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Delay in boiler upgrades leaves first-year dorms without heat

Gia Patel
Staff Writer

In the Eastside dorms that house first-year students, Matthews residents have been met with no hot water for the last few months. Now, the heating system has been shut off in Matthews, Baxter and Belknap, meaning that these students have had no heat during some of the coldest recorded nights of this semester.

First-year students residing in these dorms were sent an email from housing regarding the opportunity to borrow space heaters and the guidelines for doing so. The email sent on Oct. 26 read, "We've been in communication with the maintenance department, and they report that the heat should be back up and running in Matthews within the next two weeks. The Baxter boilers need to undergo a series of inspections and tests to make sure that the system is working properly." No other information was provided.

When emailed, Director of Facilities Gary Grimm pointed to an email that he sent out on Oct. 31 to parents of Willamette students about

the heating issues in Matthews and Baxter, which explained that the core cause lies in issues in upgrading the outdated boiler systems at the university. Grimm otherwise declined to be interviewed due to a busy schedule.

Grimm's email read: "In 2022, Willamette's Board of Trustees allocated \$28 million in debt resources to improve the facilities & IT infrastructure on both our Salem and Portland campuses. Work started this past summer on our most significant project: the decentralization and upgrade of the Salem campus boiler system." Decentralizing the steam boilers and replacing them with localized boilers "allows individual building control that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of how we heat space and water in a dozen buildings on campus." The first phase of this project started last summer, and aimed to replace and install new boilers in the Hatfield Library, Matthews Complex and the Sparks Athletic Center.

However, these plans were met with unfortunate issues that "were out of our control such as staffing, work with vendors, and securing parts

were challenges on all of our projects, leading to later completion dates than originally anticipated," the email states. This includes the complication which occurred when vendors damaged Baxter Hall while working on the installation and replacement of boilers, which caused unanticipated delays.

Space heaters and blankets are available through requests to the Facilities Request System or by calling Campus Safety if students need a heater over a weekend. Yet, for Alex Reeves ('27), a resident of Belknap Hall, the process of receiving a space heater wasn't an easy one. She wasn't able to receive a space heater until Oct. 30, even though she requested one twice on Oct. 26 and twice again the next day, on Oct. 27.

Reeves shared, "My roommate had to go to the housing office on Monday. And then, not until after that did we get one." When describing her experience with no heating, Reeves emphasized, "It has been horrible, especially without a space heater for a while," and that there has been "little communication other than that you could fill a form for heaters and that they were giving

blankets. That's it. Everything else that I've heard about it has been hearsay."

Flannery Sheets ('27), a resident in Matthews Hall, echoed similar concerns. She said that housing has been "pretty communicative about the hot water situation, but they haven't really said anything about the heating, so that was kind of surprising." The lack of heating has made Sheets "not want to be there [in her dorm] as much." Yet, she highlights

that a positive aspect of this experience has been "a comradery on the other people on my floor, and this idea that we are all in this together." Other than creating a sense of community with the other residents of Matthew, Sheets describes the situation as "a little discouraging sometimes."

In the email sent on Oct. 31, Grimms addressed that contractors are doing their best to address the heating prob-

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Proposed Sparks fee sets staff aflame

Mary Vickery
Sports Writer

While an hour down the road, Portland Association of Teachers union members have been striking for three weeks, earlier in the fall educators and faculty at Willamette took a stand of their own. Tempers flared and stern emails were sent in response to a proposed fee implementation for faculty members who wanted access to Sparks Fitness Center. A week after being introduced, the proposal was rescinded.

Since reopening after briefly closing its doors in 2020, the gym has been steadily increasing its notoriously sporadic hours. However, this expanded availability hasn't occurred without a cost, literal-

ly. With more hours comes an increase in the need for staff, all of whom need to be paid. Additionally, in recent years many of Sparks' facilities have needed repair, including the pool, which was without heating for the start of the swim season. To help amend these issues, at the beginning of the semester administration and faculty at Willamette were told they would be charged for their usage of Sparks.

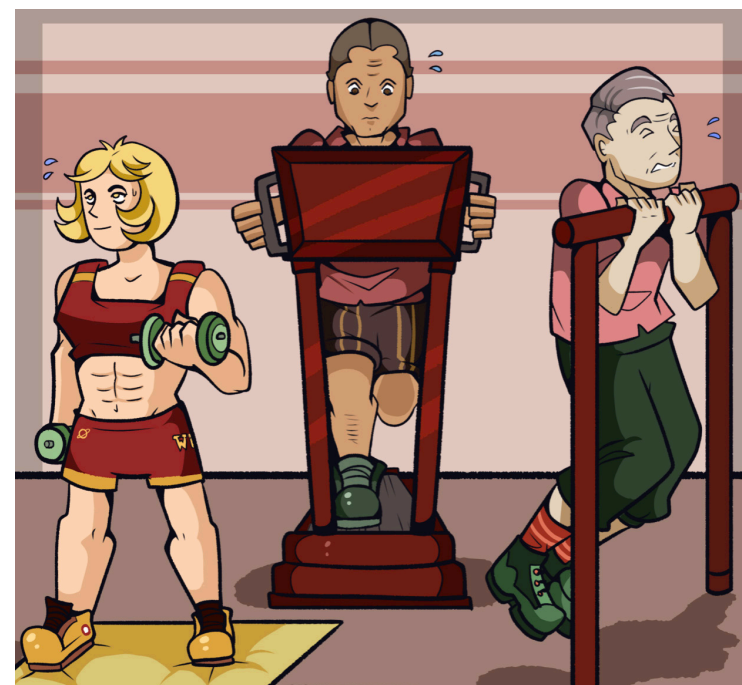
For the semester, faculty were asked to pay \$75 to use Sparks and all its amenities. Broken down, this equates to \$15 per month. For comparison, nearby gym Phisiq offers a membership for \$20 a month, but has an annual fee of \$49.99 and a startup fee of \$149.99 and Planet Fitness has a membership for only \$10 a month

Art by Carolyn Vazquez

but has a \$49 annual fee and a \$49 startup fee. Even here at Willamette, students pay a \$134 "Student Activity fee" every semester, which partially goes towards their usage of Sparks. Other liberal arts colleges in the area like Reed and Lewis & Clark provide free use of their fitness centers for faculty and staff.

Within a week of the new fee being implemented, the decision was reversed. Coordinator of Student Engagement Quinn Nottage says that during that week he was "bombarded with strongly worded emails." These emails ranged in assertions from, "How dare you," to, "You're not think-

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Willamette's School of Computing and Information Sciences provides new opportunities for students

Alan Cohen
Staff Writer

On May 22, 2023, Willamette University announced the creation of a new School of Computing and Information Sciences (SCIS) to “support the expansion of its rapidly growing computing and data science programs.”

Dean of the School of Computing and Information Sciences Jameson Watts stated that the creation of this new school implies a more independent governing structure that hopes to expand academic opportunities, class offerings and faculty members to keep up with the increasing demands and popularity of “big data and human-centered computing.”

The new school currently has eight full-time and two part-time faculty members and is in the process of hiring two to three more professors. The newest additions to the team include professors Lucas Cordova and Hank Iber.

The School of Computing and Information Sciences provides undergraduate and graduate programs in computer science and data science. In addition, there is an accelerated BS/MS program for students to complete their Bachelor's and Master's degrees in data science, which is conducted on Willamette's Salem and Portland campuses over four years and a summer.

The school is already seeing success: “So far, enrollment has been really strong. For instance, we are offering five sections of our Intro to Data Science class with 40 students per section,” Watts stated. This trend is also visible in the introducto-

ry computer science courses, showing the high popularity of the field among undergraduate students.

“A big part of our mission is service and access. We want to make sure that as many students as possible have access to this kind of education,” Watts commented in terms of goals for SCIS. Another main focus of the program is making students think about the ethical implications and different uses of new technologies in our society, Watts told Fortune Magazine.

Computer science professor Haiyan Cheng has been teaching at Willamette since 2009 and was heavily involved in the creation of the new school. She stated that the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic threatened small liberal arts schools like Willamette, so she sees the creation of this new school as a very positive approach for Willamette to stand out nationally in the academic fields of computer science and data science. She added that a separate governance body for the SCIS was more logical in terms of adapting to the popularity trends in the field than if the program had continued being part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Both Watts and Cheng concluded that a key component of this popularity trend in the field is the increasing applications of computer and data science skills in other fields such as healthcare, humanities and arts. They hope that the creation of this school increases opportunities for students to gain technological skills that will be very valuable in their careers, regardless of their main fields of study.

Thomas Sato ('25)

is a data science major interested in pursuing the 3+1 Master's in Data Science program. He stated that since the creation of the new school is mostly a long-term change, he was not personally affected. Nonetheless, he shared that he values variety in course offerings and is looking forward to taking new classes that were not offered previously.

Many institutions, Willamette included, have had to resort to mergers, acquisitions and expansions to diversify their academic programs due to high upkeep costs and competition in the higher education sector. This existing issue increased at an even higher rate due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Willamette University President Stephen Thorsett stated, “The decision by the board to think about expansion into new programs came years ago” when they started noticing an increase in demand for computer science and data science, as well as strategies of expansion that other institutions comparable to Willamette were following. Nonetheless, Thorsett explained that Willamette is slightly different from most private institutions in that it is a university and not a college, and it is therefore divided in separate independent schools as opposed to being one individual body. At Willamette, these include the School of Management, the School of Law and the recently acquired Pacific Northwest College of Arts in Portland.

Since each school has different rules regarding faculty hiring, promotion and tenure, as well as separate cultures, the university decided that creating an independent body would be more benefi-



cial and efficient in the long term, Thorsett said. He added that Willamette has had to adapt to similar trends and market changes throughout its history, such as when Willamette had a theology school and a medical school, the latter of which later became the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU).

SCIS is also planning on adding new academic programs in fields such as data visualization and design that will be accessible to PNCA students, as well as potentially a new degree program in statistics.

Willamette University Provost and Senior Vice President Carol Long further explained Willamette's strategy of expansion. “Our goal, which we set several years ago now, is to grow over the next five years optimistically

Art by Lucy Devlaeminck to about 4,000 students,” she stated. “As we've watched the higher education landscape, it seems that small schools are struggling more to remain viable.”

Long, in addition to Thorsett, Watts and Cheng, stressed the importance of making this growing field accessible to students of all disciplines, as computer science and data science courses prove valuable to professionals in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and arts.

She concluded by stating that she is excited “to see how the new school can really work with so many different pieces of the institution,” as well as for future students to benefit from it, growing personally and professionally.

Delay in boiler upgrades leaves first-year dorms without heat contd.

lems in Matthews and Baxter, stating, “Our contractors are moving to 10-hour work days to get the boilers operational as soon as possible [in Matthews Hall]. We are looking at a completion and start-up date of Nov. 6. ... [In Baxter Hall] our contractors are installing piping this week [of Oct. 22 to Oct. 27] and are scheduled to start installing the controllers next week [of Oct. 30 to Nov. 3] which should get the boilers operational.”

In an email sent out to Baxter residents on Tues-

day, Nov. 21, Chief Operating Officer Dan Valles explained that Baxter Hall would not get heating until Dec. 22. Matthews Hall reportedly has heat again. The delay in Baxter is due to permitting processes required for installation. According to Valles' email, space heaters have been put in Baxter common areas and Baxter bathrooms have radiator heat that has not been affected. Students can request space heaters through facilities service requests.

ing about embracing the idea of promoting health.” Nottage even recalled faculty going up to Waller 3rd, the location of President Stephen Thorsett's office, in protest, though he omitted the names of participants. When asked to speak on the issue, President Stephen Thorsett diverted the discussion to Vice President for Student Affairs Lisa Landreman, who in turn set a later interview date before directing questioning to Nottage.

According to Nottage, the manner in which the change was introduced may

have bothered faculty as well, leading to stronger protests. He explained, “We gave them about a week and a half slash two-week notice that [the fee implementation] was going to happen. Maybe a month or a semester in advance would have been better, or even just polling.” Additionally, Nottage stated, “I understand where faculty and staff are [coming from]. Not having an increase in salary with the increase in inflation definitely takes a toll ... so if there's something you haven't planned to pay for, it can be really jarring.”

Mark O. Hatfield Systems Librarian Bill Kelm ('91) has worked at WU for 32 years and claims he has never paid to use Sparks. Kelm has a local membership at Phisiq and mainly uses Sparks to work out during his lunch. Upon hearing about the fee, Kelm decided it was no longer worth it to work out at the fitness center, stating he was “just disappointed that they took [free Sparks] away.”

At least partially due to a lack of funds, Sparks Fitness Center hours for fall break will be cut and it will be closed for winter break.

Proposed Sparks fee sets staff aflame contd.

Student bands fill the Bistro with song

Lane Shaffer
Staff Writer

On the evening of Nov. 2, three performances from Willamette bands were featured in a special event that drew an audience of over 70 students to a “Night out at the Bistro.” The Bistro has been struggling to keep business profitable, and this event from the Willamette Events Board (WEB) provided an opportunity to drum up business while highlighting student performers.

The campus has been lacking musically centered community events since the demise of Wulapalooza, a student-run music and arts festival. While many Willamette sponsored groups like Up Top and Tandem provide opportunities for musical expression on campus, for student bands there are not as many options. All three of the bands that played the Nov. 2 event noted the importance of giving young artists a platform.

The event was organized by the WEB President Audrey Ely (‘24), who said that this year WEB wanted to be more student centered. “We have a very musical, very creative campus, and we really wanted to include a lot of student voices in our events.” The concert also served as a way to bring in business for the Bistro: “It’s really dead at night, so getting some more sales in for the Bistro because they’ve been struggling was part of it,” Ely explained.

The one-man band Lost in October started the night off. River Hosten (‘26) played the guitar and sang some covers and some original songs. He has been writing songs since he was 12 or 13 and playing guitar since 2020 and was excited to be a part of this event in the Willamette community.

“I’m really glad that I got to perform at the Bistro,” Hosten said. “The Bistro

Uncertainty Principle



Phucemol

is definitely a gathering place on campus, so similar to how music brings people together through different languages, I think the Bistro also brings people together because it’s so warm and comforting.”

The array of free Bistro pastries, lemonade and tea provided at the event certainly brought people together as well. Audience members cheered Hosten on from the floor as the venue filled to capacity.

The next band to take the stage was Phucemol, who played a variety of covers such as “Zombie” by The Cranberries and “Tear in My Heart” by twenty one pilots. Henry Dobesh (‘26), a member of the group, started the band in July under the name Men of Virtue. It has since morphed into a larger band under the name Phucemol.

Dobesh said that the group has only performed once in the past and appreciated the opportunity to play at the Bistro. Turning the small coffee shop space into a music venue was a very unique experience. “It was amazing. I think we

Lost in October

pulled it together. There were moments where my guitar was too loud, but I think it was good,” Dobesh said.

The last group to play was Uncertainty Principle, who closed out the night with a few covers including “Brazil” by Declan McKenna. Aiden Dopson (‘25) said the band played one Bistro show in 2022 and was excited to be back for another. Unfortunately, some technical difficulties and a lack of crowd engagement made it difficult to perform the way they usually do.

Dopson said it was “not our best show.” He explained, “It’s hard to play for people that aren’t interacting with you. We definitely appreciate more of a fun environment and here, you can get in your head about it.”

If you missed this event or want to hear more, you can follow the bands @inOctoberlost, @phucemol.theband and @uncertaintyprincipleband on Instagram to stay updated on new music and shows.

Photos by Lucy Devlaeminck



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Henry Dalton of the @willamette_fungi_project is a ‘fungi’

Izzy Cornelison
Staff Writer

From sequoia trees to the invasive nutria, the Willamette campus is host to a beautiful ecosystem, a vital part being the fungi. Henry Dalton (24) is examining the local fungi through photographing and researching for his Instagram page @willamette_fungi_project and in his own studies of psilocybin.

Since the beginning of his sophomore year, Dalton has owned and operated the page, but it hasn't always been as it appears today. Dalton said, "For a long time it was really just me posting all the cool mushrooms that I found, and then I started working with Professor [David] Craig in the Environmental Science department. And we were working on a project where maybe we could take the Instagram account that already existed and turn it into something a little more academic."

The Instagram posts on a semiregular basis, sharing photos usually taken by Dalton accompanied by the identification of the mushroom and fun facts about the species. While most of the photos are taken by Dalton himself, he encourages students to send in their own

photos of fungi that they find around campus for identification. "There are a lot of different mushrooms, so every time that I [identify] one I like to learn more about it. And if it's growing locally I figure people around here would like to know about it," said Dalton.

Dalton is not an environmental science major in any capacity, however; he is a data science and computer science major. The only part of environmental science he really enjoys is mushrooms, he explained, which is why he is part of an independent study with the same name as the Instagram account, the Willamette Fungi Project. The study tracks and logs every mushroom Dalton has found around campus in order to create a system going forward for future Willamette students to easily identify the fungi around campus.

Dalton's interest goes beyond the Willamette Valley's local fungi; in fact, the world is his oyster mushroom. He explained, "Kind of a tangent from the Willamette Fungi Project is my own personal endeavor with psilocybin. Me and my friend Adam Case (25) are the first students that we know of to have an Oregon psilocybin permit, [which] allows us to work, handle

and do research with psilocybin in approved facilities."

Psilocybin mushrooms, more commonly known as Magic Mushrooms, contain psilocybin, a naturally occurring psychedelic which affects all the body's senses when consumed.

Dalton explained his interest: "It's fun to think of how wild this certain substance is and how it affects our brain, because it totally restructures the neural pathways in our brain and we haven't found much that can do that. And that's why it's been so helpful for depression, anxiety and PTSD because it works like no other drug. And finally we're getting past the stigma of the '60s through '80s where it was seen as just a party drug for lowlives who want to get high, when really this is a really helpful and good thing that can help a lot of people."

In November 2020, Oregon became the first state to legalize psilocybin-assisted therapy, and to decriminalize the personal possession of drugs. In 2022, Colorado became the only other state to legalize psychedelics and treatment facilities.

The research on the effects of psilocybin is still



an ever growing topic across America, so Dalton is considering the possibility of doing some research of his own. "I actually reached out to the University of Ohio because they were one of the first colleges to get a federal license to grow Magic Mushrooms. I got in contact with the director of their program there and he said that while manufacturing mushrooms is a very difficult thing to do — there's a lot of 'red tape' because you're kind of inventing that process — what we could do in the future is

to get the psychology department to sort of tag along with us and potentially do trials and experiments with individuals who would like to try psilocybin."

While Dalton continues to explore the future of psilocybin, Willamette students can put on their thinking (mushroom) cap and discover more about the local ecosystem by visiting @willamette_fungi_project to look at Dalton's photography of the local fungi.

One of Salem's only skate shops has closed. What's next for the Salem skate scene?

Ernie Samora
Staff Writer

One of Salem's few skate shops, Caakes — standing for "create authentic art, keep everything simple" — has closed its doors, leaving only two other skate stores standing in the central Salem area. Described on its website as "a street inspired lifestyle brand ... that collaborates with inspired individuals to produce custom, one-of-a-kind designs to connect you to your authentic self," Caakes always aimed to stand out. Now it seems as though the store will be just another in the list of central Salem skate shops which have faded into history. With its closure, how might the skate scene be impacted?

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Caakes to close temporarily mere months after opening the storefront. Following the lockdown, the store faced an uphill battle gaining traction, troubled with slow days in a post-pandemic world. On Oct. 15, 2022 the business announced via Instagram: "Unfortunately CAAKES will

be closed until further notice ... We will still keep the Instagram going and be posting skateboarding content every now and then to keep the spirit alive."

The store is currently registered as inactive with the Oregon Secretary of State. However, although the physical storefront is gone, Caakes has continued to exist as a brand. Clothing is still sold via their website, and the Instagram account is still active, promoting new clothing collections, their podcast and their live music events. When asked for comment on the current state of Caakes, page admin and Caakes owner Rolando "Ro" Crenshaw stated via Instagram direct message, "We are currently doing pop ups at music events and hosting our own Lyrics and Laughs events. Lyrics and Laughs is a comedy and music driven event that we do at a few different locations around Salem."

Skate shops offer a cultural hub where skaters can connect in person. The closure of Caakes is likely a detriment to the skate scene, with skaters now only having Zumiez and

a small counter at Blast Off Vintage to depend on for their skating needs. In the words of the late Editor-in-Chief of Thrasher Magazine Jake Phelps: "If you shop online, you're just too chicken. I've been skateboarding and going to shops my whole fucking life ... that's where it's at. You find the people who are going to be in your life forever." As it is, many Willamette skaters order their skate gear online or go to their local store back home.

Though for now WU and Salem skaters are limited by the closure of Caakes, the Geer skate park development project, which recently received a \$500,000 grant from Oregon Parks and Rec, could give the scene the uptick needed to sustain Caakes or another shop. In the meantime, Caakes is currently pursuing other ventures, including "working on publishing a children's coloring book with Caakes art," as described via Instagram direct message.



Art by Maille Olgyay

The Bike Shop's uphill battle

Ernie Samora
Staff Writer

Third and fourth-year students may have noticed the familiar sign between Baxter and Montag inviting students to visit The Bike Shop and Outdoor Program has been missing this semester, and if they were to take a look inside Montag, they would most likely find a barren, almost liminal hub. With the goal to help students with any biking-related needs, those who have utilized this service in the past may be unpleasantly surprised to find almost no trace of it on campus. Bearcat bikers are wondering, where is The Bike Shop?

Attending Willamette while not owning a car can feel limiting. Many areas of Salem are simply inaccessible without a vehicle. With such volatile gas prices and the student population growing, owning a car on campus becomes less attainable with each passing year. Biking provides a great alternative to a car — they are fun, a great source of exercise, en-

vironmentally-friendly and are cost effective. Previous Willamette students have addressed these biking needs when they opened The Bike Shop, but the program has fallen on tough times in recent years.

After the recent graduation of one of its only employees, The Bike Shop has just a singular mechanic, Ingrid Aosved ('24). Due to the lack of staffing, The Bike Shop has been forced to hit the brakes on continuous service, switching from open hours to an appointment-based system in which Aosved will only come in if an appointment has been made beforehand.

Students needing to repair their bikes can use The Bike Shop's tools during Montag's desk hours: 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday. However, without a mechanic, students are forced to learn repairs on their own. Visiting Montag, students will find a work stand that is available at all hours of the day for at-leisure use, as well as a detailed guide on how to change a flat

tire and a biking map of Salem, Keizer and Turner.

Another obstacle in the road for The Bike Shop has been the multitude of thefts from the Montag Den, including three in just the last year. These thefts have placed not only a financial burden on the program but have also taken a strain on morale. The Bike Shop had purchased a recumbent bike in order to make biking more accessible for students with physical disabilities. The workers had fully built the bike, but by the next time they came in, it was gone. "We were really excited about it and then they took everything from the bike except for the flag," explained Aosved. The thief also made off with new tools purchased just weeks before.

The Bike Shop has been unsure of its space as a result of the security concerns. "We had to change spaces ... four times at this point," said Aosved. "How do you have a bike shop when you are struggling to have the physical space for a bike shop?" Sev-

eral actions have been taken in order to prevent further break-ins, including the installation of additional university alarms and cameras as well as switching to a new space within Montag that features a locking glass door. "ODP seems to be in its final location for now," Aosved noted. The move within Montag has seemingly been a success, as there have been no new break-ins during the 2023 fall semester.

Next semester, Aosved hopes to offer parts so that students can access everything they need to sustain their bike on campus without having to go into town or rely on Amazon. Aosved and Sarah Schneider, assistant director of student engagement & leadership and advisor to both The Collegian and The Bike Shop, are planning to send a survey asking what biking supplies students may need so they are fully prepared next semester. In the long term, Aosved hopes to one day bring The Bike Shop back to its former glory, with multiple staff and consistent



Art by Eli Fukuji

open hours. "We're doing our best," said Aosved.

Intrepid Bearcats looking for help with bike repairs can make an appointment by emailing bike-shop@willamette.edu or can join Outdoor Program's mailing list to stay up-to-date with all The Bike Shop news. Those interested in working with The Bike Shop can send an email expressing interest to be kept in mind during the next hiring process.

Fast Break sports report

Skeet Starr
Sports Editor

11/28

Hello, Bearcat Fan! Welcome back. As dead week approaches, we at The Collegian would like to remind you that you actually don't have to get started on that work you were going to get started on. Contrary

to popular belief, you can do that way later and it will be totally fine. Professors and trusted friends will tell you to do that thing now, but they don't love you like The Collegian loves you. A study shows that reading the Fast Break makes you more creative and focused anyway. Let's go to the news!

Women's Basketball took the fight to Colorado Springs, Colorado where

they lost to Concordia Wisconsin (54-61), but demolished Illinois Tech (91-58). Kaitlin Imai ('26) put up 21 points to lead the 'Cats' failed effort against the Falcons, then Carolyn Ho ('24) and a more steady Willamette side picked apart the Hawks.

The Division I University of Portland Pilots scored 47 points off the

Art by Carolyn Vazquez

bench to defeat Men's Basketball (107-84). Bearcat first year Will Hurst ('27) pulled six boards out of the silver-lined clouds.

Swimmers are preparing for the Bruin invitational next week.

In the wide world of sports: Aston Villa snuck past Tottenham Hotspur and into the Premier League top four, Oregon State Men's Soccer smacked Southern

Methodist 7-1 to break into the NCAA quarterfinals and chess grandmasters Levon Aronian and Wesley So are dispatching opponents at the Sinquefeld Cup.

Consider in the coming weeks: Does staff pay to use Sparks? Where'd The Bike Shop go? At which parts of the day do you consider yourself a "self," or rather, when do you even consider at all?



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Fall Fashion Lookbook: What's in and what's out?

Lane Shaffer
Staff Writer

The onset of fall brings jackets, boots and more back into the clothing rotation. Sweater weather is a special time of year at Willamette and people have a lot of thoughts about fall fashion.

Hunter Shinn ('27) saddled into autumn with an outfit she described as "western-wear." She paired cowboy boots with a nightgown, scarf, a thrifted Dallas Cowboys jacket and a variety of rings and necklaces. "I went and saw the Barbie movie and had a deep, spiritual connection with Ken because he was really into horses," Shinn said. Her horse-inspired looks integrate bolo ties, leather jackets and other

"cowboy-core" pieces.

Shinn is not a fan of the umbrella stigma that pervades the Pacific Northwest. "Sometimes that rain is coming down. It doesn't matter if I'm in an entirely waterproof outfit, there's just no reason I shouldn't have an umbrella," she began. "Call me sick, call me crazy. Normalize an umbrella." If you also love umbrellas and cowboys, she recommends going to Engelberg Antiks for some good finds in Salem.

Ash Scott ('25) appeared wearing a classic oversized yellow rain jacket, a chic sweater vest, Doc Martens and colorful pants. They are a fan of the big rain jackets that people have been wearing around campus: "The oversized kind of jackets, especially paired with smaller things like this

vest. Just as big as they can get."

Scott made the point that it is far past time for the sandals to go. "I feel like I've seen people wearing Birkenstocks or sandals around on rainy days, and that's kinda nasty right. People need to pull out some boots." Scott enjoys thrifting for their clothes, especially at Blast Off Vintage.

Not everyone is so supportive of the oversized clothing, though. Sean Macri ('26) came dressed in Air Forces, pajama pants, a funky lime graphic crewneck and a concert t-shirt. He does not like the "giant rain jackets" that Willamette students have been sporting. "Honestly, I don't own one, so I might just be jealous. But besides that, I feel like they're kinda bulky

and take up a lot of space." He does appreciate a good pair of pj's though and is glad to see people walking around in their cozy clothing.

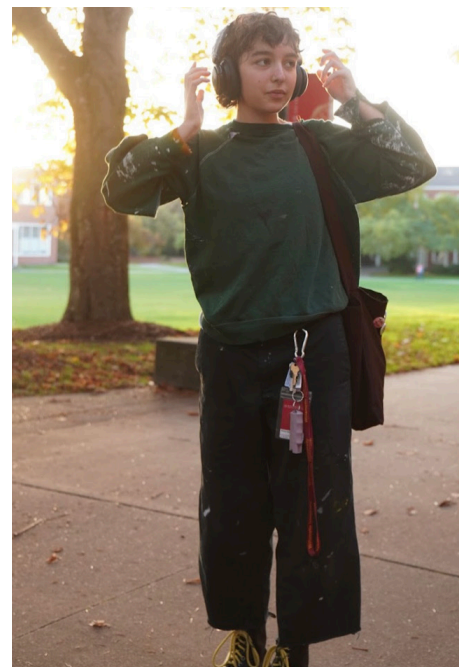
Emma Rhode ('26) wore a corset dress, thigh-highs, a thigh strap and some ribbons in her hair. She loves the oversized sweaters that people wear because they "look really cozy and cute." She recommends either the Salem Center mall or the Reed Opera House for all your clothing needs.

Rowan Spangler ('27) was rocking some paint-splattered clothing and a pair of socks from their extensive collection, which had deer on them. Spangler's clothes carried quite the story with them. Their pants are stolen goods: "My mom's shitty ex-husband

asked me to mend them, and I said 'sure' and took them and never gave them back." Their paint-splattered, tattered sweatshirt is from their mom, who was a "painter lesbian in San Francisco in the '90s." For their thrifting adventures, Spangler also recommends shopping at Blast Off Vintage. "The owner gave me a sweatshirt for free. She was like, 'I can see into your soul and I can tell that you need this,'" Spangler recounted.

Maybe these looks have inspired you, or maybe you're tired of the fall weather and are ready for warm sunny days again. Either way, stay warm, stay healthy and stay fashionable! Lastly, as Rhodes said, "Wear whatever you want to wear and don't be afraid to dress like no one's watching."

Photos by Jason Lehman



Opinion: Why small museums are worth visiting

Marit Hickey
Staff Writer

All around the world, grand museums serve as repositories for the art and history of humanity. It's an important role, as museums provide education to the public and serve as storehouses of important sources for many researchers keen on understanding the past. However, because museums are an invaluable player in preserving history, our choices surrounding what museums we support inadvertently decide what history is preserved. It's not odd that larger institutions get more attention, but it can mean that smaller museums are often left behind when they are just as important to support, especially because they tend to focus on histories local to an area. In this way, small museums are worth visiting not just because you might learn something, but also because you can help these institutions in a meaningful way by showing up.

Dr. Ellen Eisenberg is the Dwight and Margaret Leer chair of American history here at Willamette and teaches a class about diversifying history in the Pacific Northwest. "A lot of students I meet, whatever

state they're from, they've got some state history in third or fourth grade, and that's it. Ironically, accelerated track students may get even less because they tend to take AP or IB classes, which include no local history whatsoever," she said.

Modernity and globalization have fostered a feeling of placelessness in many of us that is only exaggerated by spotty knowledge of our home's past, wherever that home may be. "Narrative is an important part of creating community," Kylie Pine, the curator and collections manager at the Willamette Heritage Center, commented, "and it's a shared narrative just by the fact that we're all living in this one place."

In general, history is important to learn for the ways it helps foster empathy and critical thinking skills, both of which apply even more to the stories behind where we live. "Within the last year, we've curated and hosted an exhibit looking at Salem's Chinatown and the experience of Chinese Americans within Salem, which often gets subsumed into stories about Portland," Pine said. Commenting on the same exhibit, Dr. Eisenberg added, "There was no trace of

[Salem's 19th century Chinatown] left, really. They called out to the community and asked people to bring things in, and they ended up collecting a lot of photos and documents. A lot of that stuff otherwise ends up in someone's basement and then eventually gets thrown out."

Without the Heritage Center's intervention, it is not hard to imagine that Salem's Chinatown, as well as the people that lived there, would have been completely forgotten over time. Knowing about histories like these are absolutely vital in expanding whose stories get preserved, especially in a world that systematically tries to undermine the existence of marginalized people. In this way, institutions like the Willamette Heritage Center are small but incredibly mighty. Though they might not attract the press or prestige of a large museum, the work they're doing matters.

Unfortunately, many small museums suffer from a chronic lack of funding and attention from the public. Said public also includes the students here at Willamette: "I find when I bring students [to the Heritage Center] that the vast majority of them had never been there," Dr. Eisen-

berg mentioned. Pine similarly noted, "I would love to see a lot more community members come in and be a part of the conversation."

The Heritage Center, which is just across the street from campus, helps provide countless opportunities for students. You can always visit, but you can also get involved in

their work as an undergraduate, either independently or as a part of a class. For example, Dr. Eisenberg teaches several classes that give students the chance to interact with the Heritage Center like HIST-199-01, which focuses on bringing diverse perspectives into the history of Oregon.

Photo by Caramia Christensen



Opinion: WU students' beverage preferences indicate greater campus acceptance

Mya Jewison
Staff Writer

As the weather gets chillier, there is a greater necessity for warm drinks: hot chocolate, steaming coffee or soothing tea, to name a few. However, as the temperature drops, there is a question to be asked: is it still appropriate to enjoy a nice iced drink? On Willamette's campus, the consensus reveals more than just students' beverage preferences; it's telling of a greater inclination towards expressing yourself and liking what and who you like.

I had many brief conversations with various Bearcats about their thoughts on iced drinks in the winter season, and many of them didn't have an opinion, which stood out to me. What are the odds that every student stopped and asked didn't have a preference of whether they viewed it acceptable or not to enjoy a chilly drink in subpar weather? These responses, though they make for a lame argument about hot and cold drinks, are a picture-perfect reflection of the open community on campus.

Willamette has built a culture around being yourself

and liking things unapologetically, as evidenced by the responses of the students interviewed. This unwritten societal rule applies to dress, academic interests, activism, music and hobbies, as well as many other categories of self-identification.

Drinking an iced drink in the wintertime, though it can make for chilly fingers and the necessity for extra blankets, is something that many people enjoy. Some students elaborated on why they like iced drinks, claiming that they preferred how cold drinks such as iced coffee taste compared to their hot counterparts: "I love the taste of iced drinks. Always. They're my favorite," said Cassie Thomas ('27).

Of all the students interviewed, almost all of them said that they viewed iced drinks as a symbol of LGBTQ+ culture. Willamette has a thriving LGBTQ+ community, much due to the openness of its students. As previously mentioned, campus culture at Willamette is teeming with love and passion for learning, discovering and pursuing. Students are encouraged by teachers and peers to explore different parts of their identity, and

for some, this is the first time they have been able to be open about their sexuality or gender orientation.

For many students, having iced drinks in the winter is representative of a larger willingness to bend the rules. Iced drinks in winter break a norm, and for many of those who identify under the LGBTQ+ umbrella, breaking norms is something that they are used to.

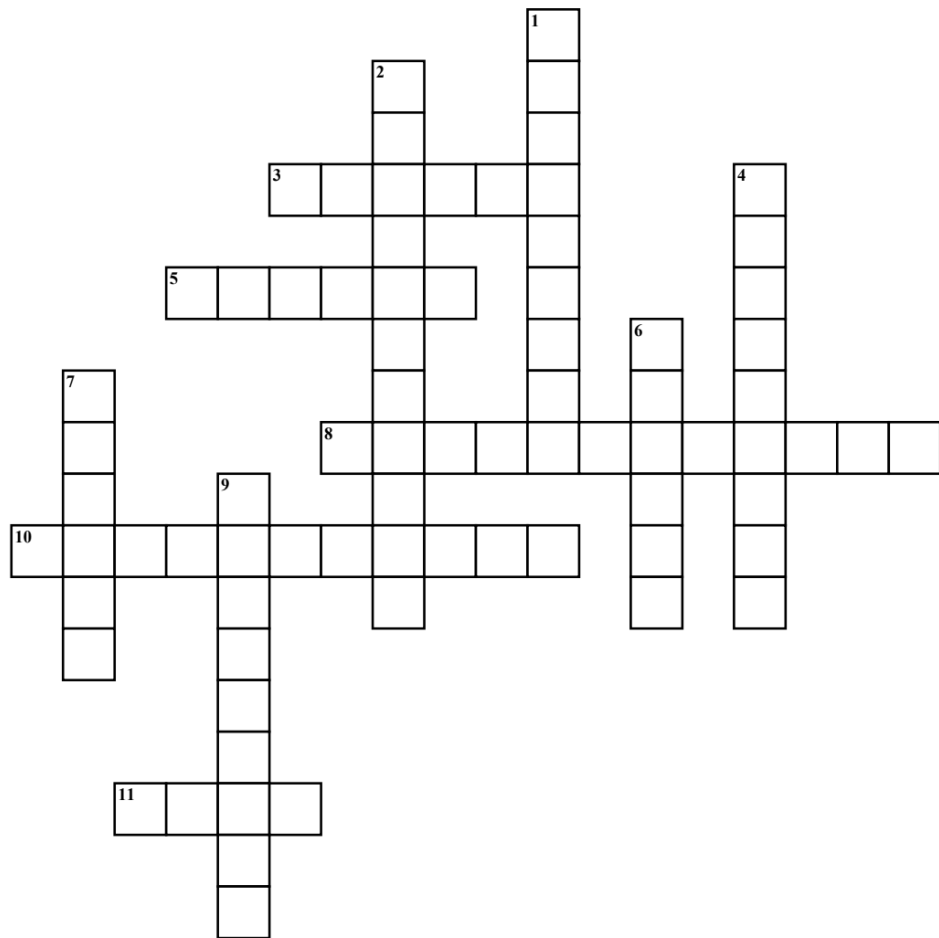
Specifically at Willamette there is solidarity, a welcome mat on the doorstep of self-discovery. "Come inside," the university says. "You are safe here!" Students are not concerned with who wants to drink a certain drink at a particular time of year. The answers to my initial survey, at their heart, reflect the unapologetic LGBTQ+ identity that weaves its way through campus. Iced drinks are not seen as an exclusively warm-weather treat, rather they are openly enjoyed all year round at Willamette because students aren't afraid to show our community what they like, even if it goes against the norm.

Art by Eli Fukuji





Winter Wonder Crossword



Across

- [3] Sparkly, string-like holiday decor
- [5] "Hit the ____"
- [8] Type of running and skiing
- [10] Pop star that dominates the music of the holiday season
- [11] Flakes, flurries, sleet

Down

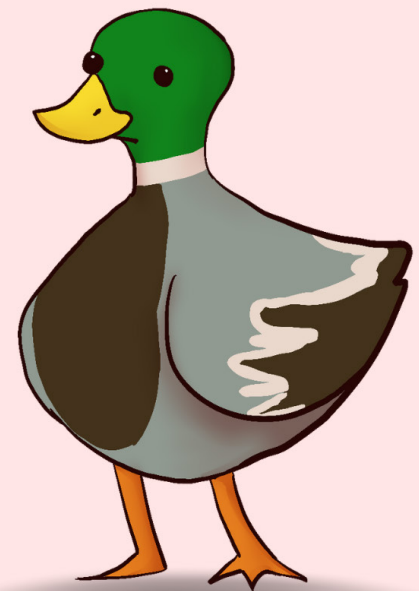
- [1] Holiday activity to do at the Oregon Zoo
- [2] Molasses-based holiday treat
- [4] What are roasting on an open fire?
- [6] A jolly happy soul
- [7] Dreaded week for students in December
- [9] Who is nipping at your nose?

Answers: Across: 3. tinsel 5.slopes 8. crosscountry 10.mariahcarey 11.snow
 Down: 1. zooflights 2. gingerbread 4. chestnuts 6. frosty 7.finals 9. jackfrost

Comic by Isis Coyle



GET QUACKING!



YOUR AD HERE!

Contact us at
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