

COLLEGIAN

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Asthma and ashy rooms: Students say Willamette's smoke response was inadequate

BY BENJAMIN SNELL
STAFF WRITER

With COVID-19 spreading around campus, the safety of students that have chosen to come back to Salem for school has been a source of stress. In recent weeks, however, an additional stress was added to the lives of students: smoke coming in from the Beachie Creek fire. Throughout the periods of smoke, Willamette provided some information on precautions that should be taken and what impact the smoke has for on-campus students and staff members. Students expressed frustration and confusion surrounding how to interpret these messages.

The smoke had an impact on many students' abilities to do day-to-day activities to varying degrees, such as the ability to go to in-person classes or to dine at Goudy. Haley Weinker ('22) commented on how it was affecting her ability to eat, as well as triggering her asthma. She

eventually had to leave campus due to how bad it was, saying, "there was a layer of ash in my room because my windows didn't close all the way, and I kind of decided... it's better for me to just get out for the weekend while I can, and I'm not going to regret it."

Several other students either left campus or thought about it because of the safety hazards the smoke brought. Brianna Kurtenbach ('22) provided a similar sentiment to Weinker, saying that she had asthma as well, which prevented her from moving around campus much. "Monday night when the smoke first started to come in, I was already getting headaches and feeling really out of it, breathing was difficult. Then we woke up on Tuesday in the apocalypse, and every other sentence I spoke, I was hacking." She eventually came to the decision to leave campus for her own safety. Eleanor Stanford ('22) said that although she thought

about leaving campus, she felt like she could wait it out in her house off campus.

Additional concern from students also arose surrounding the administration's actions when it came to ensuring the safety of students and staff. Stanford was unimpressed with Willamette's unwillingness to provide N95 masks to staff members on campus when they had to work. She said, "I feel like that was something that was like a bare minimum that they could have done."

Kurtenbach added onto this, saying that she felt there should have been more support for those who did not want to work and those who chose to come in. She said that she thought "they should have been given an option to come in, and if they didn't come in, to not be penalized for that. And for those who did come in, they were given the proper, to the extreme safety precautions."

ASHY, 5

Opinion: Willamette should avoid "See Something, Say Something" rhetoric

BY KATHLEEN FORREST
MANAGING EDITOR

Since reopening in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, alongside posted signs and infographics of 'Blitz the Bearcat' learning to wear a mask, Willamette University administrators have been informally pushing the motto "See Something, Say Something." This phrase is meant to prompt the student body to essentially self-police when it comes to pandemic precautions such as wearing masks and practicing social distancing. It's an innocuous seeming phrase, heard often over the crackling speakers of transportation centers, yet many of us will bristle at the use of it perhaps without even knowing why. Given the university administration's use of the phrase in emails to students, such as an August 27 email from Lisa Landreman and in a recent email interview with the Collegian, it's worth examining the history and the connotations behind the phrase as well as the role it plays in the larger rhetoric regarding COVID-19 on campus. When that background is taken into consideration, it shows that the term is deeply problematic and could have a negative and unintended impact on the culture of Willamette.

After the events of September 11, 2001, the United States underwent a significant cultural and political

shift. One of the persistent and unassuming remnants of this change is the slogan, "See Something, Say Something." According to a New York Times article, the line was originally written by an advertising executive named Allen Kay, the day after 9/11, and was intended for the Metropolitan Transit Authority. It is still the legal trademark of the MTA,

"In a moment where the entire country felt vulnerable many saw it as empowering them to protect their community, but it also left very little guidance on what exactly they were protecting it from."

KATHLEEN FORREST

but they have permitted its usage for other government and transit departments, perhaps the most notable and widely known being the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). For the DHS it became more than just a slogan and is now representative of an entire trademarked anti-terrorism campaign.

The DHS website introduces their campaign with the following paragraph: "Across the nation, we're all part of communities. In cities, on farms, and in the suburbs, we

share everyday moments with our neighbors, colleagues, family, and friends. It's easy to take for granted the routine moments in our every day—going to work or school, the grocery store or the gas station. But your every day is different than your neighbor's—filled with the moments that make it uniquely yours. So if you see something you know shouldn't be there—or someone's behavior that doesn't seem quite right—say something. Because only you know what's supposed to be in your everyday."

For many Americans this small piece of writing was compelling, and it certainly kept with a view of an idyllic, routine American existence that could be shattered at any moment by an act of terror. In a moment where the entire country felt vulnerable many saw it as empowering them to protect their community, but it also left very little guidance on what exactly they were protecting it from. The idea that the average American knew best what "shouldn't be there" or what behavior "doesn't seem quite right" is quite an assumption. To trust that those people would be able to examine the situation while accounting for their own bias goes beyond assumption into absurdity.

RHETORIC, 7

Air quality: ASWU and Dean Feingold talked, disagreed over potential suspension of classes

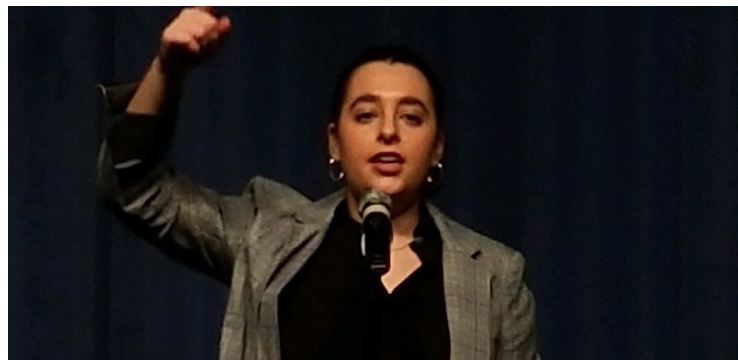
BY EMMA INES
STAFF WRITER

As the air in Salem became hazardous due to the smoke from wildfires, there was a question of whether Willamette University should suspend all classes, remote included instead of just going remote. The Associated Students of Willamette University (ASWU), Willamette's student government, made a statement of solidarity in an email sent to all students on Sept. 11. This was day five of the smoke. The statement acknowledged the effects of the hazardous air quality on top of the challenges of a global pandemic on the health of students and faculty. Also mentioned were concerns of students about continuing academics during that difficult period. Due to these concerns, ASWU sent out the following recommendation to Willamette and faculty: "Suspend or optionalize classes, assignments, and atten-

dance over the coming days. If a full suspension/optionalization is not possible, provide and communicate leniency with attendance, participation and deliverables. Provide flexibility to students to manage their wellbeing as they see fit." The statement of solidarity was signed by a majority of ASWU Senators, the ASWU Executive branch and the ASWU Judicial branch.

The same day, a letter was sent to the then Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Ruth Feingold signed by three of the four senators from the class of 2024: Senator Zeke Druker, Senator Mira Karthik and Senator Inez Anais Nieves. The email expressed concerns over a leaked email sent to faculty from Feingold that Wednesday reportedly discouraging the cancellation of classes, called on Willamette to take action on ASWU's recommendations and expressed the senators' concerns about Willamette not respecting student input.

SUSPENSION, 3



ASWU Senator Inez Nieves

COURTESY OF INEZ NIEVES



ASWU Senator Mira Karthik

COURTESY OF MIRA KARTHIK



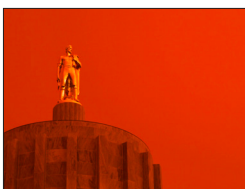
ASWU Senator Zeke Druker

COURTESY OF ZEKE DRUCKER



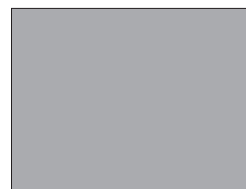
NEWS

Information of voting in Oregon and the new Blitz Market.



LIFESTYLES

More on the conversation between Feingold and ASWU during the fires.



OPINIONS

The uncertainty for spring study abroad and a letter from the Editor-in-Chief.

Make your voice heard: Oregon voter's guide

BY SHAWNA MERRILL
STAFF WRITER

Election Day will be one of the most important days of not only this year, but the next half decade. In the 2016 General Election, less than half of the U.S. student population registered and voted. Students should know how they can make their impact best, and the importance their vote carries. Before students cast their ballots, however, there is a lot of important information they need to know. Are they registered to vote? Do they know how to track their ballot? Knowing all the key information will help ensure the students' votes count this election.

Students living on campus or off campus in Oregon may register as an Oregon voter regardless of what state they came from or their family resides now- as long as students are registered in only one state. If students are looking for information as an Oregon voter, the best place to start is the Voting & Elections section of the Secretary of State of Oregon's [website]. Here, they will be able to get information on who is running for office, how voting in Oregon works, where ballot drop sites are and more. Those who have been displaced by the wildfires in Oregon can look further on the [website] to find additional infor-

mation on where and how they can receive and return their ballots. Students MUST be registered to vote no later than October 13. If a student is unsure of their registration status or still needs to register, [vote.org] is a very helpful website. You can also sign up for election reminders on the site, which will inform you when to vote and what documents are necessary to vote. One common concern many have with voting by mail is How do I ensure my vote is counted? This is a somewhat complicated question, as it varies depending on where each student is registered. If registered in Marion County, students can track their ballot [online]. When asked what students should know going into election season, Richard Ellis, Mark O. Hatfield professor of Politics, Policy, Law and Ethics at Willamette, gave some helpful advice: "Don't just vote, get your friends to vote. Here you can pledge to be a voter (and help three friends do the same): [link]." You can pledge to be a voter even if you are unable to register before the election. Before students make their vote, they should make sure they have all the information they need.

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JAKE PROCINO | NEWS EDITOR

WEEKLY REPORT BY CAMPUS SAFETY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

September 24, 8:13 a.m. (Law School): Campus Safety received a call reporting an individual had fallen down the stairs and injured their arm. Officers responded and evaluated the individual. Medics were then contacted and the individual was transported to the hospital.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/PERSONS

September 22, 9:28 a.m. (Sparks Parking Lot): While on patrol, an officer encountered an individual carrying cans walking through campus. The officer made contact with the individual and let them know that the campus was closed to visitors and they then left.

September 22, 10:17 a.m. (Shepard Hall): While on patrol, an officer encountered an individual with two children on campus. The individual was informed that the campus is closed to visitors and they then left.

September 22, 6:40 p.m. (Matthews Parking Lot): While on patrol, an officer encountered an individual without a mask on. The individual was informed the campus was closed to visitors and they then left.

September 22, 11:29 p.m. (Tennis Courts): While on patrol, an of-

ficer encountered an individual sleeping in the area. The officer made contact with the individual who then left campus.

September 23, 10:49 a.m. (Japanese Gardens): Campus Safety received a report of items left in the area. Officers responded and searched the area and an individual came out to the bushes claiming the items. The individual was then informed they would need to collect their items and relocate off campus.

September 23, 1:01 p.m. (Jackson Plaza): Campus Safety received numerous calls reporting an individual on campus without a mask on and who also appeared to be under the influence. Officers responded and found the individual who then ran. The officers followed the individual to ensure the individual stayed off campus.

September 23, 1:42 p.m. (Skybridge): While on patrol, an officer noticed an individual walk on the bridge without a mask on. The officer made contact with the individual who stated that they were lost. The individual then left campus.

September 23, 1:47 p.m. (Sparks Parking Lot): While on patrol an officer noticed another individu-

al without a mask on. The officer made contact with the individual and informed that the campus was closed to visitors.

September 24, 8:13 p.m. (Goudy Commons): Campus Safety received a call reporting two individuals walking without masks on. An officer responded and informed the individuals of the campus mask and no visitor policies. The two individuals then left.

September 24, 10:00 p.m. (Mill Stream): Campus Safety received a call reporting two individuals walking without masks on. An officer responded and informed the individuals of the campus mask and no visitor policies. The two individuals then left. .

September 25, 10:35 p.m. (Atkinson GSM): Campus Safety received a call reporting an individual sleeping in the area. Officers responded and made contact with the individual who then left campus.

September 25, 12:06 p.m. (University Center): Campus Safety received a call reporting students in the area eating lunch. An officer responded and informed the students that they would have to relocate to one of the designated locations for eating on campus.

September 25, 2:56 p.m. (Quad): Campus Safety received a call reporting an individual trying to sell gift cards to individuals passing by. An officer responded and made contact with the individual and they were removed from campus.

September 25, 6:35 p.m. (Goudy Commons): Campus Safety received a call reporting an individual smoking outside the building. The individual was informed of the campus no smoking policy and no visitor policy and was asked to leave campus.

September 26, 1:00 a.m. (Blue Parking Lot): While on patrol, an officer encountered an individual yelling and screaming while walking through campus. Officers responded and met with the individual who was then directed off campus.

September 26, 12:20 p.m. (Quad): Campus Safety received a call reporting a family on campus without masks on. An officer responded and met with the family and they were informed of the mask and no visitors on campus policies. The individuals then left campus.

September 27, 6:20 p.m. (Matthews Parking Lot): Campus Safety received a call reporting a

large group of unmasked teenagers walking through campus. An officer responded and assured they exited campus.

THEFT

September 24, 4:01 a.m. (Matthews Parking Lot): A student contacted Campus Safety after noticing their fuel canister and gloves were stolen from their moped. A report was filed.

TRESSPASS

September 23, 7:35 a.m. (Botanical Gardens): While on patrol, an officer encountered an individual who was previously trespassed from the University. The officer made contact with the individual who then left campus after being warned they were going to be arrested.

PLEASE CONTACT
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YOU HAVE ANY
INFORMATION
REGARDING THESE
INCIDENTS.
(503) 370-6911

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Air quality: ASWU and Dean Feingold talked, disagreed over potential suspension of classes

CONTINUED from Page 1

The email from the class of 2024 senators said, “We recognize that this letter was written on Wednesday; perhaps the ASWU statement has newly revealed that students do indeed support the suspension of classes.”

In an interview, Senator Zeke Druker (’24) mentioned that they had been reaching out to constituents or being reached out to through email, on Facebook, in their dorm and anywhere else they had access in order to gauge how constituents were feeling. Druker did talk to two students who wanted classes to continue, but all the other students they talked to had concerns about online classes.

In an interview, ASWU President Claire Mathews-Lingen (’21) said she heard from students who wanted remote classes and students who wanted classes suspended. In terms of what she heard from students who wanted classes suspended, she said: “A few students had direct experience with family, or they themselves needed to be evacuated due to the fire. Some were more broad concerns for seeing that the community was [kind of] struggling, that their professors were under strain.” She also spoke to the faculty president, who said that the faculty were trying to be accommodating.

In the email to Feingold, the 2024 senators were very concerned over lack of student input in the email sent to faculty: “The most troubling piece of the entire email comes when you assert, with apparently very little

student interaction to back it up, that “[f]or every student who finds themselves too traumatized or distracted to fully attend to their schoolwork, there are others supported by the routines of their academic program as well as by the connections with faculty and classmates in those settings.”” The senators of 2024 refuted this claim, stating they saw no evidence of this during their interactions with students. The email from the 2024 senators concludes with restating how concerning the lack of interest in student input is, and calling on the Willamette administration to amplify student voices if the administration wants to serve students.

Feingold responded to the class of 2024 senators in an email, assuring she believed the senators’ experiences with what students want, and telling of her experience with feedback. Feingold stated in the email that she spoke to students who said they and their friends don’t want classes canceled. She also said professors don’t want to cancel classes and have mentioned that their students don’t want classes canceled. Feingold also had concerns over how clear the options were in ASWU’s statement of solidarity. She pointed out how different suspending is from optionalizing and how the phrase ASWU used for how long classes should be suspended was open ended. Feingold also stated that leniency and flexibility in regards to assignments was up to individual professors. She said most professors feel that they are doing this, but acknowledged the senators’ experiences expressed otherwise.

Feingold’s email ended with inviting ASWU to further discuss this issue of suspending classes. Druker did meet with her one on one, according to Druker and Mathews-Lingen. According to Druker, Feingold did agree to ask faculty to prioritize communication, but expressed she was unable to cancel classes. Feingold provided Druker a variety of reasons for this: not being sure it was what the student body wanted, students not coming forward about what they wanted due to cancel culture and legal requirements in regards to instructional days. Druker also said: “She expressed it was extremely unusual for a university to ever cancel classes. My response of course was that it’s extremely unusual for a university to experience a global pandemic simultaneously a wildfire.”

In regards to Feingold’s response to his letter, Druker stated: “I feel that Dean Feingold sent a very pleasant response. The dean was broadly sympathetic, I do not feel in terms of material action Dean Feingold has taken, had taken or probably will continue to take significant steps to prioritize student health. In terms of her interests as dean, and our interests as students, there is an incompatibility.” Druker believed that Feingold did not take material action that prioritized student health. For a future response, Druker would want to see the administration work closer with ASWU, and craft a response that prioritizes student needs.

Druker said in an interview that they received reports from students about concerns over professors not

being accommodating. They said they received several stories where one or two of a student’s professors were being very accommodating, while others weren’t being accommodating or proactive in communication. Druker also mentioned a professor “...who refused to allow an extension to a student that reported feeling anxious and unwell.”

Mathews-Lingen is working to prepare the University for the next time there may be smoke in the air from wildfires. She has planned a discussion with interim dean of CAS Sarah Kirk to address the difficulties STEM classes may have in being accommodating. She also plans to work with student support staff to help support students with self advocacy whenever needed.

Druker encouraged everyone to be active in the democratic process here at Willamette and to reach out to them if needed: “I hope that everybody stays safe and everybody feels comfortable reaching out to at least somebody in the university’s structure if they feel their professors are not being appropriately accommodating.” They also would like to remind everyone that ASWU has many projects that need student input.

Mathews-Lingen also encouraged students to continue to reach out to her. She acknowledged it’s been a difficult situation for the community and stated, “I hope people are taking care of themselves.”

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Inéz Nieves

COURTESY OF INÉZ NIEVES



Zeke Druker

COURTESY OF ZEKE DRUKER



Mira Karthik

COURTESY OF MIRA KARTHIK

Avoid the Goudy line with a quick meal at Blitz Market



The inside of Blitz Market

GRACE SHIFFRIN | PHOTOGRAPHER

BY SANJA ZELEN
STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of this fall semester, a new convenience store opened in Willamette’s University Center (U.C.) that offers an alternative dining experience for students wanting to try something new and skip the Goudy lunch line.

Blitz Market, opposite of the Bistro in the U.C., is an extension of Goudy Commons Cafe that opened on September 24. Blitz Market serves snacks, beverages and meals that are not offered at Goudy or the Millstream Market. Open on Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on the weekend from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., Blitz Market is a resource for any snack or lunch needs students may have.

Inside Blitz Market. Photo by Grace Shiffrin.

Darin Wachs, Café Bon Appétit’s director of operations, explained the services Blitz Market offers: “[We] offer some products for retail that are very limited on campus right now. We offer retail items of snacks and beverages. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., we have a chef-inspired entree for a quick grab-and-go option to utilize with your board meal points.”

Any form of campus payment

can be used at Blitz Market, Wachs says: “For the meal itself, [students] can get a meal and a canned beverage. The board meal will be used for the global lunch special meal, then flex points or Compass Cash can be used for any other items within the cold case on the retail level.”

Goudy Commons Cafe, Willamette’s primary dining hall, has catered to Willamette students, staff and outside residents for years. During the fall 2020 semester, Goudy has continued to serve students by providing meals in boxes and enforcing social distancing in the common areas. However, COVID-19 guidelines limiting entry into Goudy and leading to the closure of Kaneko have resulted in longer lunch lines.

Wachs highlights Blitz Market as, “an opportunity for a quicker, faster hot meal. It avoids the line over at Goudy that can be a little bit daunting from time to time, but we’re doing our best to minimize that on a daily basis.”

There are plans to expand Blitz Market once stricter safety measures can be set in place and things return to normal in terms of campus reopening. “The goal is to allow for more people [inside] and perhaps do some demo cooking or more exhibition-type op-

portunities,” Wachs says. “If we’re able to serve other types of food, like Goudy had with live food in front of you, that’s the next step that we want to try to evolve the market into, as well as getting a better feel for what students want to purchase for retail items.” A live dining experience would resemble the wrap line or global meal station at Goudy, where food was made on the spot for customers.

Wachs explains that Blitz Market staff are “constantly trying to be mindful of our retail mix so it’s staying progressive. It’s got alternative vegan items you may not see in other places.”

The staff at Blitz Market are willing to take recommendations from students via the comment cards in Goudy or by email in terms of what snacks and meals students would like to see at the market. Plans to expand Blitz Market include providing more meal, snack and beverage options for students as well as incorporating live dining experiences. With flexible hours and grab-and-go meals, Blitz Market is a service that is suitable for the dining needs of students wanting extra snacks or a quicker, alternative meal.

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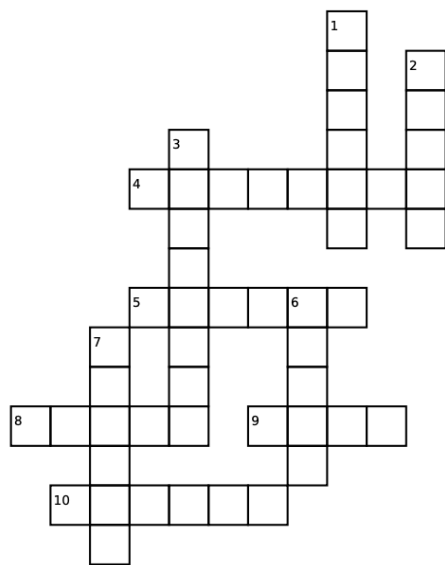
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Academic Disciplines



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Biology
English
Economics
History
Humanities
Exercise Science
Philosophy
Politics
Mathematics
Psychology
Music
Religious Studies
Rhetoric
Theatre
Sociology

Buildings on WU's Campus

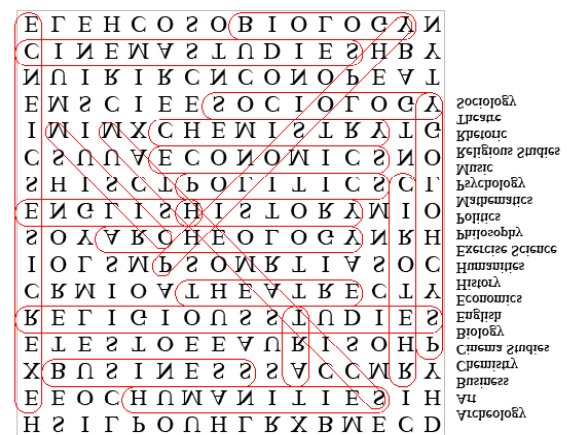


- Down:

1. This dorm sits atop Montag Center
2. Come here for breakfast, lunch and dinner
3. The oldest resident hall on campus
6. This building overlooks the WU's rose garden
7. Mail and packages get delivered here

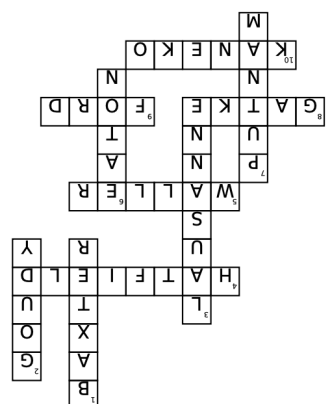
- Across:**

4. You can come here for a quiet study space
5. Cone Chapel is on the second floor of this hall
8. This building used to be a post office
9. The World Languages Studio lives here
10. You can get here via skybridge



Academic Disciplines

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 10. | Mail and packages get delivered here |
| 9. | The World Languages Studio lives here |
| 8. | This building used to be post office |
| 7. | This building overlooks the WU's rose garden |
| 6. | The oldest resident hall on campus |
| 5. | Come here for breakfast, lunch and dinner |
| 4. | This dorm sits atop Montez Center |
| 3. | Across |
| 2. | You can come here for a quiet study space |
| 1. | Cone Chapel is on the second floor of this hall |



Buildings on WU's Campus

Asthma and ashy rooms: Students say Willamette’s smoke response was inadequate

BY BEN SNELL
STAFF WRITER

The presence of COVID-19 on campus has been a source of stress for many students that have chosen to come back to Salem for school.

“Monday night when the smoke first started to come in, I was already getting headaches and feeling really out of it, breathing was difficult. Then we woke up on Tuesday in the apocalypse, and every other sentence I spoke, I was hacking.”

–Eleanor Stanford

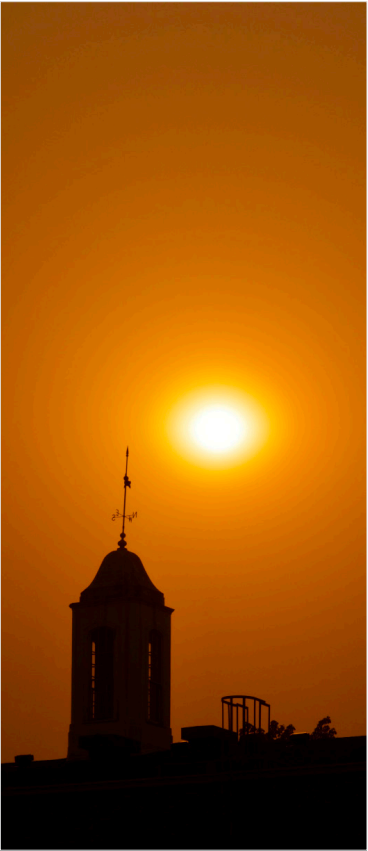
In recent weeks, however, an additional stress was added to the lives of students: smoke coming in from the Beachie Creek fire. Throughout the periods of smoke, Willamette provided some information on precautions that should be taken and what impact the smoke has for on-campus students and staff members. Students expressed frustration and confusion surrounding how to interpret these messages.

The smoke had an impact on many students’ abilities to do day-to-day activities to varying degrees, such as the ability to go to in-person classes or to dine at Goudy. Haley Weinker (‘22) commented on how it was affecting her ability to eat, as well as triggering her asthma. She eventually had to leave campus due to how bad it was, saying, “there was a layer of ash in my room because my windows didn’t close all the way, and I kind of decided... it’s better for me to just get out for the week-end while I can, and I’m not going to regret it.”

Several other students either left campus or thought about it because of the safety hazards the smoke brought. Brianna Kurtenbach (‘22) provided a similar sentiment to Weinker, saying that she had asthma as well, which prevented her from moving around campus much. “Monday night when the smoke first started to come in, I was already getting headaches and feeling really out of it, breathing was difficult. Then we woke up on Tuesday in the apocalypse, and every other sentence I spoke, I was hacking.” She eventually came to the decision to leave campus for her own safety. Eleanor Stanford (‘22) said that al-



Smoke from the fires reaching campus, obscuring the sky from view and altering the light to a ghoulish color during the school week. Many students remained indoors due to the hazardous air quality. (Top left) View from outside Eaton Hall. (Bottom left) View of the capitol building as the smoke distorts the light to a read- orange color. (Bottom right) View of the sun through the haze above Smullin building.



IMAGES BY KEGAN RASCOE

though she thought about leaving campus, she felt like she could wait it out in her house off campus.

Additional concern from students also arose surrounding the administration’s actions when it came to ensuring the safety of students and staff. Stanford was unimpressed with Willamette’s unwillingness to provide N95 masks to staff members on campus when they had to work. She said, “I feel like that was something that was like a bare minimum that they could have done.”

Kurtenbach added onto this, saying that she felt there should

ing as to how seriously Willamette was taking the smoke, especially considering the damaging effects of smoke exposure. All three students that were interviewed thought that when Willamette began experiencing haziness on-campus, the school’s reaction came off as very nonchalant. Weinker said that although the school did not completely ignore the situation, “all the homework, courses, everything that we needed to do before, we had to just understand how to do it a different way for the smoke.”

Stanford also talked about a

munication between school and student body could have been much clearer. Stanford, being an off campus student, said, “I don’t know what they implemented [on campus] based off of what they were saying. And I kind of wish that was made more clear. Like, I don’t know how bad the air quality was inside the dorms but I feel like that should have been a priority.” She also added that if she was “in [Willamette’s] shoes, put a little more emphasis right away on the threat that it might be posing to students, and not just thinking of it as, “you’re

accommodating to the students that were immediately affected by the fires, saying that both the administration and the student body could make better attempts to raise awareness. She shared the story of one student who had lost his home in the fires, saying “if every student posted something about the Go-FundMe for the kid who lost his family home, I feel like there could be so much done.”

Clarification added Oct. 2: First sentence was reworted to more accurately reflect the size of COVID-19’s presence on campus.

“[Students and staff who work on campus] should have been given an option to come in, and if they didn’t come in, to not be penalized for that. And for those who did come in, they were given the proper, to the extreme safety precautions.”

–Eleanor Stanford (‘22)

have been more support for those who did not want to work and those who chose to come in. She said that she thought “they should have been given an option to come in, and if they didn’t come in, to not be penalized for that. And for those who did come in, they were given the proper, to the extreme safety precautions.”

There was also some question-

post made on behalf of an official Willamette account on Instagram, saying that it showed unnecessary humor during a time when many were panicking. “They posted something about how the orange skies were like an all-natural Instagram filter around campus, which was so insensitive,” Stanford said.

Students also said that the com-

safe if you’re not evacuating.”

Kurtenbach agreed with Stanford’s sentiment regarding the urgency of the situation, saying that the response was “very understated,” and that the school tried to create a sense of normalcy in a time when this was far from the case.

Weinker also stated that the school should have been much more

Opinion: The Willamette bubble protects campus from Salem COVID-19 risk, such as Salem Awakening

BY SANJA ZELEN
STAFF WRITER

Over the years, Willamette has gained a reputation for being in a “bubble.” Known as the “Willamette Bubble,” it is defined as the university and its students being partially isolated from the rest of Salem. Under normal circumstances, it’s debatable whether the Willamette bubble is beneficial or not for the Willamette community. On the one hand, it is comforting to have a routine and know that there is always a community there for support. On the other, it can be difficult to branch out and find places to explore off-campus, especially given that Salem is not a college town. However, in the midst of a pandemic, the Willamette bubble could just be the thing that protects Willamette students and faculty and preserves in-person learning.

With Willamette’s closure to outside guests and visitors marked by red signs lining campus, Willamette is effectively trapped in a strict, yet protective bubble. Everyone on campus is required to wear a mask, except when they are in their personal dorm room or in the dining hall eating. Because of this, the bubble encourages conformity, rather than critiques it. Strict requirements that may not be seen outside of Willamette’s campus set it apart from the rest of Salem and protect campus from off-campus, non-Willamette visitors.

Willamette’s bubble can also protect it from infection-risking outside events. A recent religious

event that occurred in Salem was just one instance of unsafe practices.

On September 4, members of religious group Salem Awakening hosted an event at Riverfront Park called ‘Let Us Worship.’ Referred to as a potential “Super Spreader” event by the Statesman Journal, 678 people were predicted to have attended, hundreds of whom were baptized in the Willamette River (Statesman Journal). Pictures posted on the social media handle @salemawakening2020 show that few to none of the attendees were wearing masks or distancing.

Photographers and musicians traveled to Salem for ‘Let Us Worship,’ further increasing the risk of spreading COVID-19 to Marion County from outside areas. The same organization has been hosting events of a similar scale in other parts of the country, such as Seattle, Washington and Orlando, Florida. Musician Sean Feucht (@seanfeucht on Instagram) shared pictures of these events, having traveled to many of them to perform, including the event in Salem. No socially-distanced participants are captured in the photos, and only a handful are wearing masks.

Willamette’s bubble, enforced by the red signs lining campus, could protect the Willamette community from any potential cases that spring up from events like Salem Awakening’s, as none of the non-Willamette Salem residents that attended the event would be allowed to come onto campus. A Today@Willamette email sent out on September 3

further encouraged Willamette students to limit their involvement off-campus: “We strongly encourage those who are living in Salem (either on or off campus) to avoid traveling to your permanent home, visiting family, or leaving the area as much as possible” in order to avoid “family and group transmission.”

Instagram page @wu_mask_watch was created around September 11 as a way to report instances where students are not wearing masks on campus (the creator of the page is unknown). Students can send pictures to the account as a direct message (DM). The account’s tactic of peer pressure can force students that do not comply with campus guidelines to reconsider their choices. Being a small school and tight knit community, compliance should be instinctive. In relation to the bubble, @wu_mask_watch can help to put pressure on and call out certain individuals to enforce campus conformity that is essential for protection.

However, there is no way to ensure that Bearcats avoid unsafe social gatherings such as Salem Awakening. Additionally, Campus Safety has received a considerable amount of calls throughout the semester reporting instances where campus regulations were broken. Just last Monday, September 20, Campus Safety responded to a call from a student reporting 30-40 shirtless, maskless individuals in the Chicken Fountain. Campus Safety could not locate the individuals when they arrived, as all people involved ran away.

Ross Stout, Director of Campus Safety, spoke on the amount of unsafe practices that have been reported regarding a lack of distancing, mask wearing, or the presence of non-Bearcats on campus: “Prior to about two weeks ago, we were getting a couple calls a day. We had family members here dropping students off who weren’t aware of the regulations. People were just concerned and regularly reporting that.”

Campus Safety’s sentiment echoes @wu_mask_watch’s purpose and message. “If there are fellow students that aren’t complying, we would encourage [others] to confront them directly about that,” Stout said. “I think peer pressure is an effective tool, perhaps more than authorities confronting people. If it’s off-campus people and [students] feel in any way intimidated or threatened, they should call Campus Safety.”

As in-person learning progresses, Campus Safety has fortunately received fewer calls about a lack of masks, with Stout stating that the calls have, “...slowed down exponentially. We get maybe one or two [calls] a week. I think the signs are working and there aren’t as many off-campus people wandering on.”

Third-year student Oksana Greenwood shared her thoughts on the Willamette bubble. She thinks it is a positive thing during COVID-19, viewing it as an opportunity to stay in touch with fellow classmates: “I think during COVID [the bubble is] positive because it’s been a lonely time. Having people to rely on and peo-

ple that you know really well in the bubble is a positive thing to go back to. During COVID, you can’t really go out in the [Salem] community and do anything. Even though you’re not seeing each other, you still have those [Willamette] connections.”

For the inevitable instances when students have to leave the campus bubble, Greenwood said that most Salem residents still follow guidelines, ensuring that students don’t have to stay inside the bubble 100 percent of the time to ensure they stay safe and healthy. “Everywhere I’ve gone, people are wearing masks, even just downtown walking outside,” Greenwood said. “Downtown Salem is very small, so it’s very hard to keep your distance from people walking on sidewalks. Stores are really good about requiring you to wear a mask inside.”

Willamette’s bubble has had negative connotations in the past due to its tendency to isolate the Willamette community from the rest of Salem. During the pandemic, negative stereotypes associated with the bubble should be erased. Greenwood appreciates the bubble because it keeps students connected to each other during a pressing time. The bubble also prevents outside transmission from Salem residents and attendees of events that do not adhere to national guidelines.

Regardless of how students have previously viewed the Willamette bubble, it is important to reach out to others for support and protect oneself to preserve the safety measures that are being enforced at Willamette.

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Letter from the editor: How the Collegian will serve you.

Date: Sept. 27th, 2020

Hello all,

My name is Noah Dantes (he/him) and I am serving as this year’s Collegian editor-in-chief. It’s already almost October, but I wanted to take the time to introduce myself, talk about the changes the Collegian has made in recent months and make clear what the Willamette community can expect from its paper this year.

I recognize that the Collegian has a trust deficit with the Willamette community that has been directly caused by the Collegian’s past actions. I understand that over the years, the paper has misrepresented information and stories, used harmful language in print, favored certain subject matters and opinions, mishandled sensitive situations and more. The Collegian’s core responsibility is to serve the entire Willamette community, and many of our past actions have not been in line with that mission. We are doing everything in our power to rebuild community trust in us by taking steps to position the paper to serve Willamette the way it deserves: by taking considered and deliberate actions to improve the Collegian’s culture and systems with our core responsibility in mind.

This summer, the previous editor-in-chief, this year’s exec team and I wrote the Collegian’s first policy handbook and a new, publicly viewable mission statement, both of which can be found on our website under

the “About” tab. As part of hiring, all staff members have read and signed their agreement to both, and both were reviewed live during fall’s trainings. The policy handbook and mission statement will serve as a guide for our decision making and will hold all at the Collegian accountable, including myself and the exec team. This is not to say the Collegian will no longer make mistakes—they are bound to happen, no matter how many policies we create. I promise to handle all mistakes with respect and transparency, supported by the policies outlined on our website. Willamette offers no journalism program, so the Collegian is a learning opportunity for all that join it. We appreciate your patience and hope you stick with us as we learn and grow.

Three years ago, the Collegian hired Len Reed, a professional journalist, to be its journalistic consultant. Importantly, he does not make decisions for the paper, but rather provides advice and lessons on journalistic best practices. The commitment and thoughtfulness of the last couple editor-in-chiefs, helped by Len’s guidance, have fueled a slow but methodical rebuilding and improvement of the paper over the last three years. As the new editor-in-chief, this is a trend I will continue. I promise not to become complacent or be content with “good enough,” but rather continually push the paper to grow and build on everything that’s come before. I recognize that despite the progress the

paper has made, there remains much more work and learning to be done.

The Collegian was challenged by COVID-19 this year, like every other organization on the planet. In response, we have moved away from the print edition, at least for the fall semester. While this change is saddening for many, including myself, I believe this change has allowed the Collegian to better serve the Willamette community.

Before, the website was viewed as secondary to print; the website’s sole purpose was to digitalize what was already being put in print. The Collegian’s entire system was geared around what worked best for our printing schedule, which was a strict weekly writing schedule. This is despite the fact that some articles on our underdeveloped website last year got between 1,000 and 2,000 clicks. The website has always had the capability of reaching more people than our print edition will ever be able to. A new website was built from scratch over the summer and internal discussions on design and improved outreach are ongoing, but we’ve changed more than just our website. This change in thinking, that we are online first and only, fueled a number of systemic changes, mainly surrounding the writing and publication schedule.

The overarching goal is to have a “living” website. This means that when one opens up the website, they see current news, rather than a slew of arti-

cles from the previous Wednesday with nothing since. In line with this goal, we have done away with the old strict weekly writing schedule and Wednesday website article dump. Now, articles are uploaded as they become ready on all days of the week. Each article has its own publication timeline, ranging from just a day to three weeks. Timelines are now more flexible since there is no set amount of content that needs to be produced on a weekly basis, since there is no physical paper to fill the empty space of. Before, the Collegian had to contend with the fact it had eight pages to fill every week and none of them could be left blank.

Additionally, there is no longer an article size requirement. Articles can be as short as a single sentence to as long as 2,000 words. In the days of print, all articles had to be long enough to fill the empty space in its section, but short enough so that its section didn’t go above its allotted space limit. This change encourages writer creativity and flexibility, and does away with any filler.

This changed writing and publication schedule helps the Collegian better serve its readers for two reasons. First, it allows us to be timely: we now publish information when we know it and have it ready, rather than only on Wednesdays with the print edition. Second, it empowers staff to produce better content. The Collegian went online-only due to COVID-19, and may return to the print edition

when safe to do so—but even if print resumes, the paper will remain online first, print second. This is because our new writing schedule and systems empower the paper to better serve the entire Willamette community.

Timeliness and accuracy, while vital before, are even more important during the time of COVID-19. It is a terrible and challenging time globally, which makes strong journalism more important now than ever. Willamette students, faculty, administrators, employees, alumni and parents all deserve to have issues and matters that concern them covered accurately, promptly and impartially by the Collegian. As editor-in-chief, this is a responsibility I promise to take seriously and uphold. Beyond this promise, you can expect the paper to continue to improve through constant reassessment and proactive decision making. We will make mistakes along the way, as we are student journalists, but we will take responsibility for them and learn from them. Improvement is our goal, and I hope you’ll stick with us while we strive towards it.

My inbox is always open for any thoughts, questions, concerns or tips you may have. I look forward to continuing to work with the Collegian’s staff this year to produce content that serves you.

Sincerely,

Noah Dantes

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Opinion: End the uncertainty—cancel spring study abroad trips

BY PIPER LEHR
STAFF WRITER

Update: On Sept. 28, Kris Lou said in an email that Willamette has decided to cancel all spring semester study abroad programs.

Last semester, Willamette University cancelled its study abroad programs in accordance with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) COVID-19 restrictions. The university's specific spring 2019 policy was to, "recall students from programs at level 3." Level 3 in this instance refers to the CDC's system of travel warnings, which consists of the following designations: no travel health notice, which means that COVID-19 risk is very low; level 1, meaning that risk is low; level 2, meaning that risk is moderate; and level 3, meaning that COVID-19 risk is high. While an unfortunate side effect of the virus, it was ultimately for the best, to get students back with family and in a position where they would be better able to self-quarantine. Fall 2020 programs have also been cancelled, "due to continued restrictions related to COVID-19."

But according to Dr. Kris Lou, director of Willamette's Office of International Education (OIE), "Willamette hasn't cancelled spring programs." Some countries are out of their control: "Some already informed us that they won't be allowing us to travel, like New Zealand, Australia." He went on to say: "And things change daily,

and we have to adapt. And partners on our programs, they might drop out and say no, and pull their students."

For the other countries, the OIE is planning ahead as if spring programs will still occur while adapting to any updates the CDC may issue. If the threat level stays at level 3, the OIE will cancel that program. "It's the same scenario

ty's response is] going to depend where the student is, which program, is it a host family, university housing, whatever the case may be. We would need to have that plan in place for how that student would be managed by the support structure that's in place in the country. A general answer to that would be an obvious isolation of the student for the period of time

them in an uncomfortable place in terms of liability. This would be a disastrous situation to say the least, and one that is easily preventable.

Even if COVID conditions are mitigated to the point of countries being issued a level 1 or 2 travel warning, study abroad programs should not continue. The CDC states on its website, last

portant to note because students in study abroad programs do not typically have access to personal cars as a means of transportation, which are likely the safest forms of travel in terms of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

While specific classes may not be affected by this change, the cultural learning experience provided by study abroad will be. Students will be unable to explore their host country to the fullest extent, as many tourist sights will be closed. Any program with an emphasis on service learning projects is likely to be significantly impacted by only attending classes. And if students are just going to be attending classes, this is something they can accomplish online, without the risks of increased quarantine breaking and public transportation usage. This is something that can likely be worked out with individual universities, to give students the same language-learning and friendship benefits they'd otherwise miss out on. Given this, study abroad should be cancelled even if travel warnings decrease from three within the set time frame. Even if the study abroad experience cannot be adequately stimulated in their home country, it is still not worth the risk to students and those they may come into contact with abroad.

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"It's the same scenario that we experienced last year, we're trying to keep them open and viable as long as we can, and we're hopeful, but we're also realistically assessing as long as we go."

KRIS LOU

io that we experienced last year, we're trying to keep them open and viable as long as we can, and we're hopeful, but we're also realistically assessing as long as we go. When we're saying we're hopeful part of that hope is that these travel warnings would be lowered to level 2 or 1, but that hasn't happened, the further we get into the fall semester and having to make a decision," said Dr. Lou.

If a student does get COVID-19 abroad, the university will operate on a case-by-case basis, dependent on that student's host country. As stated by Dr. Lou: "[The universi-

ty that is necessary for the student to no longer be communicable of the disease and recover."

This likely means that students who catch the disease while abroad will be detained in their host country, away from their family during a time of need. If a student is not living with a host family, they will have to scramble around to find someone who will give them social support, including comfort and potentially even basic necessities like food. And students living with host families will not only put those families at risk for the virus, but also put

updated as recently as September 17, that, "travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19." On that same page, the CDC also has recommendations for specific types of transportation, stating that air travel, as well as buses and trains, can increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. This increased risk is because public transportation makes it harder to socially distance, as well as increases the probability of contact with frequently touched spaces. This is im-

Opinion: Willamette should avoid "See Something, Say Something" rhetoric

CONTINUED from Page 1

In 2002, Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a report entitled, "We Are Not The Enemy: Hate Crimes Against Arabs, Muslims, and Those Perceived to be Arab or Muslim after September 11." They detail the surge in hate crimes and the circumstances creating them, as well as suggestions for remedy. In their chapter regarding government response, there is an entire section on the concept of 'mixed messages.' While some government figures (notably President George W. Bush) expressed solidarity with Arab Americans during a time of heightened paranoia and discrimination, there was also a strong cultural thread pushing against that idea. Some of that discrimination came from religious leaders and other political figures outside of the government, but a great deal of it came from people observing the actual policies and rhetoric of the government agencies they came to trust in for security. HRW highlights that these government statements varied greatly from those of government agencies: "Official statements exhorting the public not to view Muslims or Arabs differently than anyone else were countered by measures taken as part of the anti-terrorist campaign that cast a cloud of suspicion over all Arabs and Muslims in the United States. Those measures have included, for example, the detention of some 1,200 persons of almost exclusively Arab, Muslim, or South Asian heritage because of 'possible' links to terrorism; the FBI requests to interview over eight thousand men of Arab or Muslim heritage;

and the decision that visitors to the United States from certain Middle Eastern countries would be fingerprinted."

The prejudices picked up post-9/11 have survived well into the current day, in the everyday experiences of Americans and travelers alike. The experience of being 'randomly selected' as a Arab or Muslim person, or even as someone who looks like they are Arab or Muslim, is so common as to have memes about it and a BuzzFeed article making light of it. For Muslim Americans, the DHS campaign cemented negative changes in their everyday life instead of protecting it. The slogan and the ensuing campaign were created with those people in mind as the 'other' to be protected against.

While that original 'other' in this specific case was generally thought to refer to people who were Middle Eastern or Muslim it has (as propaganda campaigns are want to do) expanded beyond those original bounds. In recent years there have been numerous high profile incidents of white people 'saying something' after 'seeing something', when the something they saw was a Black person doing just about anything. In April 2018, according to CNN, "a white woman reportedly called police on a few black people who, she said, were using a charcoal grill in an area where it was banned." In May of that same year, from another CNN article, two Black men were wrongfully arrested for seemingly just existing in a Starbucks, prompting protests and apologies from the company. In one of the most absurd incidents, a white student at Yale called the

police on a Black student who was napping in one of the university's common spaces. These types of calls to the police are so common that some states are considering laws criminalizing police calls that are over exaggerated or fabricated, especially when they are intended to intimidate or harass a person of color. What's even more concerning than just a phone call to the cops, is when the 'self-policing' of their community becomes more literal to these people. This is the case in the murders of people like Ahmaud Arbery and Trayvon Martin, where non-Black civilians profiled them but instead of just reporting it, used lethal force. Of course, these cases play into the larger conversation that even the police don't receive proper training and thus resort to thoughtless force. Oftentimes the training they do receive is actively counter to methods of de-escalation and peaceful conflict resolution, making it questionable whether or not their thoughtful force would be any better. When regular citizens, individuals without training or proper education in these subjects, feel empowered to self-police their communities by alerting authorities it can also lead to them feeling justified to take the situation into their own hands entirely. Regardless of who is pulling the trigger, when there is a simultaneous paranoia and overconfidence as a civilian extension of law enforcement it leads to horrifying results.

Pulling on the single thread of "See Something, Say Something" unravels into a much longer conversation and a much more complicated cultural legacy than one

might think. This is not to say that Willamette University administrators are trying to create a bastion of authoritarianism here and purposefully perpetuate the consequences of this slogan. However, it is worth questioning how the slogan and all of its connotations made it into Willamette's messaging during a pandemic and what that fact says about the university's overall rhetorical approach. It is a provocative phrase even without knowledge of its origin, and it certainly sticks in students' minds easily enough, as any good advertising slogan should. However, in regards to the administration's general messaging it seems out of place and dissonant when compared with things like their recent usage of Blitz the Bearcat. When the university uses a MTA/DHS slogan that came out of post-9/11 hysteria in one place and a quirky mascot in another, it creates a deeply mixed tone to their message. Animal characters have certainly been used successfully in public service campaigns before, but usually for campaigns directed at children and not for issues of this gravity. It's like having a Smokey the Bear poster proclaim, 'Only you can prevent nuclear armageddon.' Is this a situation worth reverting to authoritarian rhetoric and risking unintended consequences to Willamette culture, or is it one worth a cute cartoon making light of the situation? Can anything be both?

Outside of the cultural change and consequences shown in current events, there is a great deal of academic literature connecting these issues to larger movements in American society. The book Citi-

zen Spies: The Long Rise of America's Surveillance Society by Joshua Reeves tracks this progression and mourns the results. He writes, "It is unfortunate that, while we could use our eyes and mouths to build solidarity—or even to bring accountability to capital, the police, and a corrupt ruling class—we far too often direct that scrutiny against our friends, families, and neighbors for apparently failing to live up to ideal standards of moral or legal conduct." Willamette University simultaneously telling students to watch out for each other's health and to watch out for each other as threats cancels out when it comes to community building. As Reeves says, instead of building solidarity this rhetoric builds scrutiny.

Either the university considered these questions and decided that this slogan was important to an effective public health campaign or they did not consider it. There is a very real potential that not a single person in the Zoom room thought anything was wrong with using "See Something, Say Something." They could argue that this is different and they aren't using it in reference to those cultural and historical roots. But regardless of the connection or lack thereof with the historical connotations, that history is also a case study and cautionary tale for how this phrase has been played out before. Before it happened over the course of several years and across the span of an entire country, but Willamette is a small campus with a fairly close knit community, and a culture of paranoia and scrutiny could spread as fast as a virus.

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