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Campus Safety ends student medical emergency rides to hospital

Chrissy Ewald
Staff Writer

In a change to university policy, Willamette's Campus Safety is no longer offering students experiencing medical emergencies a ride to the hospital. The change comes as students have had to go off campus for medical care while Bishop Wellness Center's medical services are on pause due to staff turnover and the hiring process for new staff.

In previous years, Campus Safety offered hospital rides as a student service. Though Salem Health is close to campus, students without access to a car might struggle to get there in an emergency. According to Director of Bishop Wellness Center Don Thomson, in previous years Bishop relied on Campus Safety to transport students to the hospital, often to urgent care, the emergency room or for ser-

vices like MRIs. Many students cannot afford an ambulance, and it can take several minutes for a ride share or taxi to arrive. Now students will need to arrange alternate transportation.

Director of Campus Safety Andrew Fresh said the decision was made as part of a national trend among colleges and universities to limit liability in student services. "We are not equipped, as far as emergency equipment and life-saving equipment and measures, within our Campus Safety vehicle," he said, "if there was to be a true crisis and emergency that arose while we're trying to get them to the hospital." Thomson said another factor is that there is only one Campus Safety officer on duty at a time, which stretches their coverage thin if they're transporting a student to the hospital.

Campus Safety was not the only party involved in the decision: it was coordinat-

ed between university leadership, including the Division of Student Affairs and Bishop. Fresh said various parties at the university have been discussing the policy change since the beginning of 2023. However, the decision to end the rides policy was finalized at the beginning of this academic year.

Campus Safety still offers safety transports and non-emergency transport in the instance of something like a temporary injury on a case-by-case basis. They can also transport students back to campus from the hospital after they have been medically cleared. However, if a student has an emergency, they will need to get a ride, call an ambulance or hail a Lyft or taxi.

According to both Fresh and Thomson, Lyft is the primary alternative. Campus Safety and Bishop are able to call a Lyft for students and bill their student account. This

does cost money whereas there was free transport before, but it also ensures students don't have to pay while in the middle of an emergency. "We're not going to leave someone walking," said Fresh.

Fresh said that university leadership anticipated pushback against the decision, and that they discussed the impacts this would have on students. He said that the university investigated the possibility of using a waiver to limit liability, but they found it wouldn't be able to protect the university if an incident were to occur.

Thomson said that an average of 15 to 20% of students are enrolled in the PacificSource insurance plan offered by the university. That plan does cover ambulances at the cost of \$100 after deductible, meaning the actual price over \$100 varies. However, Salem is served by private ambulance companies, and the main

one, Falck, does not accept student insurance, so the price for students using PacificSource would be much higher than \$100. Keizer's ambulances are publicly funded through the Keizer fire department and are covered by student insurance. The cost of a ride would vary depending on which ambulance responds to the scene, but a five minute ride to Salem Health could get very expensive.

Photo by Caramia Christensen



Helpful or a hassle? Making Willamette-provided transportation more accessible

Brooke Austin
Staff Writer

For the last several years, Willamette has provided transportation from its campus to the Portland airport during breaks in hopes of making the burden of traveling home a little bit more bearable for Bearcats. But are these shuttles even helpful to students? Do they even use them? Are they really worth the money it costs to get a ticket?

Niki Nakasoni ('27) travels all the way home to Oahu, Hawaii, and because of the long distance, she has to pick and choose which breaks she goes home for. "I can't go home for Thanksgiving. It's just too short," Nakasoni said. "Even spring break is too short." On the other end of the spectrum, students like Maddy Tabor ('25), who lives in West Linn, Oregon, plan to go home for all the breaks. "I don't have

to go to an airport to get home. I have a car on campus that I use very frequently," Tabor explained.

When asked if students planned to use, or even were aware of the provided transportation, the answers varied. Nakasoni said she is, in fact, planning on hitching a ride on the shuttle because "it's probably the least amount of time." Even though Tabor says that she doesn't use the WU-provided transportation, she still thinks "[i]t is a nice feature and I think it helps people get to the airport."

Jack Frischbutter ('27), an international student from Alberta, Canada, holds a different opinion, stating he would rather utilize his friends. "Just based off of money, having a friend drive me up and drop me off at the airport and pick me up [is better]." Frischbutter actually used the WU-provided transportation in the past and said he didn't love

his experience. "I'd only do it again if I had to. That'd be my last mode of transportation," he said.

Though some students appreciate and utilize the WU public transportation and other students would prefer to hitch a ride from a friend, there is a unanimous dislike towards the requirement that students pay for a ticket. "[Students are] already spending money to get home. Why would this person want to spend more money?" Tabor said. "It would be nice if it was included in our [tuition]," Nakasoni added, providing a possible solution: "I feel like there should be some sort of meal swipe. Like every student has this many shuttle passes that are free."

Tabor expressed the need to ensure these shuttles are as accessible as possible for students. "[The freshman] class is a lot bigger than mine so I would imagine the need for it is increasing." Like Na-

kasoni, she provided another possible solution: "Maybe if there was a way to have a survey or something that you can reserve a ticket on, but it's still free." Frischbutter emphasized the importance of this, saying, "People might not have cars, they might not have friends who have cars."

Willamette has a concentrated number of international and out-of-state students. This allows those on campus to get a richer, more diverse college experience, but it also means that these students need support in traveling back home, whether that be across the city border to south of Portland or across the Pacific Ocean to Hawaii. It's important to the students that Willamette does everything in its power to make transportation during breaks as accessible as possible, and with the fees included for a single ticket, it's not always the easiest option.

It's clear that in the-

ory, a transportation service provided by Willamette for students is a key factor in ensuring that students have a reliable way to get from campus to the Portland airport. However, due to the financial burden, the shuttle service may become more of a hassle than helpful. A unanimous opinion amongst the students would be finding a way to cover the cost of basic transportation, whether that be an X amount of free passes for students, or a survey sent out to reserve seating for students.

Art by Isis Coyle



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Seven bikes stolen since the start of the year, Campus Safety reports

Alan Cohen
Staff Writer

Since the 2023-24 school year started, seven bikes have been stolen from on-campus storage or bike racks, representing an average of almost one bike theft per week. This problem is not unique to this year, as last year Campus Safety reported 31 bike thefts, many of which [occurred in the Kaneko bike storage].

Among the bike theft victims is Mychal Bishop ('27), whose bike was stolen on Sept. 18. It was securely stored in the Baxter bike storage, but when he entered the bike storage, both his bike and lock were missing. The only items left behind were "both of the milk crates that I used, and my helmet," Bishop stated. He added that the bike, which was fully insured, cost approximately \$800 plus a "few hundred" dollars in accessories.

The door to the Baxter bike storage, located in the basement of the building, has since been upgraded to make it more difficult for thieves to defeat the lock and gain access to the stored bikes. Entry to the Baxter building requires card access, which is limited

to Baxter residents. To unlock the door of the bike storage one can use any room key from the Baxter building.

Although Campus Safety has recommended students [register their bikes with the university], Bishop said he was unaware of the process: "It was never even mentioned that that was something that we had the opportunity to do and should do." Bike registration is intended to allow Campus Safety officers to quickly identify a stolen bike if an individual is stopped on campus, but it is not a guarantee that stolen bikes will be recovered.

Director of Campus Safety and Emergency Management Andrew Fresh stated that bike owners should "be aware [and] watch over [their] own property." Fresh also mentioned that there is usually only one officer on patrol at any given time, and most bike thefts take less than a minute, which makes it harder to spot and report theft in progress. He solicited the community to "try and be vigilant for certain types of crimes or persons on campus that have no legitimate business here," in which case Campus Safety should be called immediately at (503) 370-6911.

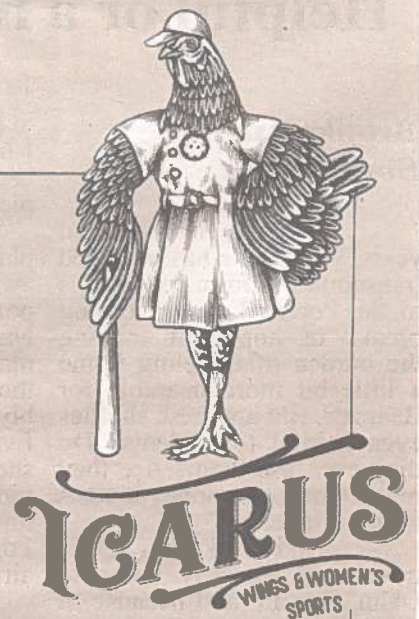
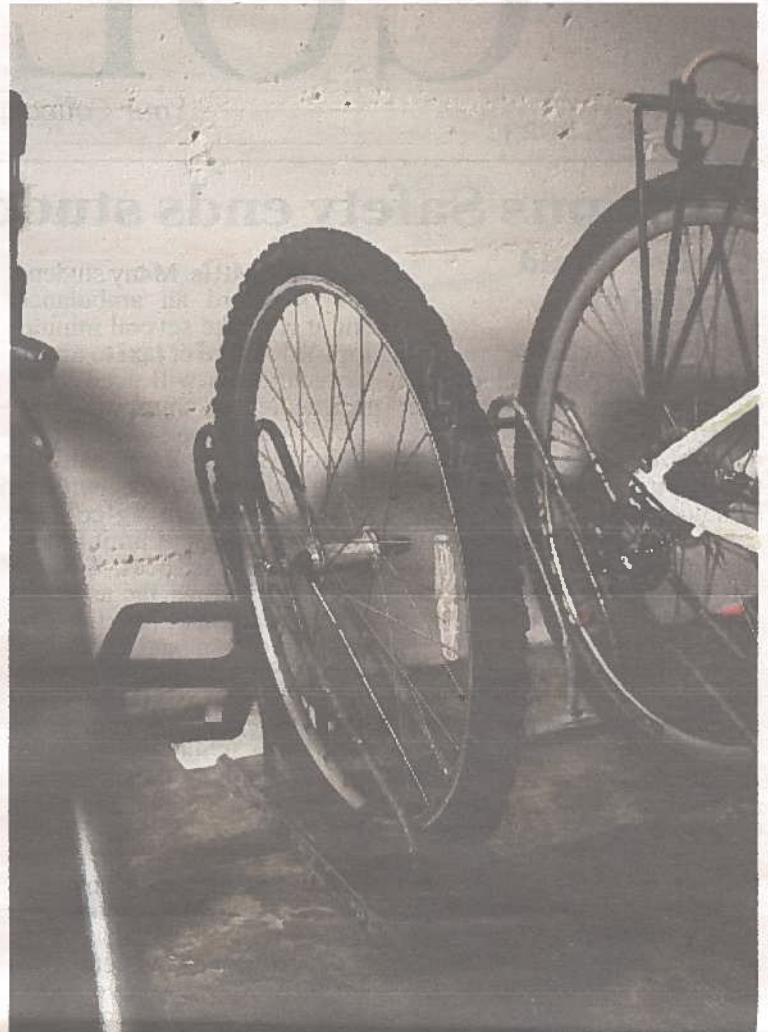
"As far as preventative

measures, make sure that you don't just lock your tire to the rack. If you can, string multiple types of cable locks through the frame as well." Starting this year, Campus Safety is [no longer] providing free bike locks, so bike owners must buy their own. Fresh stated that not allowing suspicious individuals into campus buildings might also prevent bike theft, as some may enter buildings by "piggy-backing or tailgating."

According to Fresh, although not confirmed, Campus Safety suspects that most bike thieves are part of the transient population who "are stealing bikes for quick cash," and there is no evidence that suggests any involvement from inside the Willamette community.

Fresh added that the most common locations where bikes are being stolen are the Baxter bike storage and the external bike racks near Ford Hall and the University Apartments. Despite some security issues addressed recently, the bike storage in Kaneko hall is still not entirely secure, and Fresh encourages Kaneko residents to store their bikes inside their rooms.

Photos by Jason Lehman



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Trivia Night



Willamette students rally against U.S. aid to Israel

Alan Cohen
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Oct. 21, a group of approximately 20 Willamette University students and Salem residents rallied in front of the state Capitol in favor of a "free Palestine" and against U.S. aid to Israel.

This demonstration took place two weeks after Hamas, the political and military power that controls the Gaza Strip, launched a surprise attack on Israel, killing over a thousand civilians and taking nearly 200 hostages. Hamas has been designated a terrorist organization by multiple countries, including the United States. Though it governs the Gaza Strip, there have been no legislative elections in the strip since 2006. The last Gaza presidential election was in 2008.

Since Israel's declaration of war on Oct. 8 and subsequent missile attacks on the Gaza Strip, more than 6,500 people have lost their lives as of Oct. 23, over 5,100 of which have been Palestinians. Conflict in the region dates back about a century.

The local rally was

among many demonstrations in cities and college campuses around the world since Israel's declaration of war.

It was organized by the Willamette chapter of Students for a Democratic Society, a nationwide progressive organization originally founded in the 1960s as an anti-war movement. According to the society's website, they also advocate against "racist discrimination, police crimes, homophobic and transphobic attacks, attacks on women [and] attacks on reproductive rights," among other causes. This chapter is not recognized as an official student organization by the university and is not affiliated with the Associated Students of Willamette University.

Salem residents and members of other left-wing political organizations, such as the Democratic Socialists of America, joined Willamette students at the Saturday event.

Catie Mohr ('26), one of the students who organized the demonstration, gave a speech stating that the organization is attempting to change public opinion on the conflict and thanked individuals who were organizing in support of

Palestinian communities and sovereignty.

"Palestinians are being genocided right now, as we speak, by the Israeli nation," she stated. Mohr also shared her discontent with legislators, including many Democrats, who have publicly supported U.S. aid to Israel.

Zeke Druker ('24), who also organized the rally, spoke against the complete

siege of Gaza that has forced over 2 million people to live without water, electricity or basic supplies.

"Anyone with a human conscience should be terrified by the state of Israel's campaign of terror; a Jew especially, as I am, should be abhorred of the acts committed in the name of the Jewish people," Druker stated.

The group of demon-

strators were also heard chanting, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," a phrase that's been debated for its meaning.

No counter protesters were present at the rally Saturday. It is not yet known if any local events involving Willamette students speaking in favor of Israel have been organized.

Photos by Caramia Christensen





The hauntings of Willamette University

Lee Parsons
Staff Writer

Salem is a city steeped in history, and its rich tapestry includes a significant presence of ghostly legends and haunted locations. From the State Capitol to the Reed Opera House, the city is home to numerous spots believed to be inhabited by spirits. These hauntings range from tales of tragic history, as seen in the Oregon State Hospital, to stories of benevolent entities, such as those associated with the Elsinore. One notable aspect of Salem's haunted culture is Willamette University, where ghost stories have circulated among students for decades.

The Collegian has reported on allegedly haunted campus locations since the 1920s. One of the most infamous haunted locations on campus was Haseldorf, a Willamette-owned apartment near campus from 1985 to 2016. The building had a reputation for eerie occurrences, including rumors of an exorcism conducted in the 1970s to banish a ghost. Students living there reported strange phenomena, such as television sets turning on randomly. Odd sightings and noises tended to be attributed to spirits coming from a burial site that students believed the dorm was built on. These legends were so ingrained in the experience of living in Haseldorf that the exorcized ghost rumor was included in a Willamette [article] about the closing of the building in 2016.

Today, Lausanne Hall is one of the university's most reputedly haunted dorms. Aubrey Tuttle ('26), a resident of Lausanne, stated, "The third floor and the basement are definitely haunted." He described the experience of living in a haunted dorm room: "My door opens all the time of its own accord, and my roommate's closet is haunted; the light in there never turns off no matter what we do." As the oldest residence building on campus, Lausanne has been reportedly haunted since at least 1924, when the [Nov. issue] of The Collegian that year described

apparitions that only appeared once every year living in the attic. In 1994, on page 6 of the [April issue] of The Collegian, two third-floor Lausanne residents described being haunted by the ghost of a woman who had died in their closet.

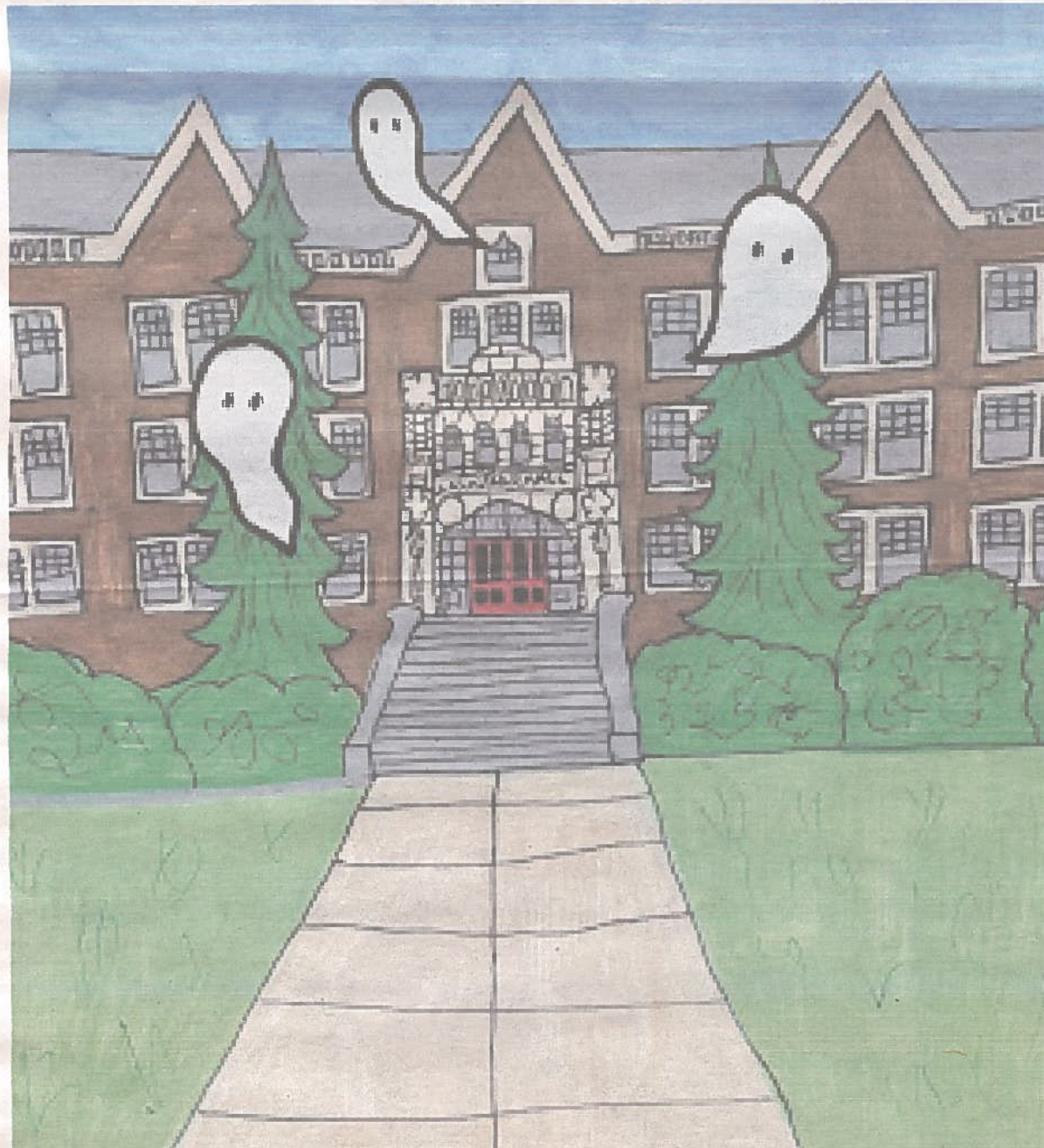
Baxter Hall's fourth floor is another location that has garnered a reputation for being haunted. It was closed and used for storage by the university—and occasionally for suspicious activities by students—until this term when it was reopened. The smallest, darkest and least furnished hall in Baxter, many believe it to be haunted by a ghost that breaks the lights. The female-identifying floor is regularly lit by only a few of the hallway lights, as they continue to go out despite being fixed nearly bi-weekly by maintenance. Between this and the lack of windows, the fourth floor of Baxter gets very dark and becomes a breeding ground for ghostly suspicions. One of the Resident Advisors for this hall, Sarah Henry ('24), shared that, "The bathroom up there is haunted. There's a toilet up there that will just be

perpetually refilling with water but never overflowing — no matter the time of day and when no one has used it. Every time someone puts in a maintenance request they go fix the toilet and a few days later it's still filling with water."

A lot of Willamette's ghosts live where the students do, in the dorms. However, haunted stories at Willamette extend beyond housing and into academic buildings. Smullin is believed to be haunted in a much more chilling way than most of the dorms. Student Katrina Bowyer ('26) stated, "I've heard the basement of Smullin is haunted by the ghost of a serial killer." When describing their experiences in the basement, they said, "I believe it[is haunted] because whenever you're down there it feels like you're in your own personal horror movie. Like someone is three steps behind you, waiting." The mazelike structure of Smullin's basement contributes to its spooky aura.

Gatke Hall, originally a post office, also has rumors of lingering spirits from its days as a cadaver lab, even though the lab has since been relocated to Collins Hall. Multiple professors who teach in Eaton, including Mike Chasar, chair of the English department, have heard rumors of a haunted fourth floor from students. Eaton's position as one of the oldest buildings on campus makes it a prime target for paranormal tales, with students reporting unexplained footsteps and other eerie occurrences. Students have attributed these noises and activities to ghosts since at least 2002 when The Collegian's [Oct. issue] reported on it on page 8.

These stories of hauntings at Willamette University not only add to the city's spooky culture but also provide a unique and lasting element to the university's history. Whether one believes in the supernatural or not, these tales of ghosts and spirits continue to be an integral part of the campus lore, passed down through generations of students and contributing to the unique character of this historic institution.



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What's the deal with the Bunny House?

Sage Lamott
Staff Writer

On a warm day in October, Salem's resident bunny queen Angel shared her yard and provided some insight into her passion for bunnies. Standing among the crowd of floppy-eared friends, she gave insight into the loving nature of her rabbits, her personal mission and her motivation for maintaining a communal space. The famous Bunny House is located a short walk from campus on Mill Street. Maintained by a mother-daughter duo, the yard serves as a safe haven for bunnies and bunny lovers alike.

There has been an outpouring of love from the Wil-



lamette community towards the bunny village. Often occupied by Willamette students, a bench sits right at the entryway, eager for guests to sit and observe the bunnies running around the yard. Angel mentioned that finals season seems to be the peak of popularity for the yard. "The bunnies seem to take away from the stress and angst of test taking," she said. "When I'm a wreck, if there's an animal in need that's where I go".

The house itself has a deep connection to the Willamette community. Angel noted that she bought the house from a previous owner who used to be a Willamette grad student, and that she is always welcoming to Willamette students in particular. "I cannot imagine living in a dorm," she added.

With the soothing presence of a mother amid her young, Angel showed off her bunny palace. She added that typical bunny burrowing habitats are called warrens, consisting of intricate, interconnected underground dwellings. Her goal is to turn her yard into warrens—a center for the bunnies to live in bliss and for bunny-loving humans to engage with their environment.

Within the first five minutes of the tour, Angel introduced a one-month-old bunny named Dirt. He was

small enough to fit into a jacket pocket, curling up into the cup of her hands. Angel said she doesn't typically name the bunnies until they get older, but Dirt seemed to be an exception.

The photographer for this piece was drawn to holding one of the bunnies that Angel's daughter brought out. Placing the bunny into her arms, Angel instructed her to "hold her close to your heart." She detailed how bunnies are similar to humans in the way that when humans are close to one another, enough to hear or feel a heartbeat, the rhythms slow to match each other. "It's similar to human touch, human chemistry," she said. Rabbits are actually used as a point of reference in studying the human immune system. Angel noted that baby rabbits consume the mulberry pellets that their mothers release, which contain a variety of protein and antibiotic properties. With the development of vaccines and disease prevention, the study of these pellets has been very crucial.

When bunnies get excited they do a jump and twisting movement that Angel refers to as a "binky." She noted how when she was younger and living with her family they would sit outside and watch the rabbits have their "zoomies": running around the yard, kicking

and doing binkies. Her family referred to this as "TV time."

The space has an overwhelming sense of community, aided by the presence of the many, many bunnies. This was emphasized by the surprise visit of a mother-daughter duo on bicycles. Angel explained that every week two neighborhood women bring their excess food scraps by the house. She then repurposes the organic plant matter as bunny feed, creating a sustainable circle in which the bunnies feed the soil and the unused food scraps feed the bunnies.

Through discussion of her career history, Angel demonstrated that her nurturing tendencies could be linked back to her service as a nurse. Whether it was discussing neighborly service or how people contribute to her, her focus is on "sharing the wealth," as she put it. "What's the point of putting in the work to have good things if you can't share them?" she asked.

If you ever feel the need to cuddle a bunny, destress from finals or otherwise spend some time in a caring community, Angel has put in the work to share the joy of her abundant bunny kingdom.



Photos by Maille Olgyay



Data science for all: New professor Hank Ibser

Lane Shaffer
Staff Writer

Which new professor at Willamette plays ultimate frisbee, could beat you in poker and walks around wearing a full spectrum light spectrometer for his research? If you guessed Hank Ibser, clinical associate professor of data science, you would be correct.

Ibser joined the Bearcat family this fall semester as part of the [recently announced] School of Computing and Information Science. In addition to teaching data science at Willamette, the former UC Berkeley lecturer is conducting research on the influence of light exposure on sleeping habits and health in collaboration with three colleagues.

Ibser particularly enjoys teaching the introductory statistics course here as it emphasizes visualization and storytelling: "That stuff can really open a lot of student's eyes and make them passionate about using data to tell stories and make arguments in ways that they didn't realize."

Data science was not his original plan. He entered college as a math major and preferred abstract mathematics.

"I thought [math] was beautiful and abstract and really interesting on its own, regardless of whether it had any application to the real world," Ibser began. "In some ways I enjoyed that it was pure and didn't really have a relationship with the real world." Apart from math, he also dabbled in poker and backgammon in college.

Now however, he focuses on applied data science and research that solves problems in the real world. When Ibser entered his doctoral program at UC Berkeley, he had to take a few data analysis classes and realized that his background in math and probability had set him up to apply his knowledge in data science.

"My PhD thesis was about the effect of increased imprisonment on crime rates. It was pretty applied work," Ibser explained. "That was part of the shift towards doing data analysis stuff." Over two decades later, he is still shedding light on societal problems through research. "We know as human beings that if you get bright light late at night, it's harder to sleep and can throw your circadian rhythms off, and bright light during the day tends to reset and recalibrate and kind of stabilize your circadian rhythm, but there isn't

really good data," Ibser described.

He wears a full spectrum light spectrometer that his colleague developed on his shirt. The device transmits data on the light it receives to an app on his phone. "There are three of us that are currently collecting data on ourselves as part of a preliminary for a grant that we're working on. Starting next spring we're gonna start collecting data on subjects and recording their light exposure and their sleep patterns and see what the relationship is."

Ibser hopes that with this research they will be able to make recommendations that will enable people to get better sleep, such as utilizing light bulbs that can mimic the dim, reddish light that occurs during sunsets at evening hours to help stabilize circadian rhythms.

He references his research and data collection in the classroom because it engages students in the practical applications of what they're learning and allows them to see real time data collection. Ibser also encourages students to try out data science even if they don't think they'll enjoy it. "Just recognize that whatever you're interested in, there's probably data, there's probably ways to think about applying

data science methods to whatever you study."

If you're thinking about taking data science, Ibser particularly recommends the data science 151 and 152 track. "The first course is very much interested in providing a non-mathy introduction to data science where students have an ability to storytell with data and do visualization and things like that. There is computing, but there's not a lot of math or theory," he continued. "In the second half there's a little bit more around statistics and

inference and analysis of data that I think is also really useful and important."

Ibser's journey to Willamette gave him the theoretical and practical knowledge needed to be a valuable addition to the new school of Computing and Information Science. Drop by his office in Ford 307 or sign up for data science 151/152 to get to know him even better!

Photo from Willamette Website





Sparks Pool reopening this week, frigid temperatures fixed

Mason Williams
Staff Writer

on the 21 of Oct.

“It was difficult,” said Assistant Swim Coach Sydney Kanne in an interview. “We weren’t able to do what we planned to [beginning] from the start of the season.” Kanne spoke about the many adaptations the swim team had to make in order to stay in shape while also minimizing their time in the pool. The Swim Team organized more practices on dry land and in the weight room, shifting focus from conditioning to strength training. Swimmers also attended more practices in the morning and had to practice off-site for an entire week.

Kanne is proud of how the team adapted to their situation and believes that they’re stronger for it. “[The strategy] was kind of adapt, change our game plan and ultimately move forward to do better at conference.” She noted that their extra time in strength training has had benefits as well. “They’re a lot stronger than they’ve ever been.”

The root causes for the heating issues are linked to an ongoing process of renovating the current layout of boilers on campus. While the school previously operated on two lone boilers, every building is cur-

If you’ve taken a recreational dip into the Sparks Athletic Complex pool recently or know anyone on the Swim Team, you’ve likely encountered the frigid pool temperature that has been terrorizing swimmers as of late.

For the entirety of the fall semester, the Sparks Pool has suffered from a heating problem, lacking any hot water to keep its temperature up. The low temperatures have made swimming for long periods unhealthy and severely limited the time swimmers can spend in the pool. The restrictions are especially relevant for the Willamette University Swim Team, who depend on the pool for their practices and need to use it for long segments of time.

The issues with the Sparks Pool culminated in its temporary closure on October 4 due to construction. The closure and lack of heating have created complications for the swimming team’s practice schedule, which is problematic considering that the swim team’s season has just begun, with the first meet being hosted



Photo by Skeet Starr

rently slated to receive its own. Over the summer, three of the buildings on campus were re-fitted with their own boilers, the Sparks Athletics Complex being one of them. Side effects of this construction have led to the Sparks Center losing a functioning boiler and the pool experiencing such steep temperature drops. Other buildings such as the University Apart-

ments experienced similar issues earlier in the semester.

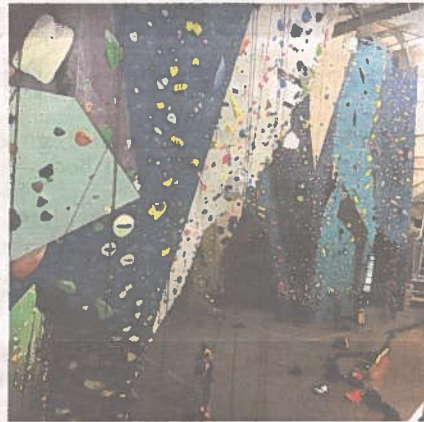
The construction has since been completed, and the Sparks Pool is scheduled to resume its public hours this week now that heating is back to normal. It is not anticipated that there will be another loss of hot water.

Swim took to the water

on the 21, where the women defeated Southwestern Oregon Community College (133-106), while the men lost (74-146). They will head to Portland next for NWC relays and sprints. The Sparks pool will see action again in early November when the Bearcats host the Whits.

Correction

In our October 4th edition the article “Opinion: “Dorm life is not perfect” - Why Kaneko isn’t all that special” was incorrectly credited, the correct writer is Brooke Austin



PORTLAND CLIMBING AT MOVEMENT GYM
12/2, \$30

Provided:
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ASWU Student Org Upcoming Events

- ODP Open at Montag – 4pm-6pm, Mon, Wed, Fri
- ODP Ice Skating– Nov 4, 4pm-6pm, Saturday
- ODP Cape Horn Hike– Nov 5, 2023, Sunday
- Craft Fair– Nov 8, 12pm–5pm, Wednesday

ASWU sponsored orgs from the University Calendar are added here.
See more at: <https://events.willamette.edu/>

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

OUTDOOR PROGRAM

STEPPIN’ OUT—TRIP PROGRAM—GEAR RENTALS—MONTAG BIKE SHOP

LLOYD CENTER ICE SKATING
12/3, \$30

Provided:
Transportation,
Entrance fee, Snacks



What even is a rugger? Checking in with Willamette Rugby

Ernie Samora
Staff Writer

You may have seen them practicing in the quad, heard their mighty chants from afar or have caught some of their infectious and vivacious energy across campus. It seems no matter where you turn, the ever-growing Willamette rugby teams are there, almost omnipresent. With each team having doubled in size this year and showing no signs of slowing growth, it is nearly impossible to miss them. However, after a slew of injuries in the 2022-2023 school year, many had questioned the future of the sport at Willamette. With another year's worth of experience under their belt, now is the perfect time to check in with Willamette rugby.

One of the most substantial changes going into the fall was the required addition of coaches by the league. Both Men's Rugby and Willamette Rugby Football Club (WRFC) have added coaches to their respective rosters this season. The WRFC had a volunteer coach in the spring, but

now, thanks to newly acquired ASWU funding, they are able to pay two coaches: Marcia Smith, a player on local rugby team the Salem Attack Owls, and Maddy "Buzz" Specht ('23), a WRFC alum. Men's Rugby now also boasts two coaches: Troy Martin, the parent of a current member and former rugger himself, and Maddie Almodovar (BA '16, MBA '17). Martin coaches during practices while Almodovar takes on game weekends.

Past injuries have created a stigma around the sport. In response, both teams have prioritized the safety of players above all else, a goal that could be considerably easier to attain with two coaches each. Martin runs many safe drills and teaches players technique, further preventing future injury. I stopped by a Men's Rugby practice where rugger Aiden Dopson ('25) placed a particularly heavy emphasis on safety. "Our priority is the health and wellness of our players," he said. Safety is especially important to consider in rugby as teams do not have access to athletic trainers paired with

the fact that Bishop will lack a nurse until the spring.

Last season presidents and captains had no guidance, forced to learn how to run a team on their own. Now, both teams feel as if they are finally hitting their stride. "Overall, it's a much improved experience," said Men's president Aiden Schubert ('25). The WRFC is playing their first fall 15s season this year along with their normal spring sevens season. "We've gotten the ball rolling a little bit earlier," said Catherine Myerson, co-president of WRFC.

Both teams also have had better luck securing funding, as they now have a better idea of how much money to ask for. Men's Rugby now utilizes travel funds to rent vans, a luxury they did not have in years prior. However, even with this extra funding, rugby still finds itself struggling with a lack of resources. "It's hard to request a ton of money from ASWU," Myerson ('24) explained. "It used to be that we could just rent one van and now we're renting three." With limited funds available, teams cannot afford both a coach and

to pay for registration, forcing rugby to switch to a pay-to-play model. Those wanting to play in games pay the \$75 registration fee out of pocket.

However, ruggers have never been known to back down from a challenge. Teams are doing what they can in order to secure funds for those who may not be able to afford the registration fees. "We never want money to be a barrier," said Myerson ('24.) This is especially important for WRFC, which goes to great lengths to make their club inclusive to anyone who wants to play. Volunteer opportunities at University of Oregon and Oregon State varsity games may be able to help with additional funding in the future. WRFC is

also looking into selling merchandise in order to fundraise.

According to Men's Club and WRFC leaders, the future's looking bright. "It's gonna be incredible," said Schubert. "There's so much potential on the team and it's very exciting," said Myerson. If rugby sounds like the place for you, they are always accepting new players and encourage you to come to a practice. Men's Rugby practices Mondays and Wednesday 4:30 to 6 on the quad. Willamette Rugby Football Club practice Thursdays and Fridays on the quad, 4:30 to 6:30 and is open to all identities. No experience is necessary to join either team.

Photo by Mary Vickery



Fast Break sports report

Skeet Starr
Sports Editor

10/17

Hello Bearcat Fan! There's big news. It's right below this section you're reading now about the fact that there is big news. Let's go to it!

Triathlon took second at the DIII West National Qualifier to earn their spot at the upcoming Nationals in Tempe, AZ. It's a milestone achievement for an organization founded only three years ago. Ella Isaacson ('25), Veronica Castille ('25) and Riga Grubis ('27) took the highest placements for the 'Cats.

Men's Soccer lost to Linfield for the first time since 2019 (3-4), likely dashing their hopes for a conference championship repeat. They went on to halt the Pioneer's progress (4-0) as consolation.

Women's Soccer tied Linfield at twos, then had victory snatched from them by a well-placed L & C free kick (1-1).

It was sweep or be swept for Volleyball as they

were mopped by Whitworth (0-3), then dusted Whitman in identical fashion later in the week. They have the Wildcats at home on Friday.

Football. 7-62. Pacific Lutheran. A blackened dawn has once again risen over Willamette football. Let us be reminded that blood makes the grass (or astroturf) grow, and to never waver in the face of our dreaded rivals in liberal artistry. Forward the light brigade! Forward Bearcats!

Men's Golf took second at the ITA Regional Invitational, then fifth at the NWC Fall Classic. Are the champions faltering, or will they come out swinging in the spring?

Zoe Heino ('26) and the Women's Cross Country team took second among DIII schools at the George Oja Invitational, as well as sixth overall. Jay Chew ('26) and the Men's squad rolled into 13th.

In the world of sport: The upcoming UFC pay-per-view fight card has been reshuffled to include a bout between Islam Makhachev and Alexander Volkanovski, as

well as a match up between Kamaru Usman and Khânzat "The Wolf" Chimaev. What a twist!

Consider in the coming weeks: What's the deal with the pool?

10/23

Hello Bearcat Fan! Fall sports have largely fallen on hard times this week. We at The Collegian sincerely hope that the recent poor performances have nothing to do with the fact that our weekly sports ritual of sacrifice was interrupted on Monday by the KWU radio people who now share our office. Let's go to the news!

Women's Swim left SWOCC in the liquid equivalent of dust (133-106), but the Men failed to get a result (74-146).

Football. Loss, 10-63. George Fox. Once, when I was a child, I stood in front of a towering elm, its leaves made golden by October. A blast of wind pummeled the highest branches and the falling leaves, drops of sunlight against the gray sky,

surrounding me in a swirling kaleidoscope. In that moment, like this one, I understood that beauty has a mother and her name is decay. Keep bearin' down on 'em, 'Cats!

Defending champs Men's Soccer have fallen squarely from last season's heights, losing twice this weekend to UPS (1-3) and George Fox (1-2).

Women's Soccer outscored the Loggers (3-2), then fell to Fox (1-3).

Volleyball narrowly

defeated the Wildcats (3-2), then were swept for the second time this season by the Lutes.

In the wide world of sport: Islam Makhachev knocked out Alexander Volkanovski by head kick to retain the UFC lightweight belt.

Consider in the coming weeks: What have the rugby clubs been up to since we last checked in, and alternatively, have you ever visited central Salem's rabbit world?

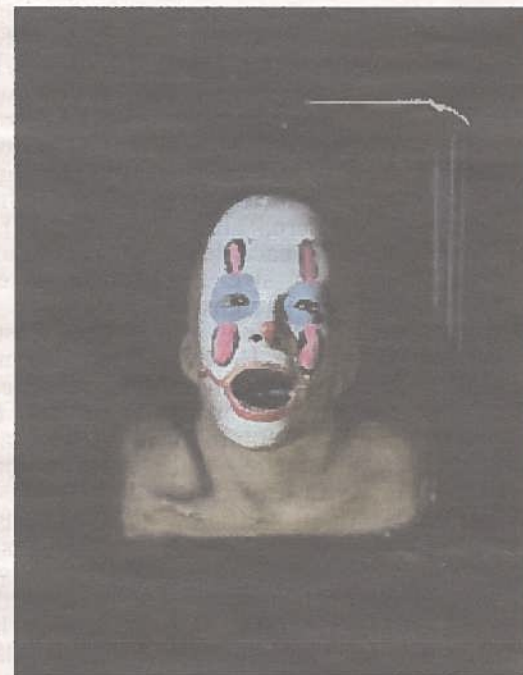
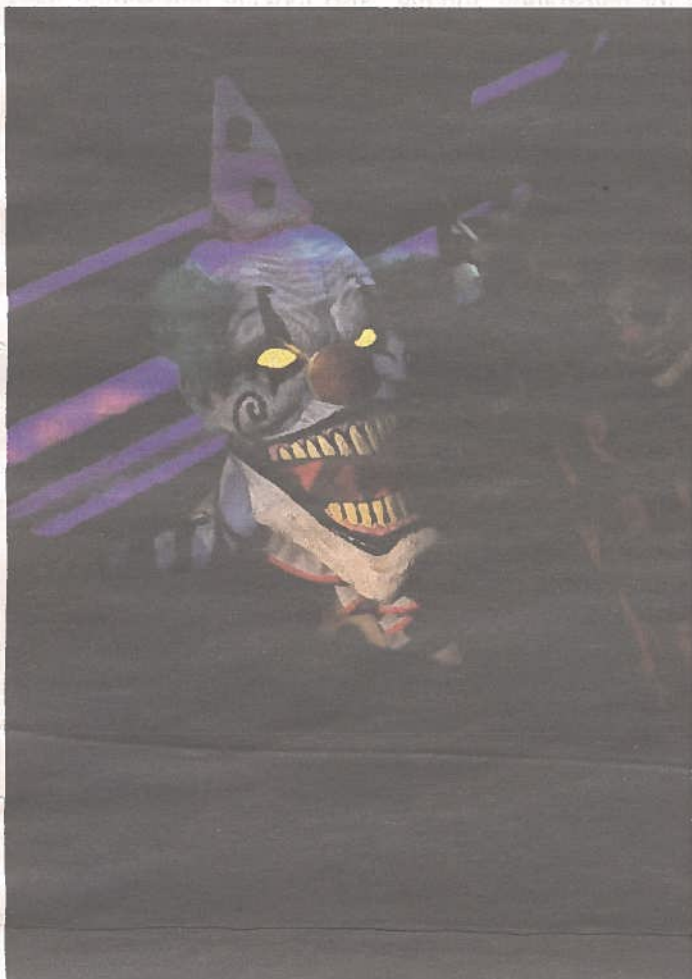
Art by Carolyn Vazquez





Nightmare Factory: On the haunt for a terrific time

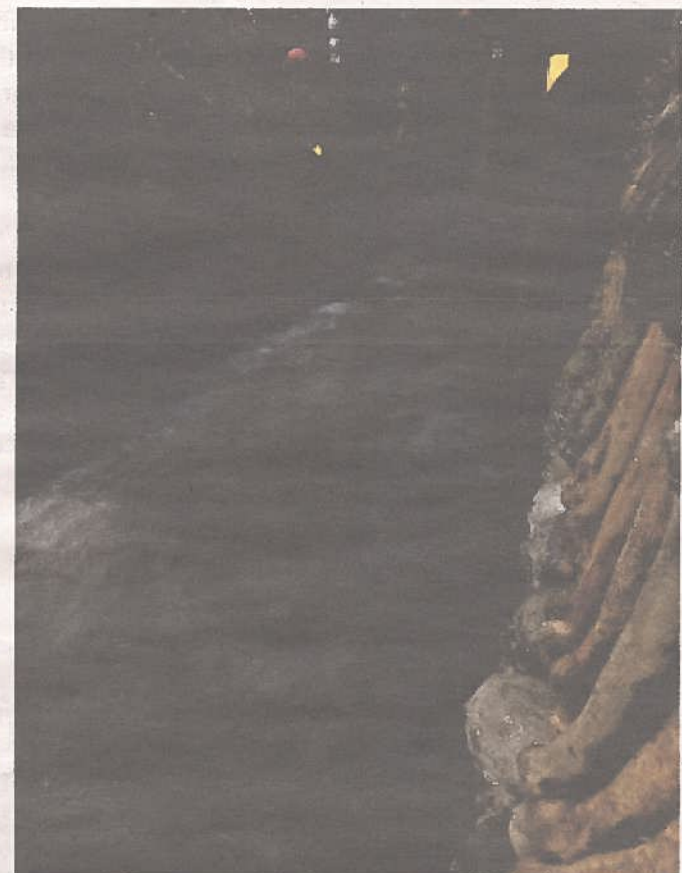
Isis Coyle
Media Editor



Sounds like a nightmare, right?

It's the night of Friday the 13 and the cold grip of fear sits in the back of your mind. Thunderous noise — a foul mix of distant screams, roaring metal and the taunting melody of an out-of-tune piano engulfs the entirety of your being.

There, in the corner of your eye, a dark figure looms — watching you.



Well, you're not wrong! Sort of. The Nightmare Factory is not your average haunted house — it's not a house at all! It's a cohesive collection of multiple environments that tell a terrifying story: winding halls that are littered with creepy artifacts and paintings, open rooms with disturbing themes and hidden lore and a daunting maze where you don't know what or who you're going to run into.

The Nightmare Factory strays away from your classic haunted house in multiple ways, but its biggest defining attribute is the community that surrounds the project. Since the attraction takes place on the campus of the Oregon School for the Deaf (OSD), students engage in various skills and processes to build and maintain it every year.

Creeping through the crowded lines are monsters — killers in disguises — standing behind you, next to you, above you, all waiting for the perfect moment to scare.

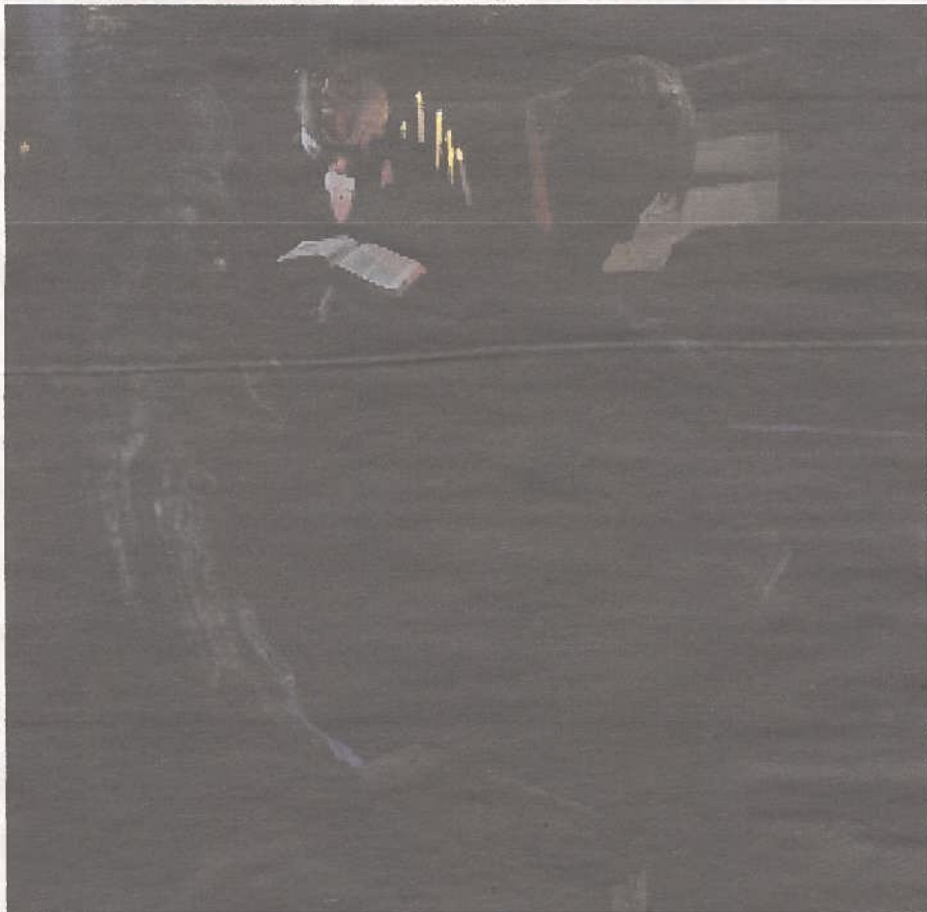
Once you enter the catacombs of terror, thin white strings that mimic spider webs hang above the doorways, on the walls and even on some characters. The light wisps of material find your skin, sticking to the fear-induced sweat that coats your cheeks. As you struggle against their weightless grasp, they give you one last caress before searching for their next victim.



The scariest thing about the Nightmare Factory, however, is how little it's talked about on campus. Despite being a popular spot with Salem locals, the topic ghosts the Willamette community.



As terrifying as it is, the attraction is genuinely one of the most exhilarating horror experiences you can find in Salem. If you're looking for even more reasons to stop by, the proceeds go to OSD and are used to fund school resources and activities. The Nightmare Factory is a product of hard work, dedication and passion — something that should be celebrated by everyone who lives in Salem!



Walking out of the Nightmare Factory was an experience akin to being rebirthed. My knees were quaking and I was shaking in my hypothetical boots! My heart pounded, my skin tingled and I felt alive.



Their hours of operation are from 7 to 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and other times are listed on their website. There's no need to spoil everything that happens — you just need to experience it yourself!



To-go boxes in Goudy: The principles of sustainability and respect

Mya Jewison
Staff Writer

With the changing of the seasons, sickness runs rampant. With busy schedules and pressing deadlines, students find their daily lives packed to the brim from the moment they wake up to the satisfactory shutting of their dorm doors at night. Throughout the chaos, students are concerned about getting in three meals a day; some skip lunch because they simply do not have the time to sit and eat, and some are so sick they can't leave their dorms to get dinner.

This has caused outward frustration among students of various years. The logical solution to these problems are Goudy administered to-go boxes. With access to a to-go box, students would be able to ease their worries surrounding food and time. Many students have voiced how having a to-go box would significantly improve their day-to-day meal planning, and how not having access to food on the go has hindered their busy and stressful school days. "It sucks. Sometimes I don't have time for my meals, or like, I'll have to go somewhere," said Rory Harvey ('27). "I feel like it would be helpful to students who either don't have the time to sit down or don't have the energy to sit down and socialize with people and eat their food."

Though it is common

for students to eat by themselves in Goudy, being in a crowded place can be overwhelming after a long day. Mackenzie Lorenz ('26) shared a similar sentiment. "For me, I usually eat at Goudy all the time, but I know especially some people who don't like crowded areas prefer to eat outside or people who are sick prefer to eat in their rooms, so it's more helpful in those scenarios."

A common concern among students is providing for their sick roommate; many people are getting sick with the "WU Flu" and finding it hard to get out of bed and make the trek to Goudy to eat. Nicole Arreola-Canonica, assistant general manager at Goudy, stated that the roommate or a friend of a sick student can present the sick student's ID and explain that that person is sick, and Goudy will provide and fill a to-go box free of charge. "Many students either don't know about it or are afraid we will say no," said Arreola-Canonica, "but we are happy to accommodate for those who are sick and can't leave their dorm."

A common concern among all the interviewees was the waste that could come with the reinstatement of to-go boxes. During the pandemic, Goudy only offered to-go boxes to prevent the spreading of COVID-19. However, during that period, students would take advantage of the free to-go boxes, causing excessive

waste. Arreola-Canonica commented on this, stating, "Some people were taking advantage of it; they would take three to four to-go boxes and then sit down here and have a meal." Though it wasn't every student, the handful of students who did take advantage of the to-go box system caused problems for the Goudy staff. "We had to take into account food cost, as well as paper cost, and it all really added up."

As of Monday, Oct. 9th, Goudy implemented reusable to-go boxes that can be purchased for \$8 at the cashier. "Bon Appetit standards, we like reusable products. We like sustainability. And so that's where these reusable to-go boxes come in." Arreola-Canonica also commented on cost control, saying, "It might not seem a lot when we only have, like, one or two people taking advantage, but when it's closer to 20 people taking four to five to-go boxes at a time, the cost really adds up."

Respect and trust are very important parts of the to-go box system. With the privilege of having food to-go, one must respect the institution that is providing that service, which includes taking only what is needed, being honest about your portions and not ruining it for other students by taking more than is necessary. "It may not seem like a lot when only one or two people are doing it, but when it's a big amount, you know, food cost really does rise," commented Arreola-Canonica.

Canonica.

Ultimately, the primary reason Goudy got rid of their to-go service was because of members of the community who were disrespectful of the service that they were provided and thus ruined a convenience that many students wish they currently had.

Another concern around Goudy is the issue of silverware and dining utensils going missing. When asked about the possible correlations between the lack of to-go boxes and the stolen utensils, Arreola-Canonica stated that she believes that there is no link between the two. "The reason we know that is because it's been a continuous thing. You know, we've had to-go boxes, we've had issues with utensils, we haven't had to-go boxes and we've had issues with utensils. So we know they're not tied together."

The current leading

concerns around to-go boxes are sustainability and cost. The reusable to-go boxes provided by Goudy are a good solution for students who find themselves frequently busy, while also being a way to encourage students to engage with Bon Appetit standards and actively participate in reducing the waste produced by eating on the go. Purchasing the reusable to-go boxes is a great way to engage with Goudy and support the staff.

Also, as mentioned earlier, students can bring a sick roommate's ID card and receive a one time use to-go box to bring to their roommate, without additional cost. Enjoy some lovely fall comfort food as midterms roll by, and stay healthy! Community is built on trust; use those to-go boxes wisely and wear a mask when sick. Happy fall Bearcats!

Photo by Anushka Srivastava



The art of storytelling: Willamette's Conversation Project

Sage Lamott
Staff Writer

Talking about collaborative discussion seems to serve the members of Professors David Gutterman and Wendy Petersen Boring's Conversation Project class. With an open awareness of the political, heated world we live in and a positive outlook toward collaboration, the class and its extended opportunities serve as a beacon of hope. The Conversation Project's most recent event was the second annual Immigrant Story Live, hosted on Oct. 10 in Willamette's Hudson Hall. In collaboration with the Immigrant Story Foundation in Portland, the event featured music, vendors and storytellers.

The event was hosted by the students of the class itself. Kate West ('26), Sawyer Garrison ('26) and Mira Karthik ('24) discussed the importance of having an organization like this one: "The goal is to strive for conversation, and enhance democracy." Stu-

dents were the heart of the evening working the whole event. There were volunteers working at book sale booths, ushering, talking to guests and creating a comfortable atmosphere.

After opening with an introduction by the associated professors, the music portion of the event began. Martin Zarzar, guitar and vocalist, led the group with his musical compositions and some traditional music from various cultures. He performed with unmatched passion and charisma, telling the story of his life with each of his original pieces, noting, "What can be achieved when people work together, that's the real American dream." A stand-out piece was a song written about his son in which he compared him to a "growing tree." Tying into the overall theme of storytelling, the music was soft and lingering, allowing the listener to consider it long after it concluded. Accompanied by Willamette's very own music professor Mario Diaz on percussion and guitar, Randy Porter on piano and Michael Dougherty on bass, the band

serenaded the audience with flair.

Four storytellers shared with the audience. Nasirullah Safi discussed his trauma growing up in the Kunar Valley between Afghanistan and Pakistan. He shared that he now works to help refugees coming to Oregon. TK Kapurura was a lawyer in Rhodesia before the corrupt government forced him and his family to move to the United States. Now providing legal advice in Oregon, he aims to support social justice efforts. Jane Manti-ri shared about her immigration to the U.S., and how it felt to be an outsider in a new place. She now shares her story in order to empower others who feel like outsiders. Emmanuel Turaturanye survived the Rwandan genocide and shared his journey of faith and perseverance. Now working as a TriMet driver, he is optimistic about the future.

Finally, Sankar Raman, The Immigrant Story's founder, spoke about the power of conversation, noting that you "learn so much from sto-

ries and music that you could never get from a textbook." Raman has collaborated with the class on multiple occasions, serving as a guest speaker as well as interacting with students and faculty.

The class itself was founded with the goal of "supporting the atmosphere of conversation," said Petersen Boring. Student Cassie Segura ('26) added the class helps in "learning how to facilitate conversations."

Petersen Boring detailed how the idea for the class originated during the height of the 2016 election. Both she and Gutterman noticed how America's political divides were af-

fecting students and decided to take action. Collaborating to apply for a grant, they started the class based on their passion for community-based learning. Gutterman noted that the class "listens [to] past differences." Both professors added that after leading the class they began to recognize that "people are story carriers." Due to this, they focus on being careful listeners and urge their students to do the same.

Empowering active listening and sharing a message of unity and support, the Conversation Project serves as a beacon of light within the

Photo by Lucy Devlaeminck



Author Sindya Bhanoo visits Willamette University

Izzy Cornelison
Staff Writer

On Monday, Oct. 2 author Sindya Bhanoo did a reading in the Alumni Lounge as a part of this year's first installment of the Hallie Ford Literary series sponsored by the Department of English and the Hallie Ford Chair in Writing. "Seeking Fortune Elsewhere" is a collection of eight short stories, four taking place in India and four taking place in the United States. The stories all contain themes of loneliness, as well as the challenges and difficulties of being an immigrant in America.

Bhanoo has not always been a fiction author—in fact, this is a fairly new occupation for her. Bhanoo's adventure into fiction started with short paragraphs written after her child was born. Before that she was a journalist working for the New York Times and the Washington Post, both of which she still writes for on occasion.

She described her writing process as draining, not because she doesn't enjoy it, but because she spends so long

getting to know her characters that it begins to feel like she is interacting with a real person. She said that her journalistic route felt more practical than creative writing, and that she loved to tell the stories of the people she talked to. However, journalism came with limitations, and Bhanoo felt responsible for telling stories that were often not told. She recognized that she could not achieve that in journalism alone.

During the event Bhanoo read an excerpt from the first story in her collection, "Maliga Homes." This story follows a mother who lives full time at a retirement community called Maliga Homes, while her daughter Kamala is living in America. It covers the ties of a family separated by an ocean, and the struggle of life when one is away from those who love them, spanning themes of grief, death and grappling with one's own mortality. It also examines the relationship between money and lifestyle as well as the idea of religion and cultural identity in the modern age. The story is told from the perspective of the mother in the retirement home, which allows the reader to feel the loneliness

present in the community and in the rift between the mother and Kamala.

In 2021 Bhanoo won the O. Henry prize for "Maliga Homes." The O. Henry Prizes are the oldest major prize for short fiction in America and are awarded annually with the intention of providing a platform for modern short fiction authors, regardless of where they are in their careers. The award for short fiction is considered one of the most prestigious awards to win as a short fiction author.

At the event Bhanoo was asked if representation is something she consciously thinks about in her writing. She replied that it isn't a decision she makes on purpose—it just happens to evolve out of the characters she creates. She feels no constrictions to a traditional story format, just an obligation to reveal the inner workings of her characters and to watch them evolve as she writes them. She believes that representation is a natural consequence of following these people where they take you.

The next event in the Hallie Ford literary series will be a reading by Jasmine



Photo by Lucy Deolaeminck

To learn more about Bhanoo and her writing, visit Bhanoo's website <https://www.sindyabhanoo.com>.

Mendez, a best selling Dominican-American poet, playwright, translator and award winning author of several books for adults and children. It will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 5:00 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge of the third floor of the University Center.

Staff Picks

Compiled by: Priya Thoren, Opinions Editor

Topic: What is your favorite music video?

The Pick: Breezeblocks by Alt-J

Submitted by: Alan Cohen, Staff Writer

Staff Comment: It's pretty sad but it's original and I love the band.

The Pick: Sledgehammer by Peter Gabriel

Submitted by: Chrisy Ewald, Staff Writer

Staff Comment: The animations were done by a team including Aardman Animations (of Wallace and Gromit fame).

The Pick: Hopeless Wanderer by Mumford & Sons

Submitted by: Bjorn Domst, Copy Editor

Staff Comment: It starts off like every other Mumford & Sons until you realize that the actors are not the band members, and then devolves into absolute chaos by the end.

The Pick: Don't Mine At Night

Submitted by: Isis Coyle, Media Manager

Staff Comment: An emotional tale of a blue-collar worker just trying to escape the endless cycle of the night shift. He endures the conflicting voice in his head that begs him to stay home--to stay out of danger, yet the environmental pressures that come from his broken society require him to work in order to survive. Even through the occupational hazards of his physically taxing job, he can only imagine

the prize that will come from his efforts. But there will be no reprieve for the blue collar worker, there is only more work to be done.

The Pick: Thriller by Michael Jackson

Submitted by: Monte Remer, Lifestyles Editor

The Pick: The Man by Taylor Swift

Submitted by: Izzy Cornelison, Staff Writer

Staff Comment: Not only a good song but also a really good representation of the inequality in the world. Also self directed by Taylor Swift which is very cool :)

The Pick: tous les mêmes by Stromae

Submitted by: Marit Hickey, Staff Writer

Staff Comment: I love anything that has

fun with how we perceive gender as a society.

The Pick: Goodbye Earl by The Chicks

Submitted by: Gia Patel, Staff Writer

Staff Comment: I love Goodbye Earl by The Chicks, purely for sentimental reasons, but also because the song is so incredibly catchy. The lyrics and exaggerated country accent are just the cherry on top to this silly little music video.

The Pick: Devil Woman by Cliff Richard

Submitted by: Ernie Samora, Staff Writer

The Pick: Buttercup by Hippo Campus

Submitted by: Anushka Srivastav, Media Editor

Staff Comment: I absolutely love the animation and creatives used.

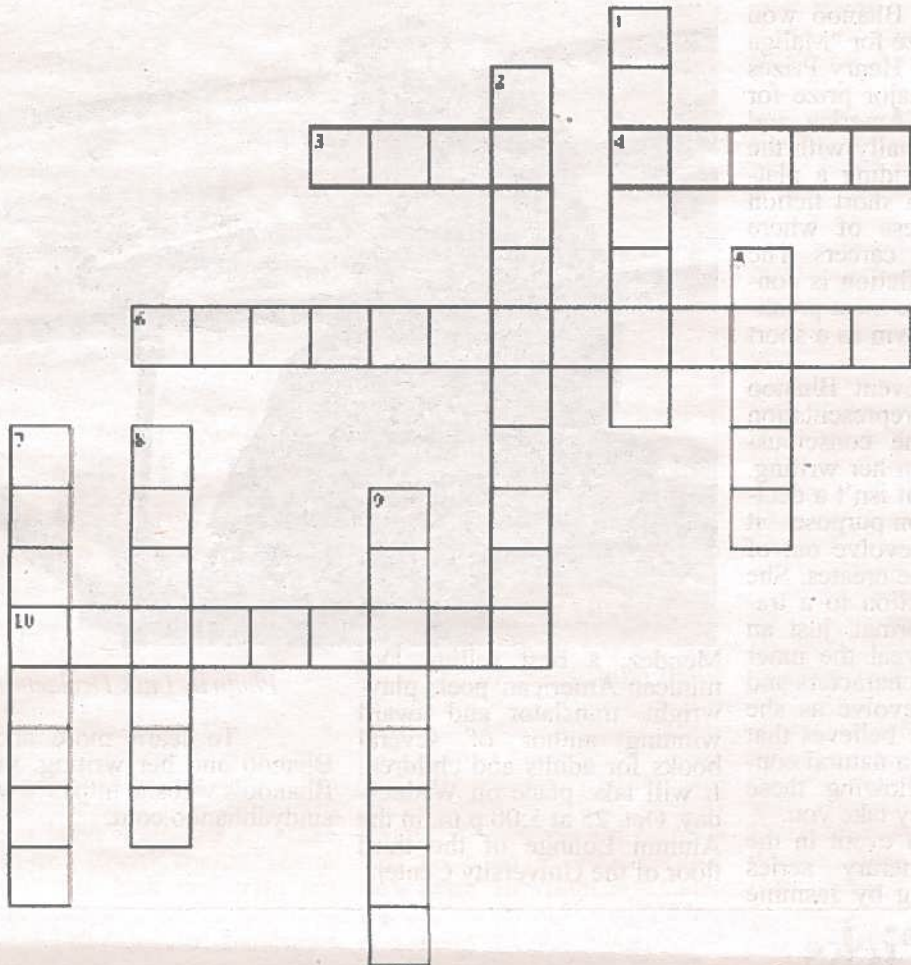
The Pick: Somebody That I Used to Know by Gotye

Submitted by: Sage Lamott, Staff Writer

Staff Comment: Somebody that I used to know gotye. I love this song and how they made the music video is really interesting, the visuals have this very distinct 2011 vibe.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed are from the individual staff members and do not reflect the perspective of The Collegian as a whole. The submissions are unedited and unaltered from what was submitted by individual staff members.

Happy Halloween!



Across

- [3] Movie featuring the hit song "Un Poco Loco"
- [4] The vampire slayer
- [6] Classic Disney Channel original movie
- [10] Whose baby?

Down

- [1] The teenage witch
- [2] Popular book series by R.L Stine
- [5] Hit 90's movie "___ Pocus"
- [7] Ryan Murphy show currently featuring Kim Kardashian, "___ Horror Story"
- [8] *Scream*, *Halloween*, *A Nightmare on Elm Street*
- [9] Novel by Neil Gaiman

Crossword answers-Across: 3. coco 4. buffy 6. hallowentown 10. rosemarys Down: 1. sabrina 2. goosebumps 5. hocus 7. american 8. slash 9. coraline

Comic by Isis Coyle

