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Shootings and legislation going forward

 **MAGGIE CHAPIN**
CONTRIBUTOR

The recent mass shootings at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada and even yesterday at a northern California elementary school now join the growing list of tragic shootings in the country in recent memory. Gun control has now forcibly made itself an important and controversial topic in the U.S.

Over the past few years, numerous proposals to ban and place greater restrictions on those who can obtain a gun have failed to pass at the state and federal levels. One of the proposed banned guns that is most contested is the AR-15, which was used in all of the aforementioned mass shootings.

The AR-15 is one of the most commonly owned rifles in the U.S. today, and has even been nicknamed "America's rifle" due to its easy use, customizability and reliability. Around five million Americans own some version of the gun, using it for shooting, hunting and/or self-defense. Its adaptability and popularity are part of the reason it is so often used in mass shootings, versus more powerful semi-automatics like the AK-47. According to Dean Hazen, owner of a group called "The Gun Experts" located in Illinois, in an interview with USA Today, the use of the AR-15 is due to "copycat mentality", and that in general "mass shooters don't know much about guns and choose the AR-15 because of the reputation it has gotten from being used in other mass shootings."

Versions of the AR-15 were banned for 10 years in the Federal Assault Weapons Ban (FAW), which ended in 2004. The ban was created after five children were killed using an AK-47 assault rifle in a 1989 California shooting. The ban barred the manufacturing of certain assault weapons defined as "semiautomatic firearms with large magazines" for civilian use. Since the ban's expiration in 2004, numerous unsuccessful attempts at a renewal have been made.

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Happiness explained



SAMANTHA ZEMENEK

 **SARA FULLERTON**
STAFF WRITER

Psychologist Shawn Achor has proposed that the relationship between success and happiness is the reverse of our common perception. While success cannot manufacture happiness, happiness brings about conditions for success. Studies have shown that in measures of creativity, energy levels and intelligence, the brain is about 31 percent more high-functioning when it is in a positive state than in a negative or neutral one. But how

do we create these conditions, and what gets in our way?

In his TED Talk titled "The surprising science of happiness," psychologist Dan Gilbert talks about how our most evolved cognitive features may actually hinder our happiness. Gilbert introduces the prefrontal cortex, a brain region distinctive to humans and responsible for simulating future events. He illustrates its function with the example that you don't have to churn up a batch of liver and onion ice cream to know you won't like it.

Next, he asked his audience to predict which will create a more favorable condition for happiness: winning the lottery or becoming paraplegic. Studies have found that, in fact, one year after either event, individuals' happiness levels are not meaningfully different. He concluded then, that our "experience simulators" consistently overestimate the amount that future events will generate disparate internal outcomes.

A LOOK INSIDE, 4

The prelude to midterm elections

 **SOPHIA GOODWIN-RICE**
STAFF WRITER

It's almost hard to imagine that the election of 2016 was already a year ago. The controversial race engaged Americans from all walks of life, young and old, and along with being one of the most serious issues of the year, was one of the most mocked. The culmination left people shocked, confused and in many cases, resigned to the "end of the world." Within just a few hours, profile pictures on social media had gone black and some Americans were actually looking for ways to leave the country. In a way, it feels

like it's been years since this happened, and yet at the same time it feels like just yesterday.

The good news is that the world hasn't ended yet. In the last ten months since Donald Trump took office there have been countless discouraging measures passed and multiple calls for impeachment from the American public. Despite this, though, some things are getting better. Just in the last month, sexual assault allegations against powerful figures in American media and politics have soared, shedding light on the important issue. The hole in the ozone layer is the smallest it's been in decades. These

things may not be the happiest topics, but at least they have positive outcomes.

This positive spin on current events was only strengthened by this year's election, which took place last Tuesday. While no grand-scale presidential elections took place this year (and won't for a long time), the gubernatorial, mayoral and county elections held nationwide were flooded with diversity and minorities, something that hasn't been seen much in the American government in its history.

ELECTION, 11

Cross Country races through Regionals

 **JARED SPOHR**
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, Oct. 28, Willamette men's Cross Country took home their sixth consecutive Northwest Conference title. Three Bearcats finished in the top five: Keith Carlson (2nd), Michael Montague (4th) and Ross Enlow (5th). Finishing with 50 total points, Willamette edged out second place contender Pacific Lutheran by seven total points. The Lady Bearcats finished fifth out of nine teams. Leading the way was Hannah Swanson, who finished third place in the individual standings.

Head Coach Matt Mcguirk secured his 6th consecutive award as the best cross country coach in the NWC. Incredibly, this is the 13th time since 2001 that he has received the award.

"I am very happy with my race, trusting the process the coaches have laid out for the program got me to this point," Kieth Carlson said in an interview with Robert McKinney. "It meant a lot to me to see what my coaches and teammates could push me to do."

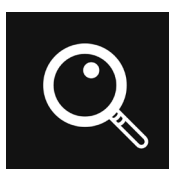
Carlson had lots of praise for his teammates as well.

"Seeing Michael and Ross coming in fourth and fifth was amazing, I crossed the line and turned around and was immediately greeted by Michael, which was great to see. I knew Michael was going to be right behind me. He ran a great race. Then seeing Ross finish was more exciting just because he out-sprinted a bunch of guys right at the line. Michael and I were yelling and cheering him on, and Ross took the challenge head-on and beat them right at the line. Then seeing all of my other teammates fight hard to the line was really cool."

Also contributing to the great team victory was Ricardo Castillo-Flores and Kellen Bulger, who finished 16th and 23rd overall, respectively.

For the women, Kyla Shade finished second for the Bearcats at 19th overall. Following her was Emily Evans in 28th and Hazel Carr at 33rd.

INDIVIDUALS, 8



FEATURE

Learn about Religion's continued impact at Willamette University.

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LIFESTYLES

Read about how one person handles their love for problematic creators' art.

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OPINIONS

The Gun Control Argument that is the biggest obstacle to conservative support.

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ASWU: Holiday plans and hate speech discussion

BENJAMIN LOVE
CONTRIBUTOR

In the Nov. 9 meeting of the Associated Students of Willamette University (ASWU):

President Jack Wellman discussed the Student Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC) focus groups; they allow and encourage students to voice their opinions on how Willamette should be spending money regarding programs and services.

Vice President Joseph Landoni mentioned a meeting being led by students in regards to the upcoming Food Pantry. A food drive will be taking place on Nov. 8 — the 17th; the purpose being to have food on campus for individuals not going home for Thanksgiving break.

A Green Fund proposal is in the works to gain funding to buy more food for next week. A permanent space for the food pantry is currently being worked out. If there are any questions or individuals interested in getting involved with the upcoming food pantry project, please contact Tova Hershman and Izzabella Green in the CSL office.

A few representatives from classes presented their Senate Reports. Senator Yun Kim — following last week's discussion — presented a resolution: Condemning Hate Speech on Campus. The resolution is ASWU's response to the issue of hate speech; under no circumstances will the discrimination of one's race, religion, gender, socioeconomic background, etc, be tolerated. There was a unanimous vote in favor for the resolution and an email was sent out to the student body on the morning of Friday with the document attached.

There will not be an ASWU meeting on Thursday the 16th, however the meeting following Thanksgiving break will have Ed Whipple and Carol Long as special guests.

ASWU Senate meetings are weekly every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Ford 102. All students are welcome to attend.

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Gray wolves and Oregon game laws collide

NATALIE ROADARMEL
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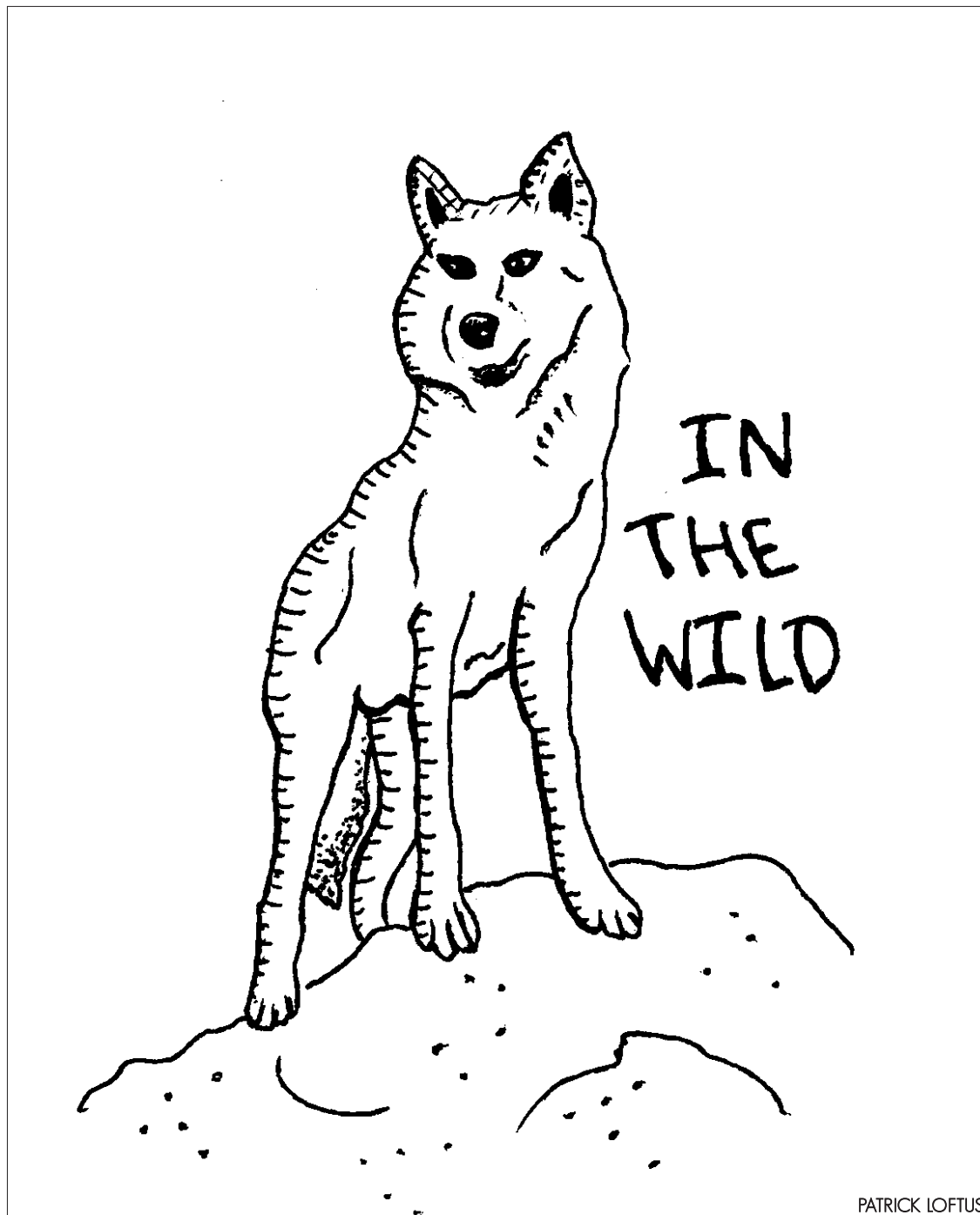
This past weekend, a third gray wolf was killed in Klamath County, Oregon. The gray wolf is currently listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), which is also offering a \$5,000 reward for any information on each of the three poachings. Multiple environmental groups have added to the reward, resulting in the total amount being between \$15,000 and \$20,000 for information on each individual killing.

The most recently killed wolf was known as OR-25, a four and a half year old male who was wearing a tracking collar. It has been said that this wolf killed a calf that belonged to a livestock rancher, which propagates the negative view many livestock farmers hold towards these wolves. OR-33, another male wolf, was found dead on April 23, 2017 and OR-28, a collared female, was found dead on Oct. 6, 2016. These three wolves were all killed in Klamath County and all investigations are still open.

The gray wolf is a species that nearly disappeared from the United States in the early 1900's, until recovery efforts began in the 1980's through the FWS. In Oregon, wolf populations have gone up exponentially from 15 known gray wolves in 2009 to 112 in 2016. However, western Oregon is only home to 15-20 gray wolves, placing them on the endangered species list in this part of the state.

In the western two-thirds of Oregon, killing gray wolves is both a violation of the Endangered Species Act and Oregon state game laws. Violating the Endangered Species Act is punishable by up to a \$100,000 fine and/or one year in jail. The maximum punishment for violating Oregon state game laws is \$6,250 as well as a year of jail time.

There is a heated debate on whether any form of wolf hunting should be allowed in Oregon. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has been discussing a proposal to allow the public to hunt "problem wolves"— wolves



that are killing livestock or are causing a subsequent decline in elk and/or deer. The majority of the support of this proposition is from ranchers and local groups, expressing that by giving the public the right to hunt small amounts of wolves, their frustration with the species will lessen, resulting in lower numbers of illegal poachings.

Environmental organizations are in strong opposition to this proposal, saying that it will undoubtedly result in higher levels

of poaching and seasonal killings. They argue that killing wolves in order to grow populations of game species is unnecessary and unnatural. Wolves play an integral role in ecosystems, acting as keystone species, meaning that if they are taken away it adversely affects many other parts of the ecosystem in which they habitate.

Somewhere between nine and fourteen wolves have been illegally killed in Oregon since 2007. Although these animals have a longstanding negative relation-

ship with many livestock owners and other members of the public — they play an integral role in their ecosystems. While organized killing of wolves would result in higher numbers of elk and deer, it's equally important to remember that the gray wolf was once nearly eradicated from the lower 48 states. Many feel that this is not an event worth repeating going forward.

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CAMPUS SAFETY

BURGLARY

November 10, 9:30 a.m. (YWCA): Campus Safety received a call stating that it appeared that someone had broken into the building. Salem Police were contacted and they searched the building. The individual who had been in the building the week prior was found hiding in one of the rooms in the building and was taken into custody by the police.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

November 9, 12:37 a.m. (Lausanne Hall): Campus

Safety received a report regarding a broken window in the laundry room. On officer responded and documented the damage. A report was filed.

November 11, 5:11 p.m. (Collins Science Center): While on patrol an officer noticed that one of the key boxes on the wall was unlocked. The box appeared to be broken and was taken back to the Campus Safety office.

THEFT

November 9, 2:00 p.m. (Law School): An individual

came into the office to report that their bike had been stolen. The individual had locked their bike to the rack and upon returning in the evening found it to be missing.

November 9, 9:10 a.m. (Matthews Parking Lot): Campus Safety received a call from an individual stating that their car had been broken into. An officer responded and spoke with the individual. There were encouraged to contact Salem Police.

November 10, 12:39 p.m. (Matthews Parking

Lot): While on patrol an officer noticed broken glass on the ground next to a vehicle. Upon further inspection they found the window of the car to be broken out. The owner was contacted and spoke with the officer. A report was made and the individual was encouraged to call Salem Police.

November 10, 2:20 p.m. (Matthews Parking Lot): Campus Safety received a call from an individual stating that their car had been broken into. An officer responded and took a report.

November 11, 10:08 p.m. (University Apartments): An individual called Campus Safety to report that their bike handle bars had been stolen. A report was made and the individual was encouraged to contact Salem Police.

***PLEASE CONTACT CAMPUS SAFETY IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THESE INCIDENTS.**

Deaths of 26 refugees highlights immigration crisis

KELLEN BULGER
NEWS EDITOR

A little over a week and a half ago, 26 bodies were found by a Spanish ship named “Cantabria” which is a part of the EU’s anti-trafficking program. After the bodies were brought to the southern Italian port, Salerno, one man from Libya and another from Egypt were both arrested on homicide charges after being identified by survivors in connection to the deceased Nigerian women.

It is likely that these women were connected to sex-trafficking operations, as according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), estimating that 80 percent of Nigerian girls arriving as refugees in Italy by sea are victims of sex-trafficking operations. According to the Washington Post, more than 400,000 migrants and refugees have crossed the Mediterranean Sea from Libya to Italy, like the Nigerian women were attempting to.

While much has been made of the ongoing European refugee crisis, sexual abuse and exploitation of women seeking refuge has been widely underrepresented.

Many European countries in wake of the refugee crisis have

seen an uptick in Europe, however whether they are directly connected to the influx of immigrants is yet to be seen.

In spite of the isolationist rhetoric and concerns around national security coming from several Eu-

Now there certainly have been signs of attempting to get to the root of the refugee crisis, like the European commission signing migration deals with five African countries, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, where development aid

Going forward, the EU and its neighboring countries will have to address the issue of refugees flooding their borders holistically, in contrast to conflicting policies and halfway efforts like modest aid which are largely lacking in substantial changes.

A report published by Amnesty International last month showed that 10 countries worldwide have taken in half of the world’s refugees. Additionally, in a time, where according to Pew, one in 100 people worldwide are displaced and the global community being in the midst of what is the worst refugee crisis since World War II, demanding unanimity on policy — whether it be direct aid, opening of borders or the mere addressing of massive sex trafficking routes — seems far from radical.

“Human rights and humanitarian efforts certainly seem like they should be separated from political talking points over immigration.”

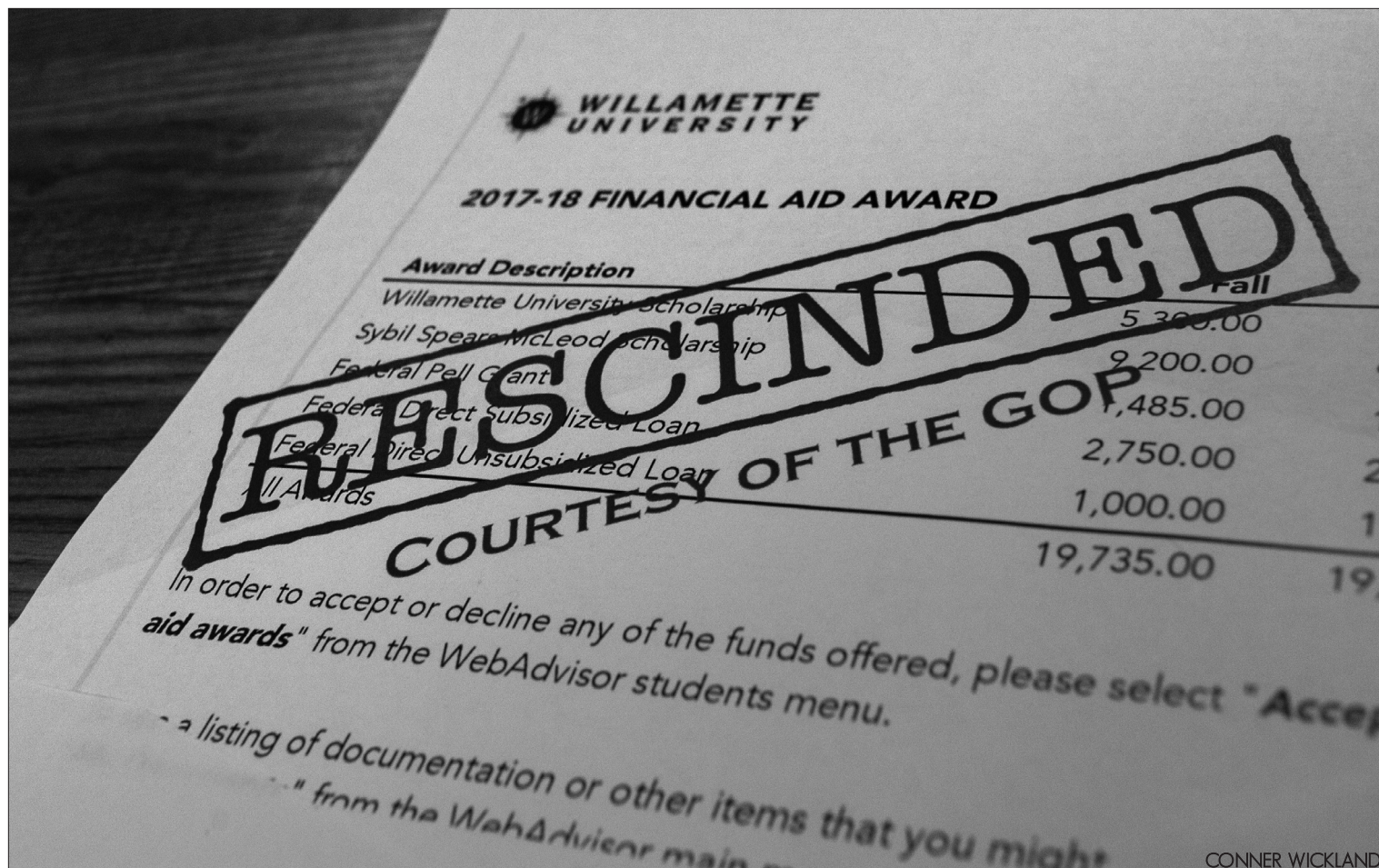
tightened immigration laws and seen right-wing populist movements emerge. Take Poland for example, where President Andrzej Duda was quoted as saying, “There is no doubt that the growing wave of terrorism is linked to migration.” Terror attacks have

European leaders, the question is still left: at what point are leaders going to take responsibility for deaths of immigrants near their shores? Human rights and humanitarian efforts certainly seem like they should be separated from political talking points over immigration.

is sent in return for the countries accepting back refugees. However, much of this seemingly positive reformation has been widely criticized and seemingly failed upon signing; the aid being sent has found its way to corrupt regimes like Sudan, only contributing to the problem.

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GOP tax plan threatens popular student tax breaks



MATT TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

House Republicans revealed their long-awaited tax plan on Nov. 2, and the debates surrounding its potential implications have been raging ever since. Among the many proposals in this potential overhaul of the American tax system are considerable changes to how education in the United States is taxed.

The U.S. higher education system is notoriously expensive. Decades of rising costs have left millions of students either drowning in debt or completely unable to gain access to education beyond high school. The proposed GOP tax plan threatens to make that problem worse by repealing tax breaks that have helped to support students for years.

The most significant changes include the combination of three separate tax credits for higher education into one, the elimination of the student loan interest deduc-

tion, the repeal of tax free tuition reimbursement from employers, and the imposition of a tax on university endowments.

The proposed bill will restrict student access to extremely popular and often critical tax benefits. According to the IRS, the student loan interest deduction (one of the programs threatened by the GOP bill) is claimed by approximately 12.4 million people annually. The removal of this program could have a severe impact on millions of young Americans.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities condemned the bill in a statement released shortly after it was unveiled.

“We are disappointed that the proposal unveiled today undermines public higher education through its elimination of deductibility of state and local income and sales taxes, important tax advantages for students and families and critical tax benefits for institutions. These changes

together would make college less affordable for the vast majority of students who access higher education through public colleges and universities.”

Despite the heavy criticism the GOP bill has endured in recent weeks, many Republicans are claiming that the bill will actually assist students by “streamlining” education benefits. Republicans, according to a recent Time Magazine report, believe that the current benefits are “so complicated that they are ineffective because many taxpayers cannot determine the tax benefits for which they are eligible.”

According to that same Time report, congressional Republicans are estimating that these changes will save the federal government a total of \$47.5 billion over the next 10 years, largely at the expense of students.

The aforementioned tax break repeal is occurring at a time where efforts to make higher education more affordable have been gaining traction across the country.

Oregon, New York, Rhode Island and Tennessee are states which have joined major American cities like San Francisco in passing legislation making community college tuition free. Just last week, the city of Seattle elected a mayor who made tuition free community college a central part of her campaign.

The battle over the GOP tax plan and the affordability of higher education is sure to continue for some time. Although it is difficult to determine exactly how this bill will impact students, most experts are not optimistic. In spite of expert analysis, the upcoming debates over the proposed GOP tax plan will have a significant impact on the U.S. education system and on the lives of students nationwide.

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AR-15s and assault rifle bans

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After the Sandy Hook shooting, where an AR-15-style Bushmaster semi-automatic rifle was used, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), the author of the original FAW Ban, attempted to pass a new Assault Weapons Ban. This ban was ultimately defeated.

However, in early October, Feinstein, with the support of congressional Democrats, again proposed a bill that would ban various devices used to make semi-automatic weapons function more like automatic weapons — such as bump stocks and forward trigger grips — as well as restrict certain gun purchases. The new legislation has yet to be moved through Congress for a vote.

The bump stock, which is a device that allows semi-automatic weapons to fire faster, was used by the shooter in Las Vegas last month. Congress’ has a record of consistently voting against these proposed bans, but the reaction to the new ban has been slightly more favorable. Various republican congressmen have said they are open to discussions. Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) even stated to a group of reporters “I have no problem banning those,” while Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) commented that it would be “something I’d be interested in looking at to see if a law change would matter. Would it affect things? I’d be willing to look at that.”

In spite of yesterday’s tragedy in California and the upticks in these events, as well as this recent consideration of a bump stock ban — a full ban on an AR-15s, and assault weapons in general is another matter entirely and will most likely not happen until there is a change in majority power.

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A look inside the neuroscience of happiness

CONTINUED from Page 1

A common thread present in all the theory I've read on the subject, is that we are each empowered to create our own happiness by the lens through which we view our world. Gilbert calls this "synthesizing happiness."

Even if you are able to maintain a mostly positive outlook, though, it is easy to get sucked into negative perceptions as stresses or triggers stack up. An important first step when your thoughts start moving in this direction is choosing not to beat yourself up for what might feel like self-destructive-thoughts. Two responses we all experience from time to time as difficulties arise are worry and feelings of shame or guilt. As it turns out, according to neuroscience researcher Alex Korb,

there are physiological reasons that this is so.

Worry activates the same regions of the brain that planning does. Worry calms the limbic system, a brain region referred to as the emotional nervous system. It makes use of that prefrontal cortex, imagining possible outcomes and moving an emotionally charged experience into the realm of problem solving. Simplistically, worrying is akin to the immediate gratification of exploring a sore spot in your mouth with your tongue. You may know that touching it will only irritate and prolong the situation, and yet you continue to reflexively trace the area because it feels good to do something.

Worry's antidote, though, is naming your feelings as they come up. Whatever labels you attribute

do not have to be perfect, and of course you may need to revisit your feelings later and offer them more space for nuance and processing. In the immediate sense though, giving voice to what you are feeling de-escalates reactivity in emotional centers.

Practicing gratitude is a longer term practice that offers both immediate physiological benefits and creates a framework for a more positive outlook, so that facing upsetting things doesn't feel as overwhelming. Steeping in gratitude boosts production of dopamine and serotonin, two neurochemicals that promote feelings of joy and wellbeing.

A more recent development in neuroscience is the understanding that with intentionality and consistent practice, we can actually relearn destructive thought patterns

due to neuroplasticity. This is the brain's capacity to restructure itself over the course of a lifetime and form new neural connections.

There are many reasons why we may be predisposed to perceive happiness as only attainable through objective success and concrete goals. It may relieve pressure to imagine that happiness is contingent upon some external measure that is not entirely within our control.

Gilbert suggests that there are also systemic reasons that we culturally associate external factors with happiness. He notes that capitalism's success is dependent upon a populace that views the aspects of life we value most — happiness and fulfillment — as achievable through material acquisition. There is a certain level of financial stability that is truly

predictive of happiness. It is profoundly challenging to experience high quality of life when one's most basic needs are not met. However, beyond this, studies show that there is no meaningful difference in happiness levels across the spectrum from most to least wealthy.

Gilbert says, "We have within us the capacity to manufacture the very commodity we are constantly chasing." Although it is imperative to acknowledge the host of challenges to happiness that we all face based on our positioning in society and our personal experiences, I hope this reads as a convincing and empowering concept.

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Symbolic Interactions discusses space through dance



ALAYNA RILEY

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STAFF WRITER

Spoiler Alert: This article contains analyses and descriptive language of the dance performance and will spoil climactic scenes for anyone who has not attended.

This semester's dance show focused on themes of unity, active listening and celebrating individuality. The choreographers included Willamette faculty Bryant Henderson (Artistic Director), Michele Ainza, Annie Joslin and EJ Reinagel, student choreographer Maggie Grogan and guest choreographer Cynthia Gutierrez-Garner.

The opinions and reactions in this article are based on my own interpretation. There were no explanations behind the intent of these pieces printed in the program or voiced during the performance.

Guest choreographer Cynthia Gutierrez-Garner, brought to Willamette to arrange the dance number "All Together Now," specializes in both contemporary post-modern dance and American Concert jazz technique. "All Together Now" was inspired by imagery from Black Lives Matter and civil rights videos and pictures which were projected on a screen behind eight dancers who were wearing 1960's style dresses. Drawing from the song, the dancer's movements were very group-oriented, while

still allowing space for solos which represented the importance of individuality.

Each dance contained moments where the dancers would support each other, literally propping up, dragging or carrying one another with great physical exertion. The first performance, "Sensed," began with Arthur Stamey-Mills dancing alone, but was later joined by Brooke Stinogel, Jarod Todeschi and Bryant Henderson. All four dancers were dressed in sheer clothing that resembled pajamas, creating a dreamlike mood. Much of the movement consisted of crawling towards something or someone and the carrying of another dancer over one's shoulder.

This program featured a multitalented range of skills from the performers such as dancing, singing, instrumental solos and acting. The performance "We Stand Together" featured trumpet player Maya Roussell whose musical outbursts were the only music heard. Roussell's tune controlled dancer Brooke Stinogel's movement, tormenting her to the brink of insanity until she was liberated. The rest of the performers, Eliza Buchanan, Kiki Drum-Bento, Reilly Resnick and Anya Steuer, joined in the liberating dance, chanting self-affirming words such as "you are validated," "you are loved," "you are worthy," ending with Resnick standing alone

to state, "We are united, we stand together."

At first the dancers were all dressed in stereotypically feminine silk slips, with the dancers trapped in a world of unrealistic expectations that are hurtful and demeaning. The dancers chanted about hurtful words such as being told someone has to wear makeup to be beautiful or that anyone who does not benefit from male privileges cannot speak their mind. Their self-empowerment overcomes the original torment as they all grow stronger and more outspoken from their group chanting.

The ending piece "Category Is..." choreographed by Artistic Director Bryant Henderson, featured performers walking alone in a busy city, trying so hard to be heard by those around them. Finally when attention is given, the dancers strip down and begin writing words on each other such as "silly," "life of the party," "fierce" and "naive." Some of the writing was less positive such as "slut," "bitch" and "stupid."

According to performer William Bremer, the "writing is either labels others have given us or labels we have that we would either like to remove from ourselves or share with others."

Individuality and all its imperfections were celebrated in the end with a red carpet where all the performers strutted their stuff with confidence.



ALAYNA RILEY

Top: Students dance in jazz number "All Together Now." Bottom: Jarod Todeschi and Bryant Henderson in opening number, "Sensed."

I attended the performance on Saturday Nov. 11 and there was a large turnout of both Willamette students and members of the Salem community. Willamette students I spoke with after the show were very impressed with the acrobatic feats that were required, as well as the dancers' abilities to take on heavier social justice material. This performance juxtaposed heavy, intellectually-challenging themes with classical ballet tech-

nique and moments of love and support, ending with a celebration of individuality which the dancers seemed to very much enjoy.

Congrats to the cast of this semester's dance show for a successful and engaging performance.

Upcoming Show Times: Thursday Nov. 16 – Saturday Nov. 18 (7:30 p.m.). Matinee Saturday Nov. 18 (2:00 p.m.)

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“Thor: Ragnarok” is a hero for its series

CLAIRE ALONGI
CONTRIBUTOR

It might seem a little odd that mega corporation Marvel hired an indie director from New Zealand, whose most notable works include a vampire mockumentary, to direct the third installment in a billion dollar superhero franchise. Then again, they didn't have much to lose. The Taiki Waititi directed “Thor: Ragnarok” is a risk that paid off. It marks the end of a largely mishandled franchise in which Chris Hemsworth is a beautiful but empty leading man, the Asgardian Thor. This isn't Hemsworth's fault, he just wasn't given much to work with. It's rather refreshing, after the dark and broody misstep of “Thor: The Dark World,” to see that Waititi finally gives the god of thunder a sense of humor to breathe life into his rather static character.

“Ragnarok” wipes the slate clean in many ways, particularly in terms of pacing and plot. In essence, it's a whirlwind strung together by oddball jokes and one-liners.

Certainly the beginning of the film moves too quickly and even avid fans, let alone those unfamiliar with the Marvel Cinematic Universe, might find themselves scrambling to keep up with the progression of events. It isn't until the glamorous and wicked goddess of death, Hela (Cate Blanchett), strands Thor and Loki (Tom Hiddleston) on Sakaar — a planet of s c r a p run by The Grandmaster (Jeff Goldblum) — that the film finally takes on a life of its own.

Sakaar is a bit like the film itself: both are bizarre collections

of odds and ends that somehow work to create a functioning whole. It's on this planet that Thor is literally and figuratively rid of the staples that have defined his character up until this point, namely his flowing locks and mighty hammer Mjolnir.

Thor also encounters an old

Thor hasn't just been a hunk with a hammer. The lack of romance, since Natalie Portman's Jane Foster does not return for this film, also feels like a fresh start for the Asgardian hero.

The one tried and true thing that does make a come back from previous Thor movies is the sibling ban-

without fault. While the humor is one of its strengths, the sheer quantity also becomes one of its flaws. The joke after joke strategy distracts the audience from the somewhat disjointed plot, and deservedly gets some laughs, but also detracts from the urgency and sense of danger.

The film gains its name from the myth of Ragnarok that promises the end of Asgard, but it's hard to take Hela's plan for domination seriously when you can't stop laughing. In a similar vein, there is little sentiment conjured for Asgard or its people. Asgard has always played a supporting role in the Thor movies, and this one is no exception, thanks to the bulk of the film taking place on Sakaar.

That hasn't necessarily been a problem until now, because the conflict has hinged on events on other worlds. However, “Ragnarok” is asking the audience to care for a world and a people they barely know. This, coupled with the excess humor, makes the last battle feel like an extravagant performance more than a fight to the death.

In truth though, the overall spirit of the film overpowers its shortcomings and manages to treat the audience to a vibrant 80's inspired sci-fi/fantasy romp.

Keeping in mind that “Ragnarok” isn't meant to be consumed as a cinematic masterpiece, it's easy to lose yourself and enjoy the wit and wisecracks delivered by the handsome Hemsworth and his motley crew of “Revenagers.”

ter between Thor and Loki. The offscreen friendship between Hemsworth and Hiddleston translates into perhaps what the Thor franchise is really all about: an otherworldly family soap opera with heart.

While “Ragnarok” is by far the best Thor film, and arguably one of the more light-hearted and enjoyable Marvel films, it isn't

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Coping with good and bad charities

MADELYN JONES
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

A centerpiece to this column so far has been coping with unfortunate news and events by action, and one popular way to get involved is by donating to charity. However, it can be difficult to know which charities you can trust, as some may fail to use the money responsibly and some have even been shown to scam donors. This column will give some tips on how to determine what charities will do good with your money.

When you have an idea of what charity you want to donate to, it is a good idea to research it on a website like CharityWatch, Charity Navigator or BBB Wise Alliance. These organizations research charities to make sure they are legitimate and use their donations well.

CharityWatch's website states that they “dive deep to let you know how efficiently a charity will use your donation to fund the programs you want to support. CharityWatch exposes nonprofit abuses and advocates for your interests as a donor.”

Charity Navigator has an A-Z Directory where you can look up an organization and quickly get information about how it works. When you click on a charity, you first see a box titled “Overall Score and Rating,” which presents scores for the financial and accountability and transparency aspects of the organization. If you continue to scroll, you will find more specific information that is laid out in an easily accessible and comprehensible way.

I would suggest going through this process even for charities that are well-known because not all are what they seem.

Consumerreports.org is also a helpful resource. A page on their website titled “Best Charities for Your Donations” has plenty of helpful information on how to make your donation meaningful. The section “Tips for Giving” mentioned some ideas that I hadn't thought about before but are important to consider when donating.

They stress the importance of giving directly and not through phone fundraisers, since the fundraiser could be keeping a large sum of the donations. It also warns against donating to bad charities that have similar names to good ones.

Even though research into charities is an extra step and requires extra effort, it ensures that your money will actually go to a cause you care about. Luckily, all of the information you need is already collected for you and easily accessible through the websites mentioned above.

It is easy to not think about critically evaluating charities since they are expected to be good, but keep yourself and the people around you aware of the existence of bad ones, and so much more money will go to a good cause.

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Why I love “Baby Driver” and hate Kevin Spacey

DORIAN GRAYSON
STAFF WRITER

It's a terrible thing to find out that an artist whose work you enjoy is a bad person. I experienced that sensation early, before adolescence, and had to learn how to deal with the juxtaposition of loving the work and hating the person behind it. I found it first with Orson Scott Card.

For those of you who didn't grow up as sci-fi novel nerds, Orson Scott Card is a titan in the sci-fi genre for his novel “Ender's Game” and other works. As a child, I devoured them: the “Ender's Game” quadrology, the “Ender's Shadow” quadrology and even the short stories. Though some of Card's unique kind of bigotry shows its face near the end of each of the respective series, the books were largely devoid of the harmful messages Card pushes in real life.

Card served as a member on the National Organization for

Marriage, an organization founded to pass legislation against gay marriage and transgender bathroom access in California, Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Iowa, Oregon and North Carolina. “Ender's Game” preached peace, tolerance and love. Card preached traditionalism, bigotry and hate.

Once I realized this juxtaposition, I made the decision to not give any of my money to Orson Scott Card ever again, not that I wouldn't pay for his books, only that I would buy them second-hand. I didn't want to make an indirect donation to an organization fighting against the basic human rights of me, my friends and many more. I also began to examine his work more critically, mentally challenging the assumptions made in Card's worldbuilding.

That being said, I still go back and re-read “Ender's Game” and in my opinion, the superior “Ender's Shadow.” I have learned

to compartmentalize the artist from the art. That brings us to Kevin Spacey.

Let's start with my position prior to the news breaking. After watching the greatest movie of the summer, “Baby Driver,” and binging the entirety of “House of Cards” to refresh my memory for the new season, I was reminded of how good of an actor Spacey is. I went back and watched “Se7en,” “A Bug's Life,” “Glengarry Glen Ross” and “American Beauty.”

When the Anthony Rapp article first came out, I didn't want to believe it. I could feel myself wanting to find a way to excuse it, to not let it shake the status quo. However, it is undeniable that Spacey is a horrible abuser who has assaulted more than a dozen people, most of them children, most that he had power over. He is despicable.

I admire Sony Pictures, Imperative Entertainment and Ridley Scott for recasting his role in the already finished “All the

Money in the World,” spending millions in the process. The first step when finding out that an artist is reprehensible is to make sure that you are no longer giving them money, both as an individual and as an industry.

Afterwards, though, what do you do with the art that remains? Is it okay to still enjoy “Baby Driver”? How can I go back and watch the magnificent first season of “House of Cards” again?

It may not work for everyone, but I've learned to compartmentalize. I can watch “Ferris Bueller's Day Off,” knowing that the actor who plays the school principal was later found out to be a pedophile, and still enjoy it. The point isn't to ignore their transgressions, but to separate the artist from the art.

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From Methodist to r



multidenominational

JORDAN DEGELIA
CONTRIBUTOR

Religion has always had a role on the Willamette University campus, and it likely always will. As with many institutions of higher learning, religious faith served as the primary reason for its opening. When the first iteration of the school was founded in 1842, it was done so based on the Methodist faith. The founder, Jason Lee, originally created the school as a mission institution with the purpose of converting children of the Kalapuya tribe, in whose land he and his fellow settlers had made camp. By 1842, it was decided that a school would be made for white settlers. By 1844, Lee's Indian Manual Labor School was dissolved. It was from this history that Willamette University formed.

In this early period, the Methodist religion was heavily involved with all parts of the institution. As the decades passed, education for all was valued over simply education of those of the specific faith, until eventually it was no longer a requirement, allowing those of all faiths to attend. Though deeply rooted in its history, Willamette has come a long way since its existence as a Methodist institution.

Despite still being connected to the United Methodist Church, the University now prides itself on an uncompromised education that does not encroach on the beliefs of those who study or work here. This commitment is reinforced in that the University "values liberal learning and welcomes students of all sorts and conditions." Regardless of belief, WU provides an education that is unsolicited by religion and an environment that allows all to worship as they please.

As many universities have, WU has kept its traditional ties with the church that helped found it. This manifests today in the form of the Office of Chaplains, Cone Chapel, the Methodist clergyman on the Board of Trustees, denominationally-based scholarships and loan programs available for students of Methodist faith. Despite these still being religious in nature, many of these ties have taken on roles that serve beyond the Methodist faith. The Office of Chaplains serves as a resource and organization for all types of religion and spirituality on campus. Cone Chapel, although Christian in nature, has taken on a less of a religious role. Few strictly religious events are held there today. Chaplain Gary Ellison described that use of Cone Chapel now consists of "services during opening days, weddings, memorial services, and convocation."

The less altered ties that remain strictly religious consist of the Methodists trustees and monetary aid for Methodist applicants. As representatives of the Oregon-Idaho Methodist Church, these Methodist trustees maintain a religious influence on the decisions and policies of Willamette University. Additionally, the scholarships and loans offered by the campus would seem to favor Methodists students. Although, these benefits for Methodist students would seem to attract more Methodist students, WU has reported that in general, "of those who declare a particular affiliation, Catholics are the most prominent, followed by Lutherans, United Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Latter-day Saints, Baptists and Jews."

The Office of Chaplains is mainly responsible for Willamette's plurality of beliefs. Located on the second floor of the University Center and staffed by Chaplains Karen Wood and Gary Ellison, this office has resources for those of all faiths and beliefs. Each Chaplain has their own individual religion and years of education and training in theology which have prepared them to be able to work with all faiths. Chaplain Karen Wood defines the mission of the Office of Chaplains to "support all students, faculty, and staff in their spiritual walk." The goal is for there to be no judgement or pressure put on any student who comes in their office. The chaplains state that they are "non-judgemental" and seek to stay "open and curious" about all faiths. Their primary goal is to "provide students with the resources they need." These resources may come in the form of suggestions if the student requests options for faiths that better fit the them after they have found a new identity, grief counselling or simply just a conversation. As confidential resources, the Chaplains offer counselling very similar to that of Bishop Wellness Center. The best way to reach the Chaplains for an appointment is by email.

Beyond counselling, the Chaplains offer many events and opportunities for spirituality or simply gaining knowledge. Daily Meditation is offered in the Office of the Chaplains Monday through Friday at 12:15 p.m. This service is simply to help students reflect on whatever they need. Additionally, convocation is offered every Thursday in Cone Chapel. As a relic of mandatory religious practice originating in the fifties, this weekly event has evolved into one more of education. Religion has been replaced by such topics as: human rights, student activism and effective allyship. This office also oversees and assists in authorizing the religious clubs and organizations on campus. Essentially, if it involves religion, it must go through the Office of Chaplains.

For students who seek greater organization and collaboration for their faith on campus, there are a few clubs to choose from. Although limited to four and mostly Christian organizations, these clubs act as a way to interact with fellow believers and practice faith on campus. These clubs are: Campus Ambassadors, Intervarsity, Jewish Student Union and Newman club. Campus Ambassadors, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and Newman Club are all Christian organizations. Despite being three in number, these Christian clubs differentiate themselves as different organizations. According to their individual mission statements, each club seeks to support and maintain their faith in different ways. Campus Ambassadors seeks to "build diverse communities through which students' lives are transformed by the power of Jesus Christ." InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's purpose is to have followers work with Jesus Christ to "be transformed by His love and be sent out to change the world." Newman Club endeavors to "bring Catholic fellowship to all students, faculty and staff on the Willamette University campus through service and faith formation."

Jewish Student Union meanwhile aspires to help students gain access to worship and events. More specifically, its goal is to "provide a community through

which Jewish students may come together to celebrate holidays (Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Hanukkah, Purim, Passover and Yom HaSho'ah) and connect with other Jewish students." Religious clubs on campus seek to help others of their faith find members to which they can worship and communicate with. With only four clubs on campus, there is always more room for more. Currently, options are incredibly limited for those of faiths outside of those mentioned above, and there is considerable work to be done for diversity and representation. For those who want to start a new religious club on campus, they should contact Office of Chaplains as well as visit the Office of Student Affairs. All religious clubs on campus are required to go through the Office of Chaplains in addition to the procedures required for non-religious clubs.

Throughout campus, there are religion-associated places that serve all faiths and purposes. As the chaplains see it, their recent move to the UC "helped expand the available spaces for students, but more are necessary." For now, the few available spaces offer students, faculty and groups on campus places to meet and worship. Cone Chapel seems to be the most obvious example, but due to its Christian design and renovation in the late eighties, this space has found a new function. From its remodeling and rededication in 1989, the chapel has shed most of its religious role in favor of becoming a representation of campus. This is reflected most notably through its stained-glass windows that reflect some of the history and events that occurred at Willamette and in the world. Many windows are dedications to students or staff that attended the university while others commemorate world events.

Despite this, the moldings, pews and grand pipe organ still make it appear to be a church causing non-Christians to shy away from this space. The chaplains think that the space is "underutilized," and they "wish that more students could make use of it." Perhaps its underuse is best explained in Chaplain Karen Wood's story of a "law student who studied in the back of the chapel for the Bar Exam, and passed the first time." Beyond the chapel, the Reflection Room within the Office of Chaplains serves as a space for religious and spiritual events. This space exists as a common place for organization of religious events, but due to its size, most events have to take place elsewhere. A specific space for Muslim students is also present on campus. In the Atkinson Graduate School of Management, there is a prayer room established for Muslims. For all other needs of religious places, the town of Salem offers all else a student could need.

Where a diverse range of religions is really represented is in the Religious Studies program. This department allows students to explore the religions that make up the world. Religion is a key part of human nature, so these courses require students to think critically about their own and other religions in order to better understand a world in which religion is so pervasive. Courses offered range from introduction to different religions to studying specific impacts and phenomena associated with religion. The impact of religion and how it has shaped societies worldwide allow

students to gain a better understanding of the development of the human race as well as why humans have behaved in certain ways. Far from attempting to convert students, religious studies courses only seek to enlighten students on the role religion has on humanity as a whole.

One day, religion may have a bigger role on campus. This larger role could come with the possible merger of Claremont School of Theology with Willamette University. Recently, the Claremont School of Theology proposed a merger between the two schools which would result in a graduate school of theology being built in Salem as an extension of the Willamette University campus. According to an essay on the possible merger by the Chair of the Religious Studies department, Stephen Patterson, CST is looking into a merger because of its "large, aging, and expensive campus in the heart of Claremont, which has proven to be a fatal drain on their resources."

An interesting opportunity had come to Willamette, but the university decided that it was best to explore the idea and its ramifications in several periods of discussion and research. At a time when Willamette University is facing financial issues as well as low admission and retention rates, a hasty merger is quite risky. A graduate school of theology could be costly and draining, but it has been stipulated that this new graduate school would be paid for by the sale of CST's current campus. Additionally, Patterson's essay also states that, "[CST would provide a] budget that includes a contribution of about 1M\$ to shared administrative budget of the university."

Despite this, Willamette University is still in a due diligence phase in order to look into any and all unwanted ramifications that could negatively affect Willamette. This relationship could provide many opportunities for courses, diversity and religious spaces. It is likely that even though a school for graduate students, the addition of a school of theology would provide new religious studies courses for undergraduate students. New courses and a school of theology has the potential to increase admission and retention rates. Religious diversity could also increase; as of now CST represents more than 40 different faiths. Also, it is likely that a new school of theology would be built with a space where religions of all forms can worship. Overall, the merger seems beneficial, but it is still too early to definitively say if it will occur.

Whether or not the merger happens, religion will always have a role on campus. Religion and spirituality are deeply rooted in human nature as well as the history of Willamette. In whatever form of spirituality or lack of spirituality one believes in, Willamette will aid students, staff and faculty. It is also assured that the Office of Chaplains will continue to promote and expand the accessibility of religion on campus. Far from taking over, religion on campus will simply exist so that those all who participate on campus may practice religion in whatever way they please.



Intramurals weekly

DRU DRAPER
RACHEL FISCHER
STAFF WRITERS

This past week we saw a new level of dedication from our participants, who come despite being overbooked and exhausted. While the final push before Thanksgiving break is coming up, make sure to keep your intramurals games noted in your planners or google calendars! Getting out and being active and social will help stimulate your brain and in turn help you sit down and crank out those papers and presentations with a little procrastination. If you cannot make a game, PLEASE email your friendly <im-supervisors> staff before noon the day of the game and we will cancel it for you and help you avoid the dreaded forfeit fee.

There were close games in both 3v3 basketball and flag football this last week. Dolphins managed to edge out their opponents with a final score of 19-17. Similarly, the Managers held off MBA in a 21-16 game. There were two particularly nail-biting games for flag football. In the Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 men's league, Yamova's Favorite just barely lost to The 4th and 9ers in a 39-38 final score. In the same league, No Punt Intended beat Gainzville Tiny Men by only 2 points, 40-38.

With playoffs in the near future, make sure you show up to play hard during your regular season games. While we want to see good, competitive matches, make sure to recognize that sportsmanship ratings are an important deciding factor as to who does or doesn't make playoffs. So, as always, have a wonderful week Bearcats and we can't wait to see you out there!

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Men's Soccer team's season ends after a tough game

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On Saturday, the men's Soccer Team took on the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) in San Antonio, Texas for their first post-season game in Bearcat history.

This has been a historically successful season for the Bearcats which consisted of highlights such as being crowned co-champions of the NWC for the first time (the championship was shared with Pacific Lutheran University), and going on a seven-game win streak. This was, without a doubt, a special group of athletes that worked cohesively and played hard from start to finish. Despite Willamette's efforts they could not pull off a victory and their 2017 season came to an end with a final record of 10-7-2.

From the beginning of the game, UMHB's offense posed a problem for the Bearcats, forcing senior goalkeeper Quinn Nottage, to make numerous saves in the game. The game remained scoreless for the first half as both teams battled with offensive strikes and defensive halts.

With 21 minutes left in the game, a shot from a UMHB player bounced off of the crossbar and was redirected to another UMHB player. The UMHB player who was on the left side of the goal placed his shot into the lower right corner of the goal, to score the only goal of the game. Sophomore Nicholas Ballenger, senior Liam Main and junior Quinn Mello-Bastida stood out with their offensive attempts throughout the games, but were unable to tie the game. Nottage had nine saves on the day and played a tremendous role in keeping the game scoreless and UMHB's lead to a minimum. The Bearcat's defense was also very



CHRIS SABATO

Willamette men's soccer team huddles up during their first round playoff game against UMHB.

successful in preventing UMHB from scoring for majority of the game.

"This is a young team and I know we all wanted to win but we know now that we just have to prepare for next year so that they can have a chance to go back and finish some business we left in San Antonio." Nottage said. UMHB held a 25-8 advantage in shots taken and 10-4 lead for shots on goal.

At the end of the 2017 season, some impressive statistics include, 171 total shots taken, including 83 shots on target. The Bearcats totaled 22 goals, 21 of those goals were scored within

their conference. The only goal that was scored out of conference was against UC Santa Cruz. No red cards were distributed to the Bearcats throughout the whole season, but 28 total yellow cards were issued. Max Berner-Hays finished his freshman season as the leading scorer, sitting at six goals. Ballenger and first year Mack Van der Velde both finished with three goals. Alan Hernandez, Main and Nottage, the three seniors, concluded their Bearcat careers, and contributed enormously throughout their time here at Willamette.

"We had a fantastic season!" Nottage said, "We had a lot of

young guys who came in ready to go, and it all just clicked right away after our trip to LA. Being it was my final season I wanted to help wherever I could and tried to teach the young guys the ins and outs of the league. Right now, our team is recovering from their bumps and bruises that they picked up throughout the season and start working out again soon because the 2018 season will come fast."

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Individuals qualify to represent Willamette at NCAA Championships



CHRIS SABATO

CONTINUED from Page 1

"The women ran very well. Individually, my goal for my last conference race was to run with confidence and have fun with it." Hannah Swanson commented. "The Northwest Conference is full of talented women this year, and I feel very lucky to run with competitors who helped push me to a third place finish. As a senior, I am trying to soak up these last moments of the cross country season with my team. This program has given me so much, so going out there and doing my best to represent Willamette is what I hope to do with my last couple races as a senior."

This past Saturday in the NCAA West Region Championships the Bearcat team could not earn themselves a bid to the NCAA championships, but individuals were able to. The men's team came in sixth place in the region, finishing barely behind Pacific Lutheran who took home fifth place. The average time it took for the Bearcat runner to finish the grueling 8-kilometer course was 26:52. Hannah Swanson and Keith Carlson both earned bids to the NCAA championships after their performances in the West Regionals. Swanson took sixth place in

the six-kilometer race and Carlson finished 15th in the eight-kilometer race. Swanson was able to complete her six-kilometer course in 21 minutes. Swanson cemented herself as one of the best runners in the West Region with her performance.

In addition, Michael Montague found out later that he will join them in the championships after three slots opened up. Montague came in 18th place at the West Region Championships.

The NCAA Championships take place in Elmhurst, Illinois next weekend. Each race will include 32 teams and approximately 280 runners. While Willamette's men's and women's cross country teams are not able to win a team title, the individual runners that represent the Bearcats will have the opportunity to win an individual title and All-American honors. The men's 8-kilometer race will be held at 11 a.m. CST/9 a.m. PST. The women's 6-kilometer race is set to begin at 12:15 p.m. CST/10:15 a.m. PST.

Junior Keith Carlson led the Bearcats, bringing in All-Region Honors

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WU Basketball teams face tough competition

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 SPORTS EDITOR

Willamette women's basketball got their season going on the right foot on Tuesday, Nov. 7 with a 69-68 win over NCAA Division II school Western Oregon University. Willamette looked solid in their opening game as they made 24 shots from the field, good for a 40 percent field goal percentage. They also pulled down 31 rebounds to go with 16 assists.

Willamette started out hot as they ended the first quarter with a 24-7 lead. Senior Guard Ashley Evans led the way with a couple of three pointers to break away from the Wolves. However, the second quarter was a completely different ballgame as the Wolves came ready to play and reduced Willamette's lead to three points going into halftime. The second half was more of an even match up as Western Oregon took the lead for a short while before Willamette went on a 10-2 run to give them a 46-39 lead.

The fourth quarter was where the game became a nailbiter. The score was tied at 63 with two minutes left in the game but the tie was broken on a basket by sophomore forward Elizabeth Logsdon, only to be tied up again on a basket by a Wolves' player. Willamette took the lead again on a basket by junior Guard Brittany Kochenderfer. Logsdon added a free throw to give the Bearcats a three point lead with 10 seconds remaining, but the victory was not sealed as Shelby Snook from Western Oregon drained a three pointer to tie the game. Sophomore Drew Farmer won the game with a last second

free throw to give the Bearcats a 69-68 victory.

On Sunday the Bearcats traveled to Portland to take on the University of Portland Pilots. While the Bearcats lost the game 72-52, it was a good test as they played this exhibition game against the Division I opponent. Offensively, the Bearcats were led by senior guard Kylie Towry and Kochenderfer who scored 11 points apiece. Senior Guard Mary Eckenrode added eight points, while Logsdon added nine points. While Willamette had tied the game at 11 early in the first quarter, the Pilots went on a 7-2 run to take a

sizeable lead going into the second quarter.

While the game ended in an unfavorable result for the Bearcats, there was plenty to take away. Senior Post Celine Gregoire brought down seven rebounds and Evans dished out five assists. Eckenrode enjoyed the competition of the upper division teams.

"Playing them forces us to play to an elite level of intensity and our communication with one another on the court has to be spot on, which definitely makes us better going into our regular season," Eckenrode said.

The men's basketball team played their first exhibition game on Tuesday Nov. 7, against Concordia University Portland. The proceeds from this game were given to the American Red Cross Oregon Wildfire Fund. The Bearcats were outlasted by the Cavaliers, losing 84-63. However, there were some bright spots for senior Post Dylan Critchfield who scored 13 points and junior Forward Jordan Jenkins who was able to grab nine rebounds. Also scoring in double digits were senior Guard Brendon McCullough who scored 11 points, junior Guard Trent Callan and junior post James-

on Willems both scored 10 points. The Bearcats took on Division I Portland State University on Tuesday, Nov 14 in Portland.



Both the women's and men's teams start their seasons this weekend, as the women take on Trinity University, Friday, Nov 17 and Southwestern on Saturday, Nov 18 at George Fox University. The men take on Northwestern Christian in Eugene on Saturday Nov 18.

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Sophomore Drew Farmer shoots a three pointer as her teammates look on.

this week in sports

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AARON ODA
 STAFF WRITER

This week in sports was another doozy. With the addition of the college basketball season, we have too many sports to watch. The NCAA football season is wrapping up, the NFL playoff picture is starting to form and the NBA is well under way with some great storylines. Now let's look at this week in sports.

NFL

One of the losing teams was able to make some ground this week. The San Francisco 49ers won their first game of the season

against the New York Giants by a score of 31-21. This was the first win for new head coach Kyle Shanahan, who is trying to rebuild a failing team. The New York Giants on the other hand continue to struggle this year with a record of 1-8 under head coach Ben McDoo.

A team surprising the league right now is the Los Angeles Rams, who have a record of 7-2 and lead the NFC West. Second year quarterback Jared Goff and first year head coach Sean McVay have made a great pair so far continuing their winning this week by beating the Houston Texans 33-7. This team is well balanced with strong play coming not only from Goff but running back Todd

Gurley as well, who has totaled 686 yards and seven touchdowns so far this season.

NCAAF

The team that made noise on the college football landscape was the number seven Miami Hurricanes, who beat the number three Notre Dame Fighting Irish by a score of 41-8. The Hurricanes up to this point were unproven against a top rated team but this dismantlement of the Fighting Irish should possibly move them into the top four in the college football playoffs rankings. The story was all about the Hurricanes defense, who forced four turnovers to help the offense score

41 points in the game. One team falling out of the top four rankings is the number one ranked Georgia Bulldogs who lost to the 10th ranked Auburn Tigers. Another dismantling of a top ranked team showed that the top four spots for the college football playoffs could be any team right now as teams continue to move in and out of the top four.

NBA

An early season story is the Boston Celtics current 12 game winning streak, winning their most current game on Sunday by a score of 95-94 against the Toronto Raptors. After losing one of their new super stars, Gordon

Hayward for the season on opening night and starting the season 0-2, they now find themselves at 12-2. The team has been fueled by another new superstar in Kyrie Irving who has averaged 20 points five assists and two rebounds per game so far this season. Another storyline is Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo's performance, which is averaging 31 points, 10 rebounds, and four assists so far this season putting himself into early MVP talks. Antetokounmpo stands at a lanky 6'11 forward, and can both shoot and take the ball to the rack. Until next week, K DEN!

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Mental illness isn't the problem

SOPHIE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Following yet another American mass shooting — this one in Sutherland Springs — Texas, President Donald Trump declared, “This isn’t a guns situation... but this is a mental health problem at the highest level.”

Whenever an explanation about a shooter’s motives is not readily available, politicians, the media and the NRA always espouse the same narrative: the shooter was clinically insane. Instead of calling for tighter gun control laws, Americans want to see improvements in the country’s mental health system. This way, we can keep our guns and protect ourselves from crazy people. It’s a win-win, right?

Not exactly. At the core of this argument is the false assumption that mentally ill people are inherently violent. While this may be true for some severe cases of disorders with symptoms of agitation and delusions, such as Bipolar I and schizophrenia, this represents only a small fraction of people. In fact, if all mental illnesses in the United States were to be eradicated, violent crimes would only decrease by four percent.

Yes, some mass shooters are mentally ill. But assuming their violence stemmed from their illnesses is a fallacy — having a history of mental illness does not determine if a person is violent, but other factors do. According to psychiatrist and sociologist Jeffrey Swanson, the three outside determinants that cause violence in people — mentally ill or not — are substance abuse, being the victim of past violence and living in an environment where violence is prevalent. Unfortunately, these factors disproportionately affect people with mental illness, particularly those who can’t hold steady jobs and must resort to living on the streets.

The assumption that all mass murderers suffer some kind of mental illness is untrue and only further stigmatizes mental illness.

What is even more disgusting is when politicians and lobbyists use this narrative to distract from the real problem: guns.

There is a clear correlation between mental illness and gun violence, but it’s not what the NRA is babbling about. 2/3 of all gun deaths in the US are suicides, and firearms are by far the most tragically effective means to kill oneself. One long-term study of patients admitted to an Illinois hospital for suicides and attempts found that 96 percent of cases involving firearms resulted in death. When someone makes an impulsive decision to kill himself and a gun

is on-hand in his

house, the odds of survival are slim to none.

Whenever I make the argument that guns exacerbate America’s suicide crisis, the first reaction I always receive is, “But Sophie, if they really wanted to kill themselves, they would find another way.” Perhaps, but only rarely. Ninety percent of people who have survived one suicide attempt will not die by suicide. People usually undergo treatment following an attempt, sometimes during involuntary hospital stays, which often prevents them from relapsing into suicidal thinking. If people

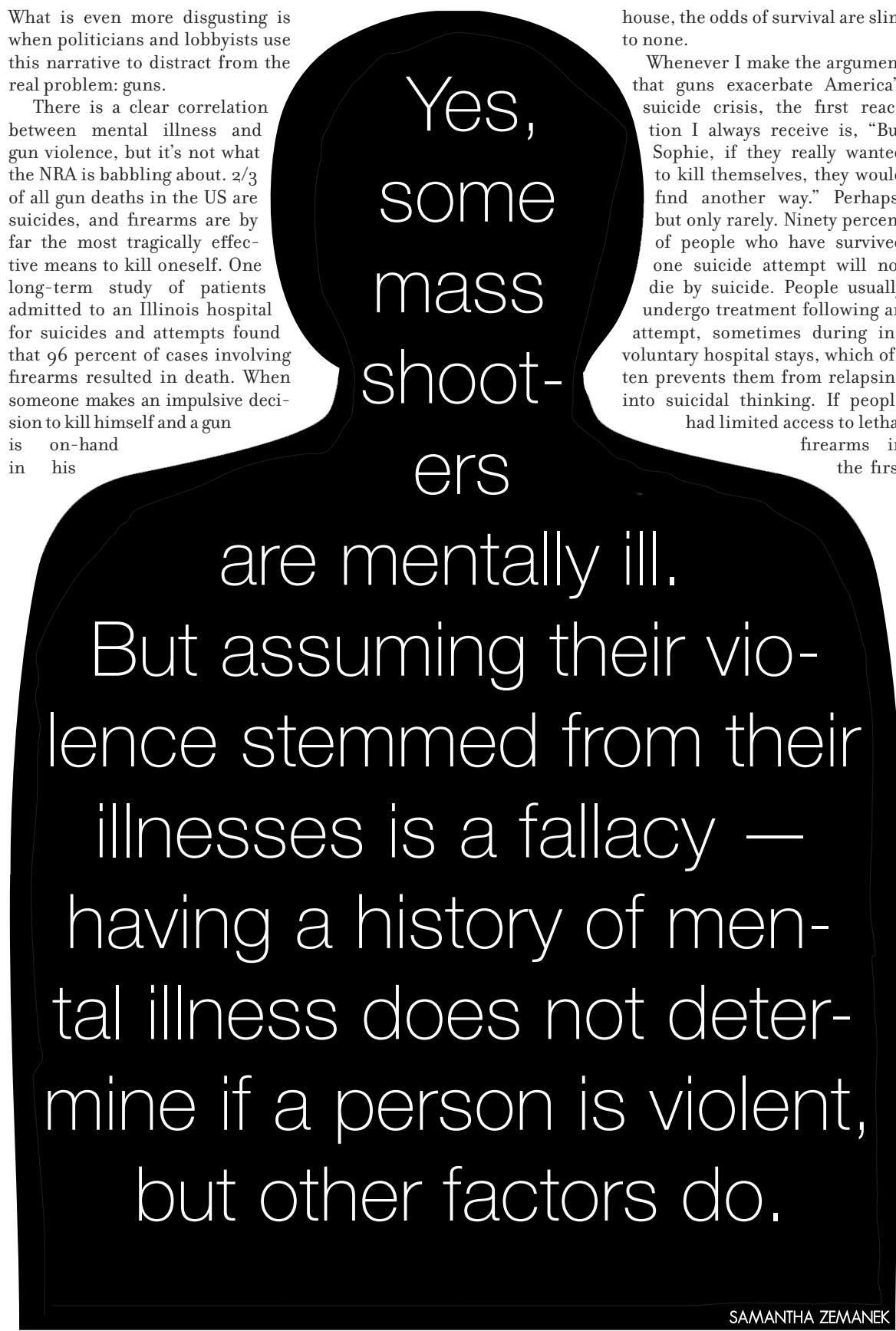
had limited access to lethal firearms in the first

place, the survival rate of suicide attempts would skyrocket. Like always, the solution is to pass effective gun control laws.

Some states are already enacting such laws. Take Oregon, for example. In its last session, state legislators passed Senate Bill 719, allowing authorities to seize firearms from people who have shown to be at risk of hurting themselves or others. This legislation benefits all facets of this tangled crisis. First, if a person has a history of violent tendencies, such as domestic abuse, a court can take away any weapons already in his ownership as long as there is substantial evidence available. Secondly, this law protects people from harming themselves. If someone with a mental illness is at risk of suicide, there is reason enough for authorities to seize their firearms until they have recovered.

This model is not perfect. Some people could easily slip through the cracks: perhaps a person’s behavior is so unnoticed that there is no reasonable cause to take his weapons, or his decision to hurt himself is too rash to take preventative action. Also, the law doesn’t prevent at-risk people from purchasing new weapons. Other improvements must be made to patch up these problem spots, such as increased funding for mental healthcare, in and outpatient facilities and further research.

Every day Republicans in Congress inch closer to gutting Medicaid, the country’s largest provider of mental healthcare. This would be disastrous to those most affected by their illnesses, particularly those struggling financially. The government must protect these people, but to do so under the pretense of preventing mass shootings is pure ignorance. To ignore all the other factors that contribute to violence is to ignore the core of the problem — yet another example of our country’s incompetence when it comes to ending our mass shooting epidemic.



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Why conservatives still support assault rifles

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Whether the mass shooting is in a gay nightclub or a church, much of the right has shown an astonishing consistency in their opposition to gun control, and part of this consistency has to do with lack of ownership. In the wake of mass shootings, conspiracy theories emerge on conservative social media pointing blame at the government or some kind of terrorist ploy. But if pressed, many on the right will admit that mass shootings are an inevitable consequence of living under the second amendment.

The majority of the country believes the benefits of gun ownership outweigh the harms. Recreation and defense provide ample reasons for owning a firearm. However, assault rifles lack a unique justification in these two categories. Few would argue that an assault rifle is much more valuable than a shotgun in home defence. If entertainment were the only reason for assault weap-

ons, they would be banned. So why does the right continue to oppose a ban on automatic weapons even after Las Vegas? Conservatives like to be prepared for civil war.

Could right-wing militias pose a significant threat? The closest example was last year, when armed protesters occupied a wild-

could do anything against a modern army with tanks and jets. U.S. wars in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan prove that this assumption is wrong. Insurgents with an arsenal of Soviet-era weapons have managed to keep at bay the greatest military power in the world for well over a decade in the middle east.

When discussing gun control, it’s critical to understand convictions of a such a well-armed group. The fact that there was no one shot dead in the series of violent protests over the summer makes it clear that the bulk of second amendment supporters aren’t maniacs with itchy trigger fingers. For most owners of assault ri-

Some may find this assertion absurd. A ban on assault rifles is far from ending the second amendment. But remember, the first american civil war did not start over the banning of slavery, it started over the fear that slavery would be banned. To many gun owners, effectively eliminating the most important function of the second amendment would provoke a severe reaction. A reasonable level of regulation to one side can easily be seen as a tyrannical power grab by the other.

So when those on the left hit their heads against the wall wondering how many shootings until the right gives up assault rifles, the answer is they never will. Whether you find the reason for assault rifles compelling does not matter.

“If entertainment were the only reason for assault weapons, they would be banned.”

life refuge in eastern Oregon. The police arrested the occupiers with one killed, and they were later acquitted. It’s clear these protesters had no intention of firing on police, but what if they did?

Most on the left dismiss the idea that bands of conservatives with assault rifles and bacon

If even a fraction of gun owners took up arms, the results would be devastating. Assault rifles may not be rocket launchers, or even automatic, but they possess a clear superiority in combat compared to conventional civilian weapons. Conservatives want assault rifles because of their capability.

fles, their weapons serve as a last line of defense against tyranny. A nationwide ban on assault rifles would mean that citizens would lose their last counterbalance to government power. These convictions make a blanket ban on assault rifles impossible without sparking armed conflict.

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Social media slacktivism: An escape from direct political action

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CONTRIBUTOR

The weekly average Presidential approval ratings are at 38 percent, weekly average of congressional approval ratings is 13 percent and the legitimacy of our democratic process is under threat. Civil disapproval of the status quo is evident, so what's the consequence?

For the vast majority of us it's resorting to Twitter, Snapchat or Facebook and absent-mindedly reposting, scrolling and viewing to show "awareness." I don't mean to discredit the work of those truly wonderful individuals that actually dedicate the time and energy civil unrest deserves, but most of us miss the mark in our participation in activism.

A more ideal form of expressing civil unrest can be seen through

history. The key is to be organizing in the community and creating demonstrations to better voice the opinion marginalized in the political arena. This allows for a clearer articulation of the issues people aim to solve a disagreement about. The conflict resolution in this form typically had a force acting in the interests of public opinion because the active citizenry made their opinion harder, or even impossible to ignore.

Through active participation in the democratic process, which ultimately entails collective action, we are able to continue directly representing the opinion and rights of the people in an efficient and cohesive manner. By representing the opinion of the people, democracy ideally operates at a more harmonious state due to achieving it's intent of being a tool

for the governed to create a better government, and finally, a better future.

Instead, the contemporary outlets for dissent have much less bang and much more fizzle. Many of us resort to voicing our opinion flippantly to our followers or friends, an empty hearted gesture that truly does nothing to increase the cause we half-intend to represent and further the message. It's something that we've almost all been perpetrators of, but we need to recognize it for what it is: justification for our current neglect of being an active participant in shaping the world around us.

By simply sharing a piece that was meant to increase progress towards rectifying an injustice, it reduces the ethos and sentiment of a cause. Instead of inspiring the introspective thought that ul-

timately drives progress, the informational piece is reduced to a macro image on social media. In an act of detriment, reposting half heartedly is missing the intended purpose of the social media material by not engaging with the deep thinking that results in optimal contributions towards progress on an issue; rather it lets the reader off the hook with the justification that they are spreading the message.

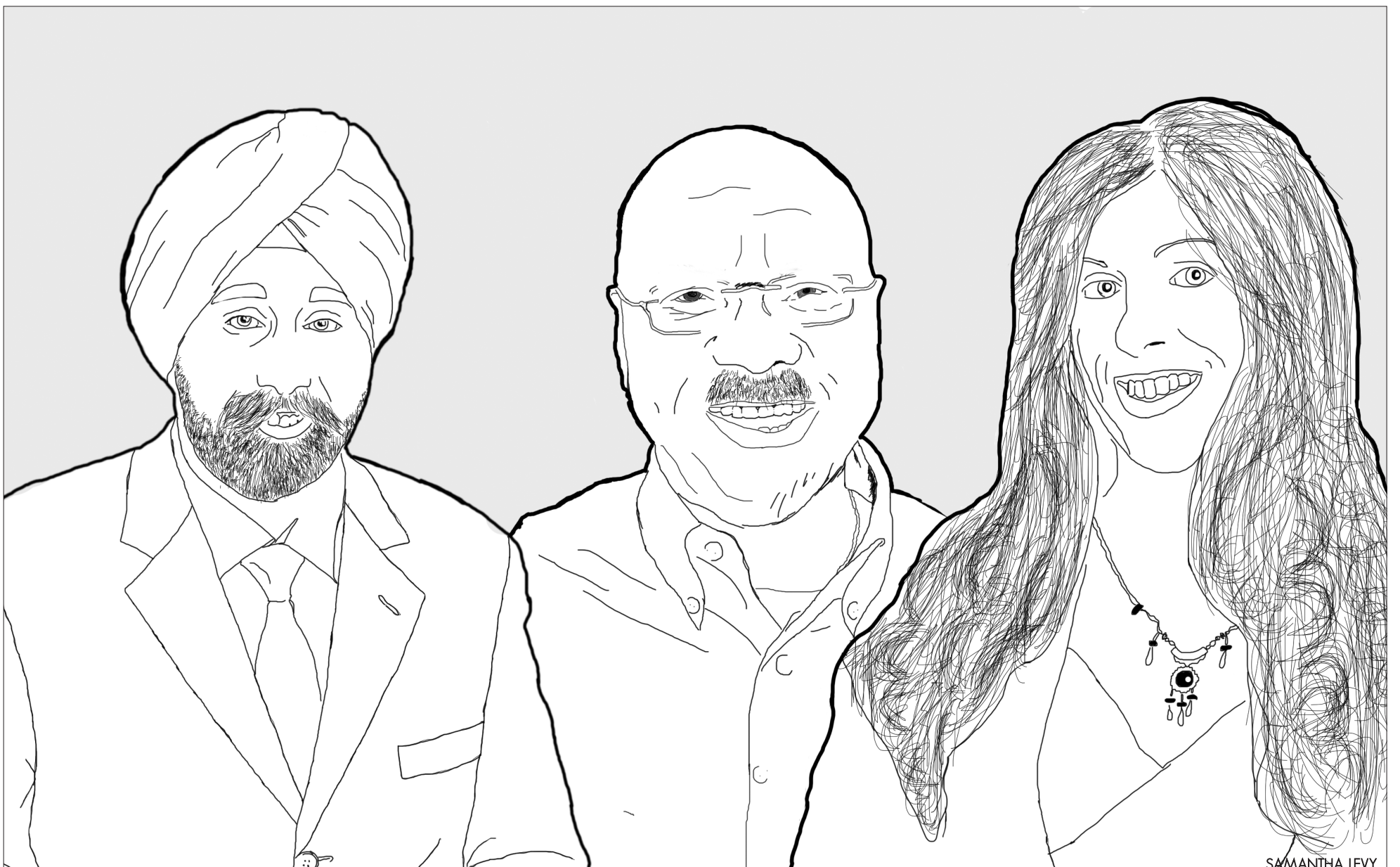
So this dilemma begs the question: why do we choose to sacrifice the voice and interests of our peers, of ourselves, in favor of absent-mindedness? Perhaps we are too distracted by technology, perhaps we are too engrossed in work, perhaps getting ready for finals consumes too much of our time. I believe these to be valid, but I also believe that we can look to

our peer-leaders for encouragement. There are those among us who abundantly dedicate the two things that truly matter the most in this world: time and energy. If we all take an effort to dedicate more time and energy towards expressing the opinion of ourselves and our peers, we have a chance to have a better future within our grasp.

So maybe we should refrain from empty hearted and absent minded proliferation of causes. Perhaps when we click the share button we should put the autopilot of scrolling through our feed on pause and think about how we can dedicate to the effort of bettering humanity, in whatever particular expression of goodwill it may be.

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Elections show hope for the future



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One of the most notable examples is Danica Roem, who was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates and became the first transgender person to ever serve in the Virginia legislature, and one of the only transgender individuals to be elected to any position in the country. Not only did Roem break this barrier, but in doing so she also defeated the current delegate holding the position, Bob Marshall. Marshall had served on the Virginia legislature since 1992, and spent the last few years drafting and pro-

posing the notorious 'transgender bathroom bill.'

Roem's historic win signified not only a shift in attitudes towards transgender individuals in at least the state of Virginia, but also a push-back against the rhetoric propagated by President Trump and his Republican party members. Despite once saying in 2016 that transgender people should use "whichever bathroom they want," Trump last July announced that the US military would no longer accept transgender people, implying a tremendous air of transphobia. This transphobia is still very much in existence within

the White House and other officials throughout the country, but Roem's victory hints at something else: hope and acceptance.

This pattern progressed with Ravi Bhalla, the Sikh politician who was elected as the mayor of Hoboken, New Jersey, despite the racial hatred thrown at him during the campaign. The turban Bhalla wears signifies his Sikh religion, not Muslim, as many people might have assumed, but that didn't stop a flyers from being distributed throughout the city urging citizens to not let terrorism take over their home. Despite this xenophobia,

which echoed nationwide fears and sentiments that have only gotten stronger over the past few years, Bhalla won the election, becoming the first Sikh mayor in the state of New Jersey.

Then there was Wilmot Collins, who first came to the United States as a Liberian refugee in 1994 and just became the first black mayor of Helena, Montana, defying anti-immigrant and refugee sentiments that fill the country.

It's true that these local wins don't make up for the worry and hatred that have swept the nation over the last year. However, while they

may be small elections, that doesn't make them insignificant victories. It's a sign that many Americans are beginning to accept and respect minority groups, and that the 'dark times' that were predicted after the 2016 election may not stay dark forever. With people like Roem, Bhalla and Collins in positions of leadership, we can hope for a diversity of perspectives, opinions and, hopefully, outlooks on the future. And with Midterms coming up next year, this is a good first step.

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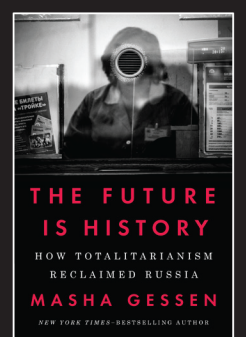
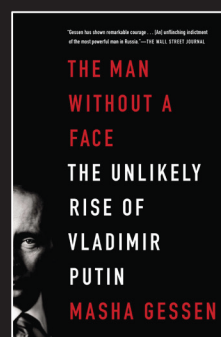
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