

Women’s March on Salem: Demonstrating solidarity

 **DORIAN GRAYSON**
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There’s nothing more fun at a protest than looking at signs (when you agree with the protesters). Individual statements can distract from the depth of the issue though, so people’s witty or poignant sign messages will be featured throughout this article.

“Not a Sign Guy But Damn”
On Saturday, Jan. 21, hundreds of people went to the Capitol Mall for the Salem Women’s March. With minimal infrastructure – a small amount of staging, two tents for information and a modest speaker system – the protest took advantage of its population to emphasize its point. Even from far away, it was apparent that something was going on because of the pumping music.

“I’m Marching So My Children Won’t Have To”
Multiple children were there, some young enough to need to be carried. One was even on their parent’s shoulders with a sign: “Don’t Mess Up My Future”/“Trump is a Bully.” There were people of all shapes and sizes in attendance.

“I am Human. Nothing Human is Alien To Me”
Attendees noted the positive atmosphere of the event, and the lack of yelling and anger.



Salem community members, along with students, participated in the worldwide Women’s March on Saturday following Trump’s inauguration.

“People were even being buddy-buddy with the cops,” said senior RJay Moreno.
This atmosphere helped to legitimize the message.
“It was definitely very positive.

The energy was very uplifting. That seemed to be the goal: energizing and uplifting people, which seemed to be accomplished,” Moreno said.
Junior Owen Gow said the

march “really seemed to lift people’s spirits. People have felt so despaired from the election, but [they] seemed to find hope.”
The march was a way to demonstrate the strength everyone had

together. There was no doubt that the people in the crowd had different opinions and priorities. But in the protest, the power came from unity.
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A winter break jam-packed with basketball

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While many students spent the break at home or traveling the world, the men and women’s basketball teams had other plans. They were only able to spend five days at home with their loved ones for break. Both teams were able to go home from Dec. 21-26, before having to report back for practice on

Dec. 27.
The men’s team currently has an overall record of 3-14, and a 1-7 record in Northwest Conference (NWC) play. Over the break they played seven games, going a heartbreaking 1-6. They started the break with a 75-67 loss to Alma College on Dec. 20. Their next game was nine days later and they lost to Ripon. But they were able to defeat Portland Bible College 79-74 the

next night. Starting on Jan. 6, the Bearcats headed into NWC play, but they were not able to get anything going as they lost five straight games to conference foes, although many of them were close games.
They snapped this losing streak on Saturday night, however, as they were able to come back from a 14 point deficit to the Pacific University Boxers. Offensively, the Bearcats were led by junior forward Casey

Thornton who registered 16 points. Thornton was not the only Bearcat in double digits, as junior wing Nico Troplent and sophomore forward Jordan Jenkins both chipped in 14 points.
Offensively, the team is led by Jenkins who is averaging 11.3 points per game. While they may not have the best record, Jenkins is still optimistic about the team’s performances and future games.
“From the beginning of the year to where we are now, it is incredible. All the practices we have gone through have definitely paid off, especially in our last second win against Pacific University,” Jenkins said.
Jenkins has seen great improvements in just one year, as he has gone from a freshman that rarely played, to being the team’s most potent offensive threat. He credits this success to, “the work I put in during the offseason. Coach Ioane put me on a path to where I needed to be by the beginning of this season, and it has shaped me to how I am playing now.”
Senior guard Johnny Verduin is also at the top of the offensive leaderboards, averaging 8.7 points per game.
“I think we have been playing pretty well together. We are a young team and had a rough start, but each game we have gotten better,” said Verduin.



Sophomore Jordan Jenkins drives to the basket against Whitman College. Jenkins leads the team in points per game with 11.3 this season.

Students go “Into the Streets” to celebrate MLK

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As nearly everyone noticed, afternoon classes were cancelled on Friday, Jan. 20. Hopefully, we all also noticed that this was for a purpose: the “Our Silence is Violence” event, a celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Friday’s celebration featured the “Into the Streets” event, a group of volunteering efforts around Salem.
There were 12 locations around the city with a little under 200 students participating. Students cleaned facilities for a religious homeless shelter, bowled with people with disabilities, maintained community gardens, sorted and packed frozen foods, painted parking lot lines, maintained the grounds of a Native American boarding school and cleaned shoes for homeless youth.
The latter was in service of a program called One Thousand Soles. It was started by a group of Salem High School students looking to help out their homeless and impoverished peers. There were students who reportedly had to take turns with their siblings while attending school, as the family only had one pair of shoes for the children to share. Youth shelters all over the city reported a majority of shoes being duct-taped, as it was the only thing the youth had to keep their sneakers from falling apart.

Marching with Washington

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“Repeal Trump Not Obamacare”

Salem has been no stranger to protest as of late. Just months ago, there was an open-carry rally on the steps of the capitol.

“I’m an all or nothing kind of guy. I don’t like to appeal the masses,” John Parker Jr. said through a microphone on the steps of the capitol.

On that day there was shouting, anger and open carrying of guns rather than signs.

On Sept. 23, 2016 an effigy of Oregon Governor Kate Brown was burned to the cheers of the pro-gun, pro-Trump crowd. On Jan. 21, 2017 nearly 200 protestors made a conga line to “We Are Family” by Sister Sledge.

“Bridges Not Walls”

People came for different reasons; generally, to protest Trump’s inauguration. But some hated his blatant past of sexual assault and others detested his defeat of the most likely candidate for first female president. Even more protestors hated his denial of environmental issues.

Allison, a Salem resident, who had been there the whole march, went “to believe in something that is bigger than one person.” She didn’t bring a sign, just herself and her hope. Her hope for hope. There wasn’t a better prescription than the Women’s March, even on the rainy day. She wanted Willamette students to know to “Keep reading. Keep learning. Keep changing the world. And it’s a beautiful day.”

“Women’s Place is in The Resistance”

When exiting, a protestor offered a parent an umbrella to cover their child. The rain was coming down hard, but spirits were still raised. Allison had a single take away from the protest:

“I’m not alone.”

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The fate of the ACA under Trump

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Amidst the flurry of concerns arising upon the inauguration of Donald Trump, the fate of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) leaves a number of lingering questions.

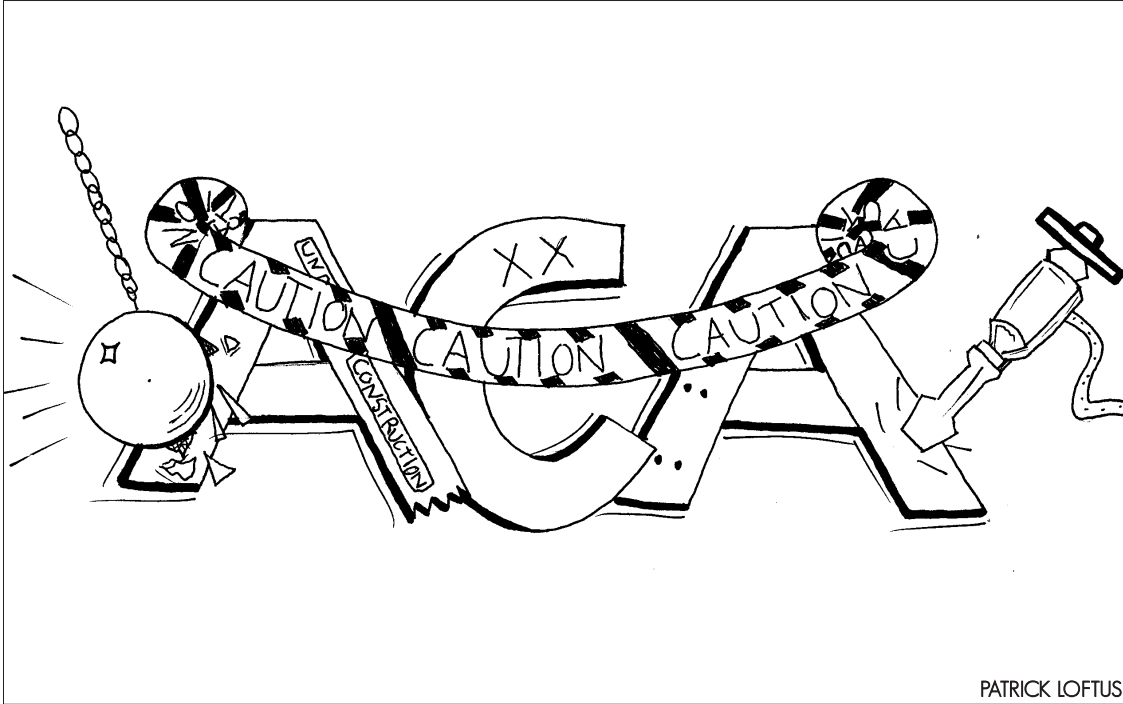
Colloquially known as Obamacare, the program expanded government-funded healthcare for those at or near the poverty level, subsidized coverage for the middle class and mandated the purchase of insurance (with the consequence of a financial penalty). The program also prevented the denial of coverage for those with pre-existing conditions, increased access to reproductive healthcare and allowed people to remain covered by their parents’ plans until age 26.

Currently, millions of U.S. citizens and documented residents (being that the undocumented are excluded from the provisions) are insured through coverage plans sold on state exchanges or the newly-expanded Medicaid, which covers those with low-incomes (133 percent of the poverty line or below).

The ACA was passed under a Democratic majority in Congress following the first election of Former President Barack Obama in 2008. Initially, the Obama administration suggested that the first-term healthcare reform would be the path to a future of publicly-provided medicine. Amidst partisan battles as well as party infighting, the infamous “public option” was dismissed as a provision in the final bill. A public option means a healthcare plan sold by the government, effectively creating a government-run healthcare company as a new player in the market. A new competitor in the market would theoretically cause all providers to lower prices.

Conservatives labelled this provision as a path to socialism. So Obamacare became a heavy collection of regulations on the existing private healthcare industry rather than a total restructuring of the system.

The typically anti-regulation right views the act as an overreach of government authority and an ineffective



solution that has actually increased costs. Whether or not the act technically increased costs (and whether or not that’s a necessary evil) will forever be a subject of debate. What the act certainly did was equalize the distribution of costs and account for the likely greater expense of covering those with pre-existing conditions at the start of coverage.

For example, through the ACA, basically everyone paid some of the cost of reproductive health care instead of AFAB (Assigned Female at Birth) people paying more than others.

The individual mandate effectively required everyone who could afford it to either buy insurance or pay a penalty. Forcing healthier people to buy insurance, who would be less likely to use it, increased revenue that could offset the cost of covering people with pre-existing conditions who can be very expensive to insure. This component compensated for the illegalization of the previously permissible practice of companies denying coverage to those who have a diagnosis at the time of initial coverage.

The program’s statutes faced significant opposition from the get-go, including court challenges or repeated

pledges to repeal the act if the legislature should be taken over by Republicans again. Republicans now have their opportunity, having secured a 55 percent conservative majority in the House, a slight majority in the Senate and a president who has emphasized his pledge to “repeal and replace” the program within the first 100 days.

As of Jan. 21, newly-inaugurated President Trump has signed an executive order that does not take any specific action but makes a number of pledges and seems to grant a sort of trickle-down power.

The order gives agencies in the administration, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, the ability to grant waivers and stop collecting penalties on the individual mandate requiring healthy individuals to purchase health insurance. The order could effectively end the major provisions of the act by allowing the administration to simply stop enforcing them before Congress takes any official action to repeal the act, whether all or in parts.

Should the act be repealed in its entirety (which seems increasingly unlikely), it is possible that many of those uninsured prior to ACA could

once again find themselves without insurance. While there have been few clear answers on exactly how Donald Trump and company plan to deal with the law, there has been some suggestion that some of the provisions could remain.

What will almost certainly go are the exchanges, the direct government subsidization of middle-class care and the mandate requiring individuals to buy insurance. If President Trump has his way, a return to market-based insurance with minimal government intervention will take its place.

In place of the exchanges, Trump proposes a change in regulation that would allow insurance policies to be sold across state lines. Such a loosening of regulations could theoretically lower prices through increased competition.

Continuation of some major provisions is yet to be determined, including: continual parent coverage until age 26, protection for those with pre-existing conditions and continuation of the medicaid expansion (which is likely to become a state-by-state issue).

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CAMPUS SAFETY

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Jan. 21, 3:39 p.m. (TIUA): While on patrol, a Campus Safety officer noticed that a gate normally locked with a cable had been cut open. The gate was re-locked with another cable and a report was filed.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

Jan. 19, 5:40 p.m. (Pelton Theatre): Campus Safety received a call regarding an individual who had injured their knee. An officer responded and, after evaluating the situation, called paramedics. Medics arrived on scene and transported the individual to the ER.

Jan. 21, 1:16 a.m. (On Campus): Campus Safety received a call regarding a student who wasn’t feeling well. Officers and WEMS responded and evaluated

the student and determined no further medical assistance was needed.

Jan. 22, 2:10 p.m. (In a Campus Residence): Campus Safety received a call regarding an intoxicated individual. Campus safety and WEMS responded. WEMS evaluated the individual and determined further medical assistance was needed. Paramedics were called and evaluated the individual. They determined that additional medical attention was not needed.

Jan. 22, 2:35 p.m. (In a Campus Residence): Campus Safety received a call regarding an injured student. Campus safety and WEMS responded. WEMS evaluated the individual and determined further medical attention was needed. Campus safety

transported the individual to the ER.

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Jan. 17, 3:20 p.m. (Kaneko Commons): A Campus Safety officer noted a strong smell of marijuana coming from a residence room. The officer contacted the area coordinator and they entered the the room in question. Drug paraphernalia was discovered and confiscated.

Jan. 17, 10:44 p.m. (Doney Hall): Campus Safety received a call from a resident advisor asking that an officer come and confiscate paraphernalia from a student’s room. Officers responded and confiscated said paraphernalia.

Jan. 19, 3:00 p.m. (Matthews Hall): Campus Safety received

a call regarding a student in possession of a controlled substance. Campus safety responded and found an area coordinator was at the scene. The paraphernalia was confiscated.

TRESPASS

Jan. 21, 5:19 p.m. (Matthews Parking Lot): While on patrol a campus safety officer noticed an individual who appeared to match the description of a suspect involved in another incident report. Officers made contact with the individual and prohibited him from University property and informed him that if he returned he would be arrested.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Jan. 17, 9:07 p.m. (Sparks Parking Lot): Campus Safety received a call from a student

stating that their vehicle had been damaged. The student stated they had left their car earlier that afternoon and upon arrival found that it had sustained damage. Officers responded and took photos of the damage. The student was encouraged to file a report with Salem PD as well.

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

WU campus welcomes back food director

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After Chris Linn’s departure as former director of food service, Willamette welcomes back Marc Marelich, a food service director who is already familiar to campus. Marelich was a previous general manager and food service director at Willamette for eight years before taking on a position as district manager for the account. During this transition, Marelich is coming back to fill a void while working with staff to make a few changes and support both staff and the student body. Prior to his 13 years at Willamette, Marelich was a classically trained executive chef who worked at various restaurants, hotels and pastry shops. He has worked with Bon Appetit for 17 years, mostly in

California. Marelich and his family moved to Salem once he was hired as Willamette’s Food Service General Manager. “It was the best move we’ve ever made,” Marelich said. Marelich enjoys working at Willamette because of the community’s warmth, friendliness and openness. He recalls the time when his children got to meet former President Lee Pelton when he first moved here. When asked about previous student concerns such as to-go plates, food waste and vegan options, Marelich encouraged students to feel free to come talk to Bon Appetit staff and himself about anything. “This meal at dinner is supposed to be a time for you all to sit and relax and get away from things,” Marelich said. “This is a place for

the community to come together and dine.” Marelich states that dinner is a time for connection that is super important to the college experience. Students can ask the front of house staff, supervisors or Marelich himself if special accommodations need to be made. In the next couple of months Bon Appetit will begin a waste campaign to encourage less food waste. When collecting a sample of food off the salad bar alone after dinner service, it summed up to eight pounds of wasted food. Bon Appetit hopes to weigh food wasted in the dishroom and continue to compost everything they can. Marelich explains a lot goes on in the back for food conservation and that the waste on trayless Tuesday is half of what is usually wasted.

Marelich plans to be more a support to the staff at Bon Appetit. He said his goal is to “better their professional careers” and “give them really good experiences.” Marelich hopes to challenge chefs to think outside of the box, have more toppings on meals and vary food placement every night. Even though it is difficult to feed 1000 students with very different taste palates, Marelich finds the work challenging, fun and something Willamette’s Bon Appetit staff will continue to work on. Marelich also hopes for more communication about the availability of plain steamed vegetables students requested for vegetarian and vegan options. Now that the spring semester has started, students can look forward to events in the semester with special items on the menu, such as Wil-

lamette’s 175th Birthday celebration and the ASP welcome dinner. Bon Appetit also hopes for more student-centric events, especially at night, as well as more social media marketing through Instagram and Facebook. “Come in and talk to us... We are here to serve you folks. If something’s not right or if you want to ask for something your mom makes or your grandmother, we will put it on the menu and work with you. We are here for students 12, 14, 16 hours a day and we are humbled by being a part of this community,” Marelich said.

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Chelsea Manning’s commutation: Release date in May

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After serving a sentence of seven years, U.S. Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning was commuted by Obama last Tuesday, Jan. 17. Manning, a transgender woman, will be released from

the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth on May 17, 2017. She was convicted for leaking military information showing government documentation of policies to ignore torture in Iraq, the sanctioned murder and imprisonment of innocent people and evidence of multiple

illegal acts by the U.S. government and military. Manning was arrested in May 2010 for releasing over 700,000 classified documents to WikiLeaks. Manning was originally sentenced to serve a sentence of 35 years. Her total time spent in prison is still years lon-

ger than any U. S. whistleblower has served for that type of crime. “When a soldier who shared information with the press and public is punished far more harshly than others who tortured prisoners and killed civilians, something is seriously wrong with our justice system,” American Civil Liberties Union representative Ben Wizner said. “Is this embarrassing? Yes. Is this awkward? Yes. Consequences for U.S. foreign policy? I think fairly modest,” United States Defense Secretary Robert Gates said. The unusual length of Manning’s sentence is justified by the large amount of sensitive information that she leaked, as well as the government’s attempt to use her case as an example to other potential whistleblowers about how seriously these crimes will be handled. “I think Obama was against using Chelsea Manning as an example,” said anthropology Professor Joyce Millen in an interview on Thursday. The complexity of the case was increased by Manning’s public identification as a transgender woman and her wish to begin hormone therapy as soon as possible. But because the army does not provide hormone therapy or sex-reassignment surgery, the extent of the medical support for her was to seek counselling by a psychiatrist. The counselling was prescribed

to treat the many mental health issues that can occur as a result of the high stress situation of being trans in a society dominated by heteronormativity. These issues include schizophrenia, depression and eating disorders. Chelsea Manning’s fight for proper medical treatment while incarcerated in an all-male prison has led to long periods of time in solitary confinement and attempted suicide. Last year, she went on a hunger strike that culminated in the army agreeing to provide her with the gender-affirming surgery necessary to her well-being. The American Civil Liberties Union actually filed a lawsuit against the Department of Defense back in 2014 over the lack of medical care provided to Manning. Many in the LGBT community hope the case of Chelsea Manning will pioneer better treatment for trans-people in prisons across the country. However, transwoman and Navy veteran Brynn Tannehill expressed her disappointment that Manning’s whistleblower status has only supported the opinion that trans-people are unfit for military service. This disappointment is a position held by many other transgender individuals in the military.

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#FeesMustFall: South Africa’s fight for decolonized education

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#FeesMustFall (#FMF) is a national South African student led movement that began in mid-October 2015 after Blade Nzimande, the minister of higher education, announced that there would be an over 10 percent increase in fees for the 2016 school year. After several days of student led protests, vigils and sit-ins that were met with police violence, the President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, announced that there would not be any fee increases for the 2016 academic year. On Sept. 19, 2016, less than one year later, Nzimande announced a new fee policy for the 2017 school year: tertiary education will be free for students whose yearly family income is below 600,000 rands (approximately \$40,000), while fees will increase for those making more

than R600,000. The amount of increase will be determined by students’ individual universities. While some South Africans believe Nzimande’s plan is an adequate solution to the problem of inequitable higher education, others (mainly those affected) believe that the government’s solution is not sufficient for the current political and social climate. Some of these reasons include the heavy reliance on the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), the “missing middle” class and the continuation of social tensions on campuses. The problem that many of the protesting students find with the government’s reliance on NSFAS is that it is not a grant but a loan that students, many of whom already come from economically looted families, are expected to pay back once they begin working. Secondly, because most of the money students

make goes toward paying back NSFAS, these graduates are left in similar, if not the same, conditions that they were attempting to escape by gaining an education. Students and many other community members who are supporting the #FMF movement have also voiced that Nzimande’s solution does not provide any solace for those in the “missing middle” whose families make more than R600,000 but, because of life circumstances, cannot afford to fund their education. A point of the contention within and between the #FMF movement(s) is whether there should be free education for all students or simply for those whose families cannot afford it. Those who advocate for free education for all, rather than for only some South African students, view their stance as part of the decolonisation process. Advocates argue that forcing some people to pay and not others does not

change the current social dynamics in which economically deprived Black students feel they consistently have to “perform poverty while wealthy non-Black students feel and act entitled to campus space and resources,” said a student at the University Currently Known as Rhodes (UCKAR). Through vigils, protests and creative demonstrations, students are working to undo South Africa’s history of colonization. After days, of peaceful protests and gatherings, students at UCKAR were met with the fire of police guns and brutality on Sept. 28, 2016. The 30 minute standoff with the police resulted in the arrest of over 20 students. As a result of the violence and insecurity on campus, a school wide shutdown was issued for Sept. 29 and 30. The fight for free, quality, decolonised education was not limited to the streets. During the 2016 semes-

ter, students engaged in informal learning in which indigenous productions of knowledge was centralized. Alternative courses were taught in the evenings by, for and about Africans in subjects that ranged everywhere from economics to languages. These courses were representations of students’ visions of a decolonised education. With over 600 students arrested and many others physically and emotionally distraught, the #FMF movement of 2016 took a hiatus during exam season in November. Coming February, with the opening of the 2017 school year, there is expected to be a continuation of #FMF. To keep up with the movement, search for #feesmustfall, #FMF, and #feesmustfall2016 on Twitter, Facebook and search engines such as Google.

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Shining an important spotlight on hidden figures of U.S. history



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On Christmas day, the story of three Black women was released. “Hidden Figures,” a story about three Black mathematicians and engineers at NASA who played an integral role

in pivotal space missions, rose to the top of the box office and became the number one movie in the nation.

According to an article in *The Atlantic* entitled, “Will Hollywood Learn from Hidden Figures Success?” *Hidden Figures* grossed \$22 million during its first weekend of

wide release, even though tracking numbers predicted it would gross less than the fourth weekend of *Rogue One*. It also beat out the weekend’s new blockbuster, “Underworld: Blood Wars.” During the four-day Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, “Hidden Figures” kept its

spot as the number one movie in the nation while making \$26 million, an increase from the week before. Not only was “Hidden Figures” number one for two consecutive weeks, but the film also beat “La La Land,” despite the fact that “La La Land” won seven Golden Globe Awards.

When discussing why this film’s success matters, *The Atlantic* further reported that, “In 2015, only 32 of the top 100 films at the box office featured a female lead or co-lead; only three of those leads were women of color, and almost half of them did not feature a black female character in any capacity.”

Given the fact that media and history books usually cast white cis heterosexual men as the main hero and protagonist, the film is significant for defying the idea that films about people of color are “box office risks” as well as complicating what is known to be considered the marketable norm. Most importantly, the film shows a very important piece of history that is not commonly known.

“Hidden Figures,” based on a book by Margot Lee Shetterly, was directed by Theodore Melfi, with a musical score composed by Pharrell Williams. In an interview with Chris Matthews on MSNBC’s *Hardball*, Melfi explained why this film needs to be watched by people of all ages across the nation.

“They need to know history wasn’t just a bunch of white guys in a room,” said Melfi.

The film tells the true story of African American mathematician Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Hen-

son), NASA’s first African American manager, Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and NASA’s first Black female aerospace engineer Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe). What makes the story particularly important is the fact that these Black women made contributions to NASA during the 1960’s when white supremacist Jim Crow laws and attitudes that enforced racial segregation were prevalent.

Throughout the film, audiences were able to see on the big screen how difficult it was for these three Black women to navigate a system where they had to work twice as hard to accomplish what their white counterparts could easily do. Access to nearby “colored restrooms,” books or necessary courses was limited because of white supremacist laws that discriminated based on skin color.

However, Katherine Johnson still succeeded and hand calculated the data entry and re-entry points for astronaut John Glenn to safely orbit and return to Earth. Johnson then went on to perform calculations for the Apollo 11 mission to the moon and other missions afterwards.

This film highlights the important work of those behind big names such as John Glenn and Neil Armstrong, and combats the erasure of people such as Johnson. With an important story and phenomenal cast, *Hidden Figures* is a cinematic masterpiece. The hope is that more films centering stories of people with marginalized identities will continue to come.

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Fill your wallets from freelance writing

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True to the “starving college student” trope, most students have lots of anxiety about money, even if they have on-campus jobs. Once you move off campus, worrying about paying for rent, utilities, groceries and outings with friends becomes part of your core identity — furthermore, asking your parents for a cash transfer can be embarrassing, uncomfortable or simply out of the question.

On-campus jobs are great for “real-life” work experience, but student-staffed positions fill up rather quickly (and are sometimes highly competitive). Getting hired at a local business can be equally challenging, and unless it’s at the Capitol, you will have to get used to commuting around town between classes.

Forget signing up with LinkedIn; don’t waste your energy checking Craigslist. Even JobCat can be devoid of openings and leaves you competing with every other job-hungry Bearcat, both student and alumni. NACELink, also available through Willamette, tends to offer warehouse and grocery store positions, which usually drug test and aren’t looking for part-time employees.

Thankfully, many gigs these days only require a laptop and an internet connection. Any student (or individual at large) with confidence, imagination and a punctual work ethic is a good fit for freelance content writing, especially if writing an essay for class every other week proves boring and not personally relevant to one’s interests.

Content writing is a broad category that includes pieces as short as product reviews and as long as full-on how-to guides or edited short stories. Most often, your “boss” will communicate with you through email, providing a topic and some guidelines for the product they expect.

As a private contractor, you are expected to complete these tasks in a timely manner and make life easier for your client; through Googling, asking around and trusting in your abilities, it’s not hard to collect knowledge and information and synthesize it in your own voice, even if you know nothing about the subject matter. Always try to be bold and embellish these particular articles with excitement and a sense of passion toward the product, place or work of art.

If you’ve written for the *Collegian* before, congratulations: you’re already a published freelance writer. This newspaper pays (even guest writers) \$10 per article, and some students write several articles per issue — most articles are well under 1,000 words and take about an hour to produce (according to payroll).

Many paths lead to getting employed as a freelance writer, but all of them require patience and initiative. A direct and popular method is to contact a college-targeted outlet like *Odyssey* or *Buzzfeed* with pitches or completed articles, although this option might not be paid and your work will be in bad, poorly edited company — in other words, these websites accept almost everything that they receive.

Some content that you’ve already drafted or a convincing pitch might fit a specific website with



SAMANTHA ZEMANEK

which you’re familiar: pay attention to when your favorite news outlets or blogs (*Complex*, *Bleacher Report*, etc.) have job openings, usually listed at the bottom of the web page. Make sure the job position is labeled “telecommute” or “remote” — at most, these freelancing jobs require a phone call or semi-frequent email conversations. This type of gig will likely give you assignments to complete and guidelines (tone, word count) for that material.

Not getting a response from your dream job? Join a service like *FlexJobs*, which give you access to

telecommuting content jobs for popular websites that aren’t advertising their freelancing positions publicly. With luck, you might have a long and fulfilling work relationship with a big company that needs advertising copy.

If you’re serious about making this a side hustle, sign up with the site *Upwork*. This large, diverse network connects you and other freelancers to potential clients all around the world. With positive feedback from your clients and a good reputation on the site, it’s easy to earn an increasing amount of pay, especially if your clients ask

you to write and develop more of their projects.

No matter how you hack it, enough content writing and experience completing odd jobs will undoubtedly prepare you for making money after college ends. Lest communicating with a boss solely through email feels impersonal, it’s shocking how long some of these professional exchanges can last when you develop trusting and beneficial client-freelancer relationships.

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Into the Streets, shoes on feet

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Additionally, there are only eight beds within three counties available for homeless teens for more than one night. This lack of resources encouraged the students to do what they could: start a shoe drive. Thus, the program was started, and has continued for years.

Laurie Shaw, Youth Development and Prevention Coordinator for the City of Salem, however, is

currently the only one managing the program aside from the high school students that run the drive yearly. She is left having to manage the thousands of shoes that were donated, and get them onto the feet of those in need.

Besides doing inventory, the donated shoes also needed to be cleaned for sanitation and appearance. Around 15 students were there, with a few doing inventory and others scrubbing with soap and toothbrushes.

This was but one of many activities that took place during the afternoon, but it shows the impact that these efforts can have. With only 15 of the students in that location, others made impacts elsewhere in the community.

In a time when global issues seemed more daunting and impenetrable as ever, this event was an attempt to pull focus back to the local level. Willamette shares a community in Salem, as much as it somehow seems otherwise, and

this was a chance for the students to give back.

Other than the volunteering, there's still more opportunities to get involved with the spirit of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event. The convocation, "Surviving Akkademia," is on Thursday Jan. 26 at 11:30 a.m. in Cone Chapel. It will be lead by the MO-SAICS program.

You can add yourself to the waitlist for tickets for Ta-Nehisi Coates's visit on Feb. 1 titled "A

Deeper Black: Race in America". Read his book "Between the World and Me" to understand why racism in America is still an incredible problem and why this event is necessary. Local organizations could always use volunteers. In a time of hatred and destruction, it is a powerful statement to work together to build something better.

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Are pleasure and sex mutually exclusive?

ARIADNE WOLF
OPINIONS EDITOR

We talk about love and we talk about sexuality. Most of the time, we talk about not having a choice in who and what we want. Most of the time, I'm all-right with that.

There's a usefulness in accepting the idea none of us can choose who we fall in love with. This kind of rhetoric has permitted mainstream society to accept certain forms of sexuality and romantic relationships that were previously forbidden.

Still, there are some limitations. I'm bisexual. What that actually means is that, being of a romantic persuasion, I just have a wider view of who my person might be. My sexuality isn't about who I want to see naked as much as it is about who I want to love.

Going into an experience with no language to discuss elements present feels uncomfortable, even unsafe. I'm not saying language would be the solution to me waiting for 45 minutes for two minutes of face-time with someone I then proceeded to completely ignore. I'm not saying understanding love would empower me to speak to someone I want to tell to run away from me, and to love me forever, both at the same time.

However, maybe it would be a start.

Bisexuality isn't a lifestyle choice for me. I was raised in a conservative religious environment; in spite of my parents' liberalism, sexuality beyond the norm was among the many things that were, so I was taught, to be accepted rather than honored. Because of that, I basically made the decision to just go ahead and try to behave like a straight person.

I know this is the time when being out and proud is supposed to be what feminism and the queer rights movement encourage and support. I know this is how I'm supposed to feel, but I don't.

One of the things that makes that a lot harder is that I really love a lot of what Judaism has to say about sex. I want the kind of spiritual, soul-deep connection that my culture taught me I deserve, but my culture also taught me that's only possible in a heterosexual relationship.

I was in love with a man, last year. I have feelings for a woman, which is the polite way of saying I would love her if she let me.

I don't think her gender has a whole lot to do with what I feel. I'm glad she wasn't inculcated with misogyny and chauvinism but I would love her anyway.

Meanwhile, I want all sorts of things I'm not supposed to want. I'm afraid of letting go of the heterosexual privilege I can evoke by just not talking, and I'm wondering how this will impact my way to flirt my way out of a ticket or into a better grade. Those are privileges, but there's a voice in my mind that insists I need them, can't survive without them the way, insists that same voice, I can survive without her.

I keep thinking how much easier this would be if I were a guy, if I could experience the sort of fairness that did not result in teachers awarding me higher grades based on whether they'd like to see me naked. Meanwhile, if I was a guy, I could punch out my competition, and perform amazing feats of physical strength. I could fight for her and it would seem noble, and not pathetic.

I don't know how to fight for her and not seem pathetic.

I could be a hero, and save her. She doesn't need saving, but I want to save her anyway, and what am I supposed to do with that?

Maybe someday I won't feel that way. Maybe I'll stop Facebook-stalking my ex in hopes I'll be reminded of whatever it is about him I fell in love with, because being in love with an emotionally manipulative, needy older guy seems like the place my life is inevitably heading. Maybe someday I'll stop idly thinking about going back to him, and feeling nothing, and floating mindlessly along inside a life someone else has shaped for me.

There is still part of me that wants to be consumed, and broken, and destroyed, and it is not because I take any pleasure in this. It is instead because this is all I know, and what I believe romantic love is supposed to be.

When that day comes when I can beat this thing that is in me, I don't want there to be any confusion. I don't want her thinking I tumbled over a cliff and landed at her feet against my will, or that given a choice I'd back out.

I want her knowing I walked my ass back to her, as fast as I could, and killed every monster who tried to stop me.

I want credit.

I have the right to make choices about what and who is going to be part of my love life.

For that matter? You do, too.

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Open Mic - Expression of Justice: 'Breaking Our Silence'



CAITLIN FORBES
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

In another fantastic celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Bistro co-hosted an Open Mic event. This open mic, entitled, "Expression of Justice: 'Breaking Our Silence,'" celebrates the diversity of the Willamette community, encouraging the students to express their frustrations, hopes and aspirations for the future through a multitude of creative outlets.

The Bistro was decorated for this occasion with streamers and balloons and the occasional smattering of tinsel in the corner. The booth was set up, the mic was poised and the crowd was ready.

The night began with a friendly "Hello" to the crowd and then the entries began. The first performer played a song on their guitar. They were accompanied by a singer, and the tune was light-hearted and encouraged the crowd to nod along. The song was a short and beautiful way to start the evening off.

The first act was immediately followed by a poet. Before the performance, the poet connected their work to their personal experiences with anxiety, and talked about how they were inspired to perform on the open mic by the other people of color whom they had looked up to for four years.

The anecdote and the poem were touching, and although the piece was unfinished, the crowd was receptive and truly embodied the spirit of open mic night.

The next person to go also wrote a poem. They read three short poems. The first one had an amazing rhythm, that captivated everyone. The second and third relatively discussed relationships, and the idea of wordcraft.

While the open mic was happening, the Bistro was certainly drumming up a lot of business. Cookies, teas and coffees were being purchased rapidly (and a new fresh batch of cookies helped ensure the process).

The next person to present read a poem by another person. They wanted to read it to share the empowering experience. The intonation of their voice echoed throughout the Bistro and encouraged a lot of nods, and hums of agreement. Snaps echoed as their rhythm increased, and once the performance was finished, everyone's attention had been peaked.

The next poet talked about the struggles of being a writer and getting swept up with the expectations that come with it. What started as a poem about words being overwhelming became a metaphor that paralleled writing to abuse and sexual assault. The brave poet was washed with a tidal wave of claps and snaps and an abrupt silence was present throughout the small space. The audience was visibly digesting their words.

The next performer thanked the person who went before them, expressing how they felt encouraged to read a short piece about how they were sexually assaulted

a year ago. Their piece was short but powerful and enticed conversation after it was over, reminding each person that although Open Mic is a chance for fun and light-hearted creative works, it also is a place for brave students to express their pain, anger and frustrations.

One of the last performers that I saw sang an operatic piece. Their powerful voice echoed throughout the Bistro. The song, although in another language, communicated a sense of peace and understanding, along with pain. This was definitely a unique performance.

The next performer read a short story talking about identity, and their own connection with childhood and love, which was followed by a singer who sang a rendition of Britney Spears' "Toxic." Everyone was tapping their feet along with the singer.

After the upbeat song, we had a poet who read a work about discussing depression with loved ones. The captivating poem was heartbreaking but relatable, and the fast paced reading with increasing volume emphasized the powerful message.

Open Mic night at the Bistro was an amazing experience to watch (and participate in). It showcased the different voices within the Willamette community, and gave us a chance to have a safe space to be creative.

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Open up to C

Help class of

OPENING DAYS LEAD TEAM CONTRIBUTORS

Interested in gaining valuable leadership experience? Want to improve your skills in communication, facilitation and advising?

Opening Days (OD) is more than just your typical incoming student orientation. Completely student-run, the program is planned each year by Willamette students who, just a few years back, were incoming students themselves. This year's OD Coordinator and Lead Team have been working hard to design the program we believe will give the Class of 2021 the best introduction to the Willamette community.

Everything we do during OD is for the purpose of providing incoming students with the tools and resources they may need throughout their first semester. We are looking to hire 80+ OD Leaders who are excited to share their knowledge and experiences, as well as serve as mentors, resources, friends (even after OD comes to an end) and after the first semester of college officially begins for the incoming class.

The OD program is seeking to hire leaders that will represent all identities, personalities and backgrounds around campus in order to show new students that they can find their place. We would like to make it clear that there is not one specific type of leader we are looking to hire.

A key facet of OD is inclusion. OD seeks to help acclimate new students into the Willamette community. It is very important to have representation of the student body within OD, not only for the purpose of better connecting with the new students but to also show the incoming classes that we accept all identities. As a leader, you will serve as a role model for new students as well as bonding and connecting with them.

Hear more about the OD experience from these fine, up-standing leaders.

"Last year I applied to be an OD Leader and it completely changed my Willamette experience. Who would not want to make new friends, gain leadership experience and welcome incoming first-year students? And if that is not convincing enough, OD Leaders get some pretty rad t-shirts."

Allie Kerkhoff, '19

"OD is my favorite time of the year. Not only do you get to meet and befriend some really cool first-year students, but leaders in other grades who you may never have met otherwise! It is also a fantastic opportunity to gain leadership skills and build up your resume so that is cool too."

Katie LaChasse, '19

"It was such an amazing experience being an OD Leader to welcome first-years into the WU student body! Shoutout to OD Group 15 for being such an outstanding squad. And thanks to Kristin Kittelson for being a bomb partner!"

Jonny Louangrath, '19

"OD is great because of the OD; they are genuine people who sincerely care about making the lives of others better. The way I see it, OD Leaders have one main responsibility: ensuring that first-year student[s] [are] happy and [feel] at home. There is no other time in the school year when everything is so new, fun and exciting when everyone just wants to meet new people, smile and laugh. We get to make pterodactyl noises, and show some first-years that it is OK to be weird."

It is easy to forget what Willamette is really about when you get caught up in your school work, your social life and everything you are involved in. But when none

of that stuff matters and all you care about is giving your fifteen new Bearcats a sense of belonging, your priorities start to shift."

Callum Johnston, '19

OD is often the favorite time of year for first-years, transfer student and also leaders. If you had a great time as an OD

student, you have the chance to recreate that experience for other students. If your experience as an incoming student who participated in OD was not the best, then you have the power to change that for the new incoming class. Evidently, an extremely important benefit of being an OD Leader is the impact you can have on

the incoming students.

As we all know, it is such an enormous transition from high school to college and a big change in a person's development. OD is an imperative part of freshmen year as it is an introduction to college life, and the beginning of relationships that can last past graduation.



Opening Days

2021 feel #1



College provides an environment in which you may grow and become whatever you want to be. Not only do we want to introduce our incoming students to this environment, but we also want to help current students become strong leaders! OD is important because it is a student's first step into these new wa-

ters.

OD is really important because it gives students an introduction to the school and also the community. It is imperative to forming their future at Willamette and making friends. OD Leaders can make a difference, not to mention you can accumulate great leadership skills and expe-

periences you can incorporate into a resume. You also get free Goudy meals for a whole week and free shirts!

Students from the American Studies Program (ASP) also enjoy their experiences as OD Leaders. Mochizuki Misaki, from the 2016 ASP program, talks about the opportunity to get more involved in

the Willamette community through OD.

"Being an OD leader as an ASP student made me think a lot about how to be involved as an ASP student. I learned a lot and I saw a lot. I don't think I will have the opportunities to make this kind of precious experience. I can tell I couldn't do this experience if I didn't come to here.

I could be assuming this is the turning point to think more deeply about the future. Being one of the parts of Willamette was hard and challenging but I could take it over supporting by my lovely partners Jenny Salwitz and Kyle Salois, as well as my friends.

Mochizuki Misaki, ASP '16

To reiterate, we want to encourage anyone and everyone to apply to become an OD Leader. As OD Leaders, you will gain many worthwhile skills in communication, advising, facilitation and leadership. It is also crazy, super fun!

OD is responsible for numerous events. From the volleyball tournament to the Barn Dance, Bearcats Give Back (a recently revived volunteer opportunity for first-year students and Opening Days Leaders) to Passport to Salem and Willamette Night Out, OD leaders are responsible for perhaps the most memorable experiences within OD. Reality Check, a performance piece touching on various situations an incoming first-year student may experience in college, is a portion of OD that even seniors at Willamette still remember. For example, some performances depicted scenarios regarding roommate conflicts, party culture, mental health, sexual assault and

interpersonal racism.

Most of OD has a light-hearted energy, but leaders are also expected to facilitate conversations regarding deeper topics, like alcohol/drug use, cultural appropriation, sexual assault, race, violence, etc. Regarded as one of the most important and helpful sections of OD, Reality Check allows leaders to facilitate conversations about these topics to their new students.

It is important for leaders to communicate the importance of these discussions to allow for students to start their Willamette career with an open, inclusive and supportive tone. By being an OD Leader, not only will you be able to make long-lasting memories with your students, you will also become the "face of Willamette" by representing Willamette's principles, attitudes and motto, Non Nobis Solum Nati Sumus "Not unto ourselves alone are we born!"

"The best part about OD is that it matters. It matters so much. If you think back to when you were an incoming student, could you have navigated your first few weeks at Willamette without the help of your OD Leaders? Maybe you could have, maybe you could not. But if you had the opportunity to help make just one first-year student's transition to college a little bit easier to navigate, wouldn't you jump at the chance?"

Holly Walsh '18

Consider applying for Opening Days! Applications are due Friday, February 3rd at 11:59 p.m.

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The NBA's halfway point

KELLEN BULGER
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday morning, Mark Schlereth, a current NFL primetime analyst, presented a question: "What do you think of the NBA season so far?"

And he answered emphatically, "Oh, I don't pay attention to the NBA until at least March..."

Here is why I disagree.

Russell Westbrook has 21 triple-doubles this season. The rest of the NBA West All-Star game starters have 19 combined. Westbrook is on pace to pass one of the best flat-out basketball players of all-time, Oscar Robertson, for the most triple-doubles in a single season.

The Golden State Warriors are quietly inching their way toward another one of the best starts in NBA history by going 38-7 with the new addition, Kevin Durant. The defending champions, the Cleveland Cavaliers, are yet again showcasing their dominance by sitting atop the Eastern Conference at 30-13.

Now the argument some of you have: "The Warriors and Cavaliers are the only reason to watch the NBA this year," you may say. However, those same critics have been ignoring the emergence of new superstars this year like Isaiah "King in the Fourth" Thomas of the Boston Celtics or Giannis "The Greek Freak" Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks and Joel "The Process" Embiid of the Philadelphia 76ers and each player's seemingly meteoric rise to prominence.

If the litany of superstars and unbelievable talent in this NBA season is simply not enough for you, consider this: the marquee matchup on Christmas Day between the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Golden State Warriors was the most watched holiday game in over four years. With viewership at record numbers, the NBA is undeniably booming right now.

Looking ahead to the second half of the NBA season, while the eyes of the world will certainly be on a Cavaliers and Warriors Finals rematch, I will be directing my attention in other areas.

I simply cannot stress enough the surreal impact young stars are having on the league up to this point.

Take Antetokounmpo for example. At the mere age of 22, he is already garnering attention like none of his counterparts with gravity-defying dunks and spectacular performances. Maybe his most impressive performance was on Jan. 14 against the Miami Heat, where he leaped from the free-throw line and brought the ball above his shoulders, then at the apex of his jump brought the ball back down, slamming it back home just in time for his landing. This was all while avoiding a Heat defender. Antetokounmpo makes plays on a nightly basis that I am almost certain many athletes could not emulate given a literal trampoline.

So, instead of tuning in late March, I encourage you to view for yourself this delectable stew of young and old skill and talent that is on display each and every night. If nothing else, it might help you understand the peculiar students hovering over their iPhones utilizing strange lingo like "the Splash Brothers raining threes" as they may put it.

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Why college football players sat out bowl games

LOUIS KNOX
STAFF WRITER

The winter time has been filled with holiday festivity, but one tradition was out of the ordinary this year. This festivity was the NCAA football bowl season. Each year from mid-December to early January, college football teams come together and play in many different bowl games.

This was the third year of the College Football Playoff for the National Championship, which was won by the Clemson Tigers in a rematch against the defending champion, the University of Alabama's Crimson Tide. The game ended in a last second victory by Deshaun Watson and the Tigers.

Despite the excitement, there was another story that left the fans scratching their heads during this bowl season.

Several college football stars and top NFL prospects felt that it was in their best interest to sit out a meaningless bowl game and pre-

pare for their potential future profession. Stanford's running back and 2015 Heisman finalist, Christian McCaffery, chose to abstain from the Sun Bowl, which was held in El Paso, Texas. He was not the only athlete who chose to do this.

Along with McCaffery, Louisiana State University's star tailback, Leonard Fournette, also thought that it would be beneficial for him to forgo his final game with the Tigers. Fournette's season was extremely limited due to several injuries, however, in 2015, the 235-pound running back was a consensus All-American and racked up 1,953 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns.

On the other hand, there were players with similar talents to McCaffery, who decided to compete in their bowl games. One being Michigan's tight end, Jake Butt. Butt was considered to be the top tight end prospect going into the off season.

Butt, a two time All-American, decided to compete in this year's

Orange Bowl against the Florida State University Seminoles. The game resulted in a 33-32 loss for Michigan and, unfortunately, Butt suffered a torn ACL. About a year ago, a similar incident occurred with a potential high draft pick in Notre Dame with linebacker Jaylon Smith. During the Fiesta Bowl against Ohio State University, Smith suffered tears in his ACL and LCL.

This detrimental injury was significant enough to drop him down into the second round of the NFL draft, which also significantly decreased his salary on his first contract. Smith was the 2015 Butkus Award Winner, an honor given to the best linebacker in the nation.

What these injuries do is open up a larger discussion of whether or not these games are worth the risk for potential top draft picks to compete in. Butt's draft stock has no doubt taken a hit and will cost him a significant amount of money.

Having seen situations occurring like this so regularly, stars like McCaffery are avoiding the calculated risk in not playing in their "meaningless" bowl games. Football is well documented as being a dangerous sport, but for many it is a great means for financial success.

College football is a thriving industry, with players still competing and putting their bodies on the line for minimal financial compensation. For players with higher profiles and potential professional careers, it is hard to understand why taking that much of a risk is at all a fiscally responsible decision.

With Fournette and McCaffery sitting out their bowl games this season, many other players might begin to do the same in years to come.

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Men's and women's basketball don't take a break



Lower Left and Lower Right: Junior Conin Oishi drives to the hoop against a Whitman College player. Upper Left: Junior Brendon McCullough dribbles down the court looking to score. Upper Right: Junior Nico Troplent takes a shot against Whitman College.

CONTINUED from page 1

Verduin is also confident going into the last stretch of the season.

"We just had a big conference win on the road at Pacific University, and some of the guys have really stepped up their game over the last few weeks. The rest of the season should be fun," he said.

The Bearcats look to continue their winning ways this weekend as they head to Eastern Washington to take on Whitworth University and Whitman College, respectively.

The women's basketball team started off the winter break by heading to Montana for two games against Montana State-Northern and Carroll College on Dec. 19 and 21. They got back to their winning ways as they won against Multnomah 76-43 to ring in the New Year. After this, the Bearcats hit a bit of a rough stretch, going 2-5 in their last seven conference games, including a 60-57 loss to Pacific University last Saturday night.

Leading the Bearcats in offense has been senior guard Kylie Towry, who is averaging 12.5 points per game, followed by

junior forward Madi Andresen who is averaging 9.6 points per game.

The Bearcats are currently in fifth place in conference play, and are just one spot out of making the conference tournament. They are in a good position to make the tournament, as they play each conference team one more time.

Junior point guard Mary Eckenrode believes that the team has a good chance to make the tournament.

"We're going to finish up strong this season by living out our team motto — G.S.D. which

means Grit, Support, Discipline," Eckenrode said.

"Staying tough through the aches and pains, supporting each other through successes and failures and having the discipline to keep it simple, stick to the game plan and just play Bearcat basketball."

The Bearcats start their journey to the conference tournament this weekend as they travel to Eastern Washington to take on Whitman College and Whitworth University respectively.

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Bearcat swimming looking to finish strong



CHRISTOPHER SABATO



CHRISTOPHER SABATO



CHRISTOPHER SABATO

The men's and women's swim teams are ready to close out their season against Linfield College. The men's team is coming off of a strong meet against Pacific University last weekend, while the women's team looks to improve their overall season record.

JARED SPOHR
STAFF WRITER

After a little more than a month break, the Bearcat men's and women's swim teams returned to the pool to compete against the College of Idaho on Jan. 13. The Bearcat men defeated the Yotes in this non-conference matchup 130.50-106.50, but the women's team lost 131-105. Notable performances for the women's team included junior Cassie Tallman, who won the women's 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke.

Senior Alika Masei took first place in the men's 100 and 200-yard breaststroke, and junior Mark Yuvienco won both the 100 and 200-yard butterfly. Senior Jason Bayang won the men's 100-yard backstroke. Junior Kate Harvey from the women's team and senior Shelby Merrill from the men's team both had great come-from-behind finishes in their 500-yard freestyle events. The results of this meet put the men's team at an overall record of 1-4, while the women's team is now 0-5.

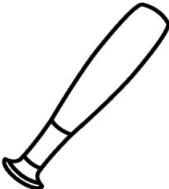






The Bearcats returned to conference competition on Jan. 20, when they hosted Lewis & Clark College. The men's team came out victorious, winning by a score of 134.50-70.50, while the women fell short to the Pioneers, 121-84. Tallman continued her dominance, gaining victories for the women's team in the 200-yard individual medley and the 200-yard breaststroke. On the men's side, junior Reuben White won the 200-yard freestyle, which helped complete the sweep in that event, while team-

mates sophomore Mykah Fujiwara and freshman Alex Hougan followed. White also took first place in the 100-yard freestyle. Yuvienco won the 200-yard individual medley, followed by teammates Masei and freshman Derek Ludwig. Tallman's performances have gained her some recognition as of late, as she was named NWC women's student-athlete of the week. She has been very dominant for the Bearcats this season and will look to continue her great performances next week.

Last Saturday, the Bearcats hit the road to face the Pacific Boxers. The men's team won and improved their record to 3-4 in conference, while the women fell short and are now 0-6. The Bearcats now look ahead as they close out the season on the road against Linfield College on Saturday, Jan. 28.

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this week in sports

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 	7 

AARON ODA
STAFF WRITER

With school back in session, you will now be all caught up on the missed drama that has been occurring in the sports world. There have been a couple of crowned champions since we last brought you sports news, and we have also seen some memorable matchups that will be talked about for years to come. Let's see what has happened in the last couple weeks in sports.

NCAA Football

This year's NCAA Football National Champion is the Clemson Tigers. They beat the defending National Champions, the Alabama Crimson Tide. This matchup was a rematch of last year's game where

the Crimson Tide won by a score of 45-40 in a thrilling contest that came down to the last possession of the game. This year in another thrilling game, the Tigers played a little bit better than the Crimson Tide and won by a score of 35-31. The game-winning touchdown was scored with only one second left in the game. The last drive down the field for the Tigers took nine plays with 2:06 left in the entire game, ending with a pass from Deshaun Watson to Hunter Renfrow.

NFL

The NFL has been deep in the playoffs for the last couple weeks now, and our Super Bowl 51 teams are already set. Here is a recap of how the Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots will now competing for the NFL Championship. Both

teams had a bye week during the wild card round and opened their playoff run in the divisional series. The Patriots faced the Houston Texans in the divisional round and beat them soundly by a score of 34-16. The Falcons hosted the Seattle Seahawks and, sadly, beat them by a score of 36-20. In the AFC and NFC championship games, the Patriots faced the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Atlanta Falcons faced the Green Bay Packers, respectively.

NBA

We are passing the halfway point in the NBA season and the Portland Trail Blazers are not doing so hot. They have a record of 19-27 and find themselves in the No. 9 spot within the Western Conference. The All-Star starters have been announced, and one player that has not

been announced is Oklahoma Thunder's starter, Russell Westbrook. Statistically he is having a monstrous season, averaging 30.6 points, 10.4 assists and 10.6 rebounds a game. Westbrook leads the entire league in each of these categories. We have not seen this offensive output from a player since Oscar Robertson in the 1961-1962 season. For him to not be starting in the All-Star game is outrageous because he is the NBA's man of the show right now. The two starting guards on his team are James Harden and Steph Curry, who are having great seasons as well, but not at the level Westbrook has been performing. KDEN, until next week!

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On Castro's death

PHILIP AMUR
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 25, 2016, Cuban leader Fidel Castro died. Castro, who the New York Times referred to as “the fiery apostle of revolution who brought the Cold War to the Western Hemisphere in 1959,” left a significant historical mark. That mark showed itself not only throughout the entire second half of the 20th century, but also into the modern era.

Needless to say, the loss of a world leader comes as a tragedy to many. Thus such an event requires a high level of respect. However, the death of this particular leader holds significance far greater than the loss of just another dictator on America's list of enemies.

Castro's departure signifies the loss of the very man the United States has been opposing for half a century. Castro himself played a pivotal role in why relations between Cuba and the U.S. have never been great. Considering how vitally important closer economic ties between Cuba and America are to America's future, this is a problem.

With the death of Castro, who was responsible for everything the United States deemed hostile and dangerous about Cuba, the U.S no longer has a legitimate reason to run from better relations with the nation. With Castro's departure, it is time to reunite and fully restore relations with Cuba.

The Guardian reports that Castro was responsible for the centralization and state control of American-owned businesses in the 1960s, along with the growth of the communist world's military might, with the USSR's assistance in 1962.

Castro's rule was defined by a range of strange combination of potentially positive reforms to outright dictatorial displays of power. While he initiated social and educational reform, he built up a nuclear arsenal with the money he'd bled out of his country's industries. In addition, while he originally proclaimed himself a liberator, thousands of political opponents, both real and imaginary, were imprisoned or killed by his “liberating” regime. With his departure, there is arguably no body in Cuba on whom to place future responsibility for the condition of the Cuban nation and its relationship with the outside world.

Today, although Cuba is far from perfect, reforms by current leader Raul Castro are being made. Modern Cuba has seen a rise in self-employment, along with the legalization of home and car sales. In addition, as the Americas Quarterly reports, reforms have been put in place in order to facilitate decollectivization, decentralization of decision-making and the wider use of market prices.

These are all reforms that wouldn't have been conceived under the half a century long “strongman” rule of Fidel Castro. Such progress is made possible by the loss of a symbol of the old, fundamental Marxist ideology.

While Castro's death must be met with respect and understanding, it is important to realize that his death makes possible a new future between Cuba and the United States. With the loss of Castro, it is possible to fully move on from the hostility, hatred, and ideological incompatibility that have thwarted progress in bettering the state of relations between Cuba and the United States for so long.

Though the leader of a respectable nation perished, his nation did not. Thus Cuba should capitalize on the progress it has made now in order to move forward alongside the United States into a prosperous future.

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Trump's wall will drain American coffers

JESSE SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

Amidst the flurry of rhetoric put forth by President Donald Trump, clear policy positions have fallen by the wayside. “Build a wall” rhetoric has stirred up the passions of racists, as well as those who misunderstand labor economics.

What we must recognize instead is how Trump's politics are rooted in an economic trajectory that was set on its course long ago. It's a new spin on what might be termed neoliberalism.

Ever since Reagan, fabricated economic theory has become acceptable parlance in the mainstream political discourse. Anti-intellectual conservative activism has served to remove actual research from the mainstream, and shift focus to think tank-produced knowledge about as good as the fake news produced by far-right fascists.

Basically, we are being fed lies. We know it. We still deem them acceptable.

Labor markets do not work the way Trump would have us believe. I don't even know if Trump believes that they work the way his anti-immigration positions would suggest they do. Knowledge is deployed as a political tool.

Why does Trump say he wants to build a wall? Physically blocking the border is unlikely to achieve much of anything with regard to border security. In fact, Trump's real motivation is the power of rhetoric.

Our society is at a transition point where the type of masculinity we value is shifting as the millennial generation gears up to take over. The days of glamorizing and celebrating the blue-collar worker are waning. We are entering the age of tech and, with that, automation.

Republicans have been spewing rhetoric about “Mexican



job-stealers” for ages with a variety of motivations, all of which I cannot pinpoint. It doesn't really matter why they said it. They may have just been ignorant racists themselves. The problem is that a lot of people now believe that undocumented immigrants are coming in droves, upping the competition for those manufacturing and other masculine mechanical jobs we once held so dear.

Mexicans and machines stand as the great threats to white, working-class masculinity. The age of blue-collar work this demographic expresses such nostalgia for is over. Between outsourcing and automation, such workers are finding their skillset outdated.

Technical careers are not being entirely eliminated, but increasingly require the skill to work with computerized equipment.

Beyond that, the greatest economic growth is occurring in such sectors as healthcare and social services. Persuading 40-year-old men to become home health aides is more of a social than a governmental project.

Instead, we villainize immigrants, many of whom are being subjected to some of the worst labor conditions in the country.

Republicans have produced the idea that privatizing everything and letting the “business world” handle it will promote prosperity for all. Trump purports to have a grand dealmaking ability that will push us into a golden age. He pledges to put our riches toward building up our infrastructure.

Nearly everyone in the country beyond the most ignorant conservative, the most extreme libertarian and anarchists agree that

infrastructure re-development should be a national priority. Trump sees this point of potential bipartisanship as a way of seeing him as a reasonable moderate.

Yet, according to NPR, the Trump plan involves toll roads used to fund the projects to be completed by contracted private companies. Such policies are nothing new.

Despite the shock due to the willful ignorance of the liberal uppercrust, Trump is the least original president we've had in awhile. In fact, he is even a little out-of-style. Capitalism-fueled efforts to produce public goods have consistently failed to serve the public good.

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Repealing Obamacare for the sake of the public

PHILIP AMUR
STAFF WRITER

The U.S Healthcare system by itself is a turbulent matter which seems to experience complete overhaul with each new president. The power transition of January 2017 will be no different: this time, Obama's most controversial piece of legislation, Obamacare, is set to be replaced.

Obamacare, though arguably a noble goal intended to lower the costs of healthcare and increase accessibility to it, has only resulted in both people and insurance companies hemorrhaging money across the board. Obamacare's greatest impacts were increased premium costs, loss of individually-tailored plans and stronger bureaucratic control of the healthcare system.

According to The Atlantic's Nov. 9 issue, more than 80 percent of Trump's supporters think that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) “went too far.” In addition to this, U.S News cited a figure indicating that 54 percent of all Americans disapprove of the healthcare law. Part of this has to do with how only holders falling up to 400 percent of the poverty level are eligible for subsidized insurance.

According to a Washington Post Opinions article entitled “Obamacare Disaster Will Be Obama's Enduring Legacy,” the UnitedHealth group in April 2016 announced that, after its loss of around 1 billion dollars between 2015-2016, it would be pulling out of the Obamacare exchanges. In addition, “Highmark, the nation's fourth-largest Blue Cross plan, lost nearly \$600 million in 2015. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina has projected it will lose more than \$400 million in the first two years, and the company has said it may leave the exchanges entirely next year.”

Health Care Service Corp, which owns Blue Cross and Blue Shield affiliates in Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, lost over \$2 billion during Obamacare's first two years of activity. Insurance companies have been required to cover more and more high-risk patients, while being obligated to cover a strikingly higher number of medical services for patients. Lest we forget, even skyrocketing premiums cannot keep them in business forever.

Though the pre-Obama system was far from perfect, at that time in-

surance premiums varied based on the services that the clients themselves requested coverage for. In other words, plans were tailored to fit the needs of individual clients, not mandated by the ACA coverage plans. Some people even lost their plans altogether.

According to Forbes Magazine, an analysis by Charles Gaba (an ACA supporter) showed that average premium increases in the non-group market will average 24 percent for 2017. Money Magazine in October of this year reported that in Michigan, state officials just approved an average price hike of 16.7 percent for individuals purchasing health insurance in 2017 through the state's Affordable Care Act exchange. Individual buyers can expect average increases of 20 percent in Colorado, along with price hikes of 19 percent to 43 percent in Iowa next year.

Under the online healthcare marketplace guidelines, formally known as “exchanges,” people making under \$95,000 per year are eligible for some form of subsidized health care. Meanwhile, the 32 percent of Americans in between \$94,201-\$199,000 are not eligible in subsidies, but pay more in taxes. At the same time, the top eight per-

cent of individual earners making over \$200,000 year receive no subsidies and pay a lot more in taxes, according to Kimberly Amadeo's “The Ultimate Obamacare Handbook.”

The increased costs for some are a natural result of needing to subsidize others. If someone making \$12,000 year is to get a \$15 per month policy and a low deductible under the exchanges, somebody in a higher income bracket with the same plan will have to end up paying \$500 month in premiums with a high deductible so that insurance companies can actually have the funds to treat the less wealthy individual. There is no such thing as a free lunch.

While there are other factors influencing the negative reputation of Obamacare among many Americans, client and insurance dissatisfaction are the key reasons. Through the restoration of choice, competition and personal control, healthcare will become within the reach of all Americans. As a result, it as a whole will be in solid enough state to keep Americans insured, treated and, most importantly, healthy.

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Repealing Obamacare will strain healthcare system

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It took Trump less than a few short hours to act on one of his most frightening campaign promises: Trump repealed the ACA. Although this executive order alone cannot undo all the progress President Obama has made over the past two terms, it acts as a significant symbol of the type of work Trump wants to achieve during his presidency.

Congress has been working hard over the last few months to set up the framework to quickly and easily repeal the ACA during Trump's term. With only nine Republicans in the House voting against the budget measure that would allow Congress to end major provisions of the ACA without the threat of a filibuster in the Senate, sights are not pretty for the 70 million people covered by Medicaid.

So why has such an immensely successful act been so hated throughout our country and our legislature? How can so many people not know that Obamacare and the ACA are, in fact, the same thing?

First of all, we all understand that the ideology behind Obamacare is the sort of redistributive economics that is antithetical to Republican principles. That in and of itself does not explain how Republican legislators have called the ACA "as destructive to personal and individual liber-

ties as the Fugitive Slave Act," and said it "literally kills women, kills children and kills senior citizens" (Bill O'Brien R-NH and Michele Bachmann R-MN respectively).

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation — a California based health-policy research non-profit — the Affordable Care Act has provided affordable healthcare to 15 million people who had no health insurance in 2008 before

The vast media coverage on the high premiums and deductibles of Obamacare have led many people, mostly middle class Americans who are not extremely wealthy but not eligible for subsidies, to question the affordability of the ACA. Ignoring that some 85 percent of ACA enrollees have not felt the pressure of recent spikes in premiums according to a late 2016 Gallup Survey.

In Nov. 2016, 45 percent of Americans said Obamacare was not affordable and had not helped the average low-income American according to a Kaiser Family Foundation Poll.

Facts like the percentage of the American population who are medically uninsured is at an all time low, that unwanted pregnancies are at an all time low and that the price of insurance

Without information on these effects, people are far more susceptible to the "alternative facts" that GOP legislators have been presenting for years. This allows Trump to promise to repeal the ACA while also promising to keep its guidelines on pre-existing conditions and staying on your parents' insurance until you are 26 years old.

Voting on falsehoods and empty promises could lead to tens of millions of low-income people and families losing their ability to get life saving treatments, to get preventative medicine, to prevent unwanted pregnancies and end them safely and so much more.

I know the Affordable Care Act is not my ideal health policy for the United States. I would love to see universal health care provided by the state and not linked through employment, but that is not where we are headed.

Republicans have had years to organize and propose an alternative to the Affordable Care Act; if they were actually planning on replacing it, they would have by now. As Democrats well know, crafting health policy is arduous and extremely tricky. We cannot afford to rely on GOP lawmakers to do that once 15 million people are already uninsured once again, once it is already too late.

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“How can so many people not know that Obamacare and the Affordable Care Act are, in fact, the same thing?”

the Act was passed. There would be 5.7 million more individuals covered if the 24 states that did not accept the Medicaid expansion had.

Donald Trump voters are among a demographic that benefits the most from the Affordable Care Act. Which is hard to understand without looking at what they actually know about their healthcare coverage.

The vast majority of recipients receive federal subsidies that lower their costs of coverage to less than 10 percent of their income depending on their plan, according to the same survey. How can the effects on only 15 percent of recipients paint the entire narrative on this act?

It is commonly argued that a lack of education about healthcare and the immense positive impacts of the ACA is to blame.

has dropped vastly for majority of Americans, are not commonly circulated and not well known.

Programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP have been lifesaving for millions of Americans. I know I would never have been able to be treated when I was a child if it had not been for Hillary Clinton's creation and expansion of the CHIP. These impacts are personal and very real.

“Fat” girls in thongs are not feminist progress

ARIADNE WOLF
OPINIONS EDITOR

“Girls” just got the cover of Glamour magazine, and that dismays me.

Lena Dunham's narcissistic, self-aggrandizing enterprise “Girls” is not something I want to spend my time imbibing, but her verbal emphasis on plus-size pride has forced me to care.

Don't get me wrong, I admire Lena Dunham's forthright willingness to confront her own internalized sexism, as well as America's sizeism. However, I don't appreciate the suggestion that her choice to do so via lots of naked screenshots represents some kind of plus-size movement.

I learned of Dunham's naked presence onscreen around the same time I learned of the storyline where her rapist ex saved her from herself. That was also around the same time I read about her memoir's descriptions of her putting rocks in her baby sister's vagina. All in all, my impression was not positive.

However, Dunham seems to have played into a national trend. Lane Bryant's banned body-positive commercial has spawned Lonely underwear company's ads featuring plus-size women, Dunham included.

That is, these ads feature primarily white, primarily quite thin women wearing a line of underwear which does not go up to my size, but the company touts this as underwear for women of all shapes and sizes. I guess the revolution just passed me by this time.

I don't need this kind of revolution anyway. I need the kind that will empower me to stand naked in front of someone I actually love and

feel good enough. I need whatever lacy lingerie will enable me to sit in a room with this person and believe that I feel beautiful around her because that's how she sees me, rather than because of some illusory cocktail of hormones.

Seeing photos of Dunham naked does not impress me. Though I tout her for her bravery in acknowledging her eating disorder, the body of a wealthy white slightly overweight woman does not experience the same kinds of vulnerability and has not experience the same harms so many other women, myself included, do.

There's an argument to be made that wealthy white women were obliged to behave like doilies and spoilt dolls for millennia, so sexualizing them now is progress. That might be true, if Dunham had instigated her own empowerment campaign independently of an underwear line and television show attempting to attract consumers.

Seeing financially successful female entrepreneurs exploiting their own bodies has got to be really reassuring to misogynists. What a great reminder that no matter how far we advance or how many glass ceilings we shatter, in the end, we're all just a pair of tits underneath it all.

I don't need to know I have the right to be sexualized. I know that already. The tattoo artist who started talking about his porn preferences while digging a needle into my thigh, the years of exploitation and the grabby male relatives all successfully convinced me of that.

If taking selfies of herself mostly naked empowers Dunham, good for her. If walking around naked onscreen empowers her, I'm glad she does it. For me and for many wom-



en I know, this would be one more reminder of the low value placed on any aspect of us outside of our sexual appeal.

I don't need to know that even without being thin, I'm worth seeing naked in expensive frilly underwear I have no actual reason to purchase and couldn't afford anyway. I need to know I'm worth talking to, promoting, loving, being kind to.

I also need to know that I have a right to say no to sexualization. I need to know I am allowed to hate the people who do not seek my permission before trying to figure out what's underneath my clothes. I need reassurance that my body is no one's business except my own.

Instead, “Girls” reminds me that lesbians are supposed to be silent, out of the picture, a footnote in his-

tory books. It points out to me that fat women can be precisely this fat — in Lonely Girls' case, a 36DD — to be displayed as beautiful by mainstream culture, that those who claim to empower us with their products simultaneously pigeonhole or deny our existences. Mostly, it's another indication that women always, everywhere, must consider what is acceptable and lovely in men's eyes, rather than what is comfortable to our bodies.

I don't want the freedom to be naked before the male gaze. Been there, done that. I want the freedom not to do that, and still be rich, famous and, heck, regarded as a feminist icon by women I actually admire and respect. I want the freedom to buy pretty lingerie and wear it in private, for no one's gaze but my own.

While I'm at it, I want to choose my own icons, my own heroes. The size acceptance movement had plenty before Dunham came along, they just did not happen to be a Hollywood elite or b) 140 pounds.

I don't need to be granted the same stages, photo shoots, television characters or awards banquets that Dunham and her ilk are.

If these kinds of photo shoots make Lena Dunham feel better about herself, fine. That doesn't mean she is speaking for me, or improving my life. Her self-declared empowerment renders her more vulnerable to sexual exploitation and the male gaze; mine requires the opposite approach.

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Humans of Willamette

What do you want your 50th birthday party to be like?



D'Angelo Guiton
Junior
Computer Science
Oakland, California

“Well, I’ll probably be old and grey so I don’t want to see anybody but my wife (maybe) and my kids, but even then the kids ... probably not, because I’m probably not going to like my kids. And food? I probably can’t eat like I used to, so let’s stick to fish — like salmon. And I love shrimp. And since it will be the future, I want to bring like hologram Beatles, Jay Z and Beyonce all on the same stage.”



Saniya Lakka
Freshman
Undecided
Gilroy, California

"For my 50th birthday party I would probably have an outdoor volleyball net with a bunch of my friends playing volleyball together. Oh, I would definitely have a chocolate cake because I love chocolate, and we would have Chinese food."



Rayvon Owens
Senior
Sociology
San Diego, California

"Well, it's definitely on the beach. It would be small, probably 10 or 15 people, and I would have a lot of soul food, so a lot of Southern types of food. And we'd just be vibin' out on the beach, smoking a lot of marijuana. Oh, and if I could bring people back from the dead, I would have Jimi Hendrix playing guitar."



Benjamin Johnston
Sophomore
Biology
San Carlos, California

"Well, put very simply, my 50th birthday party is going to take place in the woods of California. And it is all going to center around good food and life-long friends that I have come to love over the years, and we'll embrace nature for what it is."

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The Red Onion Salem Snow Helps to Unravel Climate Change Myth

MASON KELLIHER
CONTRIBUTOR

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientists studying annual weather patterns in Oregon's Willamette Valley have made a shocking discovery: climate change isn't real.

In an official statement the EPA's Head Climatologist, Jay Frost, said, "Our investigation started last December after we received a number of emails and phone calls from residents of the Willamette Valley expressing concern that it was snowing, even though it apparently hadn't snowed there for ages. Initially, we dismissed this as a one-off phenomenon but then it happened again last week. That's when we knew we had to look at this."

Sure enough, after studying the Willamette Valley December-January weather patterns from the past three years, the EPA scientists made a shocking discovery. The climate was not warming, it was, in fact, getting colder.

“All you have to do is look at the numbers. It hadn’t snowed in places

like Salem for three years and all of a sudden you get three or four snow days this winter. It was unprecedented. Nobody could've predicted something like that. Obviously, it means the earth is getting colder, not warmer. It's basic science," Frost said.

The EPA has now changed their official statement on global warming to read: "Climate change was a theory that we once wholeheartedly believed in. However, recent inescapable research coming out of the Pacific Northwest is upending this notion. As an institution that respects the scientific method, our official stance is that the climate is not warming, and is actually most likely cooling down."

With at least one more snow day expected in Salem in late January, the EPA is urging people to keep using their cars and refrain from recycling as we work toward trying to warm the planet up a bit.

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