

How did senior Dan Blacher make his mother cry? Find out in this week's edition of Style Crush.  
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Get a sneak peak of the new Sparks fitness center before its grand opening on Saturday.  
**P. 6-7**

EDITORIAL

## Beyond LGBTQ acceptance: Let's walk the talk

Last week was one for the books for Willamette University.

First, freshman Conner Mertens made headlines by becoming the first active college football player to publicly come out as bisexual.

His admirable decision to go public with his sexuality fortunately met overwhelming support from the Willamette community.

Second, President Thorsett announced a revision to our university's Statement of Equal Opportunity to include "pregnancy status," both "perceived and actual sexual orientation" and "gender identity" and "gender expression" as characteristics that are protected under the University's nondiscrimination policy.

These events are indicators that our campus is becoming a more inclusive environment for all individuals, regardless of their sexual and gender identities. However, we can't help but wonder where the Willamette community will be after the headlines dwindle.

Will we continue to have conversations about the resources our campus needs so we can confidently claim our university is supportive of all sexualities and gender identities, queer or otherwise?

While Conner's courage is still fresh in our minds and the ink not yet dry on our expanded nondiscrimination policy, we ought to take this opportunity to examine what we can do, as individual members of the community and as an institution of higher learning, to shift our campus climate so that all LGBTQ students, whether a member of an athletic team, Greek life, or simply a member of a class, can have the support they deserve.

We must begin by evaluating Conner's announcement and the media frenzy that it sparked. The fact that his narrative was covered so extensively is indicative of our cultural attitudes toward queer identities.

The very fact it makes national headlines when a football player indicates he is not heterosexual reveals we are not as accepting as we could be, as we should be.

Even worse are the moments when an athlete's coming out story does not come as a surprise.

We perpetuate queer stereotypes when we expect athletes in certain sports, particularly women, to be queer individuals.

See **PUTTING OUR WORDS**,  
 Page 10

NEWS

## President's Working Group on Sexual Assault shares safety tips, survey results at meeting

EMMA JONAS  
 GUEST WRITER

At the President's Working Group on Sexual Assault and Harassment meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28, Director of Campus Safety Ross Stout said the recent string of sexual assaults have changed Willamette's campus climate – but not permanently.

Though the 14 reported incidents range in seriousness from sexual harassment to felony sex abuse, Stout believes a safer atmosphere will return to campus once the suspect is caught. "The world has not gone to hell [forever]," Stout said.

Meanwhile, Campus Safety plans to install two new blue light emergency phones on campus this semester and several more over the summer.

Furthermore, the department is increasing the amount of patrolling officers, purchasing whistles to give to students and offering 24-hour free escort service. Stout said that students should not involve themselves in potentially violent situations and should instead report any incidents to Campus Safety.

Salem Deputy Police Chief Jim Ferraris and detective Jeff Staples provided an update to the group regarding the department's investigation into the incidents that began last November.

Ferraris and Staples said the police department had only a generic description of the suspect; according to Ferraris, the vic-

tims were all female and ranged in age from 15 to 56 years old.

Staples recommended that students know their surroundings and travel in groups.

"Walk like [you] own the place," Staples said.

Ferraris also reminded attendees that any delay in notifying authorities, even as little as 10 minutes, makes it difficult for officers to capture a suspect.

In addition to informing the group about Campus Safety's community response to the incidents, Stout said he and the Salem Police Department consider a recent sexual assault in Baxter Hall to be unrelated to the other groping incidents; Campus Safety is investigating the attack.

Dean of Campus Life David Douglass said that the \$25 fee for more than five counseling appointments at Bishop has also been waived for students impacted by the attacks.

Bishop Wellness Center Director Margaret Trout shared the results of the University's Campus Climate Survey regarding sexual assault and harassment, which was given last March by the Willamette University Office of Institutional Research.

While the survey garnered 1,123 responses, Trout said that men, transgender individuals and graduate school students were underrepresented in the data. According to the survey, 96 percent of the Willamette community believes that reducing the amount

of sexual assault and harassment is a community-wide responsibility, and 84 percent believes Willamette values gender equity.

The survey also revealed that most students agreed with the statement that "The University responds to sexual harassment in a serious manner," and that female students were more likely to report feeling unsafe on campus.

Most participants were aware of Bishop and Sexual Assault Response Allies as resources for sexual assault and harassment response, but participants were largely unaware of services such as counseling through the chaplain's office, online sexual assault and harassment reporting and no-contact orders.

Trout said the survey also reported that University graduate students were the least aware of any resources.

The finding that Trout said most shocked her was that half of the participants did not correctly identify a hypothetical sexual assault situation as sexual assault.

Trout said this indicates that Willamette needs to improve its initial education about sexual assault and harassment.

As a response, the Opening Days Lead Team is beginning work earlier this year to address these needs, and Trout wants to continue to address the pervasive misconceptions about the dynamics of sexual relationships, sexual assault and harassment and on-campus response resources.

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SPORTS

## Baseball ready to continue path to success

DEVIN ABNEY  
 CONTRIBUTOR

As springtime emerges, so does the Willamette University baseball team, which has the

benefit of returning 21 players from the previous year.

While the 2013 season was no disappointment for a Bearcat team that finished third place in the Northwest Conference with

a 13-11 record (20 wins overall), their expectations are set even higher for the upcoming season.

"Our goal is to win a Northwest Conference title, and as a team we talk about that every day," senior captain first baseman Brandon Chinn said.

Besides Chinn, who was third on the team in batting average last season with a .316 mark, the squad returns batting average leader and junior second baseman Hunter Gallant, who led the team with a .365 clip.

In total, the team will return seven out of its top eight hitters from 2013.

In addition to featuring a high average, the Bearcat batting lineup will also boast some power, as senior outfielder Tosh Semlacher, who led the team in home runs and RBIs last season, will return to the

middle of the lineup.

After losing two of the team's three pitchers from the starting rotation last season, the 'Cats will rely heavily on young arms.

Junior right-hander Peter Hoffman will be instrumental in Willamette's plans for success, as he recorded seven wins, five complete games and notched a 3.18 ERA last season.

The Bearcats hope to start the season in the same way they ended their 2013 campaign, which saw the 'Cats win nine of their final 11 contests.

"Ending last season on a hot note showed us how we can play," Gallant said. "We want to keep that ball rolling."

Several teammates echoed those sentiments, including senior captain Tommy Kawamura, who claims the team's confidence this year has increased.

See **BASEBALL**, Page 9



MATT TONOKAWA

Senior infielder Tommy Kawamura awaits a throw during a scrimmage. Kawamura is one of three captains of the 2014 team.



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# Conference calls for more women leaders on campus, and off

ALYSSA MILSTEAD  
CONTRIBUTOR

When senior Nichola Greenblatt declared her candidacy for president of the Associated Students of Willamette University, she said she felt like she had to constantly defend herself and establish a sense of credibility.

"I would get criticism like, 'People don't think you're legit. People think you're a joke.' It really hurt my feelings," Greenblatt said. "But even more, it made me more determined to prove that, yes, I can be feminine, but still be a serious candidate."

It was this experience of judgment that motivated Greenblatt to organize the third annual Elect Her – Campus Women Win conference on Saturday, Feb. 1.

In place of their usual weekend rituals, approximately 80 students joined Greenblatt at the Elect Her leadership conference, discussing the gender gap in campus and national government. The Elect Her training program is a four and a half hour session created by two nonprofit organizations: the American Association of University Women and Running Start.

According to the AAUW website, Elect Her is the only nationwide program that encourages and trains women to run for student government.

Saturday's Elect Her conference featured both local and national speakers. Willamette

professors, legislators from the Oregon State Capitol and Pamela O'Leary, an adjunct professor at American University and one of the board of directors for Running Start spoke at the event. As one of the speakers at the conference, Greenblatt said that during last year's student body elections, she heard several negative assumptions about female politicians.

"They're either an over-sexualized, bubbly, vapid person, or they're rigid and unpleasant," Greenblatt said. "For me, I was faced with people that made assumptions because yes, I care about what I look like, yes, I wear makeup, and yes, I'm more bubbly. Would they have taken a charismatic man who cares about his looks less seriously, too?"

When Greenblatt attended the first Elect Her conference at Willamette two years ago, she remembered wishing the organizers would focus more on real-world politics.

"We spent so much time talking about campus government, but I really wanted to talk more about local and national government. These are things I was less well versed in," Greenblatt said.

With the help of sophomores Natasha Parekh and Meg Cusick, Greenblatt gathered a handful of speakers who discussed the importance of women in politics, political campaign strategies and networking.

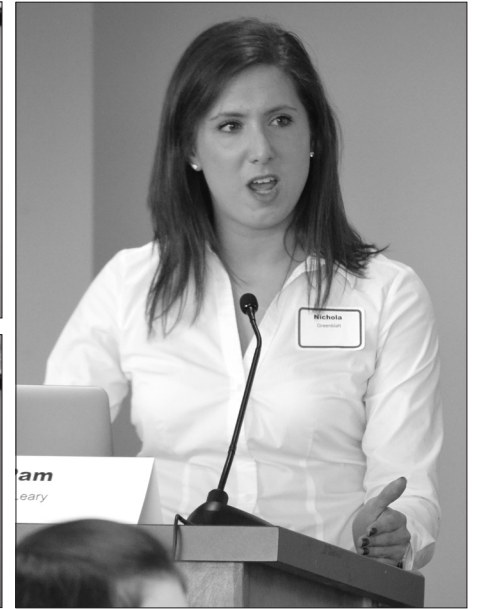
In addition to a panel that featured Ore-

gon State Senators Jackie Winters and Betsy Close, lobbyist Tess Milio and University Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Media Studies Cindy Koelig Richards as well as representatives from the Salem city council, students were provided with a networking opportunity at the end of the conference.

"I think that this event's premise is some-

thing that gets talked about a lot on Willamette's campus. Probably not enough, but frequently," Greenblatt said. "This event makes it more cohesive. One day of workshops and networking that really gets deeper into these issues."

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EMMA SARGENT

Nichola Greenblatt, Pam O'Leary and Natasha Parekh shared their experiences as women leaders with Willamette students last Saturday, Feb. 1.

## ADVERTISEMENT

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## Race Wrap: Aperture on race

ELIZE MANOUKIAN  
LAYOUT EDITOR

As part of the ongoing campus discussion on race and racism, the Student Center for Equity and Empowerment hosted the first session of Race Wrap on Tuesday, Feb. 4. This program will continue every other Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Race Wrap is the brainchild of Assistant Dean of Campus Life Luis Rosa and Veronica Ortiz, associate director of admission and coordinator of multicultural recruitment, who will facilitate each session.

Rosa said the idea to begin Race Wrap evolved out of a series of discussions faculty members had with students of color who expressed an interest in dialoguing about challenges facing underrepresented students on campus.

In her role as an administrator, Ortiz said she viewed this program as an opportunity to understand student perspectives on campus culture, and then to promote this when she recruits new students.

According to Ortiz, Race Wrap addresses and provides education on issues like race, privilege and power. The program also seeks to provide identification or support for the racial experience for students of color at Willamette.

The first session established the series as a safe and confidential place for students to share their experiences. One exercise that the students participated in was a reflection and open dialogue on what the word "race" means, specifically related to Willamette life.

This event follows in the wake of the Race and Racism Convocations sponsored by the American ethnic studies program, as well as President Thorsett's

recent revision of Willamette's Statement of Equal Opportunity. Ortiz said the University is beginning the process of creating dynamic and safe spaces for students and faculty to explore the racial realities of institutions, such as the University.

The sense of safety that Rosa and Ortiz hoped to cultivate in the first session was grounded in a set of guidelines and expectations that the facilitators and students created together.

According to Ortiz, the numbers indicate that diversity at Willamette is growing yearly. Ortiz believes that programs such as Race Wrap are fundamental to bringing systemic change to higher education.

"In order to meet the demands of a global economy, all institutions can benefit from something like this," Ortiz said. "The institutions that are forward thinking about diversity will come out ahead in the future."

From his conversations with students, Rosa believes that underrepresented students need a venue where they can discuss the other-izing experience, but also where they can develop tools and resources to negotiate microaggressions and other challenges encountered inside and outside the classroom.

"For the well-being and ability for students of color to thrive here, an exercise such as this is needed," Rosa said.

Rosa believes that conversations about race must begin in such spaces, until Willamette and society are ready to accept that race is something that must be discussed.

"We talk about race in moments... we cannot evolve by continuing that pattern," Rosa said.

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# New civic communication major available to rhetoric students

BRONTE DOD  
CONTRIBUTOR

Starting next semester, the rhetoric and media studies department will be reorganized into two new departments: rhetoric and the department of civic communication and media (CCM).

"It's not really brand new," Professor and Chair of Civic Communication and Media Robert Trapp said. "More like a facelift."

The changes were proposed after rhetorician and Professor Emeritus of communication at Northwestern University David Zarefsky reviewed the department in 2011. After an evaluation of past and current curriculum, as well as interviews with faculty, Zarefsky decided that the department was comparable to a master's program in terms of difficulty, however, he found that the courses within the major lacked cohesion.

"[The program] needed a lot more focus in terms of its curriculum," Trapp said.

A program synopsis for the civic communication and media department spells out the new emphasis for the major: "The courses are designed to develop thinkers who understand dynamics of communication and media change and who can apply their insights to contemporary problems."

Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Media Studies Cindy Koenig Richards said the faculty took into account student needs as well as alumni experiences in developing the departmental changes.

CCM will require 8.25-9 credits to graduate and the minor will require 5.25-6 credits; the comprehensive exams that all senior rhetoric and media

“There is open recognition that people will do different things with this major. There are more opportunities to try out your skills in various venues.”

COURTNEY DILLARD

Instructor of Rhetoric and Media Studies

studies students are required to pass to graduate will not change either.

"There is open recognition that people will do different things with this major. There are more opportunities to try out your skills in various venues," Instructor of Rhetoric and Media Studies Courtney Dillard said.

Jessica Cook, a 2009 graduate of the rhetoric and media studies department,

said the major "is above and beyond a lot of things."

Cook lives in Portland where she is currently being recruited to serve as a consultant for an information technology company. Cook read about the informational meeting for current and prospective majors that was held on Wednesday, Jan. 28 through Twitter, and sent the information to her peers on Facebook who were also rhetoric and media studies majors.

Cook attended the meeting to see how the changes would affect students and alumni.

"We fell in love with rhetoric," Cook said. "Changing our degree was concerning."

Trapp said that the CCM major will continue to have traditional rhetorical theory and criticism as its foundation; he described CCM as a modernization of the rhetoric and media studies department.

"We're just trying to keep up," he said. "I've received nothing but positive feedback from students."

Senior Sydney Meltzer will be among the first to graduate with the CCM major.

"The new major is more accessible, versatile and enjoyable for our generation," she said. "The classes are really exciting."

The department will continue offering rhetoric and media studies courses until all current rhetoric majors have graduated. Students who want to change their rhetoric and media studies major to CCM should contact their advisor.

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## BRIEFS

**Tennis the menace:** Willamette's Tennis Club will hold its first practice today, Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Courthouse from 8:30 to 10 p.m. No previous experience or equipment is required. Transportation to the event is provided. Interested tennis enthusiasts should meet at the Chicken Fountain at 8:20 p.m.

\*\*\*

**From Putin, with love:** The next installment of the University's convocation speaking series, "Sochi 2014: Olympic Controversy" begins Thursday, Feb. 6 at 11:30 a.m. in Cone Chapel. Assistant Professor of Russian Sarah Bishop will give the lecture.

\*\*\*

**Heart of darkness:** Alpha Chi Omega and Sigma Alpha Epsilon will host a "jungle dance" on Friday, Feb. 7 in Cat Cavern. The social event begins at 10 p.m.

\*\*\*

**Binge networking:** All seniors are invited to the Ram for a chance to meet with WU alumni who have successfully used their liberal arts degree. The Conversations & Connections event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. Register in advance at the WU Career Center by 2 p.m. Thursday.

\*\*\*

**Buy me love:** Valentine's Day candy grams will be on sale in the UC from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. between Monday, Feb. 10 and Friday, Feb. 14. Order your sweetheart (or yourself) a treat from the Take-A-Break program.

\*\*\*

**I've made a huge mistake:** Add/Drop forms for first half semester classes are due to the Registrar's Office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Enrollment change forms require a signature from all undergraduate students' advisor.

\*\*\*

Got tips? Email News Editor Zane Sparling <zsparlin>.

## CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

Jan. 27- Feb. 2, 2014 |  
Information provided by Campus Safety

### BURGLARY

**Feb. 2, 7:33 p.m. (Belknap Hall):** Campus Safety received a call from a student who believed someone broke in to their room. The student reported that they and their roommate had left the room, and when they returned the caller's laptop had lemonade spilled all over it. The student reported that the lemonade had been bottled and sitting on the desk next to the computer.

### CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

**Feb. 2, 12:30 a.m. (Kaneko Commons):** Campus Safety received a call that the courtesy phone in the Rainbow Lounge had been damaged. The handset for the phone and a large section of the phone's casing were missing. A work order was placed to replace the damaged equipment.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

**Feb. 2, 12:21 a.m. (Northwood Hall):** Campus Safety received a call that a student was not feeling well. WEMS and Campus Safety responded and the student was having trouble breathing. The caller reported that she had stepped outside to smoke some marijuana, then began feeling ill. After being administered some oxygen and further WEMS evaluation, it was determined that the student did not need further treatment.

**Feb. 2, 2:41 a.m. (Matthews Hall):** Campus Safety received a call regarding a student, who was vomiting, had fallen and hit their head. When asked, the student also thought that their friend might be under the influence of alcohol. WEMS and Campus Safety were dispatched to the scene. After a brief evalua-

tion, it was determined that the student needed to be transported to the hospital.

### HARASSMENT

**Jan. 30, 9:46 p.m. (Campus):** Campus Safety received a report that a student had been receiving phone calls from an unknown male. The caller had left disturbing messages for the student and had not stopped calling, even after being told not to call anymore. The student has made a report with the Salem Police Department.

### POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

**Jan. 27, 8:53 p.m. (Campus):** While on patrol, the Campus Safety officer on duty discovered an individual in the process of lighting a hand-rolled joint. The officer approached the student to ask them what they were smoking. The student did not attempt to hide the fact that they were smoking marijuana. The marijuana was confiscated.

**Jan. 28, 11:16 p.m. (Kaneko Commons):** Campus Safety received a call regarding the smell of marijuana coming from a dorm room. An officer located the origin of the smell and upon entering the room, found a group of students with a bong being used to smoke marijuana. The officer confiscated the device and the marijuana.

**Jan. 29, 10:54 p.m. (Southwood Hall):** Campus Safety received a call regarding the smell of marijuana. The officer on duty located the origin of the smell and gained entry to the residence. The officer found smoking paraphernalia and plastic bags containing marijuana. The students claimed to have not been smoking, and that the items had just been lying where they had been found. The officer confiscated both the marijuana and the smoking paraphernalia.

**Jan. 29, 11:10 p.m. (Matthews Hall):**

While on patrol, a Campus Safety officer was alerted to the smell of marijuana. The officer located the origin of the smell and found students attempting to hide items in desk drawers. The officer asked the students to retrieve the items and they complied. The items were confiscated.

**Jan. 30, 10:30 a.m. (Doney Hall):** While on patrol, a Campus Safety officer observed someone dumping some liquid out of their window. Moments later, the student dumped out more liquid, almost hitting the officer and leaving a track of residue down the side of the building. The officer went to the room, and after knocking several times, gained entry to an empty residence. Marijuana paraphernalia was in plain sight on the floor of the room. The items were confiscated.

**Feb. 2, 9:49 p.m. (Matthews Hall):** Campus Safety received a call that students were throwing bottles off of the roof of Terra. The officer responded to the scene, and seeing that no one was on the roof, investigated the rooms that had access to that area via their rooms. Upon gaining entry to one room, the officer found a sign belonging to the University and paraphernalia used for smoking marijuana. The sign and paraphernalia were confiscated.

**Feb. 2, 10:21 p.m. (Skybridge):** While on patrol, a Campus Safety officer observed a student who was having trouble walking across campus. Upon closer evaluation, the officer was able to determine that the student was intoxicated. The officer met with the individual as he was entering the Bistro, noting that they were having difficulty standing on their own. The student was very upset that the officer had stopped him. The officer was able to determine that the student was under 21 years of age. A report was forwarded to the judicial office.

### PROPERTY DAMAGE

**Jan. 29, 2:12 p.m. (Sparks parking lot):** Campus Safety received a call that a dumpster had collided with a vehicle. Due to the heavy winds, the dumpster had been blown across the parking lot and struck a student's vehicle. The vehicle sustained a gouge and dent to the front bumper. The student was called and notified of the incident.

### THEFT

**Jan. 28, 11:55 (Matthews Hall):** Campus Safety received a call that some items had been stolen from the Matthews Academic Commons. The reporting party noted that a wood carved wall decoration and a custom light switch plate had been taken from the area over the weekend.

**Jan. 29, 12:40 p.m. (Matthews Hall):** A student came in to the Campus Safety office to report that their bike had been stolen. The cable lock had been cut sometime during the night and had been left behind. The student also called Salem Police Department to file a report.

**Feb. 1, 6:50 p.m. (Goudy Commons):** A student came in to the Campus Safety office to report that their backpack had been stolen. The student had left the backpack in one of the cubbies in Goudy during dinner, and when they had returned, the backpack was gone. The officer pulled the security footage, and verified that an older male subject had entered the area and stolen the backpack. The officer advised the student to cancel their debit card and report the incident to Salem Police Department.

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

# Style Crush: Dan Blacher

MILES SARI  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Senior politics major Dan Blacher didn't always have a love for fashion.

But as the distinctive, youthful and dynamic aesthetic of the streetwear fashion movement grew to influence hip hop and modern haute couture culture, Blacher unearthed a passion and appreciation for fashion right before he came to Willamette.

As Blacher toys with the prospect of entering the fashion industry as a buyer for boutiques and department stores after he graduates, his sharp and debonair wardrobe is our fashion infatuation for this week's return of Style Crush.



MILES SARI

**Collegian:** What are you wearing today?

**Dan Blacher:** I'm wearing a Todd Snyder flight parka, some 3sixteen selvedge denim, a pair of German army trainers I found online at JCPenney for \$30 and an Our Legacy shawl collar zip up shirt.

**C:** Who are your favorite designers/brands?

**DB:** Our Legacy is one of my favorite brands. It's a Swedish brand, and the Scandinavian minimalism is a great balance between crazy and normal, well-made garments. They are the best fitting stuff for me in terms of shirts. I also really enjoy Thom Browne; his runway shows are all about pageantry. The crazy theatrical productions on the runway get people talking. The impact he's had as an American designer is almost unprecedented.

**C:** What fashion advice do you have for other men?

**DB:** I would say do your research. Buy quality items and quality wardrobe staples. You really get what you pay for. I know that means spending a lot more, and I know it's not feasible for everyone, but when you buy quality staples, they are timeless fashions and you can wear them forever.

**C:** What's one thing every man should have in his wardrobe?

**DB:** A well-fitting blazer. You want one that fits right in the shoulders, it's not too long and not too baggy in waist. It's such a versatile item. You can dress it up or dress it down. You can wear it for any occasion.

**C:** How many pairs of shoes do you own?

**DB:** I have 10 pairs of shoes here; it's not my whole collection. I have about 10 more at home. I can't take them all with me because I can't fit all of them in my luggage, but I have all kinds of shoes from boots, dress shoes, sneakers, etc.

**C:** Do you have a high dry cleaning bill?

**DB:** I actually have a [higher] tailoring bill than dry cleaning bill. I buy a lot of things on sale, even if they don't fit, because I know I can always have it tailored. Everybody's bodies are different, and not everything fits well off the rack. A lot of garments are made for "Average Joe," but you still need to have it fitted. Once you find a tailor who knows your style and your size and doesn't charge you an exorbitant amount, it's a match made in heaven.

**C:** Do you thrift at all? Or are you all about retail?

**DB:** It's mostly retail, but a lot of it is stuff that I find on sale. I normally buy when stores and companies are having their huge semi-annual or annual sales. Sometimes I do buy full price, though, if it's something that I feel I can't really live without. But, you know, I'm on a budget like everyone else.

**C:** What is the one item in your wardrobe you can't live without?

**DB:** A pair of Alden long wing blucher shoes made with shell cordovan leather. They're color number eight, which is a dark burgundy, almost purple color in the sun. I really paid for them, though; they're pretty expensive. It was a goal of mine to earn a pair of them, and I finally bought a pair this summer after saving enough money.

The day I bought them, my mom wanted to see the shoes and see what the big deal was about them. When I opened the box and showed them to her, she started crying. She said her dad had a pair of shoes with identical styling. I thought she was crying because of how much money I spent on them, but it was because they were similar to her father's, and that makes them all the more special to me.

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MILES SARI

"Buy quality items and quality wardrobe staples. You really get what you pay for."

-Dan Blacher

## THE LOOK:

Todd Snyder flight parka,  
3sixteen selvedge denim  
German army trainers  
Our Legacy shawl collar zip up shirt

# Check out underground artists on SoundCloud

JULIANA COHEN  
STAFF WRITER

Remember "MySpace Music"? A few years ago, artists put their most cutting-edge material on the social networking site for new listeners to stream. Nowadays, those interested in hearing the newest tracks flock to SoundCloud.

Musicians at every level of exposure can use this low-risk medium to generate hype for larger projects, post remixes, interviews, and "reblog" the work of others. Since being unique is at the top of everyone's agenda, here are some artists with under 2,000 followers:

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1. /18plus18plus18plus (1415 followers): 18+ is an extremely difficult project to find on a Google search for obvious reasons, and perhaps for the benefit of society at large. Based in cyberspace, the male/female duo produces silky "cyber R&B" with elements of trip-hop and sonic glitch art.

They are very liberal in distributing free material, like many emerging beatmakers, and have their mixtapes "MIXTA2E" and "MIXTAP3" available for download on Mediafire. However, by far the best thing about 18+ that makes them absolutely mesmerizing is their music videos, which feature 3D go-go dancers writhing in a space-like void.

2. /emoji-king (691 followers): A mysterious LA-based producer by the name of Emoji King dropped his debut track "slow it down bb♥" on Jan. 29 with a sound so futuristic and catchy that some commentators have speculated that the King might be Cashmere Cat in disguise. The song incorporates elements of trap and chiptune in a manner similar to a K-pop house remix. A teardrop on the album art indicates future success among fans of the "sadboys" movement.

3. /cry4evr (99 followers): This unknown and truly SoundCloud-exclusive artist combines downtempo with trap to create impressive and lush "darkwave," an uncommon and challenging feat to do effectively.

Hailing from Oakland, Cry4evr adheres to a "soft grunge" aesthetic and gives songs titles like "DRVGGED AND DR^GGED" and "CVL† MΔGICK." But before doubting the sincerity of this endorsement, check out this beatmaker's remix of Death Grips's "Guillotine" chopped and screwed like never before.

4. /cokeweed (183 followers): For fans of indie rock, look no further than Coke Weed, a breezy psych-rock outfit from Bar Harbor, Maine. This lo-fi quintet makes reverberated garage-folk perfect for the playlists of the approaching summer months. But if anything will lead them to dominate the college radio charts, it will be their trendy t-shirts featuring their band name and a grainy photo of Ringo Starr. Maintain your edge by giving their latest single, "Nightlife," a listen.

5. /zsekoff (1467 followers): 18-year-old beatmaking prodigy Zack Sekoff's massive body of work not only includes some of his own rapping, but a phenomenal collaboration with Brainfeeder's Thundercat on "Drowning." Previously featured at LA's Low End Theory following the release of his intentionally misspelled EP "Ancestor's," Sekoff has also performed with Groundislava and Eaves.

6. /dreampanther (1431 followers): The talents of barista and chillwaver Dream Panther rival those of Washed Out or early M83 with meandering and ethereal jams, such as the classic "F\*\*\* all laker haters, kobe time to metta world peace" and "Bowlo Packins," to name a few. The South LA native released their EP "Beyoncé's Child" just last year and posted a 46-minute radio mix earlier this week on SoundCloud.

# Enjoy an early evening treat at Wild Pear's happy hour

NICOLE NA  
CONTRIBUTOR

Wild Pear is well-known in Salem primarily as a breakfast and lunch establishment, with limited hours from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. However, if you're interested in enjoying a late lunch or early dinner, Wild Pear's lengthy 3:30 to 6 p.m. happy hour will make it well worth the visit.

As you enter the café, you'll be welcomed by the restaurant's kitschy ambiance, a slightly funky blend of new and old. The place is bustling during lunch hours, but there's plenty of space for dinner as the slightly harried lunch service mellows into a more relaxed, friendly and hospitable evening mood.

Wild Pear's happy hour menu is a little more limited than its usual offerings, but you'll still have plenty of options from which to choose, provided you purchase the required drink (which does not have to be alcoholic, for all you minors). You can select from a list of seven appetizers and four entrées, which range in price from \$2.75 to \$6.75 – more than reasonable for the average college student.

Last week, my date and I played it safe with Italian sodas to start – one pomegranate, one pear with cream. The pomegranate soda showed off tart and authentically pomegranate-y notes, while the pear soda's sweetness meshed well with the inclusion of cream. Both kept us refreshed for the courses to come.

Next were artichoke, spinach and Parmesan fritters (\$4.75). Encrusted in panko bread crumbs and deep-fried, the crispy coat-

ing gave way to creamy, heavy innards. The piquant and salty vegetables didn't do much to reel in the utter richness of the creamy, cheesy sauce within – but, hey, are fritters supposed to be healthy? No, but they're almost always delicious, and these ones definitely fit the bill.

On a slightly more health-conscious note were the gluten-free falafel chips with house-made hummus (\$2.75). The falafel chips were obviously not made in house, and were even slightly bland, with subtle notes of cumin. Dipped in the nutty hummus, though, the chips were positively addictive. Drizzled with olive oil and bursting with zippy tahini, the hummus was by far the best part of the plate.

Bringing us back to the realm of arteriosclerosis were sweet potato truffle fries with stone ground mustard aioli (\$4.75). The fries were beautifully crisp on the outside, with a fluffy interior. Their intensely earthy truffle aroma stood up well to the tangy mustard aioli – definitely a must-order.

Lastly, a square bowl of pho and its accompanying sauces was set on the table. It's hard to find a good bowl of this Vietnamese specialty in Salem, but the complex broth and al dente rice noodles (with plenty of basil and bean sprouts) more than satisfied my pho craving – for the time being, at least.

So, if you're willing to have a bit of an early dinner, Wild Pear's excellent prices and tasty fare make it a great option for your next night out.

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NICOLE NA

Carole King and Sara Bareilles took to the stage for a medley of King's "Beautiful" and Bareilles' "Brave."

## ESCAPE. Lil' Gypsy and Then Again boast impressive collections of vintage apparel

RACHEL FIFIELD  
STAFF WRITER

Everyone loves a good thrift shop, and Salem has a decent number of them, but you often won't find much more than tacky sweaters and broken-in jeans.

Looking for an authentic-looking costume or something from a particular era instead? A vintage shop is probably more up your alley. In Salem, the most popular choices are Lil' Gypsy on Broadway Street (though it is unfortunate that the store's name includes a racial slur against Romani people) and Then Again on Commercial Street.

Although the concepts are similar, the two stores have different strengths. Packed into several dense rooms, Lil' Gypsy manages to feel like an anthropological expedition meets thrift shop. The newer and more upscale Then Again is less intimidating: it's sparser and brighter, but no less intriguing.

Then Again carries not only vintage fashions from the 1940s onwards, but also a small collection of vintage decorations and

household objects. The store shines with its women's clothing collection, although they do have a tiny men's section as well.

All vintage shops carry colors from previous eras, but Then Again is particularly notable for colors that are uncommon today. A coppery-brown 1970s woman's suit and a man's work shirt in a peculiar shade of avocado stood out.

At the other end of the spectrum is the distinctively costume-y Lil' Gypsy, which carries everything from costume jewelry to silk smoking jackets and delicate 1920s wedding dresses.

Hats hang from the ceiling in shapes only found in the movies, and a rack of plush fur coats sits near the door. Heavy wool jackets, reminiscent of early Russian military campaigns, share space with legitimate ball gowns.

The diversity of a vintage store can be really helpful if you are looking for non-standard sizes: My friend was delighted to find a pleasant selection of larger women's shoes at Lil' Gypsy. Since previous generations' bodies tended to be smaller than bodies today, people with tiny feet have an array of

choices at both stores.

This smallness frequently carries over into clothes. Then Again makes a distinct effort to carry clothes that cater to a wide range of modern sizes, and the sheer number of items at Lil' Gypsy ensures that something will fit you, no matter your size. Still, smaller people ultimately have more options in vintage clothes.

Unfortunately, as I lingered over a steel blue 1950s dress, I remembered another thing that sets vintage shops aside from thrift stores: the cost. Both the dress and the matching kitten heels were beyond my price range.

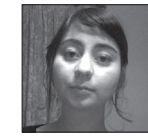
It's reasonable that items that require special care to find and store will be more expensive than other second-hand clothes. Then Again skews more expensively, and it shows in garment quality and customer service.

But the massive assortment of gloves (from opera length to rhinestone encrusted) at Lil' Gypsy is affordable, and if all else fails you, assorted false noses are only \$3.50 each.

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## BEARCAT BULLET

So, you're thinking of moving off campus



ALISON  
EZARD

LIFESTYLES EDITOR

After two years of Community Mentors and Campus Safety officers breathing down your neck in the residence halls, the prospect of finally moving off-campus into your own "real adult" house or apartment can seem like a dream come true.

But before you get carried away with planning how you're going to decorate your new pad (pro tip: bean bag chairs just don't look as good in a living room as they do in your dorm room), there are a few things you should know before you begin your search for the perfect place.

1. Start looking around earlier rather than later. It may seem a bit premature to start your search before we've even gotten to Valentine's Day, but if you don't want to end up in a crumbing, rat-infested apartment five miles from campus, you'll want to start looking as soon as possible. This will also help you avoid stressing out about figuring out where you are going to live when the workload in your classes ramps up.

The best places to find out about available spaces are in the University Center on the support beam right across from the bookstore and the Off-Campus group on Facebook. You can also put up your own postings in either location stating that you are looking for a place for the upcoming semester and specifying the number of rooms you will need. This is the approach my housemates and I used to score our cozy home a mere stroll away from campus.

2. Before you sign your lease, make sure you know the situation with the place's plumbing and insulation. As much as I enjoy the charm of living in a 100-year-old house, dealing with old pipes is no fun.

All the sinks, showers and toilets are constantly getting clogged. At one point, my housemates and I became so worn down from dealing with it that we allowed the sink in one of the bathrooms to remain filled with water for an entire month.

In the winter, poor insulation will become the bane of your existence. Not only will your house never get warm enough due to all the heat that escapes, but you will lose a big chunk of your paycheck just trying to keep your place above arctic temperatures. On the other hand, refusing to turn on the heat in order to save money puts a lot of stress on your body, and you'll wind up getting sick on a regular basis.

Ask the right questions before signing the lease so you can avoid getting locked into a place with one or both of these problems.

3. Choose your housemates wisely, VERY wisely. Don't agree to live with someone based solely on the fact that you are friends. You need to make sure that you are on the same page in terms of how clean the house needs to be kept and how much personal space you each require.

Otherwise, you'll wind up muttering plans under your breath for how to discretely dispose of your former best friend's body as you wash her disgusting pile of dirty dishes. Again.

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# SPARKS GETS A FACELIFT

BY JESSICA MEZA-TORRES AND EDNA HTET

As phase one of the Sparks Athletic Center renovation nears completion, the staff behind the \$3 million project take a moment to talk about the changes made.

With the grand opening of the new and improved Sparks Athletic Center just around the corner, Willamette students, faculty and staff are eager and buzzing with questions like “What has changed?,” “What is the new equipment like?” and, the most sought out question of all, “What is taking so long?”

“It’s different because it’s a renovation of an existing building. When people see the space and the scope of the project, they’ll be surprised,” Robert Passage, assistant athletics director for the university, said.

Community members, along with Director of Campus Recreation and Director of Athletics Dave Rigsby, took on the project of remodeling the Sparks Recreation Center and are now ready to see the end results.

Renovations included thinning down walls and renewing floors, rebuilding and working around air systems, expanding the fitness center, building two new multipurpose recreation rooms, and installing brand-new exercise equipment.

“I think once students see all the changes and new

space, they won’t remember the extra time they had to wait for it. They’ll agree that the wait was worth it,” Passage said.

The driving force behind the project was the need for more space and variety.

“We wanted to make the fitness center as multi-functional as possible,” Schmidt said. “It’s more of a facility that has flexibility. The equipment can move and shift around, and there’s a lot of dynamic pieces and space that would be attractive to a lot of different students.”

## MORE THAN A DAY AT THE GYM

What is unique about this project is the way in which it includes many aspects of campus life.

“We’ve talked to people in the exercise science department, at Bon Appétit, in sports, in fitness classes and have tried to address their needs,” Schmidt said. “We started these discussions a year and a half ago. There were a lot of constituents across campus, from students, faculty, staff and administration. From that planning committee, we turned into the building group; we had a transition and took our ideas to the actual building plan.”

When thinking about health and fitness, it is often easier to think about going to the gym, rather than the other key components of a healthy lifestyle: Nutrition and sleep.

To help restore and maintain the balance among these three things, the athletics department, along with campus life, Bon Appétit, Bishop Wellness Center and other student clubs and organizations came up with the idea of a wellness program.

“Building on these three things is what the program is all about,” Schmidt said. “We want to promote more physical activity, but we can’t forget that nutrition, rest and a positive body image all go into a healthier lifestyle.”

Passage expressed similar concerns and hopes for the new program, emphasizing how the students need to become more educated in being healthy the right way.

“We talked about the need for more education and not only in terms of how to use the fitness center but also healthy habits. We have this new space but we need to know how to use it properly,” Passage said.

The new wellness programs will ensure students know how to use the space properly, but also can learn to successfully balance their schoolwork with healthy sleep and eating habits.

“College students are busy, and sleep and nutrition are always sacrificed when you get busy,” Passage said.



LANCE ROSSI

The programs are tentative at the moment, but for more information on visit “Willamette University Campus Recre-

ation Wellness Program” on Facebook, check out Campus Recreation’s page on the Willamette website, ([\[lamette.edu/dept/campusrec/\]\(http://www.wilamette.edu/dept/campusrec/\)\), or visit Bryan Schmidt on the second floor of the University Center.](http://www.wil-</a></p>
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# A NEW LAYOUT

The first thing students will notice when visiting the remodeled facility will be the expansion of physical space.

Passage explained that the space previously occupied by the racquetball courts has been transformed into a circuit room, fully equipped with new sets of weights and a brand-new stretching machine.

“We turned one of the courts upstairs into a multipurpose room, a space which will be equipped with yoga mats, medicine balls, etc. This is something we really needed for working out, or even classes and club events,” Passage said.

There are essentially three zones in the new fitness center: an Olympic-style lifting zone, a cardio zone and a circuit training zone, each now containing twice as much equipment as it did before, making the fitness center more available and accessible to more students.

“There are different versions of different activities. Let’s say you want to do a chest workout. You would usually wait in line to use a bench press and maybe have peo-

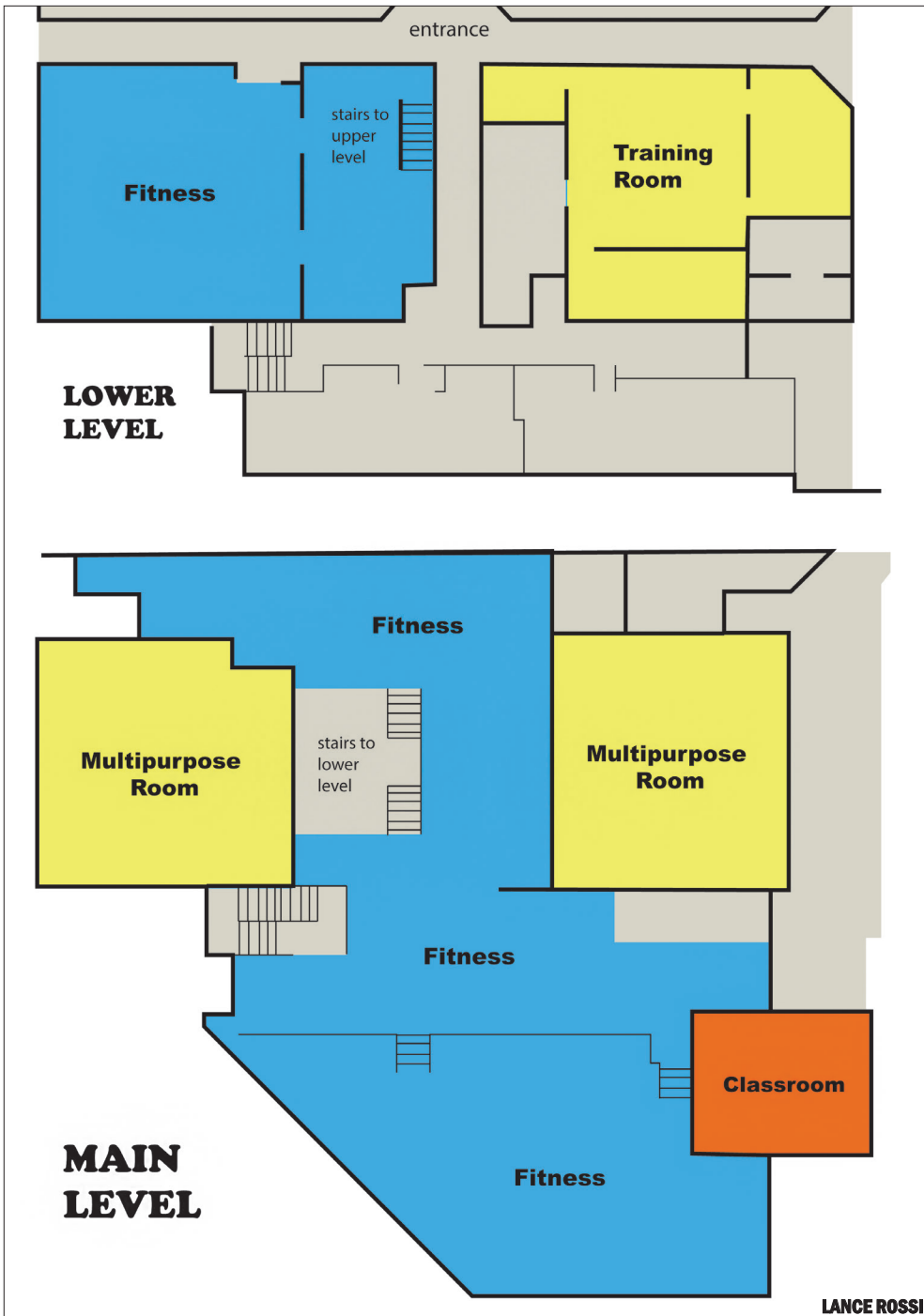
ple watching you use this bench press, which can get really uncomfortable,” Schmidt said. “But now you can use the bench press, or you can use a cable machine, or a selectorized machine, cardio balls, push ups – there are probably seven different ways to work that muscle group. There are a lot of variations and options for students and their different needs.”

The cardio zone of the fitness center is where students will notice the biggest improvement, due to the new technology made available.

“It’s like having an iPad attached to the machine, only they’re loaded with all the fitness information you’d ever want,” Schmidt said, referring to PREVA, a new fitness program designed to customize workouts by tracking progress.

A mobile application also exists for exercising outdoors that connects with the machines as well to integrate to the rest of the routines. Different messages and notifications can be customized such as tracking workouts or updates on campus.

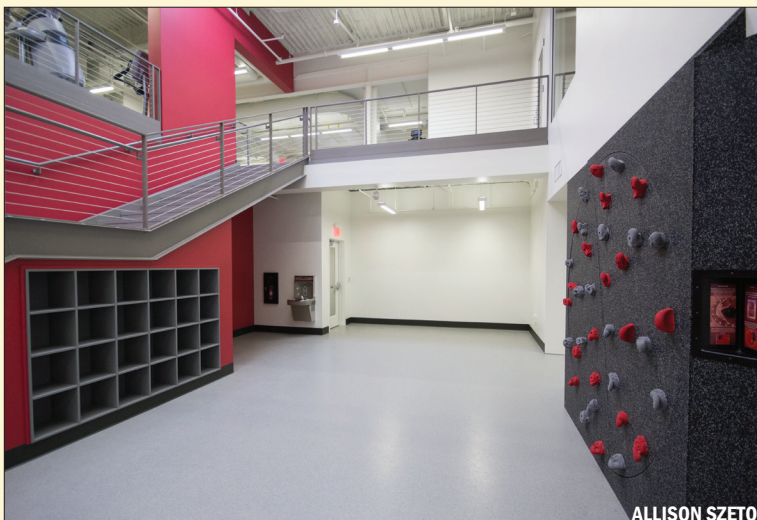
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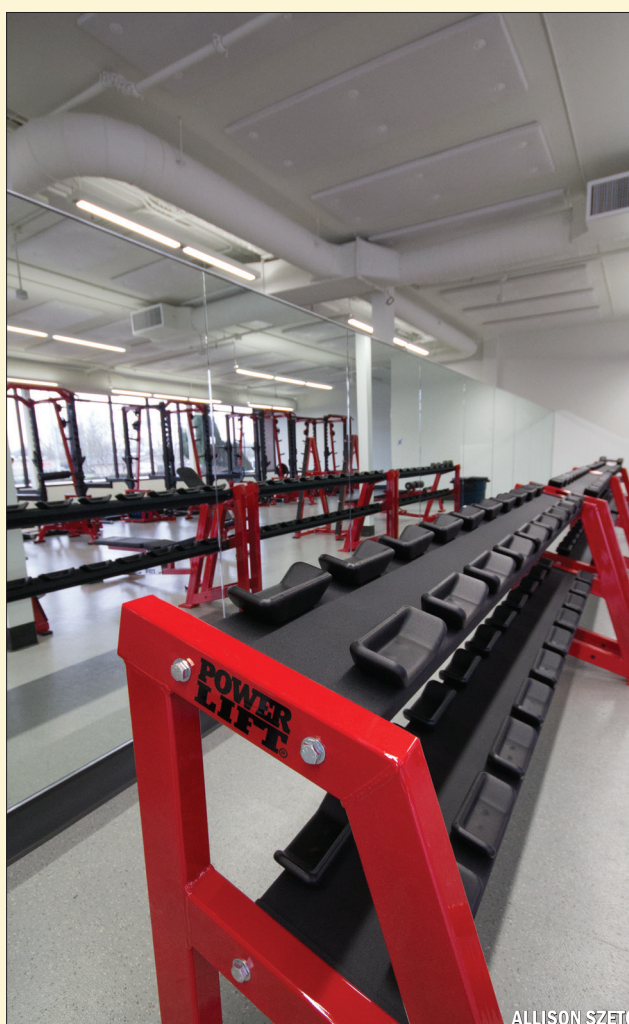
## “WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR?”



ALLISON SZETO



ALLISON SZETO



ALLISON SZETO

**Bryan Schmidt**, director of campus recreation: Anything that’s good for our community is something that totally energizes me. I think the new fitness center will bring students together and will make people feel better, whether it’s about themselves or in general, and anything that helps people is great. We have so many good people and it’s such a cool community. I think Sparks isn’t necessarily something like, “We finally have something that will solve our problems”, but it is definitely another vehicle here at Willamette that students can be proud of.

**Rob Passage**, assistant athletics director: My favorite part of the whole project is seeing people’s reaction. It’s been a year and a half process and as we have our tours, they’ll be excited about the project. It’s the wow factor.

**Ryan Johnston**, senior: I’m excited for more space and that it’s going to be finally done. Because first, they told us it’d be done by September, then by December, then after break. I’m ready for the suspense to be over.

**Ali Babij**, junior: I’m looking forward to having more than three squat racks. And the AC system... it used to be boiling without good windows. The sound system is exciting too, and that there’s more than like three treadmills.

**Dawn Maddocks**, freshman: The infinity rock-climber that they said they have! They might ban me from Sparks because I refuse to get off it.

Some of the perks students can look forward to: New equipment, an infinity rock-climber and a larger weight-lifting area.

# SPORTS FEUD

## Imperfection at its finest



ZACH OSERAN

STAFF WRITER

Baseball is America's pastime. Over the last thirty years the game of baseball has seen significant changes. The steroids era has caused major controversy, and international players have begun to make significant impacts in the league.

Suddenly, a new argument is emerging. Baseball fans and professionals all around the league are beginning to wonder if baseball should join the NBA and NFL in the implementation of instant replay.

If the MLB were to instate instant replay during games, it would reduce the amount of correctable errors during the game, but to what extent?

Baseball games are already long and, frankly, when you're watching them on TV, extremely boring.

I am a diehard Seattle Mariners fan. I grew up with baseball. Even so, there is no way I can sit through watching nine innings on TV.

Take that into consideration; then think about what replay would do. For starters, it would make the game even longer and much slower, according to Gregg Doyel of CBSSports.com.

The average baseball game is already nearly three hours long, and extending it even longer so coaches can check whether or not each pitch is a ball or a strike is a waste of time.

Baseball is also a game of tradition.

We have already seen how the use of steroids in baseball has tarnished America's pastime. If instant replay were to be established, it would take away from the purity of the sport and the tradition.

Brandon Phillips, second baseman for the Cincinnati Reds, once said, "Baseball is like life; it isn't perfect."

What he's saying is that there is room for human error in baseball. Human error makes the game more exciting. Frankly, we know baseball is not as fast-paced of a game as basketball or football, but the human factor of officiating makes the game more thrilling; it has been the tradition of baseball since the beginning.

Baseball has always been America's sport. Baseball is too steeped in tradition to become another sport that is constantly under the scope of instant replay.

In 2010, Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga, signed to the Rangers yesterday, almost hit the lottery for baseball pitchers; he almost had a perfect game. It was the bottom of the ninth inning, two outs and the last batter stepped to the plate. Umpire Jim Joyce blew a call at first base and ruined Galarraga's dream.

If this play were to be challenged, it would have been reversed and Galarraga would have been in the history books as the 24th pitcher in Major League history to throw a perfect game.

But if we start to get instant replay in baseball for these types of calls, when do we cross the line? It's a slippery slope. Will soon every pitch be reviewed? Every check swing? What about every groundball to make sure the first baseman has his foot on the bag?

Human officiating has always been a tradition in the MLB. Yes, it's not perfect, but that's just baseball.

Baseball isn't perfect, and it shouldn't have to be.

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# Mertens: It's not about the spotlight, it's about changing sports culture

BRANDON CHINN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Rewind the calendar back to Jan. 26, and it wouldn't have been uncommon for the nation to be unfamiliar with the name Conner Mertens.

That all changed on Jan. 27, when Mertens, a redshirt freshman placekicker on the Willamette University football team, became the first college football player in the United States to publicly come out as bisexual.

Since posting his coming out letter to his Twitter account last Monday, Mertens has emerged as a national icon. ESPN, CNN, FOX, USA Today and the Huffington Post, along with other radio and local news stations, have interviewed him.

Mertens has been contacted via Twitter by several professional athletes, including Willamette alumnus and two-time Olympian Nick Symmonds. In the past nine days, he's also seen his number of Twitter followers skyrocket from 891 to 3,293.

Most collegiate athletes, and college students in general, would let such a spotlight go to their head. For Mertens, however, it's about the message.

"I was hoping to send a message to other athletes and other kids that you can be who you want to be, and you shouldn't have to be who society wants you to be," Mertens said.

Since posting the letter, which has received 443 retweets and 1,090 favorites on Twitter, Mertens has raved about the support he's received from his Willamette football family.

"From the first minute I told [Coach Fowles], he was immediately on board and had my back," Mertens said. "Sports teams are families. [The football team] really showed that this week by embracing all of me, which is awesome. It's great that they're taking it all in instead of just what they want to take in. It really shows the character of our team - how great they are."

In addition to his football

family, Mertens appreciates the wide range of support from the Willamette community as a whole.

"The community has been great," Mertens said. "There's been a couple weird looks, a couple stares, but overall I haven't been treated any differently."

While he hasn't endured

much criticism within the confines of the University, he understands that there are many people and organizations who disapprove of queer identities.

For Mertens, that criticism is trivial.

"I paid attention to that stuff for about two minutes, and then realized that it's their own insecurities, their own ig-

norance that's at play. A lot of people have this notion that if you disagree with somebody that also means they hate you or don't like you," Mertens said. "You can disagree with someone and still love them and respect them, and once you realize that, it's a whole different perspective on things."

Acknowledging the media frenzy surrounding him since the announcement, Mertens expressed his desire to step out of the spotlight.

"In the last week, it's been moving more towards me, and it's not about that," Mertens said. "I don't want to be the center of attention."

He echoed once again that it wasn't about him, but the point he was trying to convey.

"I want my message and my letter to be really what is important in all of this. It's not about me; I'm not trying to be famous or be the poster child," Mertens said. "The end all be all goal is to help people feel like they can be themselves. Especially in sports culture, it's a place where if you aren't seen a certain way you're immediately written off as not a good athlete, not talented, not normal."

Mertens also expressed hope that his being in the spotlight would mean that others down the road would be able to avoid it.

"Hopefully we'll get to the point one day where this isn't a new story, and it's just another day on a college football campus where some kid is just being himself instead of coming out," Mertens said.

Nine days after his momentous declaration, regardless of all the attention and publicity surrounding him, Mertens said he is finally able to be himself.

"The fact that I was vulnerable and real with my whole team and the community at large, people have really responded to that," Mertens said. "I've made a lot closer friendships because of being real and honest with them."

"It was a matter of being fed up with having to live a certain way that I wasn't really being honest with people. I think by me not being real with myself and others, I was adding to the problem of this idea that it's not okay to be who you are."

Conner Mertens  
Freshman placekicker



CONNER MERTENS

Conner Mertens, a redshirt freshman on the Willamette football team, became the first active college football player at any level to publicly come out as bisexual last month.

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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### Brandon Luedtke

Sophomore - Basketball - Meridian, Idaho

Luedtke dominated the boards and scoring on Saturday against Whitman, leading all players with 24 points and 14 rebounds.

# Baseball ready to continue path to success

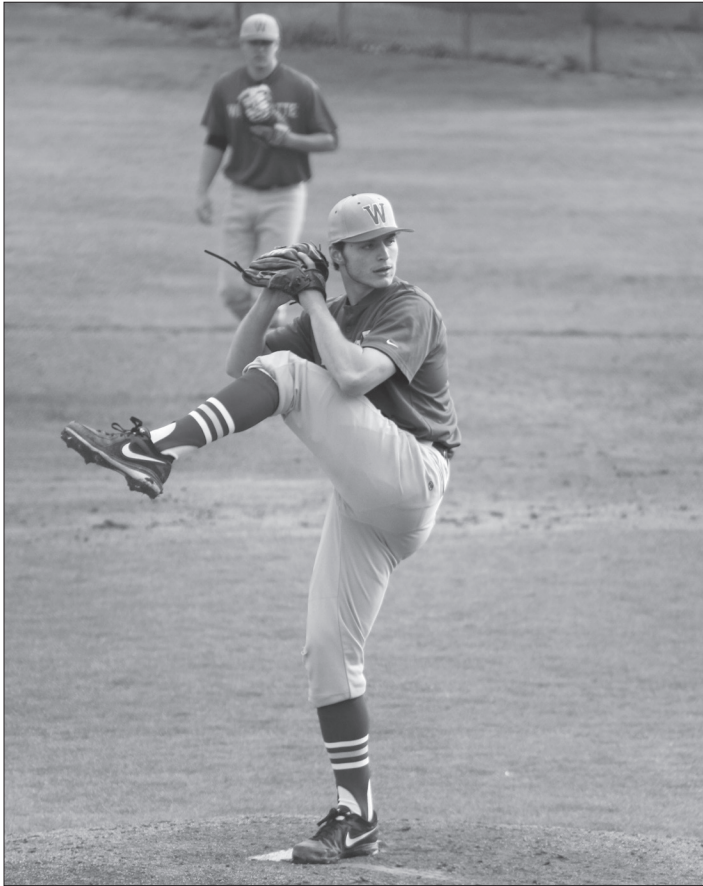
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"It just shows that any team can catch fire at anytime and it boosts our team's confidence," Kawamura said. "Last year seems like a long time ago and a lot has changed within our team and the league."

If the Bearcats are to claim

the NWC title, they will have to top the defending Division III National Champion Wildcats of Linfield College.

Linfield finished 21-3 last season in conference play and was picked to win again in the 2014 coaches poll. The Bearcats were picked to finish fifth in the poll behind Linfield,



MATT TONOKAWA

Junior pitcher Peter Hoffman delivers a pitch in an intersquad practice on Sunday. Hoffman notched an impressive 3.18 ERA in 2013.



MATT TONOKAWA

Sophomore pitcher Evan Giddings will be one of several youthful pitchers who will contribute to the pitching staff this season.

George Fox, Pacific Lutheran and Whitworth University.

Despite being picked to finish in the middle of the pack, the Bearcats believe they can compete with any team.

"There is a sense of confidence," Chinn said. "People are going out to the field every day expecting to get the job done. I'm really excited for the season to start up next week, and I think we have the potential to make some noise."

The Bearcats will head south to open their season as they open up a four-game series at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, Calif. on Friday, Feb. 7.

"The team wants to win a Northwest Conference title," Head Coach Aaron Swick said. "We all believe there is the talent, determination and attitude to reach our goal."

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## 'Cats learn lessons in latest defeat

KIT KINGSTAD  
STAFF WRITER

The Willamette women's basketball team had challenging games in Washington last weekend, where they faced both Whitworth University and Whitman College on the hardwood.

The Bearcats first played Whitworth in Spokane, Wash. on Friday, losing 83-47. They then drove south to Walla Walla, Wash. to play Whitman, ranked third in the nation for all of Division III. That game ended 78-33 in favor of the Missionaries.

"You have to learn to fight fatigue and still play hard on trips like this," junior point guard Jojo DeLong said.

The weekend, although trying, was a good opportunity for the team to improve its game.

"Rebounding was something we struggled with this weekend. Compared to our opponents we are a small team, so that is something we always need to key in on," senior guard Alexa Beeson said.

Beeson had a strong showing this weekend, scoring 20 points over the course of both games while hauling in nine rebounds.

"We made adjustments

from our past games and handled the pressure both teams put on us really well; we stayed very composed as a team," Beeson said.

Junior guard Katie Kalugin brought in the most points for the team, scoring 24 points for the weekend while contributing 17 rebounds. She notched a double-double in the game against Whitman.

"The main positive to take away from these games is our offensive game which has gotten better in terms of patience and shot selection," Kalugin said.

Beeson said the Lady 'Cats expect to win the games in the coming weeks, now that they know what they need to do to make it happen. "I would like to see our defense come together in future games, which would help us with things like rebounding and transition," Kalugin said.

The Bearcats will take all the positives they can from the trip and move forward.

"It was a good learning experience and more time for team bonding off of the court," DeLong said.

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## Men's basketball loses to the Whits

EVAN GIDDINGS  
STAFF WRITER

Starting the second half of the Northwest Conference season against Whitworth University and Whitman College, the Bearcats suffered from slow first halves, as they were outscored by 23 combined points in the first 20 minutes of both games en route to two consecutive losses.

Willamette initially seemed calm with the prospect of having to play the top team in the conference, jumping out to a 6-0 advantage against Whitworth on Friday night.

That lead didn't last long, however, as the Pirates forced three consecutive turnovers, which led to nine straight points.

Battling back and forth, the Bearcats managed to knock down two free throws before going into the half well within reach, 36-28.

Coming out of the half, however, Whitworth seemed to have a new mentality and outplayed the Bearcats on both ends of the floor.

Forcing the 'Cats into 11 turnovers in the second half, the Pirates pulled away and took the win 87-58.

The team would not have much time to dwell on the loss

to Whitworth, as it competed against Whitman the very next night.

The Missionaries began the game shooting well from the floor, knocking down five of their first seven shots. Whitman's efficient shooting performance allowed it to grab a 16-point advantage with just over four minutes remaining in the half.

For Whitman, the 16-point lead was its largest of the game.

Trailing by 16, it seemed as if the tide began to turn for the Bearcats. Led by sophomore post Brandon Luetdke, who recorded 24 points and 11 boards, the 'Cats rallied to draw within just four points with 13:32 remaining.

Despite drawing close, the Bearcats were unable to stay in the game.

Nine Willamette turnovers led to 19 more points from the Missionaries, and the lead was too much for the Bearcats to overcome.

After losing six consecutive games, Willamette will look to get back on track against rival Linfield College on Friday, Feb. 7. The Bearcats topped Linfield in their first meeting on Jan. 10, 78-70.

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# SPORTS FEUD

## Get it right



NATE  
BALK

GUEST WRITER

Baseball umpires are human beings just like the rest of us.

Humans are prone to make mistakes, but in a game where millions of dollars are spent and countless fans watch games, there should be no margin for error.

Three years ago, a perfect game where no runners reached base was in the making. But, Jim Joyce, a 26-year Major League Baseball umpire, made a costly mistake.

With one out left in the ninth inning, Jason Donald of the Cleveland Indians hit a weak groundball to first baseman Miguel Cabrera of the Detroit Tigers. Cabrera fielded the groundball and threw it to Armando Galarraga, who caught the ball and stepped on the base for the out.

His date with destiny was complete.

Jim Joyce thought otherwise. Donald was called safe after Joyce ruled that Galarraga missed the base, something replay later proved wrong.

In the postgame interview, a teary Joyce told the world, "I just cost the kid a perfect game."

In hindsight, he knew he made a mistake.

But if instant replay had been a part of baseball, this would have never happened. Currently, there are 23 pitchers who have thrown a perfect game in the history of baseball. Aramando Galarraga would have been the 24th, had it not been for Joyce.

Baseball, along with sports like basketball and football, has athletes who are becoming bigger, better, faster and stronger.

Athletes are able to do things that most of us would never be able to dream of doing. In both basketball and football, instant replay is an integral part of the game.

Basketball referees use replay to confirm a shot is released before the buzzer goes off, and football coaches are allowed to ask for a review on close or controversial plays.

So, why doesn't baseball incorporate this?

The emphasis on using instant replay is not to discredit umpires, officials or referees; it is to make the right call and make the game fair.

In 2013, one of the Major League Baseball teams had a payroll of \$262,497,040. The money is spent to have the best shot of winning games. During those games the calls must be correct, not left to a human eye.

No, I'm not saying balls and strikes need to be reviewed, nor does there need to be an oligarchy at every game, sitting in a booth. However, there does need to be a system to make sure umpires are making the right calls.

Even though the past 150 years have been great, baseball is in a new era. The time to make calls correct and even-keeled playing field must come sooner rather than later. Before there are any more blown calls, baseball must add instant replay as a component of the game.

No umpire should ever go to bed knowing that they blew a call that cost a team the game or a player a chance for history.

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## Beyond school: The ultimate test

EMILY DOUGAN  
COLUMNIST

The most valuable lesson one can learn in college is NOT how to bust out a 10-page essay in a single night, how to creatively cook a package of ramen noodles, or even the secret to the best hang-over cure.

Nay, the most valuable lesson one can learn in college is how to live with other people.

I'm sure that, if you're reading this, you've probably had at least one roommate during your time at Willamette. If not, then I honestly feel sorry for you, and you should maybe look into changing that. BUT, if you have had at least one, you too can attest to the fact that you learn a lot about yourself.

Currently, I'm living in a house with six other roommates, and apparently I'm a heavy sleeper. But I digress.

Being able to get along with people in intimate settings is an asset not only to your personality, but also to your professional development. Being able to understand, empathize and problem-solve with other humans is pretty damn important.

When you live with someone outside of your family, you not only share physical space, but emotional space.

Together, your fears and happinesses coalesce into a complicated web that creates your relationship with that person.

This web becomes even more apparent when you are living with a close friend.

Before living together, you likely had your own spaces where you could both spend some alone time to mentally process troubles and concerns. But when you share a physical space, that barrier is broken and EVERYTHING is shared.

Sometimes, as I've experienced living with a close friend, this can be amazing and you have one of your best homies right there to talk to when life gets tough. However, it can also be very stressful when you just need alone time.

In these instances, it is so important to work hard to create your own personal space and to create new boundaries. Do this, and your relationship with that person will be even stronger than before.

Constant communication is also vital.

Last spring, when I was abroad in Hong Kong, I was assigned a roommate with whom I had not had any contact before leaving the U.S.

It would be easy to say that some of our "roommate issues" arose because of cultural differences, but I think the problem was really that we were too alike in many ways.

When things were tense, we wouldn't talk about it, and it all blew up one day when I was feeling ill (read: hungover). We yelled at each other about the trash in the room.

At the end of it, we laughed and realized this could have been solved by simply talking about it. So we hugged, and it was all better.

It's crucial to live with new people, with people who have different schedules, hopes and dreams than you do.

It makes you a more well-rounded person, and allows you to gain interpersonal skills that aren't possible to gain in other ways.

But you have to do it right, and try the best you can to stay true to yourself and communicate.

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### Letters to the Editor

We invite you to submit letters to the editor. Letters are limited to 150 words, must include your name and must be submitted by Monday at noon on the week of intended publication.

The *Collegian* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. Please email letters to <msari>.

### EDITORIAL

## Putting our words to action: Investing in a more positive LGBTQ climate

CONTINUED from Page 1

Until now, no active college football player has had the courage to publicly reveal his sexual identity to be something other than was not what we expected: heterosexual.

For an overwhelmingly male, heteronormative sport, last week's event was monumental. But we need to realize that someone's sexual identity should not be breaking news.

By broadcasting an individual's coming out experience, we send the signal that it is still not "normal" for a male athlete in a sport like football to identify as LGBTQ. By making a spectacle of one man's courage, we are drawing our attention away from the broader challenges that shape the lives of LGBTQ people.

Not every coming out experience is as positive as Conner's. According to the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, nearly 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ.

Three of the top five reasons why LGBTQ youth are homeless (or at risk for being homeless) are due to family members' homophobic rejection of the youth's sexuality and/or gender identity, sometimes resulting in violence and abuse.

These statistics are often left unaddressed due to the disparities between our university's climate and the national climate regarding LGBTQ individuals.

As a result, our statements of equal opportunity and individual anecdotes of acceptance fade into distant memory without practical, concrete resources and institutional changes that demonstrate our campus is a safe and inclusive space for LGBTQ students.

“The impact [these resources] can have for one student, and for our campus climate as a whole, can be immense.”

It's time we stand behind our words of support and acceptance and take action.

The Huffington Post reported in 2013 that three of our neighboring peer institutions, including the University of Oregon, Portland State University and Southern Oregon University, were among the top 25 LGBTQ-friendly American universities and colleges.

Data collected from Campus Pride, an organization dedicated to making institutions of higher education more inclusive, safer spaces for people with LGBTQ identities, ranked the universities in terms of LGBTQ policy inclusion, support and institutional commitment, academic curricula and student resources.

But where was Willamette? What resources and programs do these 25 institutions indexed by Campus Pride offer their students that we do not?

They have more LGBTQ faculty, sex-neutral restroom facilities, staff members dedicated to LGBTQ issues, a LGBTQ studies program, LGBTQ housing options and themes, an active LGBTQ alumni group, LGBTQ scholarships, and an accessible, simple process for students to change their name and gen-

der identity on university documents.

The list is long; it will require time, patience and tireless work from students to see changes not just implemented on our campus, but also proposed here, too.

Much work has already been done, particularly with sex-neutral restrooms. But that doesn't mean that we can't continue the work necessary to make Willamette a safer, more welcoming place for future students.

Some of these resources may seem trivial, but the impact they can have for one student, and for our campus climate as a whole, can be immense.

Let's continue to support Conner and our myriad other LGBTQ students, faculty and staff, as well as acknowledge the changes the University's administration have enacted to make Willamette more inclusive and welcoming for all students.

We must also continue our conversation regarding the issues that face the LGBTQ individuals on our campus and in our society.

It's necessary we turn our sentiments of support, acceptance and equality into visible measures, because without action, our words are meaningless.

### COLLEGIAN EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editorial represents the composite opinion of the *Collegian* Editorial Board.

Miles Sari • Editor-in-Chief  
Kelley Villa • Managing Editor  
Maggie Boucher • Opinions Editor

## State of the Union: Is it all worth it?

ANDREW MITTENDORF  
GUEST WRITER

“Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States.”

These words have always been the start of the State of the Union address – a tradition practiced since the founding of our country. It is mandated in Article II, Section Three of the United States Constitution that “the President inform annually Congress on the state of the Union and to recommend any measures that he believe necessary and expedient.”

Every year, millions of Americans tune in to the broadcast of the address. This year, while watching President Obama speak, I started to wonder, “Is this all necessary?” Every year, regardless of who the President is and what party he is a member of, the speech sounds awfully similar.

The blatantly obvious pro-American sentiments about praising the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, the political agenda – this year pertaining pertaining to climate change and American withdrawal from Afghanistan – the American citizens'

critique of every administration, the empty promises, the frequent party line applause breaks and the stoic face of Speaker of the House John Boehner.

While I am a conservative and had questions and concerns about the policy being discussed, I want to remove the politics from the occasion and tackle my previous question.

The United States revolves around its citizens electing politicians to office to represent them. I feel that in order to make the right choices and vote in a manner that is beneficial to not only themselves, but to the entire country, the electorate body needs to be politically educated.

Some might argue that the State of Union does not help educate individuals regarding voting because the President has already been elected when giving the speech.

While this is true, it can still help when the time comes to elect senators and representatives and, if the president is in his or her first term, it can give people an idea about whether or not to reelect them. Unlike any other address the presi-



Despite lackluster content, President Obama's fifth State of the Union address updated America on the government's progress.

dent gives, the State of the Union is very specific and is intended to inform Congress and the people of America about what took place the previous year and the plan for the upcoming year.

So is the State of the Union necessary?

Although the speech may sound almost identical from year to year, I believe it is part of our civic duty to be as educated as possible on the political issues facing our country.

By having and listening to the State of the Union address every year, we are able to syn-

chronize ourselves with the person we have elected to lead the United States.

That's why next year I implore you watch the State of the Union address.

Not only will you gain political knowledge about the issues facing the country, but you will witness a crucial and traditional awe-inspiring event that dates back into the early years of our great country.

And remember, “God bless the United States of America.”

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# Think of all the beauty left around you

MAGGIE BOUCHER  
OPINIONS EDITOR

"I have to be at the Capitol for my internship at 3 p.m., can't forget I have soccer practice at 5 p.m., and an Alpha Chi meeting at 8 p.m. and I need to make sure I study for my classical rhetoric test tomorrow."

This is an example of an average thought that runs through my head while I'm getting ready in the morning. I'm always so worried about making it to every meeting and every practice and getting 100 percent on every test. While I try my hardest not to complain about being tired and just wanting to watch TV, there are moments when I am so busy that I just want to give up.

As students, we have so much going on in our lives that sometimes we forget what's really important.

Now I'm not saying school and extracurricular activities aren't important; however, when we take a step back from the stresses of our daily lives, we realize we should be thankful for the little things in life. And I have had two experiences that have helped me understand this.

My junior and senior years of high school I was a volunteer for Northern Nevada Respite and Volunteer Experience (RAVE), a non-profit organization



Best Buddies Vice President sophomore Erica Vogel and Best Buddies member Megan Humpert sing karaoke at the club's bimonthly meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

that provides "respite care to families that have children with special needs." I worked with children as young as six months to 7 years old with disabilities, including Down syndrome and autism. I don't care how cliché it sounds, but they changed my life, and I didn't want to leave them when the time came for me to pack my bags and come to Willamette.

But when I found out about Best Buddies, a non-profit organization that creates one-to-one friendships between students and differently-abled kids, I was so excited I could still be

involved with such an important cause. Now every other Wednesday at 7 p.m., I get to spend an hour with my buddy and do everything from swing dancing to karaoke.

Anne Frank once said, "Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy." OK, so I might have only gotten two hours of sleep last night, and no, I'm not looking forward to studying for my math test. But after a long day of school, when I see the smile on my buddy's face, all of the homework and lack of sleep doesn't seem to matter anymore. It's the little things

that matter. It's talking about our favorite animal – horses – and writing each other notes in our Buddy Journals that matters.

RAVE and Best Buddies have taught me to always look on the bright side of things, because there are so many things to be thankful for.

Whenever I don't want to be in the library until 2 a.m. or run those extra sprints, I just envision my buddy; how she taught me to think of all the beauty still left around me and be happy.

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# Finding balance, trouble and treble

MARIKA McCARTHY  
COLUMNIST

I was convinced all the headphones I owned were broken.

Or, I thought I had lost the ability to hear in my right ear. A genetic abnormality, dormant until now.

Even now I'm not quite sure when I noticed that The National's "Trouble Will Find Me" – the only thing I've listened to since winter break – was only coming out of my left earphone. Maybe the wires got crossed inside the cable, but even if that was the problem, I still don't know anything practical about electronics.

I continue to find myself plugged-in around campus, in various nooks and crannies that I have come to think of as my own, and on the Friday-night Amtrak train back up to Washington.

And all the while, I have been perpetually switching the right earbud to the left, hearing the crooning repetition that "I Need My Girl" a little – or, I should say a lot – off-kilter and feel-

ing just the same.

Turns out that the sound settings on my computer were set to an all left output. And though I fixed it with my headphones plugged into the jack, it just reset itself. I had to fix it again, this time hopefully for good.

It is in the mundane that I best find the way to speak about things that I wouldn't be able to explain otherwise. When you lay on the floor of the shower and listen to the water rain on your head, you could be a seed. It's a feeling, of growth and healing.

But is that really what you want? What if these feelings never go away, or if they do and now they're gone for good?

I realize that I am losing my mind. Can you become a different person overnight? When I was a little girl I went to gymnastics weekly. I'm still falling off of the balance beam.

This column is now so melancholy. It is a reflection of me, and it is awful. I want to be fun to read again.

I want to stumble through pretty

turns of phrase and through unconventional paragraph structure until I fall into truths about my existence that resonate with honesty and earnestness. I want to be fun to read again. I want to be fun again.

I feel so dull, when I want to be level-headed. I want to be reasonable. Rational, calm, composed.

When you look outside your window and see the February sun, you have to understand that it's still going to be cold before you leave your room and forget to bring a jacket.

Understanding may be hard to comprehend and it may not even come, no matter how hard you try. But trusting in those instincts buried underneath experiences and emotion will have you picking up a flannel off the floor as you leave for class.

In real life, it isn't as easy to find as on a computer, but I am trying to find balance.

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# What are you doing after graduation?

ANNIE GAINZA  
GUEST WRITER

It's a scary question. It means that the real world is coming, and you're screwed if you don't know what step two is. But are we really?

It can be a challenge to be a Bearcat – sometimes more than we realize. Is the "real world" going to be all that scary?

When I first arrived at Willamette, I was under the impression people wouldn't hurt me. It might sound silly, but I genuinely thought that people would always be fair and that the world was going to treat me accordingly.

Call it white privilege. Call it naiveté. I don't care – it's what I thought.

During my four years, I've been told I have no people skills and that my presence makes people feel bad about themselves. However, I've also been told the exact opposites of those statements. So I had to learn to pick and listen.

Willamette has taught me how to pick my people. Not everyone loves everyone else. That's just reality. But on your worst day, if you can find people who want to fill your bucket and don't see you as a burden, you're doing OK. You meet a lot of people in college, but if you make it out with two or three really solid friends, you've done well.

And how does that help in the great world beyond State Street? You can be a bucket-filler to people who have never learned how it feels to be validated. You can be observant and considerate

towards others. Chances are you will make an impression on someone that, in turn, will want to help you.

It may be showing you a cool part of a new city or introducing you to someone who might want to hire you, but it will serve you.

At Willamette, it's also about listening. It's about knowing if, and where, I can help. Not just the surface, "I'm fine" when doing the Jackson Plaza walk-by, but hearing and looking someone in the eyes when they are talking about their interests, goals and feelings toward the future.

That's how you ask the "What's next?" question without being a dick.

It's about listening to the answer and validating the excitement and fear behind it.

It's exciting yet terrifying to be moving on, to experience change, but we've done it once before. We came to Willamette. We stepped into the unfamiliar with both feet and look what it gave us: Exactly what we need to make the next step.

It doesn't mean that the dream job is going to be right there after graduation. It doesn't mean there aren't going to be terrible days when you ask yourself, "What the hell am I doing?" That's just part of living. Because there are going to be amazing days, too.

What's next? New challenges for better and worse. It's not going to be easy, but it's happening anyway. Let's get psyched.

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## CORRECTIONS

The feature story printed on Wednesday, Jan. 29 regarding the arrival of the American studies program students reported that the International Peer Coach (IPC) program was established two years ago. The program has actually been around for nearly 20 years, however, the IPC Lead Team was established two years ago.

The article also stated that ASP students study un-

der the American studies program major at TIUA. ASP students are actually enrolled in the American studies program at Willamette University.

The individuals featured in the photographs were mistakenly identified as members of the ASP class of 2013. The students are members of the class of 2012.

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Corrections may be submitted to Editor-in-Chief Miles Sari <[msari](mailto:msari)>.

Got wit?  
Art skills?  
Want to earn money  
for your wit and art  
skills?  
Apply to be the  
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Email <[msari](mailto:msari)>  
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