

Disappearing nutria: Where did they go?

SANJA ZELEN
STAFF WRITER

Willamette University has undergone some significant changes this semester: no Montag store, no stir fry in Kaneko, renovation of the University Center—the list goes on. However, one of the biggest changes has gone unnoticed by some returning Bearcats.

The green lawns have been looking emptier than usual this semester. There have been fewer sightings of glowing eyes at night in the light of iPhone flashlights. One of Willamette’s most asked questions, “Is that a beaver or a bearcat?” has barely been uttered.

That’s right: the nutria are gone. The brown semi-aquatic rodents, up to 14 pounds in size, have mysteriously disappeared from Willamette’s campus. Over the years, their presence on campus has manifested itself into jokes, memes and Instagram accounts.

Mickey Cochrane, groundskeeper at Willamette, offered answers to the pressing question of the nutria’s whereabouts. Cochrane recalls last seeing a nutria on campus well before graduation in May.

“It’s one of those unanswered phenomena that has occurred. I think the reason they may have left is because we stopped feeding them. They may

have just went on to some place that has a better food source. Maybe they went back to South America, where they came from.”

Nutria are highly invasive to Oregon. According to an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife report by Done VandeBergh, nutria were first introduced to California in 1899 to be used for their pelts and to compensate for the loss of beavers to overhunting. Since the pelt business was ultimately unsuccessful, the fur traders released the captured nutria into the wild, where they started to spread across the southern and northwestern United States.

Cochrane recalls when and how they first appeared at Willamette:

“They weren’t around for years, but it was just several years ago that we had a couple show up, and then we fed them all the time and they got full grown. All of Salem’s waterways are connected; there are all these streams and swamps around Salem. The nutria just come down the waterways. They’re a water animal. They just set up a home here. They’re pretty safe here on campus.”



INVASIVE RODENTS, 5 If you or someone you know has seen a nutria, please contact Grounds.

Head football coach brings new energy

JAKE PROCINO
STAFF WRITER

This fall, Willamette hired alumni Isaac Parker as head football coach. In an interview, Parker described his early life, journey to this position and goals for the team. Parker grew up in Wahiawa, HI on the island of Oahu, living mainly with his mom and grandma. He said that he started playing football among other sports at a young age because both his dad and stepdad played. Most of his early pictures are of him in football gear with his teammates.

When asked about what drew him to football, Parker responded: “I came from a broken home, and I’d say that was probably the most influential piece because my definition of family growing up was always subject to change. My step dad and mom got divorced, my grandfather passed away... I might not have recognized it at that age, but the stability [of the team drew me to football]... every-time I showed up, everybody was there. We depended on each other, and it really operated like a family. That was the biggest draw.”

INTERVIEW, 7

Willamette community partakes in Global Climate Strike



Students, children and protestors from around the state gathered at the Oregon State Capitol Building on Friday, Sept. 20 as part of the “Global Climate Strike.” The demonstration was part of a worldwide movement of activists, led by young people, demanding that lawmakers take aggressive action to reduce carbon emissions and prioritize environmental protection policies. Those gathered on the Capitol’s steps displayed homemade signs and cheered when cars passing by honked in support. On Friday, 2,500 demonstrations took place in more than 150 countries, making it one of the largest environmental protests in history, according to Vox. The strike took place ahead of the United Nations Climate Action Summit, which was held on Monday, Sept. 23.



Gen Ed system undergoes restructuring

ANNA SEAHILL
CONTRIBUTOR

Willamette has adopted and implemented new general education (Gen Ed) requirements that students must meet in order to graduate. These changes have been in effect since the start of the fall semester. The updated Liberal Arts distribution system is broken into four mandatory one-credit sections: study in arts and humanities, mathematical sciences, natural sciences and social sciences, with multiple class options for each requirement.

This approach differs from the previous method, known as the Modes of Inquiry (MOI) system, in that there are only four necessary components to fulfill as opposed to six. In the past, students had to complete classes for Understanding the Natural World, Understanding Society, Examining Values, Creating in the Arts, Interpreting Texts and Thinking Historically.

The idea behind these streamlined requirements is that they allow students to have more flexibility when making their schedules for each semester. Under the new system, a student could be enrolled in classes spanning diverse departments.

On top of these alterations to the Liberal Arts distribution requirements, two other areas of Gen Ed, study of language other than English and Practicum (application of knowledge) have also been modified.

Study of a language other than English once meant that students had to take foreign language classes through the 232-level (four semesters), but now students only have to study through the 132-level (two semesters). Although some members of the Willamette community view these updates as a positive step

that reinforce liberal arts concepts such as critical thinking, problem solving and discussion while allowing students to focus more on their individual majors, others are concerned about the impact on certain academic departments. For example, smaller areas of study on campus, like foreign languages, have been threatened by a lessening need for students to enroll in courses outside of their major's department.

Continuing with the modernization mindset, the Practicum requirement is a new addition to Gen Ed. It is worth 1.5 credits, which can be fulfilled through numerous avenues, such as "Power, Difference, and Equity (PDE) courses, culture and advanced non-English language courses (231 or above), internships, service learning and study abroad," according to the General Education Program Summary on the Willamette website.

Writing Program, the fourth and final area of Gen Ed, can be satisfied with two writing-focused courses, with one being above the 300-level.

All first-years and the majority of sophomores are pursuing the new Gen Ed requirements, whereas most juniors and seniors have stayed with the original requirements since many have already completed most of them.

A final shift that has occurred this year is a stronger focus on interpreting writing and exploring ideas within the first-year College Colloquium. This is to replace Colloquium classes from years prior that had a much higher emphasis on students' writing abilities.

amseahill@willamette.edu

Service Saturdays offers access to volunteering opportunities

COURTESY OF BRITT MITCHELL



Melissa Scott ('20) participates in a Service Saturday hosted by CSL.

ELIZABETH HYDE
STAFF WRITER

Willamette's Community Service Learning (CSL) program facilitates weekly volunteer opportunities known as Service Saturdays. Service Saturdays take place at organizations like food share centers, retirement homes and community gardens. Next week's Service Saturday will be held at the Marion Polk Foodshare Youth Garden. Volunteers will harvest produce that may be kept or donated to the Bearcat Pantry. Bearcat Pantry is a resource for "students who may identify as food insecure

or who may face uncertainty about where their next meal is coming from," as stated on the Willamette website. Volunteers will also learn about sustainable farming practices and cooking with fresh produce.

Service Saturdays are an "opportunity to try out a diverse range of cool and low-commitment volunteer options," said Lead CSL Coordinator Sophie Bunch ('21).

The program always provides transportation, so that is not an inhibiting factor for aspiring volunteers. "This is a chance to break out of the Willamette bubble and give back to the Salem community," said

Sarah Connor ('21), Junior CSL Coordinator. Connor encourages students to try as many different service opportunities as they can.

After low turnout rates, "We asked ourselves, 'Do students not want to volunteer?' Willamette is sold on service, it's in our motto. Why aren't more students turning out?" said Connor. "This is an excellent resource being overlooked."

Both Connor and Bunch relayed gratitude for the work that community partners put into maintaining relationships with Willamette's CSL office and Service Saturdays. "I have learned a lot about how the impact of volunteers can be not so great for community partners. We are not necessarily from Oregon or Salem, are working within existing structures and taking up space. I am thankful for how kind our community partners are. They put in so much effort to help us maintain these programs," said Bunch.

HOME, a youth resource center that serves kids aged 12-17, is one of Bunch's favorite places to volunteer. "I am in awe of the work HOME puts in keeping these services running. They really strive towards a warm, friendly environment. They have beds and gardens and care so much about the kids that come in."

Bunch encourages students to reach out to any of the seven branches of CSL if the short-term commitment of Service Saturdays is not what they are looking for. The seven branches include Tiger Club, which organizes mentoring and tutoring at nearby Bush Elementary, and Language in Motion, wherein international students and students who have studied abroad can share their experiences with K-12 schools.

Stay up to date with CSL and Service Saturdays by subscribing to their weekly Wednesday emails. Listserv subscriptions may be accessed through the Willamette's Community Service Learning web page.

eghyde@willamette.edu

WEEKLY REPORT BY CAMPUS SAFETY

ASSAULT

Sept. 13, 8:30 p.m. (Off Campus): Campus Safety was contacted after a student reported they had been assaulted on their way back from Safeway a few days prior. A homeless person asked a student for money. When the student refused, the suspect became agitated and swung at them with a steel pipe hitting them on the forearm. The student was able to get away and back to campus. A report was filed and the student was advised to call Campus Safety whenever they ever felt concerned about walking back to campus and officers will provide them with an escort.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Sept. 14, 3:50 p.m. (guest parking lot): Campus Safety

received a call reporting their car had been vandalized. A report was filed.

Sept. 16, 4:25 p.m. (softball lot): While on patrol, an officer found a section of the gate had been cut. A work order was made to repair the fence.

Sept. 17, 5:08 p.m. (Gatke Hall): A student came to Campus Safety to report their car had been vandalized. A report was filed.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

Sept. 14, 11:32 p.m. (off-campus): Campus Safety received a call from an injured student who was off campus and requested to return to their room. The offi-

cer picked the student up at the off campus location and took them to their residence. WEMS was contacted and met with the student at their residence. The student was evaluated and did not need further immediate treatment.

POLICY VIOLATION

Sept. 14, 9:49 p.m. (University Apartments): Campus Safety received a call requesting to confiscate some found alcohol. An officer responded and the items were disposed of.

Sept. 17, 4:30 p.m. (Baxter Hall): Campus Safety received a call reporting individuals on the roof. An officer responded and met with the caller and students. A report was filed.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Sept. 13, 9:46 a.m. (Haseldorf Apartments): While on patrol, an officer noticed a suspicious individual checking to see if the building doors were open. The officer ensured the individual left campus.

Sept. 13, 6:50 p.m. (Mathews parking lot): Campus Safety received a call reporting a suspicious individual smoking and loitering. An officer responded and assured that the individual left campus.

Sept. 15, 10:27 p.m. (Jackson Plaza): While on patrol, an officer observed a suspicious individual on a bike. The officer followed

the individual and they left campus.

Sept. 19, 1:00 p.m. (University Services Building): While on patrol, an officer noticed a suspicious individual with a shopping cart. The officer observed the individual until they were off campus property.

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

Climate survey data and trends presented

MADELYN JONES
NEWS EDITOR

Data from the 1,339 Willamette students and employees who participated in last semester’s campus climate survey have been returned from HEDS, the third-party company that wrote the survey. Vice President of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Jade Aguilar revealed the patterns found in the results during Convocation on Thursday Sept. 19. This presentation was tailored to an undergraduate audience.

The survey asked questions about community members’ “perceptions of their institution’s climate, perceptions of how their institution supports diversity and equity and experiences with discrimination and harassment at their institution,” as explained by HEDS’ website.

Aguilar started the presentation by encouraging questions and comments from the audience and introducing one of the main conclusions. “What came up loud and clear in the study results is that we don’t have enough opportunities for meaningful dialogue on this campus. And what I think I would like to see is this survey and sharing the results with you to be an opportunity for that.”

The demographic of undergraduate students that took the survey is a close match to the demographic of

the whole student body. 34 percent of the CLA student body reports as not only white, and 35 percent of students who took the survey report as not only white. Aguilar noted it was important to look at these statistics to see if any group of students were overrepresented or underrepresented in the results of the survey, and these numbers reveal that the survey was taken by a representative portion of the student body.

There were sections for both multiple choice and short answer questions on the survey. For multiple questions on the survey, participants were asked to rate their satisfaction regarding a certain topic, with the choices being very satisfied, satisfied, neither satisfied or dissatisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. The results presented

ultly and staff all reported 67- 69 percent satisfied and 13-15 percent dissatisfied.

When asked if people were satisfied with diversity on campus, undergraduates reported being significantly less satisfied than other groups, polling at 32 percent satisfied and 40 percent dissatisfied. Graduate students, faculty and staff all polled 54-61 percent satisfied and 18-25 percent dissatisfied.

The study revealed 693 reports of often witnessing “insensitive or disparaging remarks” against people “with a particular political affiliation/view.” The two other highest reports were for “people of a particular age or generation” with 242 reports and “who have a particular racial and/or ethnic identity,” with 201 reports.

32 percent of undergraduate students reported having been discriminated against or harassed on campus. For CLA students, graduate students and employees, the top two reasons for being harassed or discriminated against were because of racial and/or ethnic identity and gender identity. Women who took the survey reported 606 incidents of discrimination and harassment, and men reported 211. There was no statistic for nonbinary people. In total, there were 933 reported incidents.

The survey also provided qualitative data through comment sections.

89 percent of participants left at least one comment. In order to read each comment, Aguilar reported that teams of students, staff and faculty read over them and identified trends, and then met together to discuss and report findings.

“Any one person is going to bring their own filter, their own bias to it. Different things emerge for different people... having groups of folks who come from different parts of campus really allows us to say these were really themes that we saw emerging,” said Aguilar about the comment reading practice.

From this data, it became clear that people across campus felt content with their chosen, smaller groups, but lacked a feeling of overall community at the University. Many people suggested more community events to remedy that disconnect.

At the end of her presentation, Aguilar opened the floor to questions and comments. She also encouraged anyone who has ideas on how to improve campus climate to come and talk to her about them.

“I am hoping the conversation doesn’t end here, that you continue to have these conversations within your student groups, within your residence halls, wherever you can find the time to talk about it,” said Aguilar.

mgjones@willamette.edu

Aune and Hellman win MOHL Award



REED BERTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Every year, a panel of College of Liberal Arts professors and administrators determine up to two winners for the Mark O. Hatfield Library (MOHL) Research Award essay competition. The MOHL Research Award is awarded to excellent papers in any subject that utilize research using library information sources. Up to two \$500 cash prizes are awarded each year.

According to the Hatfield Library website, “Essays are required to be at least seven pages long and exhibit use of numer-

ous, diverse and relevant sources of information pertaining to the topic, including resources available through the MOHL.” The MOHL Research Award competition is open to sophomore and junior students who write papers during the current academic year. Winners are decided and awarded prizes by the beginning of the following year.

The winners of the 2018-2019 competition were decided earlier this semester as Niko Hellman ('21), the author of “A Construction of Dependency: White Supremacy and Anti-Miscegenation Laws”, and McKenna Aune ('20),



the author of “Evaluation of the Dakota Access Pipeline Project.”

“I am a math and economics double major, said Hellman. “However, I was inspired to submit a history essay from my American Legal History course to the MOHL essay competition by my previous colloquium and American legal history professor Jennifer Jopp.”

In regards to the content of her essay, Hellman said, “My paper covers the history of anti-miscegenation laws within the United States, laws prohibiting individuals of different races to marry one another, culminating with the 1967 Loving v. Virginia trial, which struck down

anti-miscegenation laws on a national scale. To convey a history of anti-miscegenation laws; the paper analyzes these laws as an example of race defined in the United States as a legal construct.”

Hellman also spoke to her experience using the Hatfield Library as a research source. “I initially checked out about 10 different books concerning the subject from the library and took advantage of several specific databases provided there.”

According to Hellman, it is also not revealed to MOHL Research Award applicants who the judges of the competition are.

McKenna Aune, the other winner of this year’s MOHL Research Award, discussed factors that influenced both President Obama and President Trump’s decisions regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), its social implications and legal history in her essay.

In reference to the inspiration behind her paper, Aune said, “While DAPL unraveled on a national stage; I had a hard time fathoming what legal grounding the government had to act as they did. So, when I was assigned this policy analysis paper, it was a perfect opportunity to examine the present and historical legal grounding of the federal government’s treatment of DAPL. Moreover, in a world where we are becoming consistently more dependent on fossil fuels, I wanted to understand how and if another DAPL could be avoided.”

Concerning the research she used to develop the paper, Aune said: “I relied extensively on the databases provided through the Hatfield Library. In particular, I utilized a lot of the law reviews from various institutions. I also used a number of journal articles that provided recommendations on how to prevent a situation like DAPL from occurring again.”

Submissions for the 2019-2020 MOHL Research Award will be due during the 2020 finals week.

rgbertran@willamette.edu



“Men on Boats” casts away expectations

BROOKE COX
OPINIONS EDITOR

The Willamette University Theatre Department is back with a new rip roaring comedy, “Men on Boats” by Jaclyn Backhaus. This reiteration of the story follows John Wesley Powell’s 1869 expedition of the Grand Canyon through a new lens: with no men. Instead, the cast is made up of non-male identifying actors playing the roles of the men who rode the rapids down the Colorado River.

Directed by Susan Coromel and assistant directed by Katy Payne (‘21), “Men on Boats” focuses on giving every member of the expedition the same attention that Powell had. According to Payne, it “really deals with the question of who controls the narrative of history.”

By bringing new context to the story through the cast’s unique portrayals of the expeditioners, “Men on Boats” has changed the way the cast had thought about history and its portrayal today. Having the cast be composed of people who do not identify as men brings to focus many of the issues involved with historical retellings while also taking that story away from the people that history is normally filtered through.

Emma Chang (‘23) reiterated this when she described how working on this play has impacted her worldview. “It made me consider how we tell history and how the perspectives of those who tell it or write it often obscures the stories of others.”

Beyond giving a retelling of the expedition’s history, the play has also given the actors the chance to play roles they normally wouldn’t have held. Nikolette Olson (‘23), who plays John Wesley Powell, spoke further about playing the expedition leader in her first show at Willamette:

“I’ve not only had the privilege to be apart of a cast full of extreme-



Nikolette Olson (‘23) plays explorer John Wesley Powell in the Theatre Department’s production of “Men on Boats.”

ly committed, wonderful people, I have also had the opportunity to play a role that I otherwise would not be able to. Having the ability to enter this rough-and-tumble sort of world that these frontiersmen were a part of, especially in a role of leadership, has been a theatre experience like none I have ever been apart of.”

These perspectives were not lost upon the performers, as many of them discovered that this story brought them closer as a crew both in and out of the rehearsal room. From rehearsal to an organized kayaking trip on the Willamette River, the cast has had a lot of time to bond with one another.

Rion Iverson (‘21), who plays George Young Bradley spoke more about their experience with their cast mates: “This is my favorite show I’ve ever a part of. I’ve never felt like such a sense of camaraderie with a cast before, I feel like we’ve all become really good friends.” They continued on to say, “There’s a line where Powell says, ‘We’ve all become like brothers.’ I hope that sense of camaraderie comes through.”

According to Payne, it does. Payne even spoke to the ways that the actors are demonstrating their newfound bond through the rehearsal process. She said, “This entire cast has been very kind and

very funny, and everyone is definitely looking out for each other in the rehearsal room, which is more important now than ever.”

In addition to the cast, the crew has been working hard to construct, design and paint the finished set and prop pieces needed for this production. From costumes, to lighting, to the large map of the Grand Canyon, every aspect of this show has been a group effort. People from all production areas have put their all into making the theatre’s first show of the season the best it can be, no matter what their relationship is with the theatre.

Payne has one more piece of advice for anyone interested in see-

ing the show: “Go into the show ready for a ride. It has some deeper themes that you can’t necessarily see through the surface level, but if you’re paying attention, they’re there. They’re very powerful.”

Men on Boats opens Thursday, Sept. 26, and runs through Saturday, Oct. 12 in the M. Lee Pelton Theatre with showtimes at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets for the show cost eight dollars for students, \$12 for general admission and \$10 for seniors.

bcox@willamette.edu

Horoscopes for the week of Sept. 25-Oct. 2

BILLY ULLMANN
LIFESTYLES EDITOR



Aries: The new moon in Libra on Sept. 28 will likely energize you to bring change into your life, especially with regards to partnership and romance. The new moon is a good time to try new ways of doing things and seek out new and different experiences. Avoid giving into restless impulses, however.



Taurus: The moon moves out of self-loving Leo and into grounded Virgo on Sept. 26, which offers some much needed stability and focus. The new moon in Libra brings a feeling of invigoration around love and partnership. Consider what energy you have been putting into your relationships and whether or not change is needed.



Gemini: The new moon in Libra on Sept. 28 brings a feeling of change and energy. This is a good

time to begin a new creative project or to make changes in your relationships. The moon moves into Scorpio on the 30th, which may you to do impulsive or chaotic things. Enjoy yourself but try to think of your effects on others as well.



Cancer: The moon is new and enters Libra on Sept. 28. Take some time to check that you’re not putting in energy into things that are no longer serving you a good purpose. Consider the state of your relationships during this time, especially as the moon moves into fellow water sign Scorpio on Sept. 30.



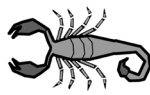
Leo: The moon is in your sign until Sept. 26, when it moves into earth sign Virgo. Build up some confidence before taking some time to work hard and focus. The new moon in Libra on Sept. 28 will bring some energy into your decision making and partnerships. It is a good time to seek change.



Virgo: The moon is in your sign starting on Sept. 26th. Even though Virgo season just ended, feel free to make yourself busy and work hard on getting things done. The new moon in Libra on Sept. 28 will be a good time for a fresh start, especially in regards to romance or creativity. The moon in Scorpio beginning on Sept. 30 will call you to engage in deeper thought.



Libra: With the sun, Mercury and Venus currently in your sign, you likely feel ease in partnerships or in balancing different aspects of your life. The new moon enters your sign on Sept. 28, which will likely bring you more confidence and energize you to start a new creative project or relationship.



Scorpio: The moon is in steady Virgo on Sept. 26. Continue to work hard at what you care about during this time. The new moon in Libra on Sept. 28 will

bring romance to the mind so do not be afraid to reevaluate where your energies are spent. The moon then enters your sign on Sept. 30, bringing you into your element.



Sagittarius: The moon is in Leo until Sept. 26 so enjoy being direct and confident. The new moon in Libra on Sept. 28 will likely put partnership and romance as a top priority, as well as motivate you to think creatively. Make sure you know what you’re getting into before starting any new projects or relationships.



Capricorn: The moon enters fellow earth sign Virgo on Sept. 26, making hard work and attending to responsibilities a priority. Take some time to relax and recharge with the new moon in Libra on Sept. 26. This is also a good time to see where your energies are being spent, especially relating to partnerships.



Aquarius: The moon is in sister sign Leo

until Sept. 26, bringing a feeling of self security and directness with others. Love and creativity will come with ease as the new moon in fellow air sign Libra occurs on Sept. 28. Don’t be afraid to make changes but don’t let restlessness get the best of you.



Pisces: The moon is in your sister sign, Virgo, starting on Sept. 26. This will likely bring you energy to accomplish anything you may have been putting off. The moon is new and enters Libra on Sept. 28, bringing balance and beauty as priorities. Make sure what you are working and putting your energy towards benefits you.

DISCLAIMER: These predictions are not to be taken seriously. I am not professional astrologer and any guesses made are simply that: guesses. Do not actually use as advice or guidance.

aeullmann@willamette.edu
Graphics: Blake Carlile

Invasive rodents missing at Willamette

CONTINUED from Page 1

Free from predators and sustained by a reliable water and food source, the nutria had made Willamette’s Mill Stream their home over the years. Cochrane notes several changes around campus that could explain their sudden migration.

“Salem does drop the water in this creek, especially over the summer to work on it, and there may have been a stretch when it was down pretty low for two or three days. Nutria burrow along the water’s edge for safety, so maybe they thought there was no water left and they just moved on.”

David Craig, professor of biology at Willamette, remembers

a disease outbreak in 2005 that affected a majority of Salem’s nutria. He speculates that a similar epidemic could have affected the nutria population over the summer.

“I think an Epizootic Pneumonia is the best explanation for the missing nutria based on the complete absence of animals.” Craig defines this type of pneumonia as being widespread and caused by an infection.

“I recall seeing a couple of weezing, shallow breathing juveniles [in 2005] and then the next week the nutria vanished. Diseases caused by microbial infections can result in significant mortality in nutria populations, especially in times of high population densities.”

There is a possibility that the nutria escaped this fate this year and are still around campus, since they are nocturnal animals. However, Cochrane’s observation of the campus’s ecology suggests otherwise.

“I think they’re gone. I don’t see any evidence of them in the Botanical Garden. They would come and eat the grass down and I don’t see that, so I do believe they’ve gone on their way.”

Considering nutria are invasive, their migration could serve as a benefit for Willamette. According to VandeBergh, nutria are a disturbance to waterways, since they “dig up roots, tubers, and bulbs, which disrupts soil stability and changes the hydrol-

ogy of an area.” In addition, they spread disease and parasites to native animal species, such as muskrats.

There have been countless attempts to control the negative impacts caused by nutria in Oregon, including setting up traps in waterways and calling a wildlife agency, which can enforce stricter measures.

“The other potential source for a big population crash could be the use of poison baits,” Craig suggests of campus’ nutria, “but poison rarely kills all individuals and would require application by a USDA APHIS agent.”

The exact location of Salem’s nutria remains a mystery. They could have sought out areas in

Salem with a more consistent water and food source, could have been wiped out by disease or may have simply migrated for the time being.

Students should be on the lookout for nutria and contact Grounds if they spot one of them again. Should the nutria make an appearance, students should be sure to observe them from a distance. In the words of Cochrane, “Who knows what lurks in the mind of a nutria?”

szelen@willamette.edu

Can you match the tattoo to the Collegian editor?

1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



PHOTOS BY BILLY ULLMANN

Email your guesses to aeullmann@willamette.edu. The first correct answer will win a Collegian t-shirt.

- A. SOPHIE SMITH
- B. MIRANDA HUNT
- C. JACK KUYPER
- D. BILLY ULLMANN
- E. AMARIT UBHI
- F. MADELYN JONES



Bearcats overcome Occidental

IVY YEOH
STAFF WRITER

Willamette University faced Occidental for their second game of the season on Sept. 21 at McCulloch Stadium, winning 34-31 and raising their overall season record to 1-1.

The first quarter of the game ended with Willamette in the lead, though Occidental scored first. WU's running back, sophomore Dylan Sparks, rushed the ball on second down from the 25-yard line to the 28-yard line. The drive stalled, and junior Sam Adams punted the ball on fourth down to Occidental's 49-yard line. On their first down, Occidental's quarterback Joshua Greaves threw a 51-yard pass to WU's end zone for a touchdown, and the subsequent extra point attempt went through the uprights to give the visitors an early 7-0 lead at 13:39.

On second down during the subsequent drive, Sparks rushed the ball 12 yards from WU's 25-yard line to the 37. However, two consecutive false starts by WU pushed them back 10 yards. At 7:47, on WU's fourth down, junior Sam Adams punted 32 yards to Occidental's 40-yard line. Luckily for the Bearcats, a fumble occurred on Occidental's 48-yard line, which was recovered by sophomore Christian Tovar, who ran it 48 yards into Occidental's endzone for a touchdown. However, the extra point attempt was unsuccessful.

After his defense forced a punt, WU's quarterback senior Matthew Castaneda threw a 34-yard touchdown pass to graduate student Jordan Jenkins. First-year Kyla Gordon's kick attempt gave WU another point, bringing the score 7-13 and giving Willamette its first lead of the day.

The second quarter's scoring began with an Occidental touchdown



The Willamette football team defeats Occidental, bringing Willamette's season record to 1-1.

and kick attempt good for seven points and a 14-13 lead. WU's possession at 9:48 on their own 42-yard line resulted in a 58-yard drive ending with a seven-yard pass from Castaneda to Jenkins for a touchdown. The subsequent extra point attempt was successful, giving WU a 14-20 lead.

WU's only sack of the game, performed by sophomore Keaton Adams, pushed Occidental back to their 14-yard line and ended their second-to-last drive of the half. Occidental ended the second quarter with a successful field goal attempt to bring them within three points of the home team.

The third quarter saw excellent Bearcat defense, a touchdown and a successful subsequent kick attempt, expanding WU's lead to 10 points. With possession of the ball at 12:12,

WU faced a third down and long due to a false start penalty, which had pushed WU back five yards. However, a face mask penalty committed by Occidental gave WU a first down, keeping the drive alive. From WU's 46-yard line, junior Ethan Koler rushed the ball nine yards to Occidental's 45-yard line. Castaneda then threw a 22-yard pass to sophomore Kodiak Hussey. A subsequent 23-yard pass to Jenkins in Occidental's endzone gave WU a touchdown at 8:43. Gordon's kick attempt after the touchdown gave WU another point, bringing the score to 17-27.

The fourth quarter started shakily for WU, with two touchdowns and two successful extra-point attempts from Occidental at 14:51 and 10:03, giving the away team a 31-27 edge. However, WU's possession of the ball at 2:22 and Occi-

dental's many penalties turned the game around.

Castaneda made two excellent passes down the field to junior Miles Bryant one from WU's 33-yard line to Occidental's 35-yard line and the other from the 35 to the 20-yard line. Occidental's various penalties on the next couple plays resulted in a WU first down at the three-yard line. From Occidental's three-yard line, Castaneda threw the game-winning touchdown to junior Max Anderson at 00:57. The six points from the touchdown plus the point from Gordon's extra point attempt gave WU the 31-34 win.

The Willamette football team will be playing at McCulloch Stadium again on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 4:00 p.m. (PDT) against Lewis-Clark Valley College (Idaho).

icyeoh@willamette.edu

DISCLAIMER:

No Collegian reporter was present at the men's soccer games, the men's tennis tournament or the first half of the football game. All information and statistics cited in the affected articles were gathered from the Willamette website's sports page, courtesy of the Athletic Department.

Men's tennis struggles in regional tournament

JACK KUYPER
SPORTS EDITOR

Willamette University's men's tennis team did not do well this past weekend at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's (ITA) Northwest regional tournament. The tournament took place every day between Friday, Sept. 20 and Monday, Sept. 23 and was hosted by George Fox University (GFU) in Newberg, OR.

All of the singles tennis players faltered in their first match-up in the ITA tournament. First-year Quentin Nigbur fell to Rox Rodgers from GFU without a single point. Rodgers ended up going on to the quarter-finals but fell to Ben Krish from Whitman. Sophomore Andrew Kabacy fought hard but lost 6-4 in both sets in the first round to Ryan Murata of Pacific University. Senior Gene Perle-Jones lost against Garrett Katayama from Pacific University by 6-3 in the first set and 6-2 in the second. Senior Collin Fisher was also taken down by Joey Balloweg of Pacific University, 6-4 and 6-2.

Kabacy and Nigbur competed in the doubles main draw tournament together but also fell short of a win in their first matchup, losing to Brendan Adams and Will McDermott from Lewis and Clark College. First-year Thomas Anderson and junior Luke Hiserman fell in their first round of the qualifying doubles. However, first-year Andrew Kroop and first-year Jordan Megiveron won 8-3 against Alden Velasco and Paul Wallace from Puget Sound, marking WU's only win of the tournament. Unfortunately, they quickly fell to Aiden Schutter and Tom Chang from Whitman 8-0.

The team's next game will come on Saturday, Sept. 28 at Lewis and Clark College.

jkuyper@willamette.edu

Men's soccer goes 1-1 in first NWC games

JARIN KOBASHIGAWA
CONTRIBUTOR

Men's soccer competed in its first two Northwest Conference (NWC) games of the 2019 season this past weekend against Whitman College and Whitworth University. The Bearcats entered the weekend with no losses on their record and a two-game win streak.

Willamette University dominated Whitman on Saturday, Sept. 22, outscoring the Blues 4-1 in the home victory. Sophomore Josh Schneider started the scoring in the sixth minute, giving the Bearcats an early lead. Sophomore Yushiro Shiomi crossed the ball to the middle of the field, where Schneider was waiting. Schneider sent the ball into the top right corner of the goal from a few feet inside the 18-yard box. The 18-yard box is known as the penalty area, extending 18 yards around the goal in a box shape.

Whitman's Adam Joss answered with a goal in the 23rd minute to tie the game at one apiece, but junior Max Berner-Hays, one of Willamette's leading scorers from the 2018 season, scored a goal to reclaim the lead. Sophomore Ryan Sato took a free-kick from 30 yards out, and Berner-Hays used his head to send the ball into the top of the goal, to give the Bearcats a 2-1 lead.

In the second half, Shiomi and Sato, after recording assists on the first two WU goals, scored goals of their own. Sato scored in the 52nd minute after receiving a cross pass from Shiomi and striking the ball into the lower right corner of the goal. Shiomi scored in the 67th minute after receiving a cross pass from first-year Edwin Ortiz and heading the ball into the net.

In the team's second game of the weekend, Whitworth squeezed out a 4-3 win in overtime. Senior Nicholas Ballenger scored all three goals for WU, the first hat trick of his Willamette career. A hat trick is when one player scores three goals in one game.

The Pirates took a 2-0 lead just 15 minutes into the game. Scott Penner of Whitworth scored the first goal with an assist from Zanskar Blair. Blair scored the second goal in the 15th minute to increase the Pirates' lead, but Ballenger answered back with two goals of his own before the end of the first half. The first goal was scored on an assist from junior Carter McCleary, and Ballenger tied the game up at 2-2 just two minutes before halftime.

The second half went scoreless for the first 17 minutes, when Whitworth's Chase Reidt scored to break the tie. Fortu-



Junior Mack van der Velde plays on Sparks Field.

nately for Willamette, Ballenger scored again to tie the game up in the 76th minute on a penalty kick. A penalty kick is awarded to a player that is fouled inside the 18-yard box. The kick is taken against the goalkeeper for the opposing team 12 yards away from the goal.

The 3-3 tie at the end of regulation forced the overtime period. Whitworth took the first shot on goal about one minute into the overtime period. On the second shot on goal, in the 93rd

minute, Reidt scored to win the match for the Pirates.

After the weekend of play, Willamette's record moved to 4-1-2 overall and 1-1 in the NWC. Whitworth improved to 3-4-1 overall and 1-1 in the NWC. The Bearcats will take on Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 12 p.m. (PDT).

jtkobashigawa@willamette.edu

Bearcats play with pride



Senior Jenae Arnold gets ready to protect the ball in women's soccer's game against Linfield.

BRITT SHUNN-MITCHELL
CONTRIBUTOR

Willamette University's women's soccer team had an eventful weekend with two conference wins, one overtime and their Play with Pride game.

On Saturday afternoon Sparks Field filled with rainbows as the women's soccer team played Linfield in their Play with Pride game.

Senior Hannah Deighton explains: "We decided to join the Play for Pride movement with United Soccer Coaches to celebrate inclusion and diversity amongst players and coaches across sports. The movement supports all gender identities and sexual orientations and is identified by rainbow laces. This movement is especially important to our team because of our team motto #ICEU. The hashtag stands for Inclusion-Community-Excellence-United, values that support all for being their authentic self. I think it is important as an athlete to use your platform and

the resources we are given to be an advocate."

Willamette beat Linfield 3-1 behind strong defense. The win put their conference record at 1-0. The Bearcats kept the Wildcats out of the goal the entire first half of the game. On 14 shots by the Wildcats, only one slipped into the goal.

The first goal of the game was scored just under 12 minutes into the first quarter by senior Shanna Keil. Keil was also responsible for an assist on the last goal of the game as well.

In a post-game interview, Keil said: "It felt awesome to help my team to a hard-earned victory; I'm glad we were able to come out strong in our conference opener. I feel good about this season. We have a great team chemistry and everyone's hard work over summer and during practice is really showing. I think that winning both at home and away will give us some great momentum into the rest of season."

In the George Fox University game on Sept. 22, WU won 1-0.

Junior Lacey Jones scored the only goal on a header with an assist from Keil in the first quarter.

Deighton voiced an extremely positive outlook towards the rest of the season, saying: "We are feeling more confident to take on the rest of conference knowing what it takes to grind out wins against Linfield and George Fox in overtime. Every weekend counts so we know that we can't get comfortable, but we will continue to work hard and stay invested in the team."

Not only does the women's team have a lot to look forward to on the field, but they have other events planned to help support their community. The women's soccer team is going into their next game with an unblemished 2-0 record in the NWC. The next women's soccer home game will be on Sept. 28 at noon. They will also have a home game on Oct. 2nd, where they will be honoring Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

bemitchell@willamette.edu

Athletes practice culture building

BRITT SHUNN-MITCHELL
CONTRIBUTOR

Monday night marked the first of many culture-building activities that the athletic department has planned. The event was led by senior swim and dive athlete Mika Costello. Costello is an NCAA Division III National Student Athlete Advisory Committee Primary Member and a member of the NCAA Division III LGBTQ Working Group. Costello has worked to change all language in NCAA policy to include gender-neutral people as well as to create spaces in Willamette University's athletic department for culture building. She was trained to lead a common ground training at Brigham Young University last year, and this year

issues that could arise due to differences in identity.

Costello notes the following: "We all have different identities; none of us are the same. However, if we all really dive into it, you'll always be able to find something in common with a person who may have totally different and possibly opposing ideas and passions from you." A big takeaway Costello hopes those in attendance got is the following: "We're more than just labels; there's privileges and disadvantages of all types of identities. It's how we use our privileges that really matters." The common ground that the group spoke about the most was being a student-athlete and what privileges and duties came with the position. Shevlin emphasized the duality of

"We're more than just labels; there's privileges and disadvantages of all types of identities."

agreed to lead a training open to all student-athletes in order to help start a conversation about identity and privilege within the athletic department.

The turnout for the event was huge. The women's softball and women's volleyball team filled much of the classroom, alongside a sprinkle of athletes from other teams. Associate Athletic Director Leslie Shevlin was also in attendance and while she was not leading the event, she did have some impactful questions for the athletes, pressing them to use their unique lenses on issues to add to the conversation. The training had students break down their identities and what privileges and disadvantages came with them. The room was filled with many quiet moments while athletes were encouraged to reflect on some serious

identities by posing the question "How do you come to terms with having both privilege and oppression in an identity, and what actions do you take based on that?"

While there was much silence meeting most questions, students were encouraged to think about what was said and carry their thoughts over to next week's event with Schuyler Bailar, Harvard Class of 2019 member and the first NCAA Division I transgender men's athlete. All students and community members are encouraged to be at the event, which will happen in Smith Auditorium on Sept. 30 at 7 p.m.

If you can't make it to Bailer's event, the *Collegian* will be publishing a story covering the event in next week's issue.

bemitchell@willamette.edu

Interview with football head coach Isaac Parker



New football head coach Isaac Parker is a Willamette alumni.

CONTINUED from page 1

His life experience, though tough, has been helpful for him. "It helps me

to keep perspective... 20 years ago, I don't remember a ton of the details of the wins and losses, but I do remember the brotherhood and camaraderie.

While we want to be as competitive as we can be, the value of this sport is immune to wins and losses."

Parker stressed the influence his high school coaches had on him. "My coaches helped guide me. I felt that I got a lot of paternal advice from my coaches... [they were] great male role models for me."

This has affected his philosophy of what it means to be a coach. "When you are a coach, you are a mentor. I always tell any player or group that I'm responsible for that I hope I'm on their top call list when crap hits the fan. That's the type of relationship I hope to earn and develop with them. It's more than just, 'Coach, what do I do on this play?'"

After graduating high school, his coaches helped him find Willamette University. "Coming to school here [helped] continue my transition into adulthood."

Coach Parker earned a BA from WU in 2002 and a Master of Arts in Teaching from WU in 2005. He was later hired by South Salem High School as a math teacher and a football coach. Playing college football gave him a leg up in his high school coaching career. "Not all high school

coaches played college football," he said. Having experience allowed Parker to rise through the rankings quickly.

For Parker, being involved at a high school level was incredibly rewarding. "I've received letters from high school players saying, 'You're the closest thing to a father figure for me' and things like that." He said those types of bonds are more important than an undefeated season or a coaching award.

Lewis & Clark's head football coach Jay Locey hired Parker in 2015 as an offensive line coach, running back coach and recruiter. His continued success led to the hiring of his expertise elsewhere, this time as the head coach for the Bearcats. "The opportunity came up, and to me, it was a no-brainer to be able to come back to my alma mater. This place is special to me, so it was really exciting to come back here and do this."

As the head coach, he has many goals for the season. However, he wants to start with the following: "From day one, we're going to lead with culture."

Asked about why culture is so important to him, he responded: "The values we learn in football relate to

life. Everyone's playing days are going to end at some point... Ultimately, we want this culture to bleed into everything they do... If you want to be good at football, you have to be good in school." Parker feels that the team is buying into his culture, as the team's GPA raised by .3 between fall 2018 and spring 2019.

Another goal of Parker's is to integrate the team more into the WU and Salem community. "We've talked about how it's important to show other students that you're more than just a football team. It's easy for football players to be easily stereotyped as football players. But our student-athletes are talented in many ways other than just football." He believes integrating the team into the community will increase interest in the team and their games.

He also keeps in mind the team's play. "Obviously, the product on the field needs to be one that is interesting to the student body. If you're going to go and put on a Willamette shirt and cheer on the team, you don't want to be embarrassed walking out of the stadium... You win, people show up."

jprocino@willamette.edu



ADVERTISEMENT



Say Hello to CAFES!

The Green Fund has a new name:
Community Action Fund for Equity & Sustainability (CAFES)

2019-2020 Grant Application Deadlines:

October 1st, 2019
November 15th, 2019
February 3rd, 2020
March 13th , 2020

Applications: willamette.edu/go/cafes
Questions? Contact: [<community-action-fund>](mailto:community-action-fund@willamette.edu)

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed here are the author's own, and do not reflect the perspectives of the Opinions Editor nor the *Collegian* staff.

Is it time to rethink Blitz?

JOSEPH GOMEZ
CONTRIBUTOR

To many, Blitz the Bearcat is a mysterious mascot. Despite Blitz's continued presence on campus, some Willamette students question how the mascot represents WU as a whole.

One Willamette student, Alex Bamberger ('23), said, "Blitz the Bearcat certainly wasn't my first choice, but I'm sure it represents us in some way."

Nat Block ('23), disagreed, saying, "He's a historical mascot! He's iconic. Why change it?"

However, in order to talk about Blitz's iconic presence on campus, one must bring attention to the elephant in the room: the fact that bearcats have nothing to do with the Willamette Valley. Or Oregon, the U.S and the entirety of North America.

As most Willamette students know, the bearcat is also known as a binturong. According to *National Geographic*, the binturong is native to southeast Asia and smells like popcorn due to the chemical compound 2-AP, which "may be produced when the animal's urine reacts with bacteria in the animal's gut, skin, fur or with other microorganisms."

Blitz currently doesn't look at all like the binturong. Blitz takes after a red panda, another Asian animal. Previous iterations of Blitz had some

trouble nailing that classic binturong aesthetic as well. According to the Willamette website, the university's first mascot was named Barney and more closely resembled the binturong. However, that attempt at Barney looked similar to a sock puppet, and a later one resembled a Pooh Bear. The Willamette website claims that, "Barney went to the national championship football game in 1997 and never returned to the university."

Blitz Mascot Coordinator Jordan DeGelia ('21) offered an explanation for this somewhat ominous history. "The performer must have lost the suit, or some even venture to say they deliberately lost the suit because it was terrifying."

The current version of Blitz was made with purposeful design.

"We have this ambiguity with Blitz because we want Blitz to represent everyone and everybody," DeGelia said, "Everyone on campus is Blitz, regardless of where you're from, regardless of your gender, whatever!"

According to DeGelia, Blitz also uses they/them pronouns.

Whether or not ambiguity results in representation is a debate in itself. The progressive design of Blitz isn't the problem; it's more "the Bearcat" that isn't a bear, cat, bearcat or red panda. A mascot doesn't have to be a combination of animals to be

inclusive and relatable, especially when there are perfectly viable alternatives that are not nearly as confusing.

If you're looking for a more fierce idol, look no further than the nutria. Nutria are found throughout the Willamette Valley, but the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) consider them to be an invasive species. Let that be a warning to our competitors: if you cross us, we will wreak havoc on your local ecosystems! Or, think of the colors chosen to represent this university: cardinal red and old gold. But the ODFW lists no cardinals specifically native to Oregon, so this is where the warbler comes in. Warblers are small, loud, insectivorous birds and they're all over the place. In fact, the ODFW asserts that Oregon is home to 21 different species of warbler, four of which are known natives of the Willamette Valley. The Wilson warbler, for example, is bright yellow. Despite it having no red on it, Willamette could easily change that for the sake of creating Willy the Willamette Warbler.

This new mascot could be just as ambiguous as Blitz, but with the added benefit of being a more focused and familiar animal to firmly ground itself in Willamette's history.

Or we could keep our beloved bearcat for another hundred years. Take your pick.

jagomez@willamette.edu

ADVERTISEMENT

MOVING MUSIC FORWARD

SEPTEMBER 27 | 7:30 PM

BRAHMS' SECOND

Brahms' jubilant Second Symphony evokes the burbling streams and fresh meadows of the Austrian countryside.

PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES:
A World premiere by **Oscar Bettison** and **Mozart's** festive Piano Concerto No. 25


FEATURING:
Pianist **Garrick Ohlsson** and conductor **Carlos Kalmar**

Tickets start at \$35

PERFORMANCE AT SMITH AUDITORIUM, WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY.

Willamette University students can attend Oregon Symphony performances for free. Free student tickets available on night of concert only.

Subject to availability, available to registered full-time, degree-seeking Willamette University students only, student ID is required.



OREGON SYMPHONY
IN SALEM
CARLOS KALMAR, MUSIC DIRECTOR

orsymphony.org/salem
503-228-1353
YOUR OFFICIAL SOURCE
FOR SYMPHONY TICKETS