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New Director of Campus Safety Sidd Saini prioritizes development, community connections

Nardin Ishak
Staff Writer

As Willamette University bids farewell to Andrew Fresh, Sidd Saini, the previous associate director of Campus Safety, stepped into his new role as the director of Campus Safety and Emergency Department on March 2 ready to bring fresh insights to the safety of the Salem campus community.

Saini brings a new perspective to the Campus Safety Department as he joins with a diverse and unique background. He came to the U.S. as a transfer student from India at 17 years old and graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in integrated technologies (IT). Though unrelated to his degree, Saini has a passion for public safety and finds fulfillment in working with students and contributing to his community.

“A lot of people usually wonder [why] I have a bachelor’s in IT and didn’t go work for Microsoft, but it wasn’t about my degree. My interest developed in public safety, as I love to help people in need, especially students on campus,” said Saini. “That was the major attraction to my role; it’s just that passion and excitement that come with knowing students are the future of our country and making sure they have a safe and positive environment where they have a sense of belonging. I want to be the person that can contribute to that.”

Despite his parents’ disapproval, Saini pursued his passion for public safety, initially with an interest in being an FBI agent. He had a few different positions at the Department of Homeland Security before moving on to be a police officer at the UW Tacoma campus, from which he’d previously graduated. He worked as a campus safety officer there while simultaneously acting as a community liaison, and re-

calls this time as a very special and joyful experience.

Eventually, Saini moved on to become associate director of security at Whitman College in Walla Walla before being promoted to interim director of security within a year. For personal and geographical reasons, Saini looked into moving to Oregon and found a position at Willamette’s PNCA Campus in April of 2023 as associate director of campus safety.

Since Willamette, along with Whitman, is a part of the Northwest 5 Colleges Consortium, Saini had heard a lot about the campus and worked closely with the SEAL office as well as with Fresh himself. As the PNCA campus was advancing and moving in a new direction, Saini found himself excited to take on the new director role ten months later with hopes of initiating and implementing a fresh perspective.

“Within that short time, here I am as the director of Campus Safety,” said Saini. Even though he’ll miss his time on the PNCA campus, he explained it felt like the right thing for him to take on the new role as he already knows the vision and mission of Willamette University.

As the associate director, Saini was supposed to work mainly on the Salem campus and partly at PNCA. However as the need for an associate director was much larger at the PNCA campus, it ended up becoming his primary location for the role. While there, Saini was able to help restructure the Campus Safety Department, issue new badges and uniforms, manage scheduling issues and create partnerships with stakeholders such as the deans, the Student Affairs Office, other campus offices and faculty, as well as the local Police Department and the campus-contracted security Echelon.

As for his new position, Saini’s top priorities include updating the Emergency

Preparedness Procedures to match the current gold standard, implementing new crisis management strategies, creating intervention and de-escalation training for the officers and ensuring they obtain Federal Emergency Management Agency Certifications. Besides his role’s responsibilities and duties, Saini also wants to build bridges with the student body and create connections through partnerships with the campus clubs and organizations. He has already begun taking part in on-campus events such as the Black Tie Affair where he helped as an attendant.

Additionally, Saini would like to add more cameras, especially in parking lots such as the football field’s. He is hoping to deter and prevent individuals from breaking into students’ cars, minimize bike theft, and increase the chances of catching individuals involved in break-in instances. Besides that, Saini aims to improve the Campus Safety vehicle by adding emergency lights in the rear end of their newly acquired Kia Sportage. In the future, when Campus Safety can afford the purchase, he added that a second vehicle would be helpful but maintained that the two current golf carts are a good alternative.

Equally important, Saini shared that he will ensure students’ safety by informing them of any upcoming protests at the Capitol. He is planning to do so by utilizing current protocols of providing timely warnings to the student body, as well as updating the community with information gathered from reliable sources.

Furthermore, while there are current Emergency Preparedness Procedures in place for responding to weather emergencies, Saini noted that it is on his radar to update them for more efficient best practices of emergency management. Moreover, he highlighted the importance of training more individuals and assigning key role players who are able to

jump in and help when needed. As for earthquakes, from a Campus Safety standpoint, there are Emergency Operation Centers that can be activated. This activation includes moving everyone to a safe location using the mass communication system, conducting a head count, then assessing damages and determining how and where to relocate students.

Besides his goals for the new role, Saini mentioned that being understaffed is a hurdle. Currently, the Willamette Campus Safety Department only consists of seven officers and three office and administrative staff members besides himself.

“I am a big fan of working in two, but I can’t be boots on the ground all the time within my manager role,” expressed Saini, adding that having more officers would allow for the possibility of having supervisors or lead officers, consequently creating a hierarchy that may prove to be helpful as

responsibilities would be more spread out.

Lastly of Saini’s goals within the new role, he affirmed that transparency, clarity and honest communication are his keys to building trust with the student body. He hopes to be approachable and quickly responsive to all students, as well as encourages all community members to reach out to him in his office or via email with any questions, concerns or just to say hello.

Finally, Saini emphasized that in his work, it is vital to be in partnership with students, as they are the ones who can report concerns to ensure the safety of their community. “I try to put myself in a student’s shoe[s] and respond that way,” said Saini. “Come talk to me and we will see what we can do to create an even safer environment for the Willamette community.”

Photo by Caramia Christensen



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Truck convoy protests at State Capitol

Emma Innes
News Editor

A small convoy of trucks circled the Oregon State Capitol around noon on Wednesday, March 7, 2024, making their presence known with repeated horn honking. Several onlookers watched for a few minutes from the Capitol Terrace on the roof, with others looking on from the sidewalk.

The protest was associated with Oregon Natural Resources Industries (ONRI) in support of the logging industry, though according to the legislative calendar, there was not an event in the legislature on March 7 that involved the logging industry.

The convoy was led by a semitruck draped in slogan-covered tarps, as well as a truck full of giant logs. Slogans on the tarp truck included "Taxing Pollution Solves Nothing at All," "No SB 1546" and "No Sale of Elliot Forest." The log truck had signs from the ONRI with the slogan "Stronger Together" and a sign calling to "Stop the HCP!" The American flag was prominently displayed, flying on the back of the log truck. A few cars joined them in honking and circling, including two pickup trucks and a minivan with a giant syringe on top labeled, "Genocide." The tarp truck included a hint of vaccination

opposition messaging as well, with signage reading, "No Mask, No Jab, I Do Not Consent!"

Accompanying the convoy was about a dozen protestors with smaller American flags standing in front of the capitol, waving them as the trucks passed by. Additionally, two people were holding signs that read, "No Transparency No Trust."

The protest appeared to be in general support for the logging industry as part of ONRI's work. There was no event in the legislature that day. Senate Bill 1546, which was mentioned on the tarp truck, relates to technology in the 2024 session. However, the 2022 Session SB 1546 related to establishing the Elliott State Research Forest, the largest research forest in North America. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) being protested covers 640,000 acres of Oregon Department of Forestry lands and is intended to protect species conservation. According to the ONRI website against the HCP, the HCP has been corrupted by politicians.

In terms of the vaccination opposition subparts of the protest, Oregon has not had mask mandates since March of 2022, with the mandate for masks in healthcare settings ending in April 2023. Though COVID-19 vaccine mandates

fizzled out for healthcare workers and teachers, longstanding vaccine mandates such as those required for children in public schools remain. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that vaccines are safe and highly recommended vaccines for children and adults in order to protect them from serious diseases.

One of the flag-waving protestors, Janet Bailey, said, "My heart goes out to the loggers of Oregon." When asked what the protest was about, Bailey said, "This is a protest from the loggers begging our government not to close the dams, not to take down the bridges." Bailey further went on to express concern that the children of loggers and fishermen, as well as the related industries, will be affected as well. Bailey described how she feels that multiple generations of loggers have worked hard and that their livelihood is being torn down by legislators.

The protest contains echoes of the larger 2020 Timber Unity protest, in which a convoy of trucks circled the capitol, disrupting classes with constant horn honking. The 2020 protest included the same strategy of trucks sporting tarps filled with slogans, including one stating, "You Got It, A Truck Brought It!"

At the same time the truck convoy was occurring,



Oregon Capitol Chronicle reporter Julia Shumway reported there was a protest in the capitol park against anti-LGBTQ comments made by State Representative Dwayne Yunker (R-Grants Pass), as well as

anti-Muslim and anti-atheist comments made by State Representative E. Werner Reschke (R-Malin).

Photos by Keenan Yoshizawa



Quad excavation project leads to accidental sewer line rupture

Alan Cohen
Staff Writer

On March 5, Administrative Program Assistant for Facilities Ryan Snyder communicated to staff and faculty in the Eaton and Waller buildings that water access was being cut off due to a sewer line rupture. No specific timeframe for its repair was provided.

"Facilities has just been informed that a contractor doing excavation work in the Quad has struck the sewer main for Eaton Hall. As a result we are having to shut down all water and restrooms in Eaton until we can repair the ruptured sewer line. We are sorry for any inconvenience this causes and we will inform you the moment the sewer line has been repaired," the email to Eaton staff said.

The excavation work referred to in the email is part of a transformer replacement that began on March 4. Students at the Salem campus were informed of the three-week-long excavation on the previous Friday, March 1, in an email sent by Vice President for Student Affairs Lisa

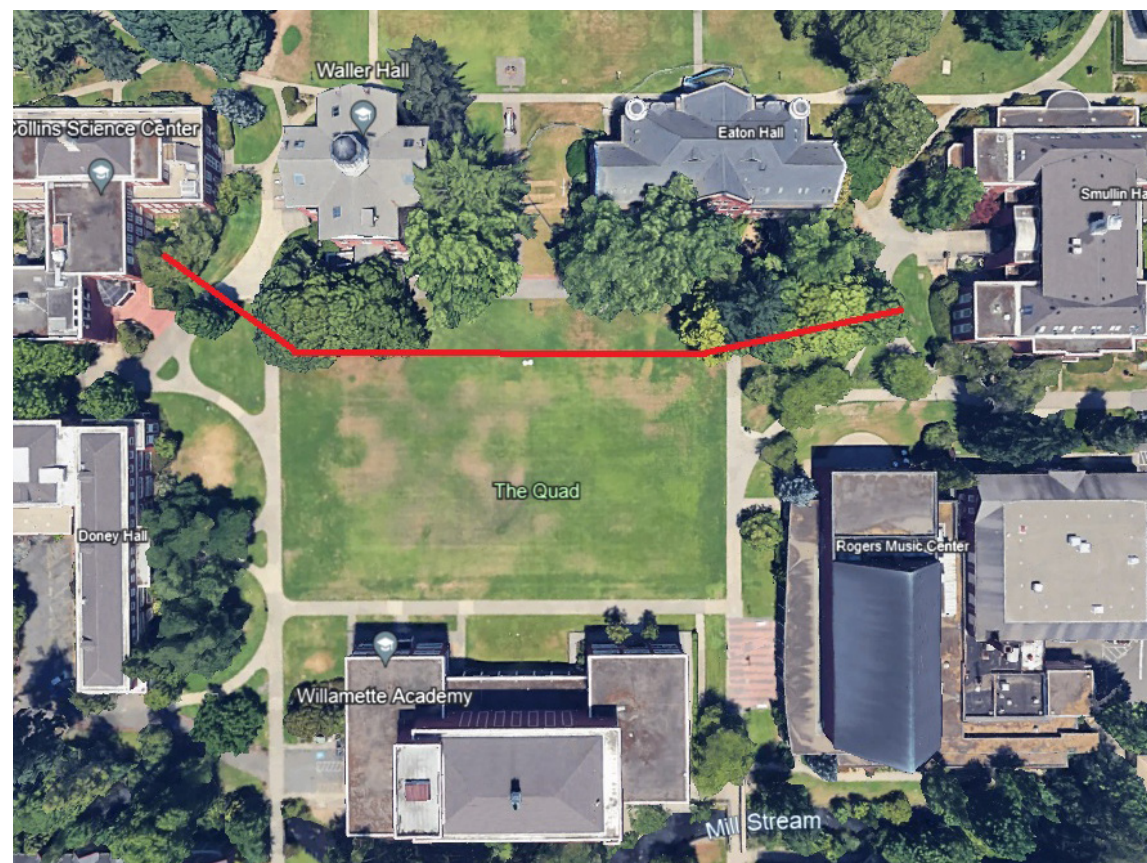
Landreman on behalf of Assistant Director of Facilities Projects Mark Mazurier. The March 1 email explained, "The work will involve digging a 3' deep trench to lay conduit from Collins Science Center to Smullin Hall," and included an attached diagram.

The transformer project is expected to finish after commencement in May, according to the email, and is a part of "larger infrastructure upgrade work" outlined on the Willamette website.

Upon investigation, it appears access to water in Eaton and Waller has now been restored.



Left: A sign near the construction site on the Quad explains the goal of the excavation project. Photo by Eleanor Hu



Above: Vice President for Student Affairs Lisa Landreman shared a map of the Quad excavation in an email to students on March 1.

Network outage hits Willamette in March 2024, Lewis & Clark in March

Karmen Zhao
Staff Writer

On Feb. 21, 2024, a university-wide email was sent out to Willamette students and staff, stating, "We are currently experiencing a network outage affecting core services on Salem and Portland campuses. WITS [Willamette Integrated Technology Services] Staff are looking into the issue." This email was the first of many sent out announcing and updating the community about a network outage that affected Willamette's internet services, campus phones, applications like WISE, ID card access to buildings and more. The community would later learn from a Feb. 22 email that "suspicious network activity" was detected on Feb. 20.

Following this initial email, over 20 more were sent in the span of 15 days that updated the Willamette community about the incident, providing news about WITS's progress on fixing the issue, changes in campus safety contacting information, and other resources available in the midst of the network outage. It was recommended that students rely on their personal cellular network or their home Wi-Fi to keep up with their class work through Google Suite, Canvas, Zoom and Adobe Creative Suite.

Student Kevin Milberg ('27) turned to using offline services to do his school work. Milberg said, "I was bothered by it, but I had saved all of my stuff to a Word document so I

could work on my essay. However, since WISE was down, I could not access the instructions [for] that assignment." Instead of using options that require Wi-Fi such as Google documents, he wrote his essay on a Word desktop application. When saved, all progress is available offline on the application as a file on a laptop, which does not require any internet service or Wi-Fi activity. Milberg also mentioned that professors made accommodations for assignments during the network outage by "[giving] extensions, and one of them sent readings by email."

Quinn Carbery ('27), a student and a photographer for Willamette's athletics department, worked through the Wi-Fi outage photographing baseball, women's lacrosse games during the first week of the cyber incident. He stated that the lack of internet "didn't really interfere too much with the actual photographing part of it, which I'm very thankful for, but where it became very inconvenient is when I was trying to focus on editing and uploading my pictures." Carbery's editing software requires Wi-Fi in order to back up the photos, which he explained, "slow[ed] down the process immensely and it ma[de] what would be probably a process of 45 minutes ... into a 2 1/2-hour process."

Though Willamette's cyber incident lasted nearly two weeks, it was not the only major outage that hit colleges in Oregon. In March of 2023,

Lewis & Clark College in Portland had a similar cyber attack that lasted over a month. Business manager of Lewis & Clark's student newspaper, The Mossy Log, Lauren Evans ('25), provided a student's perspective on what occurred, stating, "For a lot of our professors, if they didn't have their syllabus and schedules backed up to a drive, it was just like they didn't have any access to it." Much like at Willamette, readings that were assigned to Lewis & Clark students could not be reached because they required the internet, and library networks were down during the incident.

Despite the length of the outage at Lewis & Clark, Evans recalled that the school sent out "around eight emails

about the whole thing." Communication was vague as not many students knew much of what was going on. Concerns about personal data being stolen were a debated topic at Lewis & Clark. As Evans said, "I think a lot of it [personal data] actually did get leaked. ... passport numbers and social security, all sorts of things got out there, which was not great, but no one knew what was going on. ... Lewis & Clark provided a service afterwards that scans the web for [data leaks]." After the incident, Lewis & Clark upgraded their cybersecurity by purchasing and setting up a new network for students to sign up for, allowing for more fluid Wi-Fi connection and safer protection of private information.

The management of school work did not stop fully when the cyber incident occurred at Lewis & Clark. To ensure students were able to fulfill their learning, the college "brought in separate routers and hotspots that they'd set up at different points around campus so we still did have internet access," Evans said.

At Willamette, many systems are back and running, and WITS is continuing to work diligently to re-secure inaccessible portals. Willamette Community and Willamette Guest Wi-Fi networks have been reinstated and classes have begun to shift back to normality.

Art By Alice Thornes





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What you missed at '24-hour Theatre': A series of efficient but wildly entertaining plays

Lee Parsons
Staff Writer

One night only, the "24-hour Theatre Festival" is a hurriedly prepared work of art that comes to fruition once per semester at Willamette. The production is written, directed and produced in just 24 hours by students. On March 10, this semester's round of plays featured "The Apology," "The Problem With Nuclear Families," "A Comedy About a Gas Station" and "Ligma Balls."

The first and longest play of the night, "The Apology," was written by Ike Turman and directed by Vera Sieck. This piece of theater opened with a bride, played by Juno Tejchman, rethinking their marriage and being advised by a priest, played by Arlo Craft, who inexplicably spoke in rhymes. The groom was a puppet controlled by the third character and played by Vincent Tzu-wei Schillings. The priest was just as surprised as the audience at the reveal that the groom was not human and the bride realized the marriage was wrong, procuring a rubber chicken for the puppet to marry instead. The ceremony was carried out immediately and consummated even more immediately, much to the discomfort of all the non-puppet characters and audience. Afterward, the bride misinterpreted some priestly advice twice in a row, leaving and reentering drenched in blood having murdered the chicken — out of jealousy as they'd loved the puppet all along — and the puppet — so he would not be sad as a widower. The puppeteer entered then to deliver a monologue detailing their elaborate revenge plot that had caused this situation, but they explained they got their victim wrong. They had intended to exact revenge on the priest the entire time. Hearing this, the priest strangled the puppeteer and then began sorrowfully philosophizing about their sinful existence. Again misinterpreting everything said, the bride killed the priest. Deciding creators are the reason for their products' sinful existences, the bride then broke the fourth wall to threaten Turman, screaming "Ike!" into the audience, in order to threaten the "God" of the scene, before vowing to destroy the whole Willamette system of which "24-hour Theatre" is a product. Concluding the scene with an apology, the bride revealed that their destruction of the system was the cause behind the Wi-Fi going down!

"The Problem With Nuclear Families," written by Savanna Starks and directed

by Blue Kalmbach, featured a nuclear family living in Nevada on a nuclear testing site. As a result of their location, the closeted lesbian mother, played by Sharlies McEwen, had given birth to a baby that was born as a bomb. The family counted down from ten throughout the play with enthusiastic audience participation while each character revealed their deepest secrets. Naturally, the mother revealed she is a lesbian. The older child, played by Mia von Hamm, admitted that they are gay. The animated traditional husband of the group, played by Izzy Cornelison, shouted that he was sleeping with his younger male secretary. Each of these confessions was followed by the other family members screaming, "I know!" and once everyone was revealed to be gay, the family exploded.

A "Comedy About a Gas Station" was written by Nick Zimmerman and directed by Kai Makino-Dilloway. The play featured an older man who had led a life of crime, played by Anya Jones, attempting to teach an emo teenager, played by Valentine Wells, how to rob a convenience store owned by Lin-Manuel Miranda, played by Kendall Morrow. The older man guided the emo teen through many attempts to rob the store, with each failing due to a lack of hidden identity, gun or declaration of purpose. Sick of being robbed, Lin-Manuel Miranda declared, "I'm not throwing away my shot," and shot the teen before telling the older man he should go into teaching. After having tried to find a new path in life after quitting crime, the older man decided to do just that.

A punchy ending to the night, "Ligma Balls" was a frat bro-infused play written by River Hosten and directed by Elise Fashimpaur. Two fraternity members, played by Emi Keller and Xander Taschioglou who were referred to by their first names throughout the show, appeared suddenly on the stage unaware of where they'd been all night. With the assistance of the ghost light (a light left in the theater at all hours to prevent injuries when the lights are off) personified, played by Owyn Wyatt, as well as two rubber chickens and relatively open minds, these two bros came to be theater kids. Purpose fulfilled, the ghost light faded away and the two bros-turned-theater-kids were left to break the fourth wall ever so slightly to wrap up what they called the plot holes. Finally remembering how they got on stage together, with Xander's shoe in Emi's pants, they recalled loudly that they



were gay lovers and then made out behind a cowboy hat to close out the show.

Photos by Alma Snortum

Biodiversity and Climate Change students explore Oregon wildlife with iNaturalist app

Elise Lien
Staff Writer

Deep within the nature at Willamette's Salem campus, the students of the Biodiversity and Climate Change class, taught by Professor David Craig, wait for opportunity to strike. They sit observing, silent, getting ready for the perfect shot to log into their iNaturalist profiles. The app iNaturalist is designed for scientists, biologists and anyone who loves observing critters to take photos of and record any organism they see. The app helps observers figure out what sort of animal they are looking at and allows scientists to use this data.

Rose Grimpson ('27) explained that iNaturalist is an "online platform where scientists and just observers, biologists, anyone in the field community around the world can post observations." After the picture has been taken, the app's AI software will try to identify the organism, and if it can't, people from the community can identify it as well. Grimpson continued, "Sometimes you'll get a flag that says research grade because you've taken enough or good enough pictures of an animal that can be used for research."

As a whole, the class has 18,280 observations and 361 species identified from the sunset-colored turkey tail mushroom to the adorable seals of the Oregon coast and the majestic red-

Art by Carolyn Vazquez

tailed hawk.

Many of Grimpson's 93 observations came from her internship at the Grande Ronde Reservation, and her favorite is the rough-skinned newt. "They are actually one of the most poisonous newts ever!" she explained. "They hold enough poison to kill three adult horses in one sitting. The reason for that is because the garter snake is immune to their poison so they have to keep upping their poison dosage to play an arms race with the garter snake and keep evolving so that the snakes don't kill them. They're iconic to Oregon and I was so excited to see a couple, so they're on my iNaturalist profile." Other discoveries observed by Grimpson are witch's butter, a sand dollar and many species of mushrooms.

Frequently found around the Mill Stream is Blue Kalmbach ('27), waiting for the geese to make an appearance. "My personal project right now," Kalmbach shared, "is hunting down the geese because there is a pair of geese right now that are nesting. I am kind of stalking the geese whenever I can, so my iNaturalist right now is just pictures of their movements around campus so I can catch where they nest." Because their favorite color is blue, Kalmbach is also a fan of their observations of all the blue-colored birds on campus like the great blue heron and the scrub jay.

The iNaturalist craze has also led students like Teya Fukuhara ('27) off-campus to do their ob-

serving on the Oregon coast. Fukuhara went tidepooling with their partner and enjoyed documenting the seals. "They were so cute!" Fukuhara said. "They flop around on the rocks; it's really funny. We saw sea lions too. They were really loud." Some of Fukuhara's other favorite observations made on campus have been the great blue heron and the bees. Fukuhara's iNaturalist goal is to log 250 animals by the end of the year.

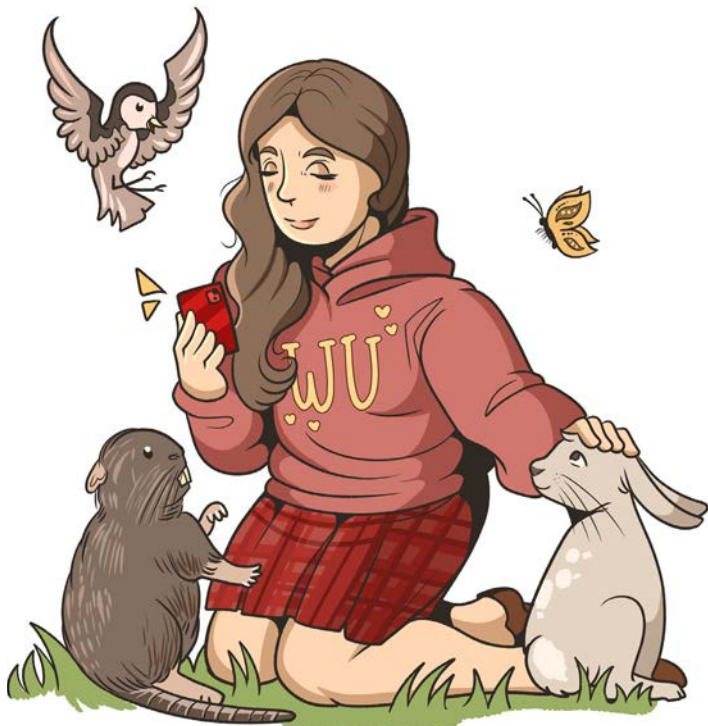
Armed with his camera and a love of nature, Nate Rutter ('24) dives outside to log observations for iNaturalist. He explained that many of his observations have been birds: "I've seen dark-eyed juncos, American robins, and various species

of duck. There is this weird domesticated duck called a Myscovie duck which I saw. There is also the lesser goldfinch. I've also seen a lot of different fungi like shelf fungi, regular ground mushrooms, and turkey tail mushrooms."

Rutter has also been "trying to get more images of hawks because they're a lot harder to see and they usually perch much higher up in trees that are coniferous, so they're usually covered by pine needles or protection." He recently captured his first image of the red-tailed hawk in Colorado. "Just this last week, I was in Colorado touring for a Ph.D. program, and I was able to catch a red-tailed hawk. So it was the first time I had seen or

at least captured a red-tailed hawk on camera. I only got it as it started to soar off, so I got it with its wings extended. It was beautiful."

Rutter reflected on the benefits of iNaturalist and the Biodiversity and Climate Change class: "I'm always surprised at how many different species there are around us that we don't notice or we don't always pay attention to on a daily basis. I think that the purpose of this class is to force people to stop and take a look at the things we would normally pass up, and it's great that we live on a campus that's so biologically diverse because there are other places that don't have that."



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Getting lost at Drift Creek Falls

Mason Williams
Staff Writer

Deep within a sprawling forest bordering the Oregon coast lies a sunlit waterfall, crashing downward into a river flowing through a wide canyon. Standing on a miniature precipice below, I'm compelled to look up and appreciate the sight. After a long journey to this natural place of escape, I feel a sense of accomplishment and awe.

During the few days of sun that warmed up Oregon on the weekend of Feb. 24, four friends and I decided to take advantage of the nice weather by going on a short hiking trip. Thanks to a friend's suggestion, we set our destination as a notable waterfall that lies in a wide canyon beneath a lengthy suspension bridge.

Drift Creek Falls trailhead is a hiking trail leading to a waterfall bearing the same name. It's located some distance from Lincoln City and is about three miles in length to the end of the trail and back. Our hiking party set out on Saturday. After a fair amount of driving down Highways 22 and 18, our route split off and ascended to the trailhead in a winding, narrow fashion. Our group planned to drive just over an hour from Wil-

lamette to get to the path. Apple Maps, however, gave us false directions at a rather crucial turn, leading to a mistake we didn't realize until we had driven six miles down the wrong road.

On our shameful journey back to the correct route, we encountered a couple of fellow hikers who fell into the same trap.

While getting to the trail comes with its complications, people who make the journey to Drift Creek will be rewarded with its landmark sight. We walked the trail with relative ease, which was very accessible and easy to traverse. We passed by many dogs — and one very adventurous cat — on the way to the waterfall.

The path is surrounded by tall trees, through which the sunlight filters from high above in the sky. Early on in the trail, the path splits upward to the North Loop, which adds a little under a mile's distance toward the waterfall. Our party chose to go through the loop, which was more narrow and less clear of foliage but provided a good look at an older section of the forest. Because it rained the previous day, the ground was somewhat slick, causing one of our group in particular to slip a comical amount of times.

After returning to the main trail, we crossed over and followed the stream leading to the waterfall and found ourselves at the hike's famous suspension bridge. It sits 100 feet above the base of the waterfall and stretches out to a length of 240 feet. Standing in the middle of the bridge, I got an excellent view of the waterfall lying below and, past it, the narrowing canyon in the distance.

After the bridge comes the main attraction,

Drift Creek Falls. Getting down to the bottom of the falls proved to be the most difficult part of the hike as the ground became steep and muddy. A rope was tied to a sturdy log to allow for an easier time descending or ascending from the waterfall. Getting my hands and clothes dirty was a necessity.

The waterfall itself cascades over a jagged cliff face and seems reminiscent of a smaller version of Multnomah Falls. At its base, you can get quite close if you're

willing to get soaked by huge splashes of water crashing against the canyon's rest.

My friends and I went back through the trail satisfied with the experience. Drift Creek Falls isn't a hike that possesses many challenges but instead specializes in its enjoyable scenery and harmonious landmarks. Such traits make it appealing to anyone and a fulfilling activity for those willing to travel to the waterfall's heart.

Photos by Mason Williams



Oregon legislature's \$3 million investment in Willamette baseball

Ernie Samora
Staff Writer

The Roy S. "Spec" Keene Stadium, otherwise known as "The John," is gaining some upgrades. The Oregon legislature recently granted \$3 million to Willamette for the addition of artificial turf and lights to the baseball field.

This funding is a part of Senate Bill 5701, designating funding to entertainment and cultural organizations across the state. While the bill passed with an overwhelming majority (49-7) on March 7, there are some who believe the money could be better distributed. SB5701 is a "Christmas Tree Bill," decorated with quality-of-life improvements and gifts to encourage economic growth and make constituents happy. The Salem Baseball and Softball Turf Project has raised over half the funds needed; SB5701 provides the last of the funding to make the project possible.

In return for the state

funding, the field will be available for rent to local K-12, college and community organizations during the Bearcats' off-season. The deal was made as part of a recent partnership between Willamette, Salem-Keizer Public Schools and the Salem Baseball Club to address the needs of Salem youth.

"The youth of Salem-Keizer desperately need more year round safe outdoor space," wrote Luke Emanuel of the Salem Baseball and Softball Turf Project in the funding request. The field will also be available for YMCA, Boys & Girls Club and Special Olympics programming needs. Furthermore, the Keene stadium will become an emergency disaster relief destination for Marion County. The state also hopes the increased funding will spur tourism to Salem.

Although there are over 100 synthetic turf baseball and softball fields in Oregon, none are in Salem. Considering that 84% of Salem-Keizer's 40,318 students are economi-

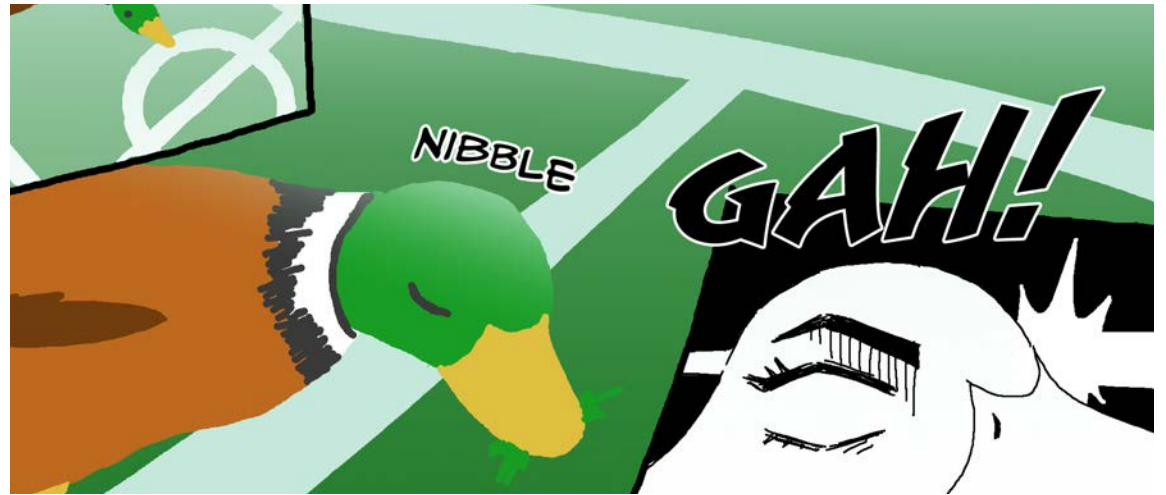
cally disadvantaged, many are unable to participate in organized sports. The Salem-Keizer school district, in the midst of budget cuts, is unable to afford to add turf to all six of the public high schools' 12 baseball and softball fields as would be necessary to comply with Title IX. Through SB5701, many children and locals across Salem will finally have access to a safe, central outdoor environment to play baseball and soft-

ball.

Willamette also hopes to benefit from the upgrades. Synthetic turf fields conserve water, reduce maintenance and reduce environmental pollution from gas-powered equipment and fertilizer. Players will no longer have to sponge pools of water in order to use the field while it's raining. Currently, if it is raining during practice times, players have to find alternate areas to practice, using

McCulloch's or Sparks' turf fields. If these fields are in use by another athletic team, practices are rescheduled. Improving Willamette baseball's practices will only have positive results on their already strong presence. "It will improve quality and ability to play," said outfielder Nate Hamburger ('26). "We're going to get out there and keep winning."

Art by Alice Thornes



Fast Break sports report

Skeet Starr
Sports Editor

3/11

Hello, Bearcat Fan! The sports section has been jumping at the sight of journalistic shadows that now swirl The Collegian office. Ernie Samora has been hunting ancient relics and weaving a web around the State Capitol. Mary Vickery returned from Sin City and hasn't stopped brooding over the keyboard ever since. A new writer has made her way onto the scene. Will we get any products out?

Stay tuned. ... Let's go to the news!

Lacrosse has a debilitating, pervasive illness, and it seems like the only cure is driving their opponents deep into the ground. They are mechanical, they are ruthless and they don't care if you have a family. Their goal differential is +98 over five games. Can they topple the Bruins?

Women's Tennis went and did it again in Tacoma, defeating the Loggers (5-4). Men's Tennis was clear-cut (2-7).

Whitely Stepp ('26)

took 18th in the country for high jump at DIII Nattys. The Bearcats showed out in steeplechase at the Lane Community College Open. Will Hennum ('24) took home the gold while Zoe Heino ('26) grabbed silver. Simon Kidder ('24) flew over the hurdles to take third in the 400-meter.

Baseball stomped Bethany Lutheran (12-0) in seven innings, but went 1-2 against PLU, their first conference opponent of the year. They have five games this week.

Art by Carolyn Vazquez

The Pioneers trampled Softball over the course of four meetings. The 'Cats' losing margins did decrease each game, however. They plan to defend the home-front against a charging Pomona-Pitzer in the coming days.

Golf is stirring from its winter sleep.

In the world of sport; The Portland Timbers' Evander silenced those evil, evil people who call themselves the New York City Football Club by way of a stoppage time missile across the 18-yard box.

Consider in the coming weeks: Who's home to you?

3/18

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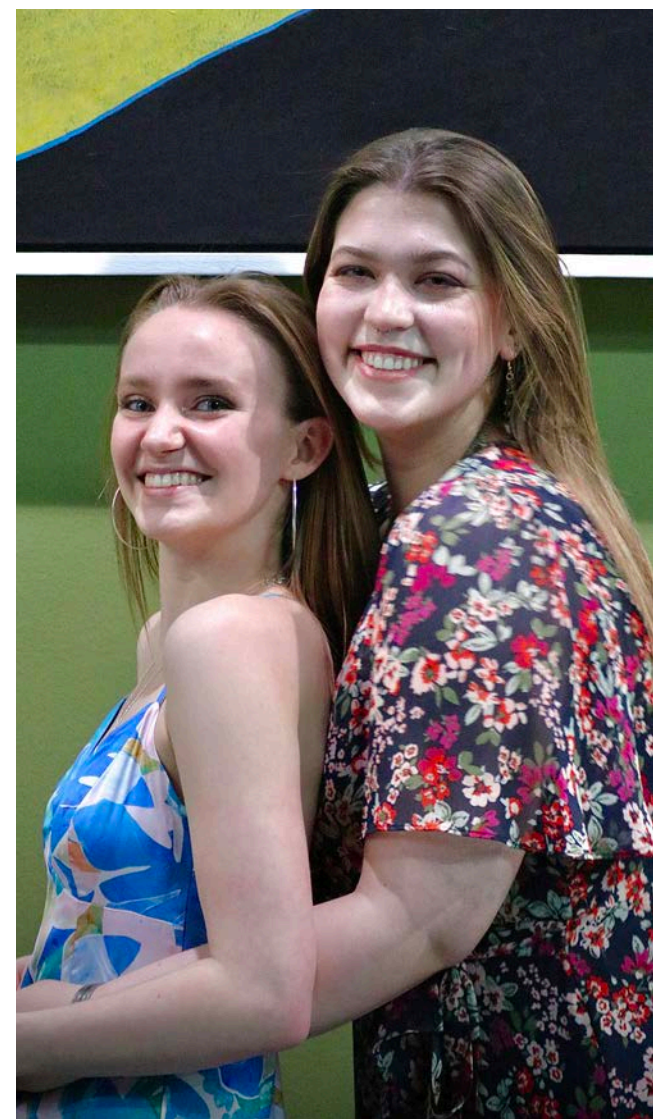


Photojournalism: Black Tie

Anushka Srivastav Media Editor

The Willamette Events Board's highly anticipated annual gala, Black Tie, took place this month. Themed "Secret Garden," the event brought guests together at the Salem Convention Center on March 11 at 8 p.m. The venue was garnished with decorations, including leaves, butterflies and soft lighting, creating a warm atmosphere. A dance floor with a DJ provided entertainment, while the photo booth was the focal point for attendees to capture memories. Appetizers were served, adding to the festive ambiance as guests enjoyed the company of friends, partners and the joyful spirit of the evening. For many seniors, it was a memorable farewell to the Willamette Black Tie tradition.







ASWU Student Org **Upcoming Events**

- **Health Professions Club's Annual Glasses Drive— Feb 7– Apr 30**

Be sure to get your club or org event on the calendar by posting to the university events calendar or contacting The Collegian directly.

ASWU sponsored orgs from the University Calendar are added here.

See more at: <https://events.willamette.edu/>

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Opinion: Why added dorm security cameras aren't a bad idea

Ari Torres
 Staff Writer

As part of an ongoing update to Willamette's security protocol, Campus Safety is set to install additional security cameras at residence halls. The five-year plan that initially proposed this idea has already brought around some much-needed and well-received improvements, with the most notable being the tap ID cards. But is it possible that these future measures will be a step too far, becoming an invasion of privacy that goes beyond the university's limits and the comfort levels of students? Despite how it may sound, this new surveillance could actually turn out to be a positive change.

It's understandably concerning to hear that there will be footage taken right outside of what are supposed to be the safe spaces of students living on campus. Most sections of the residence halls are considered non-private, such as common rooms, hallways and bathrooms. However, many students would still be wary of allowing recording where they would otherwise have more freedom, especially because these are living spaces and therefore subject to personal activities.

This reasoning, of course, makes perfect sense. The dorms are meant to be a secure environment; regardless of what "secure" means to the individual, students shouldn't have to worry about an invasion of privacy. However, the current outline for the plan

does not entail anything of the sort. The school has a security camera policy in place that prevents the system from moving indoors. The new cameras will only be situated at entrances, informing Campus Safety on who exits and enters the building rather than what they do afterward.

Another question that makes students skeptical about the installation is what problem this system is supposed to solve. Added cameras seem rather out of the blue when security has never seemed like a concern until now. In truth, this change has been long overdue. Most if not all on-campus housing is subject to public access, leaving residents open to a number of dangers. Students have been told not to let anyone in using their own card, but this isn't always an easy rule to follow. In some instances, it's clear which people might be allowed in the building, but situations can become foggy when the intent is unknown. If another student claims they forgot their card in the common room, it's only decent to let them in — except this could still very well be a lie. That student could live in a different dorm, off-campus or not even attend Willamette. While instances where that's the case are few and far between, it surely wouldn't hurt to have extra security measures in place.

It's important to note that cameras won't be monitored around the clock. Nobody will bear witness to the multiple attempts at pushing a pull door or the exasperat-

ing ordeal of retrieving a card without a free hand. To put someone on surveillance duty would not only be a waste of resources but also unnecessary for fact-checking, as explained by university board directors. The only aspects that might need to be addressed are how long footage will be kept and

whether it will be taped over periodically or archived. Presumably, when an incident occurs the film will be saved, though whether as its own file or marked as evidence is yet to be seen.

The new security cameras are not a violation of privacy, but rather a tool to help

preserve it. Are there plenty of ways in which the addition could border on excessive? Yes. However, as long as these changes are implemented with students' rights and established policies in mind, the new surveillance should end up doing more good than not.



Art by Anushka Srivastav

Opinion: A definitive ranking of Noah Kahan's 'Stick Season (Forever)'

Kate Snyder
Staff Writer

As the summer months approach, there are a number of events that Bearcats can look forward to, including Noah Kahan's We'll All Be Here Forever Tour. Throughout the tour, Kahan will be visiting students' respective hometowns, with his show closest to Salem being in Ridgefield, Washington in early July. In light of summer's soon arrival, here is a definitive ranking of all of Kahan's collaborative tracks from his album "Stick Season (Forever)."

Eighth: Homesick (with Sam Fender)

This might be one of my least favorite songs I've heard. I'll admit that I don't listen to a lot of the pop-folk genre or "stomp-and-holler," as Spotify calls it, but this is foul. Fender's verse feels very detached from the rest of the song, and this detachment is only furthered by the lack of blending between his and Kahan's voices. Overall, I think "Homesick" was one of the only songs on the album that wasn't bettered by a feature.

Seventh: Dial Drunk (with Post Malone)

Albeit, I'm not a huge Post Malone fan, but that isn't why this song is ranked so low. I actually like this version of the song better than the original until it gets to Post Malone's verse. The issue with this song is the inverse of the issue with "Homesick (with Sam Fender)." It's the content of the new verse that bothers me; the album as a whole describes Kahan's life before fame, but the line "Drinks pouring, couldn't stop it" implies a financial freedom that Kahan didn't have prior to fame. This contributes to the song feeling too separate from the rest of the album.

Sixth: You're Gonna Go Far (with Brandi Carlile)

My dislike for this song has nothing to do with the lyrics itself, just my personal experience associated with the song and my expectations for Carlile's performance. This song reminds me of rainy October days

and teary goodbyes. Not my own teary goodbyes, but watching them take place awkwardly as I'm sitting on my dorm bed debating on whether or not to reach for my AirPods. Carlile's performance is a bit of a more objective analysis; my introduction to her was through Hozier's track "Damage Gets Done." I really loved her performance on that record, and compared to this song, it was underwhelming.

Fifth: She Calls Me Back (with Kacey Musgraves)

At this point, we've run out of songs I actively dislike — these are just the less good of the great. Musgraves' verse holds a great sense of relatability to me, especially knowing Bearcat Days are approaching: "I'm running out of tears to cry / They're gone before they hit my cheeks." I'm reminded of masking my tears while racing down the stairs of Eaton Hall after tanking my Symbolic Logic midterm, all while a group of prospective

Bearcats were going up the stairs. While the memory is horribly embarrassing, I'm feeling particularly nostalgic and therefore the song lands at No. 6.

Fourth: Call Your Mom (with Lizzy McAlpine)

First, use this as a reminder to call your family! This song reminds me of going to college and the tears that were shed as my parents left me alone for the first time. This song serves as a reminder that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. In Kahan's experience, when love from a partner or a friend isn't enough, love from his mother will get him through. McAlpine does an incredible job in this song and serves as an important role, playing the "character" of Kahan's friend who is reaching out to help and reminding him of the love of his family.

Third: Everywhere, Everything (with Gracie Abrams)

This song is one of the most splendid love

songs I've ever heard. While Abrams' and Kahan's voices are juxtaposed, I find that this element works well in a song about love. It feels as though Abrams is echoing the sentiment shared by a partner. This song is also one of the more poetic songs on Kahan's discography. A line that stuck with me is, "I wanna love you till we're food for the worms to eat." It is reminiscent of those photos of fossilized bodies hugging each other postmortem in an eternal embrace.

Second: Northern Attitude (with Hozier)

"Northern Attitude" is a song that I feel resonates with most Portlanders, and it applies to older Willamette students — those acclimated to Oregon's dreary climate and even more dreary population. Hozier's addition to this track works incredibly well especially given that the artist has a track on his own album, "To Someone From A Warm Climate," which shares a similar sentiment.

First: Paul Revere (with Gregory Alan Isakov)

I spent a number of my summers in Maine, with the thick humid air filled with gnats and mosquitoes, the freezing, but swimmable oceans, the experience of visiting a small town, and the awkward conversation of "I'm not from around here." This song discusses the interesting dichotomy of not resonating with a place while also being aware that it is deeply ingrained in your life through memories and mannerisms. Stylistically, Isakov's voice works incredibly well with Kahan and is layered well enough to create simultaneous separation and attachment.

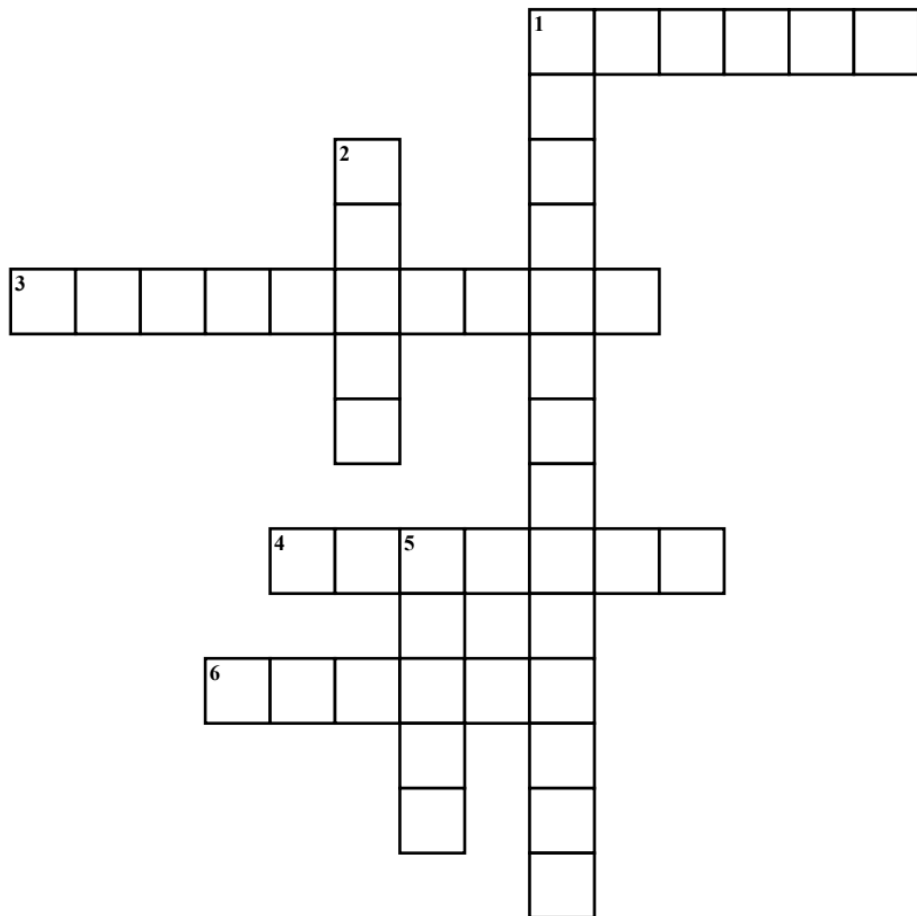
With this ranking in mind as the days get warm and summer heat looms, hopefully all Bearcats will be able to enjoy summer travels, hikes, picnics and internships with some of Noah Kahan's folk hits as the soundtrack for the season.

Art by Lucy Devlaeminck





Welcome back, Bearcats!



Across

- [1] International ____ Day is on April 4
- [3] April showers bring _____
- [4] April birthstone
- [6] What zodiac sign begins in April

Down

- [1] What pink flower was just in bloom across campus?
- [2] April ____ Day
- [5] ____ Kepner, doctor in Grey's Anatomy



Keep up with
Willamette
Athletics!

Comic by Isis Coyle



**I'M A BARBIE
DUCK
I DON'T GIVE A
F***K**