

COLLEGIAN

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ASWU will be holding elections to fill 2019-2020 senate positions on September 5-6. See pages 6-7 to learn more about the candidates.

Opening Days introduces incoming students to campus life

 MADELYN JONES
NEWS EDITOR

Opening Days (OD), Willamette’s student-run orientation program for incoming students, welcomed first-year, international and transfer students to the campus community through five days of activities. Groups of 10-15 students were paired with two Opening Days leaders who led group meetings, facilitated conversations about campus culture and offered information about campus and its resources.

This year, Opening Days coordinator Jaelin Sonoda (’20) and lead team members Katie Bick (’20), Tara Hickman (’21) and CJ Chow (’21) organized and ran the program. After being hired in the fall 2018 semester, they started making changes to the event based off of feedback from last year, planning trainings and hiring Opening Days leaders.

Once hired, Opening Days leaders had a few trainings in the spring semester of 2019, and then four days of all-day training right before the beginning of the program in August. In the trainings, the student volunteers learned about skills they would need during the job, like learning about campus resources available to students, group dynamics and leading conversations.

“My main goal was to make training for the leaders significantly less overwhelming... The way I tried to make it a little more digestible is by having activities instead of just presentations. [Having] something that people can engage in I think helped a lot, rather than just



COURTESY OF FRANK MILLER

Students place candles into the Mill Stream as a part of the Matriculation ceremony. This symbolizes the official beginning of their Willamette journey.

getting information told to them,” said Sonoda.

After training, Opening Days 2019 began as students started checking in and moving into their residence halls. Last year, the beginning of the school year was welcomed with over 100 degree weather, whereas the first day this year

was uncharastically rainy and kick-off ceremonies had to be moved to Smith Auditorium, despite usually being held on the quad.

Every year, Opening Days has a handful of staple events that serve certain purposes in the process of orienting students to their new home. These

events include Family Ties, Passport to Salem, Bearcats Give Back and Reality Check.

Family Ties is an event for the families of incoming students. It is a show of skits that presents scenarios that may happen with the evolving student-family relationship and offers solutions

for handling them. At the end, a panel of current Willamette student family members and a few current students answered questions from the audience.

As explained by Chow, the director of Family Ties, the main goal of the event is to “help [family members] have different strategies and communication styles” during this time of change.

Passport to Salem is an opportunity for students to start exploring their new surroundings outside of campus limits. They had a choice of going to the state fair, Exitus escape rooms, Create A Memory or to take a walking tour of downtown complete with a booklet of coupons for local businesses.

Bearcats Give Back is a service-oriented event that introduces students to service-learning, a focus of Willamette that relates to the University’s motto, “Not Alone Unto Ourselves Are We Born.” 79 students and 10 OD leaders volunteered at five different sites: Shangri-La, Salem Audubon Society, Marion Polk Food Share at the John Know Community Garden, SOAR Center and the Zena property (a plot of farm and forest land owned by WU), as reported by Hickman. Afterwards, the volunteer groups reflected on their experiences in a conversation to encourage mindful service-learning.

STUDENT-RUN, 2

Bon Appetit makes changes to meal plans and Montag Store



Two vending machines stand in what was once the Montag Store.

 DAVID FLANAGAN
CONTRIBUTOR

Dining services are an essential part of any college campus, especially one as full of foodies as Willamette University. However, because food and drink are so personal and important socially, physically and emotionally, it can be quite a challenge to please everyone all the time.

Recent changes to certain dining facilities and plans have been made with these challenges in mind. Nonetheless, some changes have attracted an amount of student attention, for good reason. A meeting with Lindsey Leisinger, director of dining services at Willamette, helped clarify the rationale behind some of these decisions and shed insight as to how students can give feedback

on future dining services projects. She talked about meal plan cost, changes to meal plan organization, a new Montag store and how students can get involved in shaping their dining experiences.

This year brings a slight increase in the prices of meal plans across the board, which can be troubling for students. As Leisinger noted, price increases reflect food price changes in the larger community. This most recent change is simply a reflection of higher food prices and a greater commitment to sustainability on behalf of Bon Appetit, the larger company that runs food service across Willamette’s campus.

Some returning students have also expressed concerns to the changes in meal plans to Willamette this year. In particular, a cheaper plan has been eliminated, and another plan with vastly more points and a correspondingly higher cost has been introduced in its place.

As Leisinger explained, “We’re trying to be mindful of student feedback.”

This last change was the direct result of student feedback last year

combined with an independent investigation led by University officials like Vice President for Student Affairs Ed Whipple and Housing Director Scott Etherton into how other universities structure their plans.

Leisinger reported that some students, especially student athletes, felt like they weren’t able to eat enough during the day and would have to wait until “All You Care to Eat” meals in order to get the food they needed. This new meal plan structure is designed for students to be less limited in how much they can eat, which is important for active and just plain hungry students both.

One change on many students’ minds is the conversion of the Montag Store, which was a student staffed convenience store up until this year, into a 24-hour vending machine-only location. The dining staff chose to enact this transition because of overwhelming student feedback in favor of longer hours and more access to snacks. Eliminating student staff from Montag means that snacking will be available any time of day or night and that a student employee will not have to stand by the counter for long stretches of inactivity.

WHAT’S THE BEEF, 4

Women’s soccer defeats Corban in first home game

 JACK KUYPER
SPORTS EDITOR

Willamette University’s women’s soccer team defeated Corban University 5-1 in their first game of the season on Friday, Aug. 30 at Sparks Field. Junior Lacey Jones earned WU’s first goal by taking control of the ball 17 yards out on the right side of the penalty area, dribbling it up and unloading a shot at the top right corner of the goal net. Strong defensive play prevented further scoring in the first half, keeping the game in reach for both teams entering the final 45 minutes.

After halftime, the Bearcats came out determined and decisive on offense. Senior Shanna Keil scored WU’s second goal just 6:53 into the second half. After intercepting a pass 10 yards from Corban’s goal, Keil dribbled up the middle and shot the ball right into the center of the net.

WOMEN’S SOCCER, 9



LIFESTYLES

Discover resources available to campus cyclists.

pg. 5



SPORTS

Men’s soccer defeats Howard Payne University, 4-0.

pg. 9



OPINIONS

Spider-Man still swings between Sony and Disney.

pg. 10



Student-run orientation features community building events

CONTINUED from Page 1

“All of the service sites were very excited to work with our incoming WU students and amazed by the amount of work that was accomplished within two hours. Many students also expressed that they wanted to stay at the service site for longer,” said Hickman.

Reality Check is another performance of skits, but this event is geared towards students.

“Reality Check is an event intended to make students aware of situations that may occur during their time on a college campus, and to ensure that incoming students are able to identify resources that may help them navigate their Willamette experience should any of these situations arrive,” said Bick.

These scenes deal with topics spanning from roommate conflict to sexual assault. Since this event handles more serious and difficult topics than the rest of Opening Days, there is a briefing beforehand to set expectations, a more serious tone and a debrief afterwards. This gives students a space to reflect on, internalize and discuss all of the information they just received.

“It is truly a toe-dip, or a 101 crash course, into the myriad of complex and nuanced issues that are common on our campus,” said Bick, acknowledging that Reality Check is just the beginning of conversations that are too complicated to be fully discussed in a night and should be ongoing.

The last day of Opening Days featured a volleyball tournament and Willamette Night Out, an event where activities were spread throughout campus, including an

open mic night and s’mores. The next day, Aug. 27, classes started.

“At the end of OD, we hope that students feel like they are prepared for their time at WU and know people and places they can reach out to for support,” explained Hickman.

If you have an experience as an Opening Days leader and are interested in becoming the next coordinator or a member of lead team, applications are out now and due to the Office of Student Activities by Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 3 p.m.

If you are interested in being an Opening Days leader, applications will be out later this semester.

Chow spoke to the impact being a leader and a part of lead team has had on his time at Willamette. “Honestly, if I didn’t have such a good experience as I did, I probably would not have come back to Willamette this year. I met a lot of people as an Opening Days leader, and beyond that I learned a lot about myself. About how I deal with stress... solve an issue, lead discussions, facilitate groups. I learned a lot about myself.”

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Student-athletes help first-years move their belongings into dorm rooms (above).

Blitz the Bearcat cheers on teams of Opening Days students competing in the volleyball tournament (below).



COURTESY OF FRANK MILLER



COURTESY OF FRANK MILLER

WEEKLY REPORT BY CAMPUS SAFETY

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Aug. 24, 6:37 a.m. (Atkinson Annex): An officer found graffiti on the building signs. A work order was filled to remove the graffiti.

Aug. 28, 3:40 p.m. (Ferry Street): Campus Safety received a report of a student finding their car intentionally scratched. An officer responded and a report was filed.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

Aug. 24, 10:49 a.m. (Goudy): Campus Safety received a call reporting a medical emergency in Goudy. Officers responded and medics were also contacted. Medics evaluated the individual and they were left in the care of their friend.

Aug. 25, 5:30 p.m. (in a campus residence): Campus Safety received a call reporting an individual who was feeling ill and requesting to be transported to the hospital. An officer responded and evaluated the student and medics were requested shortly after. Medics arrived on the scene and they transported the student to the hospital. The area coordinator was also notified.

Aug. 26, 6:32 p.m. (Mill Street): Campus Safety received a call reporting a bicyclist who needed

medical attention from a cut. An officer responded and evaluated the student who then requested a ride home. The student was transported and the officer gave them some medical supplies to address the injury.

Aug. 29, 12:45 a.m. (in a campus residence): Campus Safety received a call from a student requesting to be transported to the emergency room. An officer responded and transported the student.

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Aug. 28, 4:42 p.m. (TIUA): Campus Safety received a request to seize cannabis. An officer responded and the items were picked up and logged in to evidence. A report was filed.

SECURITY VIOLATION

Aug. 23, 4:03 p.m. (Lausanne Hall): While on patrol, an officer found a door propped open with a water bottle. The officer secured the door and checked the area for anyone suspicious.

Aug. 27, 5:16 p.m. (Smullin Hall): While on patrol, an officer found a basement door propped open with a chair. The officer se-

cured the door and checked the area for anyone suspicious.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Aug. 21, 7:24 a.m. (TIUA): While on patrol, an officer encountered a transient camping in front of the building. The officer made contact with the occupant and were told to leave campus.

Aug. 21, 9:33 a.m. (Winter Street): Campus Safety received a report of a suspicious individual yelling and running into traffic on Winter Street. An officer responded and they ensured the individual left University property.

Aug. 24, 2:48 p.m. (University Apartments): Campus Safety received a call reporting an intoxicated individual. An officer responded, but the individual had moved off University property by the time they arrived.

Aug. 25, 8:48 a.m. (State Street): Campus Safety received a call reporting a suspicious individual on State Street. An officer responded and found the individual on Winter Street heading towards the hospital. The officer followed the individual until they were off campus.

Aug. 25, 1:33 p.m. (State Street): While on patrol, an offi-

cer noticed a suspicious individual yelling. The officer followed the individual until they made it off campus.

Aug. 26, 2:14 p.m. (Goudy Commons): Campus Safety received a call reporting an individual without a shirt on yelling. Officers responded and located the individual who was now headed off campus.

THEFT

The Service Center offers free bike locks available for students and staff. Bring your bike in to have it registered and get a free U-Lock!

Aug. 22, 12:55 a.m. (Ford Hall): A student came to the Campus Safety office to report their bike had been stolen. A report was filed and the student was also advised to contact the Salem Police Department. Video footage of the theft was also provided to the Salem Police Department.

Aug. 23, 9:10 a.m. (Matthews Hall): A student came to the Campus Safety office to report their bike had been stolen. A report was filed and the student was also advised to contact Salem Police.

Aug. 23, 11:57 a.m. (University Apartments): A student came to

the Campus Safety office to report their bicycle tires had been stolen from the rack on their vehicle in addition to a black bag they had mounted on the frame. An officer responded and a report was filed.

Aug. 26, 10:45 a.m. (Sparks Center): Campus Safety received a report of a stolen computer and equipment at Sparks. A report was filed.

Aug. 26, 5:30 p.m. (Collins building): A student stopped by the Campus Safety office to report their bike had been stolen. A report was filed.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Aug. 26, 7:50 a.m. (Sparks parking lot): Campus Safety received a report from an employee returned to their vehicle and discovered their vehicle had been damaged. A report was filed.

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

Interview with 2019-2020 ASWU President Amarit Ubhi



MADELYN JONES
NEWS EDITOR

Amarit Ubhi (’20) will be serving as president of Associated Students of Willamette University (ASWU) for the

2019-2020 academic year. Ubhi is a politics major and philosophy minor from Oakland, CA, who is interested in student activism, local government and youth empowerment.

What led you to run for ASWU president?

Ubhi: "I have always been someone who really advocates for change and I like taking initiative on a lot of things. I think the campus really needed someone who can see above the issues. Not in the way of ignoring them, but in a way of understanding them in different perspectives and understanding how it affects different people. This is a position that really needs someone who can listen to different groups of students, and not necessarily embody those different and sometimes con-

flicting values or opinions, but someone that can be able to represent and reflect them in their entirety. I feel like that is something I offer and it motivated me to run."

What projects or initiatives were you involved in as a senator last year?

Ubhi: "Last year, I was working with the Class of 2020 caucus to do a wellness campaign. We made posters of how you can make sure you are doing okay during finals. I also spent a great deal of time making care packages for students that were given out on the [first floor of the University Center]. We did lavender spray for pillows and included chamomile tea and little notes and goodies.

I was also on the calendar committee. That was a big initiative to make

sure that the school is going towards the goal of having more unification between the graduate and undergraduate schools. Especially now that Claremont School of Theology is coming over, it is very important that everyone is on the same page."

What are some of your goals for this year?

Ubhi: "My big goals are to make sure that I can have a good understanding of what the students' needs are, so expect me to be labeling or reaching out for concerns. Also, I plan on making sure ASWU is more in the community. [For example, with committees] this year I am making sure we are on top of minutes and attendance and making sure all of the information comes back to ASWU, so that the student body can be

more in the know and has a better idea of what's going on."

How have your identities impacted your time at Willamette?

Ubhi: "I am bicultural. My parents are Punjabi. It was interesting for me to be raised in a household that was traditionally Indian in some ways, and some ways not, and to be born in the very liberal area that is Oakland, CA. I have always thought that helped me understand different perspectives and understand that things are so much more complicated than a lot of people make them out to be."

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New Colloquium Associate job opens for students

ELIZABETH HYDE
STAFF WRITER

Willamette's First-Year Experience program is taking a holistic approach towards fostering collegiate success with the introduction upperclassmen student assistants known as Colloquium Associates (CAs).

"The First-Year Experience is a culmination of the best parts of previous first-year programs at Willamette as well as best practices across the U.S.," said Professor Sarah Kirk, Director of the First-Year Experience and a key player in implementing the new CA position.

Colloquium is a Latin derivative meaning "talk together." Colloquium classes are small in size and taught by experienced faculty that double as academic advisors. "What we've added to colloquium is

the 'fourth-hour,'" said Kirk. While each respective colloquium has different content, the fourth-hour has the same content for every colloquium group.

The fourth-hour meets once a week and is taught by campus experts who cover a broad swath of topics, like "What is a Liberal Arts Education?" or "What is a Healthy Relationship?" Discussions on the topics are then facilitated by CAs.

Before beginning their role as facilitators, CAs are required to complete a leadership course titled "Colloquium Leadership", led by Kirk and Kelvin Clark, director of Academic Support. CA students receive half credit for this class, in which they study transferable skills such as student development theory, community building and active listening. After completing the leadership training, CAs are

paid for their participation in the program. In addition to discussion facilitation, Colloquium Associates attend colloquium classes and hold their own office hours. First-year students can utilize these office hours for academic or social support.

Opening Days leaders are partnered with CAs for a smooth transition from Opening Days to the start of the academic year.

Some Colloquium Associates were recruited based on their experience with subjects being considered in a specific Colloquium class. Such was the case for Jay Hadfield (’20) and Kelly Ewing (’20). Russian major and English minor Jay Hadfield is working as a Colloquium Assistant for Professor Randall Havas's "Existentialism in Literature: Dostoevsky's 'Crime and Punishment'" class. Hadfield spent a se-

mester studying in St. Petersburg and also received a Carson Grant for research on Russian poetry titled, "Spirit of Exile: Queer Identity and Romantic Tradition in Lermontov's 'Demon.'"

"I think if I had taken on a role like this when I was 19, I would have done an awful job and led students quite astray. Now, though, I feel secure enough in my own self and my own life that I feel like I have earned some right to offer guidance," said Hadfield.

Another CA with experience in the field is Kelly Ewing, an environmental science major and Carson Grant recipient. As part of her Carson Grant, Ewing spent the summer researching regenerative agricultural practices in New Zealand by interviewing local farmers. After returning to Willamette, Ewing was recruited as a Colloquium Associate

for Professor Katja Meyer's class titled "Taming the Angry Beast: Climate Solutions".

"I hope that the CA position turns into something lasting at Willamette," said Ewing. "I think it has a lot of potential to connect people personally and provide academic support."

Rising juniors and seniors interested in supporting first-year students and bolstering their own leadership experience can apply to be CAs in the next academic year. The application will be posted on Handshake and sent through email.

"The biggest strength of the First-Year Experience program is empowering students towards their own success," said Kirk.

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Bishop rolls out virtual healthcare service

SOPHIE SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Bishop Wellness Center recently unveiled 98point6, a free app available to the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) that allows students to connect with primary care providers and receive free mobile healthcare and health-related advising over the phone. Those who have been on campus long enough may recall that in 2017, Bishop Wellness Center nearly ceased to offer physical healthcare services to the Willamette community. Since then, Bishop has made several changes in order to provide healthcare in effective, accessible and cost-efficient ways. One such change is the introduction of 98point6.

98point6 is a Seattle-based company that virtually connects its users with primary healthcare providers. The program uses both artificial intelligence and real doctors to diagnose certain ailments or illnesses and, if necessary, to prescribe users with medication. After having downloaded the free 98point6 app, users can communicate with doctors via written messages, as well as photographs and video chat if needed. Doctors on the app may diagnose and provide assistance with a variety of ailments, including colds, the flu,

dermatology issues, gastrointestinal issues, UTIs and more.

98point6's physicians are board-certified and the service is compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, so students' information will remain confidential. If a doctor chooses to prescribe medication, they send the prescription to the user's preferred pharmacy. Pharmacists, not 98point6 employees, work with the user and their health insurance provider to pay for the medication.

"It's sort of the wave of the future for medicine," said Don Thomson, Director of Bishop Wellness Center.

The service was brought to Bishop as a way to improve the wellness center's accessibility to students, Thomson said. "It's not a guarantee that you're going to get sick between eight and five, Monday through Friday," he said, referencing Bishop's hours. Now, students can "talk to a live doctor in the moment, sitting in the residence hall, sitting in the library, wherever. You can get healthcare that way."

98point6 is free to all Willamette College of Liberal Arts (CLA) students who are 18 or older. As of now, the service is not available to graduate students or other members of the WU community. According to Thomson,

Willamette is one of the first universities to use the service, which allows it to be free to undergraduate students now and in the future.

When asked if he anticipates 98point6 will be introduced to those other than CLA students, Thomson said it could be in upcoming years. "If it's highly utilized and in demand, I think that's a conversation we're going to have. It's a budget issue, of course."

Should the program be offered to a wider Willamette audience, the University will have to find a way to pay for it. Thomson said that the Bishop Advisory Committee, which students may apply to join, is the group that makes these kinds of decisions.

Until recently, 98point6 primarily served small businesses, not universities. When asked what prompted the company to venture onto college campuses like Willamette's, Robbie Cape, 98point6's CEO and co-founder, said, "98point6's mission is to deliver quality primary care to every human on earth without requiring a financial trade-off."

Cape emphasized that 98point6 aims to improve students' ability to access healthcare. "Far too many college-aged consumers don't have a relationship with primary care today due to a variety of factors, whether it be time, cost or accessibility.



LAUREN MONTANA

Don Thomson is the director of Bishop Wellness Center. He was instrumental to bringing the 98point6 app to the College of Liberal Arts.

98point6 removes those barriers by meeting students where they are."

Dr. Brad Younggren, 98point6's chief medical officer, noted that college students often avoid seeking healthcare until symptoms become unmanageable, and cited that half of millennials report they do not have their own primary care physician.

Younggren said, "If we're able to give university students a convenient way to be more proactive about their care or health concerns, we're

going to see better outcomes over time."

When it comes to 98point6's future at Willamette, Thomson said success depends on how much students utilize the program. "Is it something that's heavily utilized, is it something that's helping, keeping students healthy and engaged in class? That, to me, is the measure of success."

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What's the beef about meal plans?



SOPHIE SMITH

Students eat dinner at Goudy Commons. Bon Appetit recently made changes to meal plans and Montag Store.

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Director Leisinger also noted that more and more varied vending machines could become available in the future if there is enough student presence in Montag to justify their installation. Like many of the changes listed above, student feedback played an important role in the change.

Even with no major changes on the horizon, it's still useful for dining staff to know what students like, what they don't like and how students can be better served.

Leisinger emphasized the three main ways that students can make their voices heard: comment cards, contacting the Dining Advisory Committee and speaking to dining staff directly. Comment cards and

recipe request forms are available at all dining facilities, and can be submitted anonymously. Each form is reviewed by hand and will be discussed at a later staff meeting. Dining Advisory Committee members have their pictures and contact information posted at Goudy Commons and are representatives who advise Willamette dining staff with student concerns and poten-

tial solutions. Finally, staff at both Goudy and Kaneko are always available for feedback, whether face-to-face or via email. Of course, being polite and respectful might help your point get through. As Leisinger pointed out, "There's a person behind all of this!"

Meals at Willamette have changed quite a bit over the years, and will continue to evolve as stu-

dent needs and desires become apparent. Asking questions about what doesn't make sense and speaking up about what you as a student prefer is not only tremendously useful to the dining staff, but these practices will go a long way in allowing change to be enacted. Dining staff really do want to help.

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Gender Neutral Bathrooms

The students that got us here

BILLY ULLMANN
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The first floor of the University Center (UC) now has two gender neutral bathrooms open to students and community members alike. But that wasn't always the case. Up until the beginning of this school year, both restrooms on the first floor of the UC were gendered, with one "men's" room and one "women's" room. This change was brought about by the actions and efforts of many Willamette University students and staff.

Asher Wolf Cutler ('22), a member of the Trans* Advocacy Committee, was instrumental in the process of trying to get gender neutral bathrooms in the UC. They explained some of the work their work they did last year:

"I would have to show up to a meeting and talk to people about fear and misunderstanding and give a basic explanation about gender. I did everything I could and begged these people to care

about us." The Trans Advocacy Committee meetings included Jade Aguilar, Vice President of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Chaplin Karen Wood, Andrea Doyle Hugmeyer, Director of the Gender Resource and Advocacy Center (GRAC) and other WU students.

"During these meetings, I stressed to the people brought in for construction that it would be great if there could be two gender neutral bathrooms on UC first," said Cutler. "I know some people need gendered bathrooms for religious purposes but it's good that there are now two all-gender restrooms available."

Julian ('19), who was an intern at the GRAC last year, also shared their actions in trying to make WU a more inclusive space. They joined the Trans Advocacy Committee at the start of the spring 2019 semester.

"At that point, the plan to do construction was already underway, so we talked about how the updated bathrooms would look.

This included discussing what this process would look like, including what signs to use and if there would be only one bathroom," says Julian.

Their work at the GRAC also included improving LGBTQ+ resources on Willamette's website.

They explained, "The resources for trans students were difficult to find and there wasn't a lot of institutional support. I sought to make change by fixing the website so that students have a functional site to go to."

While Cutler and Julian were both members of the Trans Advocacy Committee, other students made change in different ways. Emmett Blaney ('20) took action directly. He described the ways he stepped up to get gender neutral bathrooms in the UC.

"I pestered administrators and was civilly disobedient. I took down the bathroom signs when I wasn't supposed to and got in trouble with an administrator for this. I did this to show the administration that it wouldn't be easy

to ignore the needs of trans students."

Blaney explained, "It got on my nerves, so I kept taking the signs down. I was threatened with punishment for damage to campus property. Several other students joined in and some of them were called in to the office or addressed by the administrator in their place of work, which could lead to that person possibly getting outed."

Blaney noted that Bella Medina ('21) also helped to spread the word about the signs on the bathroom. They did this through putting information around campus and through their social media.

After a lot of hard work and effort, the UC now finally has gender neutral bathrooms. So, the University is open to change but there are still many more steps to take to make the school an inclusive space.

When asked about these steps, Cutler suggested, "I think having better ways of respecting all trans students, especially those who are still figuring out how to

communicate what they want and be heard. I also think that more training for staff and faculty could help, as well as more safe spaces."

Julian suggested, "Being more upfront about what resources are available for trans students and being more competent about these issues." Blaney suggested increasing the frequency and accessibility of certain resources, especially all-gender restrooms.

And when it comes time for other students to make change, all three agreed that it's important not to give up if it's tiring. Being focused on why students strive for change in the first place is also extremely important. Making the world a more inclusive space is not easy but it can be done, even through small acts of activism like the ones Cutler, Blaney and Julian did.

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The Writing Center: an unhailed resource for students of all years and majors

SANJA ZELEN
CONTRIBUTOR

Any student who has spent time inside Ford Hall has passed the large, bustling room full of writers and students communicating with each other and working together. That room and the people who work in it make up the all-inclusive community of the Writing Center.

The consultants working in the Writing Center strive to make their appointees’ experiences positive and rewarding, while helping them grow as writers. The Writing Center’s goal is to offer help to all students at any stage of the writing process, whether they are trying to come up with an idea for their essay, editing a paper or need their senior thesis polished.

Over the years, the Writing Center has partnered with College Colloquium to help first-year

students write papers revolving around the subject of their Colloquium. This relationship has been an important stepping stone in introducing first-year students to college-level writing.

This semester, Writing Center consultants will no longer be working directly with specific Colloquiums, due to the new position of Colloquium Associates. The Associates will be helping students understand class materials, write papers and adjust to college. However, the Writing Center highly encourages these students to visit a consultant for any additional help they may want or need.

Isabella Pontecorvo (’21), who visited the Writing Center frequently last semester, reflected for *The Collegian* on her experiences. Even as a second-year student taking a wide variety of classes, the Writing Center was a valuable resource for help with crafting her papers.

“I could visit the Writing Center up to eight times. It’s a great way to get feedback and have another set of trained eyes look over [my work]. The consultants can assist you with everything, from structure to citations.”

The help Pontecorvo received has influenced her to give back to writers in the Willamette community. She will begin work as a Writing Center consultant this semester.

Dagny Layman (’20) will be starting her third year working with the Writing Center. She has helped students in every stage of the writing process, regardless of their grade or class requirements, and in every major, from English to STEM disciplines.

“I know a lot of students see the Writing Center as a first-year student’s resource, but we are just as happy to help with a senior thesis proposal as we are to help with a

Colloquium paper,” Layman said. “Writing Center consultations are not one-size-fits-all in that there isn’t a standard sort of writing we help with.”

Layman highlighted some of the services the Center offers:

“We [consultants] don’t just pay attention to surface-level fixes like grammar and spelling; we love digging deep into the content of a paper and breaking down the reasoning, claims and evidence. Also, it’s a totally free resource!”

This semester, Layman is working on a Writing Center Facebook page for students and Consultants to utilize to connect with one another. The Consultants will also be visiting writing-centered classes this week to tell students and professors about the services the Writing Center offers. The staff will also be hosting new group workshops in the upcoming

weeks for students who need extra help with citations, quotations and other specific formatting questions they may have. Tea and treats will be offered at the appointments and workshops. More information about these sessions will make an appearance in front of the Writing Center (Ford 105) or on the Center’s WISE site.

To sign up for an appointment with a consultant, be sure to add the Writing Center tab to your WISE site, stop by during drop-in hours or contact any one of us via email. Gretchen Moon, head of the Writing Center, can be reached at <gmoon>. The Writing Center consultants will be available starting on Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 6 p.m., and are eager to meet new students and foster new relationships.

szelen@willamette.edu

Essential resources for Salem cyclists

SOPHIE SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Attending Willamette University without a car can, at times, feel a bit isolating. Areas like downtown Salem and Bush Park are close enough, but the city beyond the edges of campus’ bubble often feel inaccessible, especially to students without personal modes of transportation. For students who are able and interested, riding a bike can be an effective, fun, environmentally-friendly and relatively safe and inexpensive alternative to car travel. This community provides countless resources for students with bikes or those who are interested in taking up the activity.

If you find yourself in Salem without a bike, there are plenty of nearby places to buy or rent one of your own. The Northwest Hub is an excellent resource for all members of the Salem community. The non-profit’s mission is to provide “bikes for all,” according to its website and a sign on its storefront. At The Northwest Hub, folks can buy new or used bikes, bike parts and accessories from the shop, but it also offers bikes in exchange for volunteer hours. After working eight hours at the shop, volunteers can receive a free bike, lock and lights. To volunteer, apply online at thenorthwesthub.org, and stop into the shop on Broadway St. to schedule your hours. The shop provides repair and tune-up services, as well as classes on bike maintenance. The Northwest Hub also benefits from long-term volunteers and donations of old or used bikes.

Several local for-profit bike shops exist near campus as well. Shops like Scott’s Cycle and Fitness, Santiam Bikes and The Bike Peddler, all independent shops in downtown Salem, offer high-end bikes sales, rentals and maintenance services.

The city of Salem recently introduced Ride Salem, a community bike share program. Bike rental stations are spread throughout downtown including one on campus, on the corner of Ferry and Church streets near Starbucks. To rent a bike, download the Zagster app or text ‘SMS’ to (202) 999-3924. Bikes cost three dollars an hour, but students have the opportunity to pay \$15 a year to pay for

rides shorter than one hour (rides longer than an hour would then cost two dollars per hour).

Willamette’s Outdoor Program (ODP) is currently offering a raffle for bike rentals. According to ODP co-coordinator Ellis Cobb (’20), winners of the raffle will have the opportunity to rent a bike for one semester for \$20. To add your name to the raffle, head to the ODP desk in Montag Center. Drawings will happen on Monday, Sept. 9. ODP also runs the Bike Shop, a student-run program that offers maintenance services to the WU community.

If you have a bike, be sure to register it with Campus Safety. In the case that your bike is stolen, Campus Safety will have a log that includes the bike’s serial number and your contact information. Bike theft, as well as the theft of bike parts and wheels, is rampant on Willamette’s campus. The best way to prevent bike theft is to properly lock your bike. Certain locks like cable and chain locks are relatively easy to cut through, so using a metal U-lock or two is a safer option. Campus Safety provides free U-locks to students with bikes. If you live on campus and want to avoid storing your bike outside, residence halls on campus all have their own areas designated for bike storage. Residents can store bikes in these areas for free, and can ask their Residence Advisors for more information about their buildings.

Bikes are a sustainable alternative to car transportation. For some students who live off-campus, commuting to campus by bike not only reduces carbon emissions, but it will also reduce congestion in campus’ packed parking lots and may even save you some cash you might otherwise spend on a parking permit and gas.

When biking through town, be aware that several streets do not allocate space for bike lanes, and some bike lanes that do exist are often blocked by parked traffic. Be aware of your surroundings, use proper hand signals and don’t forget a helmet!

slsmith@willamette.edu

Salem bike shops near campus

The Northwest Hub - 1230 Broadway St. NE
Tuesday-Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5

Scott’s Cycle and Fitness - 147 Commercial St. NE
Monday-Friday 9-6, Saturday 9-5:30

Santiam Bicycle - 388 Commercial St. NE
Monday-Friday 9-7, Saturday 9-6, Sunday 12-5

The Bike Peddler - 174 Commercial St. NE
Monday-Friday 9-7, Saturday 9-5:30, Sunday 11-4



The Northwest Hub offers resources such as classes and bike repairs to the Salem community.



2019-2020 ASWU Sena

Class of 2021

Mary Robicheaux



Hi everyone! My name is Mary Robicheaux and I am running for the position of one of the class of 2021 senators on ASWU. Although this is my first time being involved in student government, I have been a part of multiple student leadership projects that have equipped me with the abilities to be a responsive senator. Throughout high school, I helped organize many school events, ranging from potlucks to community-building retreats. During my senior year of high school, I was a main organizer of a week-long community service event. This role included contacting speakers, organizing the schedule and deciding where each speaker would present. My experience on this committee expanded my organizational skills and instilled a greater care for the well being of my school and community. Overall, I am diligent, fair and reliable. As a senator, I will listen to and advocate for the students of Willamette University. Vote Mary!

Kiki Drum Bento



Hey all, I'm Kiki Drum Bento and this year I'd like to represent the class of 2021 as an ASWU Senator. Throughout my time at Willamette I've been involved all over campus. From volunteering with the Office of Service Learning and leading a TAB trip, to dancing with Willamette Dance Company. But one thing became very clear last year as a result of my involvement with the Willamette Theatre. Communication between ASWU, University administration and the general student body is an issue. While steps are already being taken to further better communication, I hope to join the conversation and become involved in enacting changes, in order to support students' rights and foster a better relationship between students and administration. As a politics, policy, law and ethics major, evaluating and creating policy that affects the wellbeing of constituents is something I'm very interested in and hope to learn more about through this opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Jesse Al

Peone I



Class of 2023

Emma McEvoy



Hey Bearcats! It's Emma McEvoy here and I am running for the 2019 ASWU Senate. As someone who is passionate about student engagement, it would be my pleasure to represent all of you as your senator and ensure that your voices are heard. My experiences as a club board member, student representative, and event coordinator have taught me the vital skills necessary to satisfy a large, diverse group of people like our class. Furthermore, I am an easygoing and approachable person who loves to talk with other people, so any of your concerns or questions would be greatly appreciated and taken into account. Besides being dedicated to the success of the student body, I am dedicated to environmental sustainability and social justice, especially the rights of recent immigrants and asylum seekers. In my free time, I love to read under the star trees, pet the cat at Salem's Book Bin and go thrifting. My goal is to make Willamette a place where everyone, no matter their background can thrive, succeed and have fun. We only have four years to make that a reality, so let's start now by voting me, Emma McEvoy, as your class of 2023 ASWU Senate representative.

Quinna Sypher



Hi everyone! My name is Quinna Sypher and I'm running to be an ASWU Senator because I believe I can be a representative voice for the class of 2023. I've had a lot of experience working for student-run organizations like the Junior State of America, in which I ran both a high school chapter and a state department last year. I plan to advocate for students like myself who are in the LGBTQ+ community or receive significant aid from the University, as well as anyone else in the class who is able to express concerns to me. I want to work with my class as well as for my class and plan to be as open and communicative as possible. If elected, I'd like to bring a focus on sustainability and student wellness to ASWU by promoting increased accessibility for students to the recycling program and working with different mental health groups around campus to create a dedicated week-long program promoting different aspects of mental health and self-care to students. Please reach out to me if you have any questions about myself or my platform! My campaign Instagram is @quinnaforaswu and my email is qasypher@willamette.edu.

Michael



My name is Michael Burke and I am running for the class of 2023's five ASWU senators. I live just an hour from Willamette and have been in the northwest all my life. In high school, I got into making everyone feel welcome and was inclusive and accepting of everyone. As a senator, my goals are to ensure everyone's voices are heard, ensuring everyone feels comfortable sharing their thoughts. Since I've been involved in this year, I intend to dedicate time to ensuring the class of 2023 has a strong student government. After being involved especially in the organization of clubs at Willamette, ensuring opportunities for membership and a strong

Senate Election Candidates

Class of 2023

Alexander
Lippold



Madeleine Chastain



Hello my name is Maddie Chastain. I am thrilled to be running in this year's election as a Senator for the freshman class. During my attendance at Willamette University my main goal is to be a part of making a difference on campus, and I truly believe that by working with our student government I can most definitely accomplish this goal. Before I started at Willamette University, I was a part of a few clubs on my high school campus where I was treasurer and secretary; working in student government was one of the best choices I made during high school, I was given the opportunity to work with my peers on giving back to the community we lived in. If I was given this position, I would be given the same opportunity on a larger scale and in my new home. I look forward to working with all of you, and seeing everything we can accomplish.

Olivia Frenkel



What it doooo Class of '23! My name is Olivia Frenkel and I'm super excited to be running for a position on the A.S.W.U. Senate! I've been in many leadership classes and clubs, and I fulfilled my high school's ASB Vice President position which required me to get to school at 6:45 a.m. every morning, so I'm hoping the requirements aren't the same here. As we've gotten settled into our shiny, new lives, our many expectations about Willamette have either been graciously met or they may have unfortunately fallen short. These shortages are going to be my main focus if I am elected. We all chose to come to Willamette for our own reasons, preconceptions or hopes, but I want to make sure that you all have an expansive list of reasons to stay here. If you have any questions or ideas, my email is onfrenkel@willamette.edu and my instagram is @oliviuhhhh. Voting starts on September 5th at 8:00 a.m. and ends on the 9th at 5:00 p.m., so don't forget!

Photos courtesy of ASWU Senate election candidates

l Burke



and I am running for one of the senator seats. I'm from Portland, and have lived in the pacific. In high school I put a lot of effort into making a difference and ensuring everyone has a voice. One of my primary goals is to continue in the spirit of making sure everyone has a voice and can be heard. I won't be working on campus during this free time I have to ASWU, but I have a strong representation in our student body. As a voted senator, I plan to be a strong advocate for the organization of school affiliated activities so that our class gets equal opportunity in future club ideas.

Bryleigh O'Neil



Hello! My name is Bryleigh O'Neil and I'm a first year student. I am the perfect addition to this years ASWU Senate for many reasons. I have prior experience in student government and I'm extremely passionate about my new journey here at Willamette University. Last year I was Senior Class Secretary for Springfield High School where I primarily worked on managing communication with outside organizations and increasing student involvement. As a part of the ASWU Senate I would vote on bills that allow students to have access to all the resources a successful college student needs. I want to make this campus a better place, and I will make choices in favor of you – the student. Now, some facts about me! I have a three year old dog named Samantha, I'm a first generation student and my favorite ice cream is salted caramel. I plan to join the Baking Club, Active Minds and the Bearcat Pantry. I currently have my sights on being a psychology major and I am specifically interested in child development. Check out my Facebook event and remember, vote Bryleigh for ASWU Senate!

Gus Gunter



I am running running for ASWU senate to implement the interests of the class of 2023 as fully as possible. I feel confident that I can provide you with the best possible representation. My past leadership experience includes being a voting member of my performing arts departments student board, in which we were responsible for the drafting and approval of the departments significant annual budget. I have also been a strong advocate for positive change within the student body including serving as president of my schools GSA. If elected I hope to provide the class of 2023 with strong and efficient representation. This would include prioritizing initiatives that would benefit student body the most and making sure that such initiatives were allowed to see fruition. With driven action we can guarantee a brighter, better future for the entire campus.



Bearcat Spotlight: an interview with Lauren Stiles

JACK KUYPER

SPORTS EDITOR

Senior Lauren Stiles returns for her fourth season on the Willamette volleyball team this year. She has registered 311 total career kills, averaging 1.35 kills per set and have an average of 2.23 digs per set, with 514 total career digs.

When asked about her goal for their last year playing volleyball at WU, she said the following: “My goal is to take conference. This team is incredibly talented and has the capability to upset teams that have held top spots for years.” Lauren thinks that this year will be special because the first-years are already bonding well with the rest of the team. “Our team this year is full of new energy. We have had a great first couple of matches, including a five-set match against a ranked team, which is very exciting. Our chemistry is already incredible, which means we have an amazing potential to keep growing together, more than teams that have already established themselves.”

Unfortunately, Stiles hasn’t been able to compete in league matches with the team yet this season due to an injury. Because of this, Stiles gives credit for creating the team’s chemistry to senior Jenifer Lane. “My best friend Jennifer Lane, the other senior on the team, is an amazing leader and has shown these first years what being a Bearcat athlete is all about.”

Stiles has always had a fiery competitive spirit. In high school, she earned First Team All-League and MVP honors at Flintridge Preparatory School in California. Stiles said that they knew she had both the competitive drive and the love of sports that is currently pushing her towards winning the conference since the age of four. “I knew I loved to compete since I played AYSO soccer at the age of four. My dad told me that he would never forget my face after my first game that said, ‘Wait, this is a thing people do?’ Competition has been in my blood.”



COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Senior Lauren Stiles in her volleyball roster photo. Stiles has been a driven athlete since the age of four.

When asked how the WU community can help the volleyball team going forward, Stiles responded with the following: “The WU community has always been a huge supporter of Willamette volleyball. Attendance at home games is one of the best in our conference and we

expect nothing less this season. Get HYPED.” Stiles also wanted to give a big thank you to the whole WU community for supporting the team for these past few years. “I want to say thank you for the support over the last three years. The teachers have been incredibly understanding

and supportive of athletics. The student body has gone above and beyond in supporting our team and other athletic events. Thank you is all I have to say.”

The volleyball team’s next home game is on Wednesday, Sep. 18 against Linfield. Make sure to

be there to support Stiles and the rest of the team!

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Women’s volleyball starts the 2019 season strong

NOAH DANTES
MANAGING EDITOR

Willamette University’s women’s volleyball team played four matches between Friday, Aug. 30, and Saturday, Aug. 31, in the Oregon Trail Classic. The Classic took place on even ground, with Friday’s matches being held at Pacific University and Saturday’s matches at George Fox University.

The team began the Classic strong in a three-set victory over Central College (Iowa). WU easily won the first set 25-19, but faced strong opposition from Central in the second set. After the Bearcats scored four quick points, Central struck back, seizing an 11-10 lead. After three errors were committed by the opposition, first-year Shyla Sato put the Bearcats firmly in control of the game, scoring decisively on two service aces. Willamette pushed ahead to a 21-15 lead, but Central found success behind Erin Dilger’s serves, surging to tie the game at 21. However, fueled by first-year Emma Por-

ter’s strong serving and sophomore Natalie Klotz’s kill, WU closed out a narrow 25-23 second-set victory.

In the third set, Central started out strong but quickly surrendered the lead to WU. The Dutch managed to cut the deficit to 20-18, but the Bearcats won both the set (25-21) and the match. Senior Jennifer Lane led the Bearcats with 10 kills. Klotz (nine kills) and first-year Dani Queja (seven kills) also turned in strong performances for the match. The team overall held an advantage in kills (33-28), digs (62-55), and service aces (11-4). This was the Bearcats’ first match of the season. The match was especially impressive for the Bearcats, considering that it was their first of the season.

Play continued later that afternoon for WU against Hamline University. Each set was competitive, and unlike the first match, it took all five sets to determine a winner. In the first set, WU quickly rattled off six points be-

hind the serving of first-year Jessica Nash, claiming an early 7-1 lead. Hamline took a timeout to rethink their strategy, and the set remained close for the rest of its duration. Trailing 21-20, several WU players rose to the challenge. Junior Kyana Benjamin’s kill tied the game, and Porter’s service ace pushed the Bearcats ahead for good.

WU led for much of the second set, but a late surge from Hamline tied the match at one set apiece. The third set would prove to be WU’s strongest set yet. Jumping to a 12-8 lead, WU’s offense began to hum, going on a 10-3 run. Hamline ultimately lost the set 25-15 in the most lopsided defeat of the match. However, Hamline rebounded in the fourth set. Powered by the serving of Gabby Robinson, Hamline broke a 19-19 tie to claim a 25-20 victory. Hamline also won the final set to seal the match in their favor. Lane registered 13 kills and four blocks, while Klotz added on nine digs and 11 kills. Porter amassed 39 as-

sists and 14 digs, and Sato led both teams with 29 digs.

Play resumed the next day as WU played two more fiercely competitive matches. The first match was against the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota). WU took St. Thomas, which had a 25-9 record last season, all the way to five sets. In the first set, Willamette dominated the Tommies, taking a 22-10 lead due to Porter’s multiple service aces and Lane’s multiple kills. Right when the set seemed to be over, St. Thomas went on a 10-2 run to cut the score to 24-20. Lane averted near disaster with a decisive kill to end the set.

Down 22-16 in the second set, the Bearcats went on a nine-point winning run, powered by two kills by Queja, a kill by Lane and a service ace from Sato. WU was unable to keep up its momentum for the final three sets of the match. The Tommies took the next two sets easily, and while the Bearcats came close in the fifth, St. Thomas took a four-point victory to end the match 3-2 in their favor.

WU’s final opponent of the Classic was John Carroll University. After losing the first set, WU triumphed 25-18 in the second set. The Bearcats claimed a 25-24 advantage in the third set, but since the deficit was less than two points, the game continued. The Blue Streaks rallied and won the set, 27-25. The fourth set was close throughout. WU closed a late deficit to 22-20, but the opponent was able to rally and win the set and match.

While the team ended the Classic with a 1-3 record, they won eight sets, while only losing nine. WU’s women’s volleyball team performed better than their 1-3 record, creating plenty of optimism for the rest of the season. The team’s home opener will come on Tuesday, Sept. 3 against Northwest Nazarene University.

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Women's soccer triumphs in home opener



SYDNEY GROFF

Sophomore Emma Blackburn dribbling the ball down the field in a match against Corban University.

CONTINUED from page 1

The score held at 2-0 all the way until the 70:40 mark. On a corner kick, the ball landed in front of first-year Jackie Gilroy, who took a shot that was quickly deflected by Corban goalkeeper Elizabeth Brock. The ball fell back to Gilroy, who tapped it into the near left goalpost to score the first goal of her career with the Bearcats.

Just 42 seconds later, Keil scored her second goal of the game

and the 18th goal of her career. Keil, moving across the penalty area towards the middle of the field, fired an 18-yard goal into the lower right quadrant of the net. Gilroy scored the Bearcats' final goal of the day at 85:32. A scoring opportunity opened due to a defensive miscue between Brock and another Corban player. The defender tried to clear the ball away from the goal line, but Gilroy already had control of the ball about six yards from the left

post and she shot it in with ease. The Warriors' only goal was recorded with just 27 seconds left in the game after a foul was called on WU in the box. Vogelpohl took the resulting penalty kick and scored a goal for Corban in the upper right corner of the goal.

WU outshot Corban 15-11 overall and 9-4 on goal. The possession rates were close, but the Bearcats held the edge at 52 percent to 48 percent. Senior Kristen Barclay started in goal and made

two saves. She only played in goal for 45 minutes. Junior Grasiela Quevedo-Ramos replaced Barclay at halftime and recorded one save during 34:31 minutes of playing time. Sophomore Jordan Roue closed out the final 10:29. The team's next match will take place this coming Friday, Sept. 6, on the road against the University of Redlands.

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Men's soccer wins with four uncontested points

JACK KUYPER
SPORTS EDITOR

Four Bearcats scored a goal to shut out Howard Payne University on Saturday, Aug. 31, on Trinity University's field in San Antonio, TX. The victory marked Willamette University's men's soccer team's first win of the 2019 season. On Sunday, Sept. 1, Willamette tied with Trinity University, 1-1. Both WU and Trinity are 1-0-1 this season.

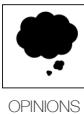
Against Howard Payne University, Junior Carter McCleary started the scoring with a goal at 29:48. Sophomore Yushiro Shiomi passed the ball to junior Mack Van Der Velde by the left post. Van Der Velde passed the ball to McCleary, who took the shot at the penalty shot mark and sent it into the upper-center area of the net. Strong defense from both sides closed out the first half, allowing WU to take their 1-0 lead into the break.

WU padded their lead early in the second half. The Bearcats raised their score to 2-0 at 47:36 on a goal that came from senior Nicholas Ballenger. Shiomi registered his second assist of the day with a cross over from the left side to the end line. Ballenger then headed the ball into the net from four yards out. The lead grew to 3-0 after Ballenger passed the ball to Shiomi, who tapped the ball into the left post at 69:45. First-year Ryan Sato completed the scoring with an impressive 33-yard long-shot for a goal at 81:46.

10 minutes into the game against Trinity, a lightning warning paused play for 50 minutes. After the delay, Ballenger scored the first goal of the game at 27:11, only seconds after the Bearcats stopped Trinity from scoring in the penalty area. Junior Max Berner-Hays tackled the ball and sent it flying 30 yards upfield. Sophomore Tam Proctor received the pass and quickly passed it to Ballenger. Ballenger dribbled until he was a few yards past the midfield stripe and then took a chip shot over Trinity goalie, Blake Lieberman. Lieberman was too far forward to prevent the goal. The Tigers quickly regrouped and struck back at WU on a penalty kick at 53:39.

Neither team scored a goal in either of the two 10-minute overtime periods. The Bearcats had more shots on goal than Trinity in overtime, achieving a 3-2 edge in the first overtime and a 5-2 margin in the second. The game finished three hours and nine minutes after it started due, to the overtime period and thunder delays. The Bearcats will be returning to WU's Sparks Field to take on Corban University on Friday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m.

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State-sanctioned fires devastate Amazon Rainforest



Amazon fires release toxic carbon dioxide and destroy natural resources. Many Indigenous communities have also been destroyed by the fire.

CONOR KRYSTAD
CONTRIBUTOR

Many Instagram users have recently been misled by well-meaning online posts raising awareness about the Amazon Rainforest fires. What you might not know is that the posts should read: “The Amazon is being intentionally burned.” *Mongabay*, a media outlet specializing in environmental news, reports that these fires are being lit to make room for large-scale farming, cattle pastures and soy farms. Because of this, an un-

derstanding of their effects on the rainforest are incredibly important. The chair of the Willamette environmental science department, Professor Scott Pike, explained why this is an important topic to understand. “What’s interesting is that Amazon has poor topsoil with poor nutrient soils which motivates the jungle to be burned by farmers due to the fact that they can only get a couple years of farming.” However, the situation is even more dire there than it would be

in North America, because fires are not a part of the natural ecological life cycle of the Amazon. Professor of Conservation at Lancaster University Jos Barlow reports, “even low-intensity fires with flames just 30 centimeters tall can kill up to half of the trees burned in a tropical rainforest.” The result of this is that these ancient forests are being destroyed for a few years of farming. You may think that the Brazilian government would want to put a stop to this destruction but they are enabling deforestation to

continue. Brazil’s president Jair Bolsonaro has privatized public lands, funded fewer onsite inspections, and turned a blind eye to illegal land grabs where the jungle is being burned, seeded with grass and sold to ranchers. Fortunately, many posts claim that the Amazon rainforest produces 20 percent of the oxygen we breathe. Actually, according to marine biologist Brenda Soler-Figueroa as interviewed by *The Washington Post*, all terrestrial forests combined produce about 20 percent of the oxygen we

breathe, and the Amazon is only a small percentage of that number. About 70 percent of our oxygen is produced by microscopic phytoplankton in our oceans. Unfortunately, Professor Pike says the real damage is that these fires are “releasing billions of pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere while also losing [the Amazon as] a carbon sink,” further accelerating climate change. More broadly, this will also be a tremendous blow to the biodiversity of life on earth. Biodiversity is important because many of our materials, pesticides, crops and pharmaceuticals were first found in nature. By destroying unexplored and unstudied forests, we may be inadvertently destroying future medical or scientific breakthroughs. As an individual there are actions one could take to help stop this destruction. Since 84 percent of Brazil’s agriculture is sold on the international market, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Global Agricultural Information Network, you might be unwittingly contributing to the deforestation by eating cows raised in Brazil. Fortunately, you can combat this problem by eating local Oregonian beef or buying meat labeled as a “Product of U.S.A.” However, eating beef is still environmentally damaging even without clearcutting forests for pasture. If you are concerned about the environment, going vegetarian is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint while also helping prevent the deforestation of the Amazon.

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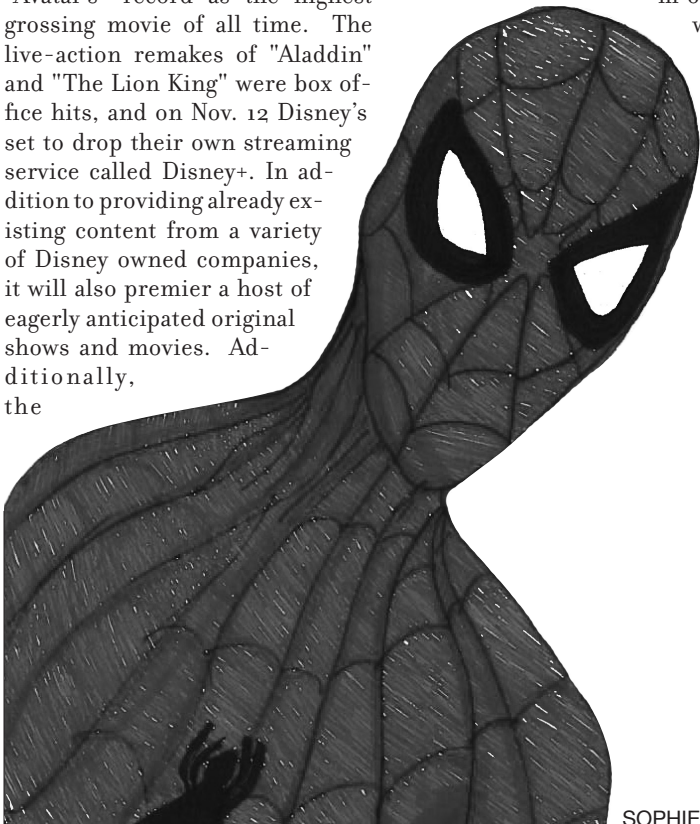
With great power comes a great decision for Sony and Disney

CLAIRE ALONGI
STAFF WRITER

In a lot of ways, the Walt Disney Company has been having a banner year (Marvel fans catch that? Banner year?). The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has recently dropped both “Captain Marvel” and “Avengers: Endgame”, the latter of which went on to break “Avatar’s” record as the highest grossing movie of all time. The live-action remakes of “Aladdin” and “The Lion King” were box office hits, and on Nov. 12 Disney’s set to drop their own streaming service called Disney+. In addition to providing already existing content from a variety of Disney owned companies, it will also premier a host of eagerly anticipated original shows and movies. Additionally, the

last installment of the new “Star Wars” franchise is coming out in December. So, long story short, they’re pretty much on top of the world. Well, until they lost Spider-Man to Sony and tore the fan community into an uproar. But, quite frankly, Spidey might be better off in Sony’s hands.

In the first Spider-Man movie, way back in the



SOPHIE SMITH

early 2000s, Sony introduced actor Toby Maguire to the big screen as New York City’s beloved web-slinger. Sony made three movies with Maguire before revamping the character with Andrew Garfield in 2012. That’s when things got rocky. After two movies Garfield was shelved, and Sony and Disney (now at the helm of the wildly popular MCU) negotiated a deal for Spider-Man to appear alongside the other heroes in the extended universe. Thus, Tom Holland’s Spider-Man was introduced in “Captain America: Civil War.” Holland reprised the role four other times, including two stand alone movies, the most recent of which (Spider-Man: Far From Home) came out just over a month or so ago. When the news broke that Sony and Disney had gone their separate ways and left Spider-man in limbo, fans were distraught. Holland’s Spider-Man has been called the best iteration of the hero so far. Some people blamed Sony, others Disney. The truth is there isn’t a lot of concrete information about exactly what went down between the two companies. According to *Deadline* and a few other sources, it was likely a monetary issue, with Disney asking an aggressive profit split in their favor that Sony wasn’t willing to go for. While the initial deal was never permanent, it seems unlikely that Spidey will

be allowed back into the MCU to get some closure. The website “We Got This Covered” just broke a story alleging that the two companies will be meeting within the next week or two to renegotiate terms. Spider-Man might be better off with Sony. First let me be clear: I am one of those people who believes that Holland’s version is the best. A lot of it has to do with the fact that he was actually a teenager when he was cast. As a self-professed huge Disneyland, Star Wars and Marvel fan, it has become increasingly hard to guiltlessly love those franchises. The number of companies Disney owns is, quite frankly, terrifying and ever increasing. And while Disney+ is rolling out a ton of super cool material, it is also a blatant money grab. While it’s easy to love the heroes (and villains) across Disney media, they’re all part of the massive corporate money-making machine. The rereleased “Avengers: Endgame” is a perfect example of this. The three hour long movie mammoth promised six minutes of new footage, but beyond the addition of a nice tribute to Stan Lee, there wasn’t anything especially revolutionary. *Buzzfeed* reported that one end credit scene was simply the opening of “Spider-Man: Far From Home” while the other was the Hulk with some unfinished

CGI. Not exactly magical. Seeing the company not getting something for once is a bit refreshing. While Maguire’s and Garfield’s portrayals might not quite shine like Holland’s, Sony does have one Spider-Man property for themselves: “Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse.” The 2018 animated film was a hit in both the animation and superhero genre and showed that Sony could not only do Spider-Man well, but better than anyone had done before. If some of the inventiveness of that movie could be incorporated into another Sony Spider-Man, there would be hope. The best case scenario is that Holland gets an actual farewell to the MCU instead of being explained away in a brief on-screen comment. From there, it’s hard to say. In the end the loser isn’t necessarily one company or the other, but the character himself and the poor actors who keep getting recycled. It was a bit of a joke to do Spidey a third time, and now it seems like a fourth try could be on the horizon. Even his super strength and quippy comebacks can’t get poor Spider-Man out of this bind.

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First-years get a first look at Opening Days

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Something that makes Willamette University stand out from other schools is its student-directed and led orientation program, known to students and faculty as Opening Days. Every Willamette student can recall the experience: moving into their residence hall and then attending a group session and their first colloquium class just a few hours later. The rest of the week remains equally as busy, right up until the first day of classes. While many people might question why Opening Days is designed to be such a busy week for first-years, students involved in organizing Opening Days, as well as the students who recently went through the program, agree that the program, despite its hectic schedule, is critical to the first-year experience at Willamette.

To Jaelin Sonoda ('20), the 2019 Opening Days Coordinator, Opening Days is much more than just an orientation program. In her experiences as coordinator, Opening Days isn't a typical 'Welcome to campus!' event, which is a common theme of other college orientations. Instead, the program is designed for new students to recognize that "Willamette is a liberal arts college, where you're going to be a student, but also an activist and leader."

This notion is reflected in the Opening Days program Bearcats Give Back, in which leaders and new students volunteer their time by providing service at a variety of organizations around the Salem area, allowing new students to exercise Willamette's motto of "Not Unto Ourselves Alone Are We Born" and find what activism and leadership mean to them.

Another critical part of Opening Days is Reality Check, a show directed and performed by Opening Days students that covers topics including sexual assault, stress and anxiety, racial and gender-based discrimination and eating disorders. Opening



COURTESY OF FRANK MILLER

Volunteers light students' candles for the Matriculation Ceremony. Lit candles were sent down the Mill Stream.

Days leaders and students alike view the show as effective due to its incorporation of humor and ability to offer solutions to a variety of scenarios associated with these situations. In essence, Reality Check is an essential introduction to the first-year experience because it introduces situations that students may encounter throughout their time at Willamette and shares the resources available to them if they need them.

Opening Days also helps students find their place on campus and meet

a wide variety of people. Cate Leach ('23), who completed the Opening Days program this fall said, "[I] felt a sense of community building so quickly. Opening Days made it so easy to make friends." The College Colloquium program allows students to continue building this sense of community and place. Not only do students get a taste of the typical Willamette course structure before the regular academic year commences, but they quickly grow close to their fellow group members by spending

significant time with them in and out of an academic setting.

Leach can attest to this: "The connection in this class wouldn't have happened if all our classes had started right away. It would have been a wildly different story if our Colloquium groups hadn't been the same as our Opening Days groups because we wouldn't have been able to grow as close."

After three years of being associated with the Opening Days program and assisting in the process of con-

tinuously improving it, Sonoda concludes that "Opening Days serves as an introduction not only to campus and resources but also to Willamette's culture. It's an interactive experience that shows how Willamette functions as a community. The experiences of this week are much more than being introduced to college and contain lifelong takeaways."

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Misconceptions about Antifa pose threat to democracy

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Right-wing protests, organized by the white nationalist group "Patriot Prayer," attended by members of other white nationalist movements in the Pacific Northwest such as the Proud Boys, 3 Percenters (III%) and the Hell Shaking Street Preachers, led to violence and arrests in the Portland area throughout the summer. These protests were the cause of much consternation on the internet, and eventually led to prominent political figures like Donald Trump and Ted Cruz proposing a ban on antifa, the organization that counterprotested the white nationalist marchers. The start of this proposed ban can be traced back to one person: Andy Ngo.

Ngo is a writer, perhaps better described as a provocateur, from Portland who gained notoriety in 2017 when, according to *Willamette Week*, he was fired from Portland State University's newspaper for tweeting a link to an Islamophobic *Breitbart* article about PSU. In response to the firing, Ngo wrote an op-ed for *The National Review* railing against campus censorship, titled "Fired for Reporting the Truth." This summer, controversy again flared up around Ngo when

he began posting edited videos of antifa, a movement dedicated to protesting militant movements in America through direct action. The videos depicted antifa members defending themselves from white nationalist-affiliated protesters at Patriot Prayer marches but, according to the *Daily Dot*, Ngo edits these videos so they don't show the

claim, but have not made their evidence public in this weeks since their claim). Ngo milked the attention that this injury brought him, and as a result made appearances on *FOX News* and columns in major right-wing news outlets, including the *Wall Street Journal* and *Spectator USA*. In the subsequent outrage from the right, President Donald Trump tweeted on Aug. 17 that "...

consideration is being given to naming ANTIFA an 'ORGANIZATION OF TERROR.' [sic]" and that "Portland is being watched very closely."

Why should you be scared that antifa is possibly going to be labeled as an "organization of terror?" Because this is a tactic by those in power to silence political dissent. Trump has a long histo-

ry of attempting to quash dissent, having been vocal since the beginning of his campaign about so-called "fake news" sources, a term he uses for news sources which do not report favorably about him, and has referred to news sources such as *MSNBC* and *CNN* as "enemies of the people" in his tweets, rallies and speeches. This proposed ban will effectively ban anything that the Trump White House deems as "antifa," because the movement doesn't have any formal organizational structure. Are you protesting inaction towards climate change? They'll call you antifa and try to silence you. Are you protesting sexual assault? They'll call you antifa, your protest will be violently dispersed and people will be arrested. Are you protesting ICE detention centers? If someone says you're antifa, they'll shut you down. Are you protesting police brutality? If there's even the slightest possible notion of antifa presence, they will send out the riot cops. Protesting anything that Trump's America doesn't want you to protest? You'll be labeled antifa and shut down. Because of how vague the concept of banning antifacism is, this attempted ban could lead to the silencing of many voices protesting many issues across ideological boundaries. No matter who you are, if there is an issue that you hold close to your heart and you plan on taking direct action to see it change, you could be labeled as an enemy of the state on the whim of the Trump administration.

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“Because of how vague the concept of banning antifacism is, this attempted ban could lead to the silencing of many voices protesting many issues across ideological boundaries.”

inciting moment of the violence, which is often caused by the groups he is affiliated with. Rather, when antifa counter protesters defend themselves, Ngo frames it as antifa attacking the right-wing groups. His framing of the situation, even though it is factually incorrect, has been accepted by many mainstream news outlets.

On June 29 of this year, according to *Vox*, Ngo was punched and

claim, but have not made their evidence public in this weeks since their claim). Ngo milked the attention that this injury brought him, and as a result made appearances on *FOX News* and columns in major right-wing news outlets, including the *Wall Street Journal* and *Spectator USA*. In the subsequent outrage from the right, President Donald Trump tweeted on Aug. 17 that "...

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BLOCK PARTY

THURSDAY, SEPT. 5
4-8 P.M./ WINTER STREET SE
(South of the capitol, between Ferry and Mill streets)

OUTDOOR MOVIE: ALADDIN (2019)
(8:30 p.m., Lausanne Hall Front Lawn)

FUN & GAMES
NO-HOST BAR



FOOD TRUCKS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
Livbar
Oregon State Archives
Planet Fitness
Proscribe
Taproot
Willamette Humane Society