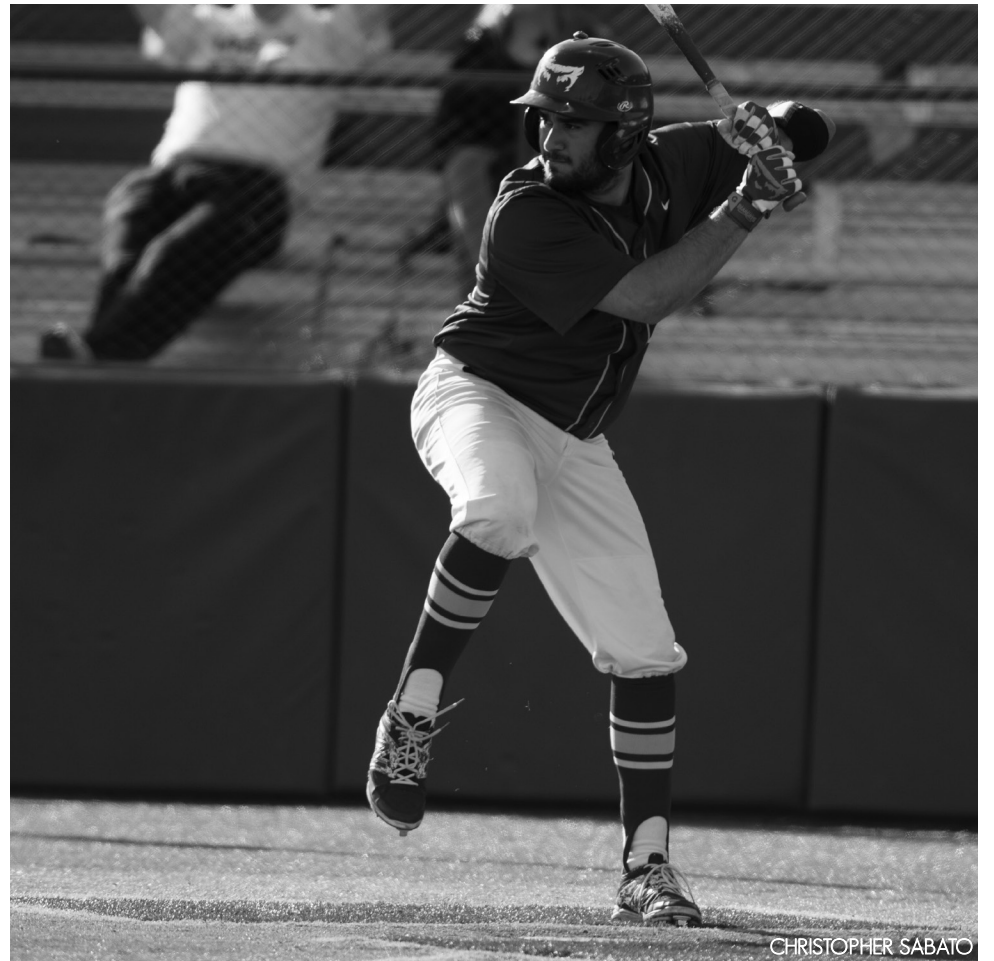
All this being said, the Warriors haven't been bullet proof against great teams. I wouldn't be surprised at all if they lose to the Spurs in the Conference Finals assuming Lamaricus Aldridge is healthy, or maybe the Rockets or Clippers could knock them out in the second round. I think they could still end up winning the championship this season, but things would really need to break right for that to happen. This is an experiment; it didn't work the first year with LeBron in Miami and it's fine if it doesn't work this year for the warriors. They will have another chance.

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Baseball travels to Southern California



CHRISTOPHER SABATO



CHRISTOPHER SABATO

Left: Freshman Dawson Enright on the mound for the Bearcats. Right: Junior Tyler Esquivel at bat for the Bearcats. WU baseball continued to be strong offensively against each team they played last weekend.

CONTINUED from Page 1

Baseball

The Willamette baseball team travelled down to Southern California this past weekend for a four game road trip against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, California Lutheran University and Occidental College.

In the game against the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, the Bearcats had a dominant performance, shut-

ting the opponent out with a 5-0 win. The win came down to the ninth inning with a two-hit performance from pitcher Brandon Nelson, along with a three run home run from sophomore left fielder Connor Bailey.

During the second game of the weekend, the Bearcats took on California Lutheran University in a thrilling contest. The Bearcats came out swinging, putting up a combined 20 hits in the game. However, so did the Kingsmen, who combined for 19 hits.

The game was tied at the end of ninth inning, which forced the game into extra innings. It eventually came down to two outs in the bottom of the 12th, and the Kingsmen's right fielder Gabe Gunter ended the game with a walk-off solo home run.

The first of the twin bill turned out successfully against the Tigers of Occidental College. Behind a huge five hit performance from junior first baseman Eric Del Prado, the Bearcats were able to put

up 11 runs against the Tigers in the Bearcats 16th victory of the season.

During the second game of the day, the Bearcats played a seven-inning contest. Despite the short game, it did not lack excitement. The Tigers took a quick 3-0 lead at the end of the second inning. The Bearcats then responded and put up the next four runs of the contest.

Yet, when the game got to the final inning, the Tigers broke the

one run deficit and put up two themselves. This was the second walk off loss the Bearcats had to endure on the road trip.

Overall they went 2-2, but it could have easily been 4-0 if it were not for those two close losses. The Bearcats hold a record of 16-8 and are in second place in the Northwest Conference.

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this week in sports

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
<p>AARON ODA STAFF WRITER</p> <p>"Huh?"</p> <p>This week in "Huh?" we will be talking about vacation. Spring break is coming up fast. The offseason ends for baseball players in two weeks, and the drama filled basketball playoffs are right around the corner. I think its a great time for these sport-players to soak up their last bit of vacation.</p> <p>"If you look like your passport photo, then in all probability you need a vacation." - Joe Moore</p> <p>NCAA Basketball</p> <p>The action in NCAA basketball this past week was madness. First off, our field of 64 teams has already dwindled down to 16. The tournament will resume on Thursday. Here are this year's sweet 16 teams:</p>	<p>Michigan, Kentucky, Kansas, North Carolina, Oregon, Baylor, South Carolina, UCLA, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Gonzaga, Xavier, Butler, Arizona, Florida and Purdue.</p> <p>Most years, we see a cinderella team in the final 16 teams because they have a world shocking win in the first round of the tournament and carry that momentum on to win the second game of the weekend. This year's cinderella team is the South Carolina Gamecocks, who were actually the favorite in round one beating Marquette and upsetting one of the hottest teams in the tournament, the Duke Blue Devils.</p> <p>Duke had won four straight games in the ACC tournament to become the eventual champions, and they seemed to be running on all cylinders coming into the tournament. But the Gamecocks played stellar defense, turning the Blue Devils over 18 times as well as exploding for 65 points in the</p>	<p>second half after only scoring 23 in the first. They won the game by a final of 88-81.</p> <p>NBA</p> <p>With three more weeks of the NBA season left, let's talk about the local team: the Portland Trail Blazers. The Blazers have been playing relatively well recently as they have won eight of the last 10 games and now find themselves only a half game from the eighth and last playoff spot in the Western Conference.</p> <p>The eight wins that the Blazers have won were against some good competition, like the San Antonio Spurs, Oklahoma City Thunder and the Atlanta Hawks. The resurgence of good basketball being played by the Blazers has been a result of the addition of a new face, Jusuf Nurkic, who came to the Blazers from the Denver Nuggets, which is the team that they are chasing for that eighth and fi-</p>	<p>nal seed. The Blazers are looking to finish the season strong and hopefully sneak into the playoffs this year.</p> <p>World Baseball Classic</p> <p>The USA baseball team has advanced to the semifinal round in the World Baseball Classic. The USA team defeated the Dominican Republic by a score of 6-3. This game showcased a lot of stars in the game of baseball, as some of its best players hail from these two countries. It has been a rather magical run for this USA baseball team that is scattered with young and older players that have been able to prove they are some of the best in the world. The semifinal game is Tuesday against Japan with the winner moving on to the championship game.</p> <p>Till next week, K DEN!</p>	<p>aoda@willamette.edu</p>	<p>Intramurals Weekly: grass volleyball and indoor soccer</p> <p>RACHEL FISCHER STAFF WRITER IBRAHEEM HAFUDA STAFF WRITER</p> <p>Grass volleyball and indoor soccer leagues kicked off last week. However, both of these leagues are quite different from their respective sports.</p> <p>In indoor soccer, the back walls can be used to play off of and it is very fast paced, which results in high-scoring games. No Fuchs Given and SPORTS faced off on Tuesday in a highly competitive match. The resulting score was 7-6, No Fuchs Given taking the win. In a typical soccer game a score of 7-6 is highly unlikely but the small court and back wall rule makes for quick turnovers and many goals.</p> <p>Grass volleyball is played outdoors with only four people on the court at once. Despite the mud we encountered on Brown Field this past week, volleyball participants showed up and played hard. Sophomore Kali Vickery played on a particularly muddy day and found herself sitting in the mud just as often as she was serving the ball. In spite of the imperfect conditions, she embraced the elements, became one with the mud and led her team to victory. #doitfortheshirt #dontretireplayintramurals</p> <p>rafischer@willamette.edu irhafuda@willamette.edu</p>	



Vive La Pen: Marine Le Pen and the Twitter case

PHILIP AMUR
STAFF WRITER

Marine Le Pen has proven to be a key voice of populist sentiment in the many months leading up to France's April 2017 federal election. Though she has made progress with regard to her campaign, her political future is now in peril after her graphic tweets of Islamic State brutality reached the eyes of the European parliament. According to the New York Times, "French prosecutors accused Ms. Le Pen, who is now a candidate in France's presidential election, of the crime of 'dissemination of violent images,' for which she could face up to three years in prison if tried and convicted."

Before proceeding, it must be acknowledged that Le Pen's platform does include elements potentially hostile to Jews while her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, is a holocaust denier. In addition, she has vouched for banning dual citizenship with non-EU countries along with banning the wearing of yarmulkes in public places. Let it be clear that I do not condone anti-Semitism, and at the same time will abstain from defending Le Pen as a politician and as a person. This piece is intended to center itself around the circumstances pertain-

ing to the tweets that were acquired by the public.

Le Pen's platform, mainly with regard to migration, goes against much of what current President Francois Hollande has done throughout the migrant crisis. Due to an open border policy and the acceptance of nearly all people migrating from the Middle East, Hollande's approval ratings, as reported by the Washington Post, are currently at a measly 6 percent. This is down from the nearly 60 percent that he held in 2012.

The reason for this dynamic shift is due to how the French have experienced local massacres which have been met with little response. After around nine terror attacks committed by pro-ISIS Islamic militants since 2014, three of which have resulted in mass casualties, it seems that Le Pen only exposed what people needed to see.

The terror attacks in France were not committed by native Frenchmen nor by any native European. They were committed by those who pledged allegiance to ISIS. As we know, the first step in dealing with any issue, especially in national security, is to identify the enemy.

Le Pen nailed this one on the head. She brought to light the cruelty that France's darkest enemy was responsible for, and thus showed



MIRANDA MARTIN

people that the terror problem in France was not a case of radicalization in France's inner cities. She, by sending those photos, made it clear that those loyal to ISIS hold contempt for everything beautiful and pure about France.

The images only showed what would happen to many more innocent civilians if substantially tougher immigration and terrorism policies were not put in place. It is incomprehensible to me why she

is being prosecuted for essentially representing the truth. The content of the pictures sent on Twitter, lest we forget, is not a rare occurrence among those who want to see Europe stripped of its identity and its citizens slaughtered.

Given everything that is happening in this world today, I commend certain people like Le Pen for having the courage to show people what they don't want to see. Even when such acts are committed by

people society has condemned — even for legitimate reasons — those responsible must be acknowledged nevertheless. Whether the prosecution was designed to prevent Le Pen's rise to power, or if it was out of legitimate concern for fringe activism, it cannot be denied that there was reason behind the tweets. Truth, no matter how ugly, must prevail.

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

As a concerned group of undocumented students at Willamette University, we would like to publicly condemn the claims made by Kylah Clay in the last issue of the Collegian in the article titled "ASWU Spotlight: Healthcare for DACA students." In her interview with Emma Smoll, she states her commitment and involvement in providing support to DACA students. We appreciate her intentions and interest in aiding undocumented and DACA students, however, her claims are inaccurate and untruthful depictions of her actual engagement in this process.

We are tired of people whose allyship erases our concerns and experiences. It is incredibly detrimental to each of us on a personal level to make these claims because it makes us hesitant to confide and trust in allies in the future. When we were originally contacted by Clay, we were reluctant to share our experiences, but decided to do so given her seemingly genuine desire to support us. We invited her into our very intimate conversation and space, and she betrayed our trust by taking credit for work she has not done.

The key players in the conversations to provide a safe space for undocumented students are, in fact, undocumented students themselves. For obvious reasons we cannot claim our involvement in this work because of the public outing of our undocumented status. Outside sources of support for our group have come from professors we have confided in, including Michael Niño, Jonneke Koomen, and Roy Pérez. These professors have sat in on meetings where we have discussed plans of action to gain more institutional resources.

Intentions such as creating a liaison position for us, providing us with information on scholarships and providing legal assistance for us and our families, are all ideas that have come out of private discussions between people invested in the issues. Furthermore, the article implies that these things are still not set in place when in fact we have worked direct-

ly with administrators and made some progress. Ignoring the work that has been done perpetuates the historical tendency of allies to take credit for the work and progress of marginalized communities, and especially women of color. We will not remain silent about her inaccurate claims of being an important part of support for DACA students on campus.

Although we have witnessed her genuine intentions and interest in supporting undocumented students, she has not been able to make any progress toward our fight in the ways we have directed her to take action. An in depth conversation about how ASWU allies would help us took place after weeks of Clay and other "concerned" members of ASWU repeatedly contacting an undocumented student. In our conversation and after viewing their ideas of extending their support we concluded that their aid in this struggle was going to be focused on providing funding for future legal expenses to change our statuses toward some form of documentation. Evidently she disregarded our suggestions and decided to use our progress already in action as her own. We wholesomely appreciate her extension of support, but Clay has not made any moves to help us in the ways in which we need help.

Clay's statements are not only disrespectful, but they erase the labor and conversation that has been done by others in the community. It is inappropriate and outright false to claim to contribute to a cause that she has put minimal effort into, purely to gain support for her campaign. If you want to help us in our cause, we have already directed you toward proper action in fundraising to alleviate legal forms and costs, as Dean Warren Binford has done with DACA renewal application fees. If you want partake in strong and effective allyship, stop taking over our work and start listening to what we really need.

Sincerely,
The Undocumented Students of WU

To the Editor,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Department of Exercise Science to open up a conversation surrounding some concerns that Ariadne Wolf raised about our department's professors and students in a recent *Collegian* column. As acknowledged in the column, the statistics course Wolf is currently taking does not fall under the control, whatsoever, of the exercise science department. It is a statistics course listed in the area of "interdisciplinary studies," and is meant to provide students with an opportunity to engage in applied statistics. The Exercise Science faculty did not create this course, nor are exercise science majors the only students who take it. Nevertheless, Wolf has based many of her assumptions off of her experiences in this class, and we are here to tell her that we have had very different experiences as well-versed students of the Exercise Science Department.

First, Wolf claimed that the students and faculty in the Exercise Science Department make up the "most conservative, marginalizing major at Willamette to date." This statement, in and of itself, is based on assumptions and is a huge generalization about the very large and diverse group of people that make up the Exercise Science Department. Thanks to the outstanding professors of this department, we understand the importance of citing evidence to support any claim we make. We would like to better understand the source of Wolf's comments in order to understand how to alleviate the negative feelings she has about Exercise Science.

Wolf's additional, yet related, accusation aimed at the Exercise Science department is that we "continue to pursue ... oppressive dynamics" through our discussions and choices of topics in classes. As faithful students of the Exercise Science department, we are speaking from experience when we say that this could not be further from the truth. The professors of this department, all of whom we look up to with utmost respect, encourage us to engage in conversations about important issues and to pursue the facts surrounding these topics.

While some of the datasets used in Wolf's class, along with others used in Exercise Sci-

ence courses, may involve sensitive topics, the Exercise Science Department utilizes the statistics presented in these classes as a way to learn more about issues prevalent in our society today. These discussions are, in no way, meant to cause distress or discomfort for students. Rather, they are meant to create awareness and education about these important issues. Any statistics regarding issues prevalent today could involve topics that may offend a subset of the population. Through open discussions, it is the aim of the Exercise Science Department to develop our education by conducting conversations about these complex topics in a safe environment.

We are not writing this response to Wolf as any sort of attack on her character. We fully understand and respect the severity of harassment and marginalization, and we have heard her concerns. However, the foundation behind the rumor which Wolf is trying to propagate is not what we have experienced as majors. Therefore, we are writing to you in the hopes of opening up a dialogue; we want to understand where Wolf's concerns and accusations are coming from so that we can take steps, together, to eliminate them. It is important to establish guidelines for what is appropriate to discuss in class, and where the line should be drawn when it comes to making assumptions about entire groups of people.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
The Exercise Science Executive Board

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed here are the author's own, and do not reflect the perspectives of the Opinions Editor or the *Collegian* staff.

We invite you to submit letters to the editor. Letters are limited to 350 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 Keeton Nance <ktnance>.

America's history of pharmaceutical price hikes

QUINLYN MANFULL
STAFF WRITER

Healthcare in America has never been more volatile. With threats of overturning the Affordable Care Act paired with cuts in funding for all Medicare and Medicaid programs, more people are at risk of losing their life-saving health insurance. With the price of prescription drugs skyrocketing, the lives of many are on the line today.

Prices of brand-name prescription drugs increased almost 130 times faster than inflation did in 2015 alone, according to a recent AARP study. With high dependence on medication and a significantly higher burden on our elderly, these high prices raise costs for everyone.

To combat skyrocketing drug prices such as Daraprim (a drug for parasites) increasing by over 5,000 percent overnight or an EpiPen two-pack ballooning from about \$100 to \$608 over the past decade, many states are introducing bills that will require pharmaceutical manufacturers to reimburse payers for the cost of prescription drugs that exceed a specified threshold or will create programs to help reimburse patients for the increasing costs.

Even beyond increasing costs, there are many drugs that have been on the market for decades that are just far too expensive in the first place. Individuals living with incurable diseases end up coughing up over thousands of dollars for just one of their prescriptions. This is true for individuals suffering from many blood disorders, extreme allergic reactions and anyone suffering of chronic pain.

Some demographics are hurt by these prices more than others. A re-

cent AARP survey found that three of four adults age 50+ regularly take at least one prescription medication, and over eight in 10 take at least two drugs. More than half of seniors take four or more drugs.

Prescription drug prices are among the fastest-growing costs in our healthcare system today. As a result, patients pay more for life-saving and life-sustaining care, and our health care companies are furthered burdened by paying more for employee's health care plans, and our local governments are faced with increasingly difficult decisions regarding public health and budgetary concerns.

How do we combat drug price hikes?

Many ideas are being tossed around many local legislatures. The government could consider extreme prices similarly to drug shortages, allowing for emergency imports of cheaper products. The United States patent office and the F.D.A. could be more exclusive in allowing for market exclusivity (or monopolies) for patents on drugs and delivery devices. A national (or local) body could set price ceilings for essential medicines (as occurs in other countries), or review rate increases levied on products that are unchanged.

The vast amount of critiques of attempts to halt these out of control prices center around the idea that price ceilings will always inhibit competition and innovation. I find it hilarious, however, that corporations are willing to cite free market theories when it benefits them, and completely forget about it when they want a monopoly on a product for the rest of time.

Even if you believe that price ceilings harm innovation, most bills in legislatures across the country are

not promoting price ceilings — but large pharmaceutical companies across the U.S. are painting it as such. For example, there are three bills in the Oregon legislature which help to provide cheaper drugs to patients in need, but none set a price cap for drug manufacturers.

But the price ceilings that are so deeply feared, most commonly come in the form of reimbursements to patients when the amount you increase the cost reaches a certain threshold. This means you can increase the price all you want — and up to, say, 3.4 percent each year without any increased cost to you — but if you increase the price more than that, you will have to reimburse patients who do not have the capability of paying such an increase.

These “price ceilings” prevent suppliers from engaging in price gouging — something that has obviously been happening over the past decades with most drugs.

With the market exclusivity granted to patents, and increased funding going toward marketing pharmaceuticals, the only thing stifling innovation is the status quo where corporations can charge whatever they deem appropriate for a drug that no one else can ever attempt to better or make more accessible.

Ultimately, price hikes will continue happening until we try to change this at a national scale. This is not a problem just of EpiPens, this is a problem with our prescription drug market and our healthcare system as a whole.

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Celebrities and beauty standards

MADELYN JONES
STAFF WRITER

While celebrities are no more or less human than everyone else, popular culture tends to treat them as something entirely different. While we shy away from saying unflattering things to someone's face since a person can crumble at the slightest critique or negative comment, people do not hold the same reservations with celebrities. Celebrities constantly get negative tweets, articles and comments directed toward them in ways a person would never insult a person sitting next to them.

A common instance of this is when people have discussions comparing two celebrities' attractiveness. This discussion happens casually at home, but is also pervasive in the media.

I have seen countless articles comparing celebrities in terms of looks. For example, I saw one comparing Lea Michele and Jennifer Lopez because they took a similar style selfie. Instead of celebrating the beauty of both of these women, the article encouraged its readers to choose which one they thought reigned supreme.

Articles like this not only objectify women, but pit them against each other. The stereotype that women are competitive against each other comes from and is encouraged by media like this. Women are not inherently competitive, but are taught to be when they see media and the people in their lives comparing people of the same gender. Everyone wants to feel attractive and beautiful, but society is telling women that their beauty is relative to the people around them, so girls start comparing themselves and competing with others.

It is not completely unheard of, but the comparison of everyday people's attractiveness happens much less, or at least not as publicly, as celebrities. This is because people are more likely to see their peers as real, complex people and understand that these comments are hurtful and insensitive.

However, people commonly forget that celebrities too have feelings, and most likely want to get attention for their work, not in an article about who wore it better. Celebrities only usually seem unaffected by these comments because they need to have tough skin to stay in the industry.

These conversations are purely based off of finding worth in someone based off of their looks. I have heard people talk about which guy is hotter in a movie or TV show, and the conversation distracts them from actually watching and appreciating the time and talent they put into creating the piece.

While you are having a conversation in a private space where whoever you are talking about will not hear you, just remember the people you are comparing, whether a celebrity or not, are people who deserve to be treated with respect. When it comes down to it, comparing people's looks is hurtful and the opposite of showing respect.

As a society, we should focus more on celebrating the beauty that everyone individually possesses, instead of creating tension and bad feelings by comparing people to others.

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Political satire is not a substitute for the news



SAMANTHA ZEMANEK

GIANNI MARABELLA
MANAGING EDITOR

Growing up in a fairly liberal household, I was raised on Jon Stewart. Four days a week, I would sit down with my family and listen to his thoughtful and always hilarious political commentary. I learned more about the world from Comedy Central than I did from any local or national news station.

It's not uncommon to find people with a very similar relationship with these political satire shows. In a world where people at all points of the political spectrum heavily distrust the media, many have turned to commentators like Stewart as their primary method of intaking the news. Some say the real news is just too depressing, and others claim that they can't believe anything these corporate owned media organizations say.

While I'd be the last person to condemn Jon Stewart and the show he ran for a decade and a half, an over-reliance on these runs the risk of blocking ourselves off from the real world. Stewart would be the first to tell you that narrowing your scope of knowledge will cause more harm than good.

As we all know, these political satire shows could not exist without bias in one direction or another. They cater to our desires to hear our own opinions expressed in others, with the bonus of keeping us fairly well-informed as far as the biggest current events go. While I don't know how I'd go on if these shows were to disappear, the content they put out every week is not representative of the different viewpoints that exist in the country, nor are they the place to get all your world news.

With the current political climate, every late night talk show host has become a political commentator. You won't make it through the week without hearing Jimmy Fallon, Seth Meyers, Jimmy Kimmel and all the other late night hosts weigh in on the constant slew of political controversy.

On one hand, we get a good laugh at our country's misfortune several times a week. On the other hand, we have a growing population of people in this country whose only understanding of what is going on comes from comedians.

Comedians on both the left and right have been giving their audiences reasons to laugh and think throughout all of history. However, condensing the barrage of complex issues we face right now into a 10 minute monologue isn't enough to stay informed.

With Stewart's retirement, many liberals turned to his former correspondent, John Oliver, as their main source of political satire and information when he started his own show on HBO. He shares Stewart's insightful and well-researched outlook on the world, and he packs a lot of information into his weekly show.

Oliver is known for covering very specific and unorthodox topics, pursuing lines of investigation that the populace of the United States would likely otherwise remain ignorant to. While he is arguably the primary liberal political commentator on the air right now, he only gets 30 minutes every week. While each episode he puts out is incredible informative and educational, there is no way for him to cover all of the important issues that plague the world.

With the way things are now in the political world, people can't afford to skim their way through current events. While I highly encourage people to take some time to laugh at the world, one can't forget that the country we live in is complex and requires more than a few comedy skits to remain a part of.

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Humans of Willamette

What is your favorite thing to do on a sunny day?



Kaitlyn Wiggins
Economics
Bainbridge Island, Washington
Sophomore

"My favorite thing is to go to the beach with my dogs."



Lydia Vanderburg
Biology
Seattle, Washington
Senior

"In the spring on a sunny day, I like to hang out with whatever flowers are blooming, so the cherry trees on the capital mall or the camas flowers in Bush Park, or just hang out with all of the beautiful botanical flowers on the Willamette grounds."



Maile Symonds
Politics and Economics
Portland, Oregon
Senior

"Hang out by the Mill Stream with Salome Paul."



Salome Paul
History
Boise, Idaho
Junior

"My favorite thing to do on a sunny day is sit by the Mill Stream and sip on some Italian soda."

PHOTOS BY
TESS PANETTA

INTERVIEWS BY
MEREDETH MASHBURN

SUDOKU

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CAMPUS SAFETY

Suspicious Activity

March 17, 7:54 p.m. (Northwood Hall): A student called to report a suspicious person standing outside of the residence who was looking through the window. Campus Safety officers responded but could not locate the subject.

March 18, 5:20 p.m. (Fine Arts West): An officer observed two individuals in Fine Arts West who were in an unusual location. When questioned they both said they were students. It was determined that one individual was lying about being a student, while the other individual is a student and is authorized to be in FAW.

March 18, 9:12 p.m. (Ford Hall): Campus Safety received a report of six males fighting. Officers responded and located

two students who were having an argument, but were not escalating. A witness stated that four of the six individuals had left prior to the officer's arrival and had been involved in a pushing/shoving incident.

Theft

March 20, 11:40 p.m. (Doney Hall): A student reported that his bike had been stolen from the basement of his residence hall. A report was filed.