

COLLEGIAN

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Bearcat men split weekend double-header

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PHOTO BY PATRICK WILLGOHS

Willamette celebrates life of MLK

Events teach respect and importance of service

TOM BROUNSTEIN
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Classes were cancelled Friday afternoon as students took part in a variety of service projects, part of the culmination of a weeklong celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life.

The events began Monday when William Dickerson-Waheed showed his film *Rivers of Change: The Story of Five Unheralded Women in Montgomery and Their Struggle for Justice and Dignity*.

According to University Chaplain Charles Wallace, "Dickerson-Waheed is low-key unpretentious and shows how you can link up your skills ... to educate people about justice and diversity."

The film is about women before Rosa Parks who also refused to give up their seats on public transportation in the South. According to Dickerson-Waheed, these women helped to lay the groundwork for much of the bus boycott.

At a luncheon Friday, Dickerson-Waheed addressed some of the issues in his movie and how it related to Willamette. "One of the greatest results of education," he said, "is to solve problems in a civilized way without resorting to violence," citing the bus boycotts as an example.

After the event, students had a chance to volunteer in the Salem community. "I think it's definitely important to help others," freshman Erin Sheets said. "The campus made it really easy to volunteer ... so I thought I'd take advantage of that opportunity."

Sheets volunteered at the Union Gospel Mission. She said she had volunteered there before during Opening Days. "I figured it was an organization I wanted to support again," she said. "We have the ability to give back so we should."

Wallace said that Tim Wise, another race-related speaker, is coming to Willamette in March. Wise is the author of the book *White Like Me*, which describes white privilege and how oppressive society hurts all members.

The event is organized by the Council on Diversity and Social Justice, a group formed by the demands of the Concerned Students for Social Justice. The format of the event will be a teach-in. "It's probably going to be a number of sessions that deal with the [most offensive costume] party and other issues that were related to it," Wallace explained.



MEGAN MEIDINGER

Ladysmith Black Mambazo, winner of multiple Grammy awards, performed in Smith Auditorium Friday night. The group was instrumental to the fall of apartheid in South Africa, and tickets sold out days before the performance.

The Council on Diversity and Social Justice, of which Wallace is a member, is comprised of five students and 22 staff.

"While it does seem lopsided with so few students, it's not really," said Cliff Leek, another member and a freshman interested in American Ethnic Studies. "I feel like we have the representation that we need."

According to Leek, the staff members come from all departments and all areas of the college.

Leek said he saw having a small amount of students as a positive tool. "Us five students can meet before a meeting ... and decide what we want to do and enter with a unified voice," he said.

Both the Council on Diversity and Social Justice and the teach-in were imperatives that the Concerned Students for Social Justice demanded when they held their rally in

November.

Progress on the other points is uncertain, however. "We don't know for sure yet if they'll all be granted, but they'll all be considered," Leek said. He said he hopes that all of the Concerned Students' requests will be met.

Leek encouraged anyone who supports the Council on Diversity and Social Justice to join the Concerned Students of Social Justice, which is now led by a 10-student steering committee that works closely with the students on the Council.

"The Concerned Students for Social Justice gives us the people we need" for footwork or gathering names, Leek said. "If people are interested in helping the council, the Concerned Students for Social Justice is a great way to do that, and we need them for this whole thing to be successful."

Snow sprinkles campus, cancels classes



CHRIS FOSS, JESS SMITH

Students and faculty delighted in the freshly-fallen snow last Tuesday. A snowman rose in front of Alpha Chi and a snowball fight erupted on the quad. Willamette ran on a normal schedule that day but icy conditions forced the university to open at 10 a.m. the following morning.

COLLEGIAN

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Eastside's future up in the air

Residential committee includes students in key decisions

MICHAEL MURRAY
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Preliminary work on the Eastside Commons has begun. The Residential Commons Steering Committee, headed by President Pelton, has begun discussion on the future of the Eastside residential area. The committee has met for approximately 2 1/2 years but has only recently begun discussion of the Eastside commons. It includes Director of Residence Life Marilyn Derby, Dean of Campus Life Bob Hawkins and Assistant Dean of Campus Life David Rigsby as well as other members from around campus. It discusses both the

long- and short-term plans and goals for the commons. The buildings that make up the Eastside residential area include Baxter Hall and the fraternities, as well as the Belknap/Matthews complex. According to Derby, a survey of the buildings initially concluded that the Belknap/Matthews complex should be torn down and rebuilt, but the University does not currently have the money for such an expensive project. A second survey suggested that substantial renovation may be adequate to complete their goals. Baxter and the fraternities may also undergo some renovation. Rigsby said that the physical changes to the Eastside are far in the future. The com-

mittee is concentrating on the short-term changes that can be made to programming and social networking inside the area. One possibility is to combine hall councils or pool hall resources to develop activities and events for the entire Eastside. The Steering Committee is also working with Eastside Area Coordinator Terrie Tran and the various Eastside hall councils to develop programmatic changes on the Eastside. Tran discussed these plans with students at a meeting of all the Eastside hall councils on Tues., Jan. 16. A number of students from the meeting have expressed interest in talking with members of the steering committee to offer a student perspective on the planning.

Sophomore Ethan Bancroft, who lives in Phi Delta Theta, said he was interested in the concept of a commons itself. "It already seems like a pretty common area," he said. "I guess it remains to be seen how the first commons [Kaneko] work out." Student participation was an integral part of the development of the Kaneko Commons, but until this point, students have not been involved in the planning of the Eastside Commons. "The students have to be engaged and excited about the processes and the programming," according to Rigsby. He said the nature of the programmatic changes is yet to be determined, but will be "dictated by the students."

Kaneko leaders prepare for engaging semester

CMs plan to bring community together through programming

JEFF CARLSON
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Last semester, Kaneko Commons community mentors (CMs) and council members had to learn and execute the demands of their new roles, build relationships with their fellow residents and design programming to foster community spirit—all in a hall that was still under construction. Now with the Atrium about one month away from opening, these students are planning to energize their residence.

Because Kaneko was the first student residence hall to establish the commons configuration, and with it the position of CM, student leaders knew they were working in uncharted territory. "Last semester was marked by trial and error," Kaneko Commons President Maggie Shaneyfelt said.

In her view, it has taken a good deal of time for wing correspondents and fellow councilors to grasp the size of their budget—approximately \$35,000 for the year—and learn what types of programming work better than others to foster community feeling among residents. However, Shaneyfelt and others stress that the work has generally been positive. "We've done pretty well given the circumstances," she said.

Sophomore May Ohara, a wing correspondent in C wing, echoed the sentiment. "I feel like, building from scratch, we've done a good job," she said. Both students cited the efforts of students to get the community-building off to a good start, including adding needed things such as vacuum cleaners and hosting the hall's Sustainability Council Christmas ornament-making event.

The greatest problem community leaders have had to deal with is the lack of an easy-access common area for all Kaneko residents to relax, study and eat together. That will hopefully be alleviated when the delayed opening of the Atrium, connecting the original A wing to the B and C wings, occurs next month.

"(The lack of the Atrium) has made it hard for upperclassmen in B and C to

mingle with younger students in Vintage [slang for A wing], which is one of the main goals of the commons," senior CM Michelle Monnie said. "I think it will help to bring the upperclassmen and younger students together, especially since both breakfast and lunch will be served there ... I expect that students from all years to take advantage of the new space and begin to interact more."

The Atrium will be important for all future programming efforts in Kaneko. Currently, most of the remaining "Kaneko Conversations," in which students can engage faculty and invited speakers on social issues, are slated to be held in the Atrium. They have thus far been held in the Kaneko Auditorium. Shaneyfelt said they hope to provide occasions with live music in order to promote a "Coffee shop" atmosphere. Because dinner will not be normally served by the kitchen staff, the council is considering holding catered dinners in conjunction with other programs in that venue to entice residents to come.

According to Ohara, food has been an important factor in getting people involved in events. "I feel like it is the most successful way to get people to come out," she said. "These things don't take up a lot of time or are free." Ohara said that another idea that has been brought up to further engage upperclassmen is to hold a wine and beer tasting event within the commons.

Whatever the semester may bring, Ohara and the others said it is important to get input from the residents. "If people want things in the commons, such as cable or some other thing, they should come to the meetings, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.," she said.

► upcoming Kaneko conversations

- January 31—Global Warming with *An Inconvenient Truth* screening
- February 7—Affirmative Action
- March 14—No Child Left Behind Education Act
- April 11—China

Choir recruitment tour takes music through Pacific Northwest



COURTESY OF HAYLEY FREEDMAN

The Chamber Choir was one of two Willamette choral groups that toured the Pacific Northwest during the final week of winter break.

WADE COLLINS
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Over the winter break, the Willamette Chamber Choir and Willamette Singers embarked on their annual recruitment tour to spread the word about the music department here at Willamette. The long-standing tradition took the group to Pacific Northwest destinations including Eugene, Boise and Spokane.

According to junior Reece Sauvé, project overseer and president of Chamber Choir, the choir performed various songs, many of which were focused on rhythm and a percussion beat. Songs ranged from gospel to Christmas-themed to the choir's traditional song "Nunc Dimittis." "The choir tries to represent not only itself, but the entire department, and Willamette University, when we tour," Sauvé said.

Despite the different choral groups, the tour as a whole was performed with hardly any social disparity. "Normally there is a need to organize social events to eliminate cliques that generally form in any group," Sauvé said. "However, that was almost unnecessary this year." In addition to trying to recruit poten-

The choir tries to represent not only itself, but the entire department, and Willamette University when we tour.

REECE SAUVÉ
JUNIOR

tial music majors from other cities, the choir invites anyone on campus to join a musical track. "People who are on campus and not involved in music should give it consideration," freshman Emily McNeilly said. "If they have a passion for music, there's something for them at Willamette."

► upcoming choir events

- Chamber Choir will perform Parts Two and Three of "Messiah" March 17 at 7 p.m. and March 18 at 3 p.m. in Hudson Hall. Tickets are \$12 each for WU students and faculty.

Visiting professor offers new perspective

Alina Feld shares thoughts about life, Willamette

CAMI TAYLOR

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Visiting professor Alina Feld, who hails from Bucharest, Romania, lends a unique flavor to Willamette's religious studies department.

Anyone able to take a class with Feld is surely familiar with her style of teaching—an intense flow of dense information that cannot be adequately recorded with only a pen and a notebook of college-ruled paper. Her lectures are so exquisitely phrased that one might feel the frustrating urge to record each sentence verbatim. Almost any single sentence from any given lecture is weighty enough to be individually plucked out and made into the philosophy for one's life. Such barely-legible notebook jots as "love is a distinguishing of two, who are nevertheless not distinguished; distinguishing and then sublation of the distinguishing" may seem mysterious—even unintelligible—when read days or weeks after they were written, but they are nevertheless inspirational.

Feld, who is teaching at Willamette for one year to fill in for Religious Studies Professor Douglas McGaughey, seems to secrete wisdom and profundity even when she is not standing in front of the classroom defining the meaning of love. The same arresting statements that comprise her lectures are casually interspersed throughout conversation. Her interest in religion is evident in everything she says.

As a professor at Willamette, she teaches a broad range of courses in comparative religion, philosophy, and Christianity, but her personal interests extend even beyond these subjects. Her main interest is the study of melancholy—as she puts it, "the question of our experience of the evil—the abyss of being and darkness. Who are we, that we can experience sadness and melancholy?" she asks.

Feld wrote her dissertation on this same topic of melancholy, a theme that continues to fascinate her even today. "It seems that the experience of melancholy in any human experience is crucial and becomes a door towards something more profound about us," she said. As Aristotle said, "Melancholy men are of all others the most witty," and Feld agrees with this idea that humans find their purpose and wit through melancholy. "There is some extraordinary value hidden there, and by eliminating this dark, this depth, you eliminate the height as well," she said.

But during Feld's Romanian childhood, such provocative philosophical thinking was discouraged and even punished. "This was a communist country and religion did not exist—it was the 'opium for the masses.' Even philosophy was considered a real academic domain, except for Marxist," Feld said. "I was very much interested in living a philosophical life and understanding religious tradition—especially because it was concealed in that culture."

Feld stayed in Romania long enough (21 years) to earn her bachelor's in English and French languages and literature and then made her way to New York, where her brother was living. There she quickly took up more academic study at Stony Brook University, earning her master's in comparative studies before moving on to study theology and philosophy at Boston University.

After graduating she began work with a study abroad program through Long Island University, traveling with students to countries such as India, Turkey and Thailand to study the various cultures and religions. It was an experience she describes as "dangerous but very rewarding," and she feels that taking this sort of risk is the "only way to encounter 'the other' on your own terms."

"In that space of suspense and vulnerability...you can transform your own frame and be ecstatic—outside the stasis," Feld said.

Feld spent a brief time teaching at Metropolitan College in New York, but she was "very much attracted to the prestige and seriousness of the program here" at Willamette University. She eagerly accepted the opportunity to spend some time teaching here, despite her reservations about living in a place so different from the major cities where she has spent most of her life. "To my great surprise, I discovered an extraordinary environment—almost a magical place," Feld said.

After all her worldly travels and academic explorations, Feld feels that she has finally found in Willamette a place



COURTESY OF WWP.ROMANIA-RO.COM/MAP.HTM

Professor Alina Feld hails from the East European country of Romania, pictured above.

that encompasses the idea of "education with a heart." "Education has to develop the intellect, but also the relation to the self—this is what I see every day here, and at all



Education has to develop the intellect, but also the relation to the self—this is what I see every day here, and at all levels."

ALINA FELD
PROFESSOR OF RELIGION

levels," she said. She is impressed with the "magnificent, biblical, primordial trees," and says that she has "never seen so many rainbows in [her] whole life."

"I feel so grateful for being chosen by Willamette," she said. "It's intimate...or it has a special soul. There is a life of the spirit."

► Courses taught by Feld this semester

- History of Christianity II: 700-1648
- Topics: Contemporary European Theology
- Theory and methods of Religious Studies

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Acclaimed Portland theater production comes to Salem

JEN ASZKLAR
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When thinking of nationally acclaimed theatrical productions, Portland usually doesn't come to mind as a place of origin. Residents of Salem will get the opportunity to witness a local success on Broadway as the critically lauded "Frogz," created by Oregon natives Jerry Mouawad and Carol Triffle comes to the El Sinore Theater, on Sat., Feb. 3, at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.

"Frogz" is the signature work Imago Theater. The theater's founders and artistic directors, Mouawad and Triffle, created the original work in the late '70s. Mouawad and Triffle, who attended the University of Oregon and Portland State University respectively, were inspired by the methods of movement taught by Parisian mime and theater instructor, Jacques Lecoq.

"[He] teaches how to fail and succeed at failing," Triffle said. "He makes the

world simple and redundant."

In "Frogz," five actors incorporate acrobatics, masks, puppetry and choreography that engage the audience in an exploration of the animal kingdom. In the production, penguins play musical chairs, worms perform acrobatics and giant lizards wrestle in a manner that strives to provide an aesthetic experience.

Productions that incorporate elements of story telling, artistic costumes and human feats, such as acrobatics, have become increasingly popular. "Frogz" played on Broadway in 2000 and 2002 to sold-out audiences. Last spring, the North American tour of Cirque du Soleil ran in Portland for a month.

Sophomore Christine Hansen saw Cirque du Soleil in Portland and enjoyed how different its theatrics were from other forms of entertainment.

"I loved the atmosphere of it," she said. "It is a slower and more serious type of circus than the traditional circus most children like, and provokes a certain

curiosity."

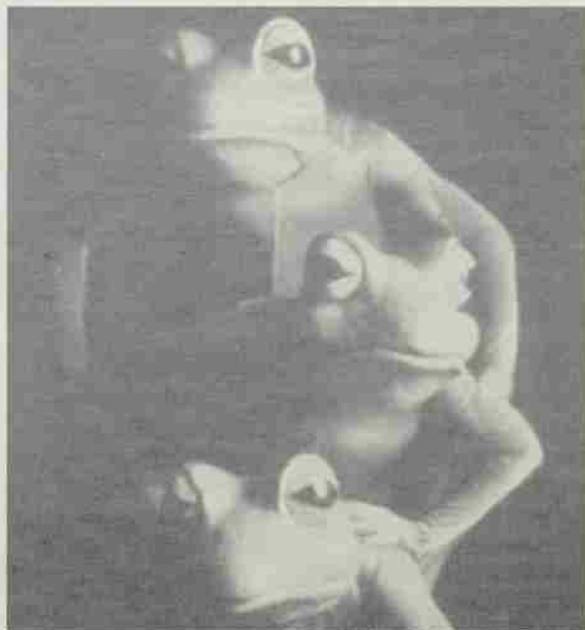
Hansen, who has not seen "Frogz," isn't surprised by the genre's success.

"Cirque du Soleil is very popular, and with the growing interest shows like it, I can understand the success of ["Frogz"]"

Though "Frogz" is only showing in Salem on Feb. 3, the company will return to Portland from April 6-29. More information on the company can be found at www.imagotheater.com.

► Frogz Info

"Frogz" plays Sat. Feb. 3 at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the Elsinore Theatre (170 High Street SE). Tickets range from \$16-27 and can be purchased from the Elsinore Theatre at 503.375.3574 or through Ticketwest at ticketwest.com



COURTESY OF BOB WHITEMAN

"Frogz," which has played on Broadway twice, features a combination of acrobatics, puppetry and dance.

RESTUARANT REVIEW: The Wild Pear

Salem's Wild Pear restaurant features tasty treats

DANI STEVENS
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The Wild Pear is a catering business with two bistro-like restaurants. The downtown version is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (The hours are supposed to change a bit pending the acquisition of an alcohol license).

With delectable treats and a friendly atmosphere, this is a great place for tea and cake or a quick (yet gourmet) lunch. Prices are reasonable (plan to spend a full \$10 for lunch and \$9 for tea and cake), but the menu is varied and nearly everyone's tastes can be accommodated. There are sandwiches, salads, soups, casseroles, cheese and fruit plates, pizzas, quiches and Vietnamese summer rolls. The desserts range from an excellent cheesecake to crême brûlée and other dark chocolate offerings.

The drink menu encompasses the usual: coffee, lattes, espresso, Italian sodas, teas and the like. I must say, as a tea fiend, the tea presentation is especially nice. You get a full pot to yourself and the tea is loose-leaf quality while still being in a breathable

cone for brewing.

Nice as the food is, it is the ambiance that makes the place as pleasant as it is. As you step into the restaurant, bold red, green and goldenrod walls framed by an ornate ivory ceiling greet you. Crisp black tables and chairs surround the central food counter.

On one side, the decadent desserts beckon, and on the other, the smells of the coffee/drink bar further appeal to the senses. The clientele is also interesting in its variety. On any given day, you can find members of the local Red Hats Society gossiping while business people stop in for a snack while reading the paper. The service is good, but during lunch the small space can get really crowded and slow things down. The absolute best time to go is around 3 p.m., because you can practically have the whole restaurant to yourself.

► The Wild Pear

-The Wild Pear is located at: 372 State St.
-(503) 378-7515
-Live music event on Feb. 17



DANI STEVENS

Friendly employees of the Wild Pear provide quality service and a selection of delectable food.

CD REVIEW: When Your Heart Stops Beating

Former Blink-182 members achieve varying successes

MATT RASMUSSEN
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Do you remember Blink-182? Think back to your high school days and to the three crazy guys whose MTV music videos featured them running naked on the beach and parodying everyone from boy bands like *NSYNC to Britney Spears and other so-called pop goddesses of the new millennium.

Lyrics from songs like "What's My Age Again" mirrored silly high school humor, while others like "Stay Together for the Kids" tackled issues and described experiences so legitimately genuine that it was hard to believe this was even the same band. Their music has left a lasting impression on more than one formerly awkward high school kid, myself included.

Just because Blink-182 is finished doesn't mean the guys behind the music have disappeared. Mark Hopper, ex-lead vocalist of the band, has joined tattoo-laden drummer, Travis, in their new musical side project +44, whose CD hit stores November 14, 2006. Nasally-voiced singer Tom Delonge has also formed a new band called Angels and Airwaves. Both groups are obviously striving to transcend Blink-182, and although I think it seems unlikely

that either will eclipse their previous success, I do think that +44 is on the right track while the other seems to have lost its way.

Last spring, when Angels and Airwaves were on the verge of releasing their debut, "We Don't Need to Whisper," Delonge enthusiastically heralded their CD as an example of "ground-breaking... revolutionary... music that will change the world." He has praised his own album over and over (and over) again on talk shows, and blasted his former bandmates for the demise of Blink-182.

The album does have its high moments, but overall is very repetitive and many shovels short of groundbreaking. +44 members, on the other hand, have kept their mouths relatively shut about their own debut album and won over countless fans who are growing weary of Delonge's incessant bragging.

If their humbleness hasn't earned them enough praise, their masterful new album (very reminiscent of a pre-feeding Blink), definitely will. I highly recommend it.

Blink182 may be on "indefinite hiatus," but that doesn't mean you can't still delight in their music. So dust off some of their classic albums and reminisce about what it was like before ...

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CALENDAR OF ART EVENTS

Jan 25 - 30

25

Musician Fred Senecal performs at the Ike Box (299 Cottage Street NE) 7 p.m., free admission.

26

Musician Chelsea Handler performs at the Aladdin Theater (3017 SE Milwaukie, Portland). Performance starts 7:30 p.m., doors open an hour before. Tickets \$25, available at ticketmaster.com

28

Sunday Night Bluegrass Jam 7 p.m., Sublimity Wooden Nickel, 108 N. Center Street. Sublimity. Cost: Free. Contact: (503) 769-8181, or go to <http://www.woodennickel.com>.

30

Poker Tournament 7 p.m., Lefty's, 1230 State Street, Salem. Cost: Free. Contact: (503) 371-3855, or go to <http://www.leftvspizzeria.com>.

GOING GREEK

... isn't what it used to be

Shrinking, expanding and uniting with the Commons entourage, Willamette's fraternity system is beginning to build a new image

COLLEEN IRWIN

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Stop and look around you. If you are in a room with four or more people at Willamette, chances are one of them is Greek, maybe even one-in-two. With such a large population at Willamette involved in the Greek system—about 30 percent—its goings-on involve all of us. According to the Institutional Research and Planning Support's Common Data Set, 34.6 percent of males joined fraternities and 29.1 percent of females joined sororities in 2005-06.

The Greek system has gone through many transformations over the years and that is not about to change anytime soon. Last year Kappa Sigma was forced to shut down due to a history of alcohol-related incidents, and now there is a movement to start up an old chapter, Delta Tau Delta. Just last semester, the Interfraternity Council made a proposal to the school to relocate the fraternity houses to fit within the Commons system. What do all these changes mean for Greeks and Independents alike? Well strap on your toga and let's see.

It's no secret that Kappa Sigma was forced to close last year, and some worry that risky behavior from the Greeks will upset recruitment.

Senior Bob Heck, IFC vice-president of recruitment, said that "the actions of each member can give a positive or negative impression of the Greek system, but it depends on how much knowledge you have of the situation." IFC president Eli Snider echoed Heck. Snider said the closure of Kappa Sigma was not devastating to the rest of the Greek system. However, he said that the fraternity system is still battling negative sentiments from the past.

"We are still reaping what was sown in the '80s in the way of negative stereotypes. Fraternities are in fact much safer places now than they were then. Nowadays freshman dorms suffer from more conduct problems than we do."

So if the Greek system was not too negatively affected by Kappa Sigma's closure, does that mean it is ready to support a new chapter? Junior Richard Lazaro is one of the students spearheading the movement to bring back the fraternity Delta Tau Delta. "A healthy Greek chapter benefits all, not just the people in it," he said.

Delta Tau Delta left the Willamette Greek system in the 1990s. With Kappa Sigma gone and with the pending Greek Commons construction shuffle, Lazaro said he thinks now is a good opportunity to bring Delta Tau Delta back. Even though it takes two years to become established, Lazaro said he is optimistic about the future of the fraternity.

So what kind of fraternity will it be? Lazaro said he has no real way of knowing. "It is two years away and we will be recruiting freshmen every year." Lazaro said that the only thing that is certain about the future community of Delta Tau Deltas is that they will adhere to the core values of the organization.

In past years, the Greek system has not always had the best relationship with the university, according to Snider.



We are still reaping what was sown in the '80s in the way of negative stereotypes. Fraternities are in fact much safer places now than they were then. Nowadays freshman dorms suffer from more conduct problems than we do."

ELI SNIDER
IFC PRESIDENT



A Sigma Chi tradition, members lay out a plastic Slip 'N Slide in warm weather.

COURTESY OF PETER BERGSTROM

"One of the roles of the Greek Commission is to change that ... to redefine the relationship between the university and the Greeks."

Part of this new rapport is figuring out how to incorporate the Greek system into the new Commons system. Joe Gruber is a commission member and Beta Theta Phi's president. "No true concrete steps have been taken," he said. The Commission recently submitted a proposal to the university, but is still awaiting approval. The anticipated location for the new fraternities would be where the current Cornerstone buildings are now. This requires tearing down Lee and York to unite the fraternities and sororities.

Gruber explained that the individual house plans have not been drawn up yet because each chapter will have the chance to design its own house according to stipulations set by the university. An additional feature of the Greek Commons is a Greek common room that would serve as sort of a mini-Montag Center.

Even though they are still in the developmental stages of the project, Gruber said he believes that the project will "strengthen the Greek system as a whole."

▶ greek system rundown

- 34.6% of males joined fraternities and 29.1% of females joined sororities in fall of 2005.
- The university is currently in the process of designing a Greek Commons System
- Willamette's original fraternities and sororities were formed in the 1920s.
- All three sororities filled their quotas to add 21 new members on Bid Day this last Saturday

Sources: Willamette website, IFC, Institutional Research and Planning Support's Common Data Set



COURTESY OF ETHAN BANCROFT

Phi Delta Theta members Chris Beeger and Zandy Winslow play Guitar Hero this past week during recruitment.

STUDY ABROAD: Bangkok, Thailand

Student discovers Bangkok's true personality

Willamette junior learns that in some ways Thailand is surprisingly similar to home.

KAREN JOHNSON

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When I arrived in Thailand two weeks ago, I was greeted with sweltering heat and a 40-foot silver Christmas tree. Thailand is 95 percent Theravada Buddhist, so I was a little thrown by both the heat and the Christian imagery. I didn't realize it then, but stepping off the plane should have clued me into the fact that Bangkok is a place filled with contradictions.

I came here with no expectations, largely because I spent all last semester waffling on whether or not to come and didn't have enough time to form any. Somehow, even when I packed up and went home for winter break, I did not fully comprehend the fact that I would be spending the next five months in Southeast Asia. But there I was, after a 17-hour flight and one painfully bad Hilary Duff movie, staring at a Christmas tree and wondering if I hadn't ended up in Florida by mistake. It was a bit surreal then, and it still hasn't worn off.

Having been here a whopping 18 days, I have come to the conclusion that Bangkok is about as schizophrenic as a city can be. It is dirty and smelly and crowded and polished and clean all at the same time. There is simply so much to see, do and smell that processing everything is virtually impossible. The streets are filled with people and vendors selling everything: amulets, clothes and food (some of which is recognizable: avoid the gray meatballs). Traditional spirit houses adorn many storefronts and garland-draped images of the wildly popular king are everywhere.

The strangest thing of all, however, is how similar Bangkok is to any city in the United States. It has high rises and fast food and billboards in English. And there are pigeons. I don't know why, but it is somehow comforting to know that the indelible ratbird of America exists here too. Where Bangkok isn't reminding me of Portland, it often mixes both Western and traditional Thai culture: Orange-clad Buddhist monks wander around speaking on cell phones and listening to ipods while Ronald McDonald stands giving the traditional wai, enticing pedestrians with the allure of the McRice Burger. So far, I've been too busy staring at everything in awe for culture shock to hit.

The current political situation only enhances just how surreal it is to be here. As most of you probably know, on September 19 a military coup ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on the basis of corruption charges and replaced him with a military government. This was done peacefully with popular support as well as that of the king. Then, on New Year's Eve, several bombs went off around the city, allegedly by supporters of the ousted government, killing two. Though Bangkok is officially under martial law, it remains free of curfews or searches.

The strangest thing about this situation is just how nonchalantly people are treating it. My Thai history professor attributes this easygoing attitude to the other 17 coup d'états that the country has endured over the last 70 years. Some were bloody, most were not and he suggests that the population is waiting peacefully for the other shoe to drop. Newspaper articles call



COURTESY OF KAREN JOHNSON

Junior Karen Johnson, second from left, is pictured with fellow classmates in front of the Grand Palace in Bangkok.

the constitutional convention a sham and Thaksin supporters are now planning on having weekly rallies on the street outside my campus, but people mostly just carry on with their lives.

In fact, the people I have met remain incredibly friendly and welcoming. Strangers randomly starting up a conversation would normally make me clutch my purse a little tighter, but here, people genuinely just want to have a short conversation and practice their English while you spend five minutes walking in the same direction. People are pleased when you try to speak in Thai (or at least amused because my accent is wretched). They see the school uniform and think you're great for wanting to study in their country.

That doesn't mean it's without its weird moments. Never in my life have I stood out so much in a crowd. In Thailand I am a guava. The Thai word for foreigner, *fanang*, is the same as the word for guava. I came to this country and became a fruit. But standing out also makes fitting in that much more exciting.

Every time I manage to make myself understood or not get hopelessly lost or give directions to a tourist is a tiny personal

“ But there I was after a 17-hour flight and one painfully bad Hilary Duff movie, staring at a Christmas tree and wondering if I hadn't ended up in Florida by mistake.

triumph. So, it's good. Surreal. Maybe the contradictions will become less schizophrenic.

Perhaps I will slow down long enough to absorb everything and feel culture shock, but when that happens I can always brave the 100-degree heat and venture to the 7 Eleven, sit next to their Christmas tree and feed some pigeons. Because that wouldn't be surreal at all.

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JEN BIRK

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Many people are familiar with at least one aspect of Thai life—the food. Of course, you have to remember that Thai food in America is slightly different than the way it's served in Thailand. But how much do you really know about Thai cuisine?

India and China both have strong influences in Thai cuisine, but Thai food still has its own distinctive taste. The proper way to prepare Thai food is by balancing five basic flavors: spicy, sour, sweet, salty and bitter. Various regions also have unique tastes—northern cuisine usually includes coconut milk and fresh turmeric, while northeastern platters favor lime juice.

Whereas there is typically one main dish in an American meal, in Thailand,

Time for Thai

rice is usually the focal point of the meal. Many complementary dishes are served at the same time, and there are no individual courses. They also don't include much meat, since it's very expensive. Instead, because Thailand is surrounded by the Gulf of Thailand, almost every meal contains fish sauce (*nam pla*) or shrimp paste (*kaeae*).

The Portuguese also introduced the chili in the late 16th century, making much of traditional Thai cuisine extremely spicy.

One noteworthy point is that the Thai eat with a spoon, fork and knife. Hence it would be considered almost rude to ask for chopsticks in a Thai restaurant.

Jen Birk is the Study Abroad Editor and a Senior German and Russian major in the CLA. She can be reached at <jbirk@willamette.edu>.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Willamette men fall to top-ranked Whitworth, defeat Whitman in weekend games

JIMMY MEUEL

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At the beginning of the season, Bearcat men's basketball looked to build on last year's 16-6 season and 12-2 conference record. Yet when the early hopes were put on hold with the loss of projected starters C.J. Struvland, David Fife and Josh Erickson, the Bearcats knew this season would be an uphill climb. After last weekend's split, the Bearcats find themselves 3-5 in Northwest conference play and 7-10 overall.

With the loss of some key players others have stepped up, most notably freshman post Dan Nugent, the teams leading scorer, who has averaged 16 points a game thus far.

Nugent was again the team's leading scorer during last weekend's loss to Whitworth College and victory over Whitman College, scoring 17 and 33 points respectively. The Bearcats opened up the Whitworth game with high hopes, ready for a chance to knock off the current leader in the Northwest conference and 10th-ranked team in the nation. Whitworth has been dominant this season, sporting a 16-1 (7-1) record. Their sole blemish on a perfect record came a week ago at the hands of Puget Sound.

Willamette started the game in commanding fashion, leading 15-4 at one point during the first half. Whitworth would have none of it, responding with a 13-0 run to take the lead. From there the Pirates were quick to gather themselves and close in on the Bearcats, eventually taking the lead shortly before the half, and in the end pulling away to a 79-66 victory.

Along with Nugent, two other Bearcats had double figures in points as senior post Rob Andrus scored 12 and sophomore wing Kyle McClary scored 10. McClary was also 8 for 8 at the line, while Andrus converted 7 of 7 free throws. As a team, the Bearcats were 22 of 25 from the line.

McClary also managed to bring down eight rebounds. As a team, however, the Bearcats managed only 8 for 26 from beyond the arc.

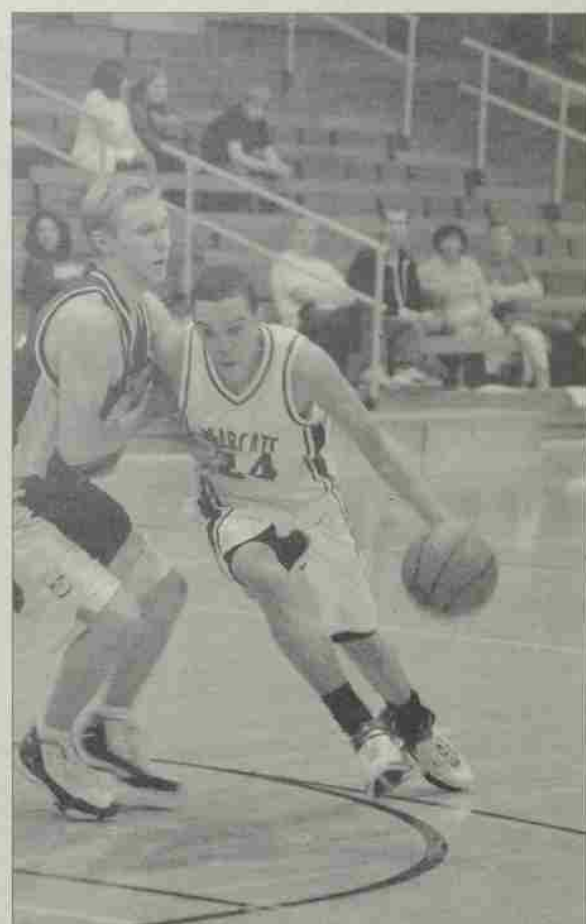
The next night, the Bearcats managed to salvage the weekend with a victory over Whitman College at home. Whitman came into Saturday's game tied for last place in the Northwest Conference, with a mediocre 1-7 conference record and at 5-12, the worst overall record of any school in the league. The game opened with both schools trading baskets as neither allowed the other to pull very far ahead. During the second half Willamette never fell behind, but never held much of a lead. The Bearcats would eventually pull out the win 89-80.

Nugent was again the leading scorer with 33 points, joined in double digits by junior wing Michael Smith (19), junior post Ian Mansfield (16) and McClary (10). Mansfield led the team with nine rebounds and four assists, while McClary registered double digits in scoring and rebounding. It was his second double-double in the last three games.

Next weekend the Bearcats will host the University of Puget Sound for a rematch of last month's triple-overtime shootout that saw the Bearcats fall 140-137 in a game that has been called one of the greatest in Willamette history. After that they will take on Pacific Lutheran University, who defeated the Bearcats early in the season 90-84. Puget Sound trails Whitworth by a mere game in the standings and although a conference championship or playoff berth is highly unlikely at this point, a victory over Puget Sound would help make a statement that Willamette is on par with anyone in the conference.

▶ coming up

-Willamette University hosts the University of Puget Sound on Jan. 26, and Pacific Lutheran University on the 27.



PATRICK WILLGOHS

Junior wing Michael Smith dribbles down the court, avoiding his opponent. Smith scored 19 points in Saturday's win over Whitman.

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SWIMMING

Men's and women's swim teams rack up individual victories

Bearcats bond, prepare for upcoming Conference meet

EMILY BAUSKA

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▶ coming up

-Willamette University travels to Puget Sound on Jan. 26.
-Willamette University travels to Pacific University on Jan. 27.

The Bearcat swim team was ready for action after nearly a month-long break from competition. On Friday, the women picked up a win against Mills College, but lost to Linfield. The men also lost to Linfield. On Saturday the men competed closely with Lewis and Clark, but in the end lost narrowly 91-85. The women also lost, 143-60.

Despite the team scores, there were many individual victories in the past two meets. Senior Kei Otawa, who has been swimming strong all season, earned first place in six different events over the weekend.

Senior Becca Fischer placed first in four events during the two meets. Other Bearcats who took home first place were Cason Schmidt, Pete Kahn, and the women's 200-yard medley relay team made up of Fischer, Shannon Gima, Brittany Thiemens and Lauren Vice.

The swim team spent the winter break practicing for upcoming competition, a period that served as their training season. They spent two weeks practicing

twice a day at Olinger Pool in Salem. "This year has been a great training season for the team," sophomore James Huang said, citing the team's dedication and bond. "I think that the swim team's bond is the strongest it has been in years despite low numbers."

One of the reasons the team is so close this year is because of their lack of a pool this season.

"We've been told many times that there has been no other team that has ever had to go through what we are going through," Huang said. But, he said, "I believe that it has brought our team together in ways nobody would of expected."

The team has one more weekend of competition before they begin preparations for the conference meet in just three weeks. This year the meet will be held at Whitman College.

"I think that as a team, we'll do well at conference this year. We've been training hard these last couple weeks and our efforts will pay off after we taper," junior Shannon Gima said.

"We're going to work hard, swim hard, and show the conference what our WU Swim team is about," Huang said.

I think that the swim team's bond is the strongest it has been in years despite low numbers.

JAMES HUANG
SOPHOMORE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women win nail-biters over Whitworth, Pacific University

New team outlook leads to decisive victories

JENNIE MORSE
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The start of the new year seems to have brought about a new outlook for the Willamette girls' basketball team. After a slow pre-season start, the Bearcats have demonstrated their never-say-die attitude by recently defeating Whitworth, the No. 3 team in the Northwest Conference.

With the home court advantage, the Bearcats got off to a quick start against Whitworth and went into the half with an 11 point lead. However, the Pirates rallied back and were able to tie the game at 54 with just over a minute to go. But thanks to some crucial free-throws as well as key rebounding by senior forward Kari Woody, and freshman forward Keilyn Fujioka, the Bearcats were able to pull out the win. Willamette converted 8 of 11 free throws in the last 30 seconds of the game, to secure the victory.

Junior guard Laura Payne led the Bearcats in scoring with 17 points, while

► coming up

-Willamette University travels to Puget Sound on Jan. 26.

-Willamette University travels to Pacific Lutheran on Jan. 27.

Fujioka apparently outjumped everyone on the floor by grabbing 14 rebounds. Woody also had a solid game with 12 points and 8 rebounds. Senior guard and co-captain Sara Brooks also added 10 points and 6 assists of her own. "That game gave us confidence. We now go into each game knowing that we are capable of playing with every team in this conference," Brooks said.

In addition to the close game against the Pirates, the Bearcats also came out on top in a nail-biter against Pacific University, which took place earlier in the month. Although the game saw-sawed back and forth with neither team ever taking a decisive lead, Willamette eventually won in overtime, 71-66. Kari Woody sunk a 10-foot jumper with 4 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 59 and send it into overtime where the Bearcats outscored the Boxers 12-7.

Despite these wins, the team realizes that there are still some improvements that need to be made. "We still need to work on our consistency because our games are like a rollercoaster ride," Brooks said. "We now recognize that we can play at a high level and we are learning how to play at that level the entire game."

This weekend, the team is traveling to Tacoma to take on the University of Puget Sound and Pacific University. The Bearcats will come out looking for revenge as they were defeated by both these teams earlier in the season.



We now recognize that we can play at a high level and we are learning how to play at that level the entire game."

SARA BROOKS
SENIOR

What does green tea do for me?



JORDYN SMITH
COLUMNIST

Reports of the advantages of drinking green tea and its possible benefits in preventing strokes and different types of cancer are widely inconsistent. According to a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association, those who drink at least three ounces of green tea daily suffer 25 percent fewer deaths due to cardiovascular disease than those who don't. Surprisingly however, deaths due to cancer did not decrease, unlike some previous research has concluded.

In most studies of the way drinking green tea affects people, antioxidant levels in the blood increase, showing we can absorb antioxidant compounds in tea. The phytochemical EGCG is a powerful antioxidant found in green tea. These antioxidants help protect DNA from damage that could allow cancer to develop and protect blood vessels from damage that could promote blockages. Studies show EGCG can also increase production of enzymes, protecting us from cancer-causing substances.

So where are the inconsistencies coming from? Genetics may be part of the reason. Research shows genetic differences will influence how people respond to phytochemicals in tea and the possible advantages that follow. Green tea's benefits may vary from one person to another.

Nothing is black and white in our health news today, and therefore our safest bet to prevent cancer and heart disease remains in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. A nutritional diet, a healthy weight, routine physical activity, and avoiding tobacco are the most effective steps to lower cancer risk. However, it is reasonable to believe that replacing your daily coffee or soda with green tea may bring health benefits.

Source: www.aicr.org

NWC STANDINGS

Standings as of Dec. 05, 2006

MEN'S BASKETBALL

	W	L
Whitworth	7	1
Puget Sound	7	1*
Lewis & Clark	5	3
Pacific Lutheran	4	4
George Fox	4	4
Pacific	4	4
Willamette	3	5
Linfield	1	7
Whitman	1	7

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Puget Sound	7	1
George Fox	7	1
Whitworth	5	3
Whitman	5	3
Pacific Lutheran	4	4
Linfield	3	5
Lewis & Clark	3	5
Willamette	2	6
Pacific	0	8

MEN'S SWIMMING

Whitworth	7	0
Linfield	6	0
Pacific Lutheran	5	2
Whitman	3	4
Puget Sound	3	3
Lewis & Clark	2	5
Willamette	0	5
Pacific	0	6

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Whitworth	7	0
Puget Sound	5	1
Lewis & Clark	5	2
Pacific Lutheran	3	4
Whitman	3	4
Linfield	3	4
Willamette	0	5
Pacific	0	6

COLUMN

39 degrees of Willamette football

JIMMY MEUEL
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After the University of Florida won the national championship in college football this season, the debate began to rage over whether or not there should be a playoff instead of bowl games. The debate happens nearly every year. In 2003, USC wanted its shot at the title; in 2004 it was Utah and Auburn. This season, the Boise State Broncos clamored for their shot at the number one spot.

In support of Boise State's plea, ESPN's "Sportscenter" ran a piece called "Five Degrees of Boise State", outlining that the Broncos should be the national champion because they beat Oregon State, who beat USC, who beat Arkansas, who beat Auburn, who beat Florida. They seemed proud of themselves for having used the transitive property of equality to show that Boise State was truly the best team. So I decided to take this a step farther. Stanford finished 2006 with a 1-11 record. This however, should not stop them from claiming supremacy in college football. For you see, Stanford beat Washington, who beat UCLA, who beat USC, who beat Arkansas, who beat Auburn, who beat Florida.

Yet Stanford, despite its recent mediocrity, is a program with some respectability and tradition: national titles, Heisman trophies, first overall picks, etc. So I wanted to take it a step farther and find one of the least storied programs in college football. Temple University has been ranked at the bottom of every poll for as long as I can remember, and until this season they held the nation's longest losing streak. But that should not stop them from claiming a championship. Temple beat Bowling Green, who beat Eastern Michigan, who beat Toledo, who beat Kansas, who beat Kansas State, who beat Texas, who beat Oklahoma, who beat Middle Tennessee, who beat North Texas, who beat Southern

Methodist, who beat Tulane, who beat Mississippi State, who beat Alabama, who beat Vanderbilt, who beat Georgia, who beat Auburn, who beat Florida.

With so many teams staking claims to DI championships, I figured that Division III is really the toughest division in college football and that Mount Union (the undefeated DIII national champ) is the best college football team in the nation. This is simply because Mount Union beat Wisconsin White Water, who beat Wisconsin Lacrosse, who beat South Dakota State, who beat UC Davis, who beat Montana State, who beat Colorado, who beat Texas Tech, who beat Southern Methodist, who beat Tulane, who beat Mississippi State, who beat Alabama, who beat Vanderbilt, who beat Georgia, who beat Auburn, who beat Florida.

But I am a pro-Willamette guy, and I wanted to show that Willamette is the best team in college football. The wins don't lie: Willamette beat Menlo, who beat McMurry, who beat Howard Payne, who beat Mississippi College, who beat Millsaps, who beat Trinity (Tex.), who beat Huntingdon, who beat Rhodes, who beat Centre, who beat Depauw, who beat Hope, who beat Albion, who beat Butler, who beat Dayton, who beat Robert Morris, who beat Stony Brook, who beat Albany, who beat Delaware, who beat Richmond, who beat Northeastern, who beat New Hampshire, who beat Northwestern, who beat Eastern Michigan, who beat Toledo, who beat Kansas, who beat Kansas State, who beat Texas, who beat Oklahoma, who beat Middle Tennessee, who beat North Texas, who beat Southern Methodist, who beat Tulane, who beat Mississippi State, who beat Alabama, who beat Vanderbilt, who beat Georgia, who beat Auburn who beat Florida.

There you have it. Willamette is the real national champion of college football. So if some Boise State fan or playoff advocate tries to tell you that Boise State is the real national champs, just remind them to see the bigger picture and recognize the Bearcats are number one.

INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

Spotlight on women's basketball

MAGGIE HAKE
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For most Willamette students, December 26 is a day to kick-back, eat Christmas leftovers and refuse to give up your prime couch spot.

The women's hoops team had different plans this year, as we arrived back at WU for our first practice of the break on the day after Christmas. With only three days of practice to prepare for a trip to California, we really had to get after it.

Needless to say, I think some of us regretted eating so much turkey and candy over the holidays. After handing a defeat to Cal State East Bay, we packed up and flew back to Salem to finish up our three weeks of living for practice.

There is something to be said about not having class, but at the same time, life in Salem can get mediocre if lonely hoopsters don't put in effort to liven things up a bit. What ensued was a series of team dinners, football game fiestas, bruise poking wars with Sara Brooks, puzzles courtesy of Head Athletic Trainer Deb Cagle and most notably the team tradition of CRANIUM.

For those of you who have yet to experience this board game, I don't recommend challenging any of our squad, especially not

the dynamic duo of Shake and Bake. But let's be honest, we spent most of our downtime on Kari Woody's couch, in our sweats while looking at Facebook. Yes, the basketball team is stalkeriffic.

On the court, we created our first win streak of the season by defeating Pacific. This was the first NWC game our squad had won since the 2004-2005 season, so needless to say we were thrilled. And since the game was lacking in student spectators, I will let you know that it was an overtime thriller- you sure missed out! A special thanks goes to the swim team, however, as they were the loudest fan support of the season (in my opinion).

Skip ahead to last weekend where we picked up conference win number two over third ranked Whitworth. This weekend we face off against perennial powerhouse UPS and PLU, both top tier teams in the women's league.

We love having students up in the stands, so come out and support our team as we try to sweep the Seattle squads!

"Inside the Locker Room" is a new feature to the sports section. If you are an athlete interested in writing this column, contact Annette Hulbert, <ahulbert>.

• BEYOND THE •
looking
glass

LAUREN BROOKS
OPINIONS EDITOR



"Ahhhhhhh." Hear that? It's the communal sigh of relief that Willamette students have been making ever since their return to school. It may have been more audible on the first day of class than it is now, but it's still present. It's the sound of a student body happy to be back at classes after a winter break that consisted of a lot of Facebook statuses reading something to the effect of: "So-and-so is f**ing bored out of their mind," and even the creation of a club entitled "I Want To Go Home (By which I mean back to school)."

What is it that makes us so eager for break and yet the second we get there, so eager to come back? Perhaps it's just a classic example of the-grass-is-always-greener-on-the-other-side complex, but I suspect the question merits more explanation. For those of us who missed our families, maybe the first week's worth of life at home was refreshing. But then we realized why we were so excited about going away to college in the first place: Goodbye curfews, mandatory clean rooms, raised eyebrows from parents who don't understand procrastination and little brothers waking you up at 8 a.m. by sticking a video camera in your face. Hello Willamette, land of the children-rapidly-becoming-adults.

Even though in the last issue of this column I encouraged readers to take the opportunity to relax and reflect during the holidays, there's only so much relaxing and reflecting one can do before starting to go stir-crazy. This is especially true when you're used to the hectic life at Willamette: classes, homework, activities, friends, work. Having hours and hours to kill at home, even after you've gone snowboarding, read, maybe worked a little, and bonded with the family, just doesn't seem natural. So even while we're writing our 20-page papers and craving the opportunity to just lay around and do nothing, winter break reminds us that perhaps it's not all it's cracked up to be.

There are also those Awkward Encounters of the High School Friend Kind. Perhaps you discover that your best friend who got a 1590 on the SATs (and is attending a good school) has started doing acid. Or you run into that girl who used to be in your Girl Scout troop but now looks like a washed-up Barbie and you don't have anything to say to each other. Some never left, others are having kids and others just don't return home anymore. It's a different world from your college friends, and it's weird. But hey, at least we're back in our bubble again, where we can safely reside until summer vacation hits.

Lauren Brooks is a senior at the College of Liberal Arts. She can be reached at <lbrooks>.

COLLEGIAN

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite you to submit letters to the editor. Letters can be sent by postal mail, email (cfoss@willamette.edu), campus mail or fax.

Letters are limited to 150 words, must include your name and phone number and must be submitted by noon Monday, the week of intended publication. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

EDITORIAL

Willamette New Year's resolutions 2007

Now that we're three weeks into the new year, most of us probably have filed away our list of New Year's resolutions, if we even wrote one. The Editorial Board would like to help those of you struggling to overcome the dilemma of the much-needed yet still-reviling annual resolutions. In compiling our list we considered many of the outstanding issues that dominated campus talk in 2006, along with some issues that have beguiled generations of Willamette students (parking, anyone?). Therefore, we propose these resolutions for Willamette University in 2007:

1. Make the parking situation less egregious. Yes, this may include painting parking spots on Brown Field with white paint. Another possible option is to create a Salem super-parking pass, exempting all students and faculty from City of Salem parking tickets.
2. Empower Compass Cards to purchase food from Safeway. Or what if we could use our extra lunch points at The Bistro? Fewer lines, more cookies.
3. Develop a comprehensive educational campaign to inform the student body on what exactly a Bearcat is. The Toilet Paper doesn't count.
4. Create an accessible WU barter system by which to trade couches, televisions, microwaves, and textbooks so it all does not end up in the dumpster at the end of the year and we all save money.
5. Develop a sleek automated system to silence the obnoxious talkers in the library ... perhaps something with a Super Soaker.
6. Streamline a system to access library research materials that others have checked out, especially professors who hijack texts for an entire semester.
7. Seniors, construct a convinc-



JADE OLSON

- ing response to comfort your parents and teachers when they ask you what you're doing next year.
8. Hold each other accountable for the pragmatic proposals formed in last semester's social justice movement.
9. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors: Don't take your youth for granted. Senior year and the prospect of life after college will stare most of you in the face during some spring semester soon. Be prepared. It's scary.
10. The unwanted wildlife—like the giant nutria (large semi-aquatic rodent) spotted near Smith by a Willamette janitor last week—should head back underground. We don't need another pest outbreak, like that of fall semester of '05.
11. WU students working at the State Capitol this year must do their utmost to help make this session of the Oregon Legislature productive. The state has a budget

surplus for the first time in recent memory. Even as cogs in the machine, our many interns can do a lot to make good policy and enact Gov. Ted Kulongoski's positive visions of increased education and health care spending.

12. It seems like everyone is "too busy" all of the time. Thus all students and staff should program one free hour into their day every day. Two would be even better.

13. Be politically aware. Follow one daily news source and be generally conversant from day-to-day regarding current events.

14. WU Senior Gift Committee must resolve to fulfill this year's charge on time and on budget. They must resolve to create an honorable, fitting artwork to memorialize the three WU seniors who have passed away in the last 18 months: Birl Shultz, Kalan Morinaka, and Logan Will.

Letter From The Editor

Dear Collegian readers,

Welcome to the first spring edition of your student newspaper. We are greatly appreciative to all of you for loyally sticking with us through the ups and downs of our fall semester slate of issues. We hope that you will enjoy and find valuable the first issue of the spring and the 12 issues to follow up until May 1.

I am writing to ask you to be aware that we are undergoing a significant transition in our design and production in our early issues this semester. Nearly our entire production staff from fall is studying abroad this term. We wish them the best of luck in their endeavors. A new and very promising team is designing this semester, led by senior production manager Sara Taylor.

As always, we ask that you still treat all mistakes, whether they are in design

or content, with the utmost scrutiny.

I ask that you please contact me at <cfoss> or in our office at x6053 if you spot any errors in any issue of the paper or if you have suggestions on how to improve our production or content.

My office hours this semester are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m., but I can meet at other times as needed and I frequently check my messages. I will try to respond to all queries promptly; within a day if possible.

Thank you very much for your patience and your continued readership as we move together into another semester of *The Collegian*.

Sincerely,
Chris Foss
Editor in Chief

CARTOON



TREVOR ESSEMEIER

Become a contributing member of the Editorial Board.

We are currently looking for new voices to help represent the diversity of student body opinions. If interested, please email <lbrooks>.

STUDENT OPINIONS

Rebuilding New Orleans: a student volunteer reflects



MEG BAY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Hurricane Katrina was one of the worst natural disasters to ever hit the United States. In addition to massive destruction, Katrina left a media frenzy in her wake. However, today's news updates about this tragedy are becoming increasingly scarce. With a lack of new information, it is easy to assume that cities such as New Orleans are completely back on their feet. Nevertheless, the media's short attention span is misleading and 40 percent of New Orleans still remains to be rebuilt. For this reason myself and twelve other Willamette students attended the Take a Break (TAB) trip to Louisiana. For ten days over winter break we gutted houses in the New Orleans area so that they could be rebuilt.

Signing up was easy, but this trip turned out to be one of the hardest things I have ever done in my life. I am fairly certain that nothing could have prepared me for this experience. We have all seen pictures of houses that Katrina destroyed. However, pictures are limited and only tell part of the story. Pictures cannot explain the overwhelming odor of decay that permeated the houses we worked in. Additionally, pic-

tures leave out the fact that after the hurricane left, black mold and cockroaches moved in. Finally, there is no way for the pictures to describe the pain that is caused by each ruined high-school diploma, wedding picture and child's toy that is removed from these homes.

Katrina did more than destroy homes; it ripped apart the social networks that people typically depend on in difficult times. The people of New Orleans could not depend on their church choirs, school friends and neighbors because everyone was displaced. Hurricane Katrina took away all that people knew. What do you do when your entire way of life is washed away? When you are young you have time and energy to start over. But there is no starting over when you are an 85-year-old widow. Dealing with loss is difficult enough. Nevertheless, the people of New Orleans are forced to fight the rising cost of property insurance and deal with FEMA and its never-ending stream of misplaced paperwork, all while trying to rebuild their lives.

Beneath all of this hurt and frustration is a city fighting hard to return. New Orleans will haunt me for the rest of my life. However, the key is to not allow this experience to torture me, but instead use it to fuel my compassion. An old woman in a grocery store thanked me for "not forgetting New Orleans." I wish I had told her

that I will never forget because her story has ultimately become my story. What started out as a TAB trip has worked its way into my heart and will forever be a part of me. Though I cannot perform miracles, I can gut a house and lend a listening ear, and so can you. We should try every day, even if only in little ways, to let not only New Orleans, but also the world, know that Willamette students have not forgotten them.



JADE OLSON

Meg Bay is a junior at the College of Liberal Arts. She can be reached at <mbay>

POLITICS

Why presidential candidates are already announcing



NICK ROBINSON
COLUMNIST

It's only January but the buzz for the 2008 presidential election is already in full swing. Five candidates have officially announced, 10 more have created "exploratory committees" and another half dozen or so are letting their names churn through the rumor mill. It might seem silly to start campaigning almost two years ahead of time, but the presidential contenders have good reason to be anxious.

First of all, the big money is already choosing sides. When Barack Obama announced his candidacy earlier this week, billionaire George Soros hopped off the fence and into Obama's backyard. Some analysts are speculating that Hillary Clinton announced a few days later to prevent more big donors from wandering into Obama's camp. The campaign contribution pie isn't divided up on a first come, first serve basis, but candidates know if they show up too late they'll be eating crumbs.

Another reason for jumping the gun in presidential politics is free name recognition. Lesser-known candidates like Dennis Kucinich, Sam Brownback and Tom Vilsack can make a bigger splash with their announcement if no one else is in the pool. With heavyweights Clinton and Obama already in the Democratic race, it's going to be a lot harder for the little guys to get noticed.

Another big perk to announcing now, especially for Democrats, is their contrast with the current administration. While President Bush pushes for his wildly unpopular troop surge, Democratic candidates get free media time to point out how much they disagree. They're hoping the Democratic base will remember they stood up to the White House when primary season rolls around.

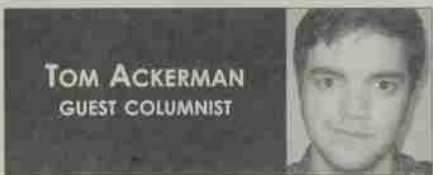
That's one reason why most of the moves are coming from the left at the moment. Republican presidential hopefuls don't want to be overly associated with the surge (or the Republican party in general) right now. Of course, if the plan actually works, they'll be hopping right back on board.

If you're a politically junkie, make sure you've paid your cable bill because for the next two years because *Meet the Press* is must-see-TV. If you aren't, you'll probably want to avoid newspapers for a while. Unless, of course, you're one of the millions of Americans with a huge crush on John Edwards.

Nick Robinson is a sophomore at the College of Liberal Arts. He can be reached at <nrobinso>

Striving for immortality

Even if it's just a sandwich for future generations of WU students to enjoy



TOM ACKERMAN
GUEST COLUMNIST

Hello readers. My name is Tom, and I am a freshman who just completed his first semester here at Willamette. As such, I feel that I know the ropes, and that I am finding my niche in college society. I can now sleep undisturbed in a building chock-full of almost complete strangers. I no longer feel the need to sprint to every class. And, best of all, upwards of two-people wave and acknowledge me by name while I'm walking through my hall. But as I contemplate the future, I wonder if I will be remembered here after I have graduated.

Of course, the best way for me to leave a lasting mark on Willamette is to get a building named after me. And the easiest way to get a building named after me is to give the school copious amounts of money for a new building, and then insist that they name it after me. Why stop there though? If I had the resources I would also construct other buildings and name them after my favorite celebrities. Imagine if you will, living in David Bowie Commons or



JADE OLSON

attending classes in the state-of-the-art Yakov Smirnoff Rhetoric Dome (in Soviet Russia, notes take you). It is truly an enticing vision of the future. Unfortunately for everyone, I am not an eccentric billionaire philanthropist. I'm just a college student.

There is another way for me to achieve the fame and immortality I desire. I can get a sandwich named after me in the Cat Tavern. As many of you probably know,

there is a whimsical sandwich called an "Oliver" that you can purchase for a nominal fee from the Cat. Now, you won't find this sandwich posted on the menu, but if you ask for one, the Cat employee taking your order will smile and nod knowingly and you will be treated to something quite amazing. The Oliver sandwich is a standard grilled cheese with crispy chicken strips right inside. It is salty, peppery, gooey, crispy and all-around awesome.

I do not know much about this Oliver fellow other than that he is a visionary upperclassman, with good taste, who is probably on meal plan D. Most importantly though, this guy got a sandwich named after him just by special-ordering it every day, probably for years. If he can do it, so can I.

As I begin my personal journey to invent and perfect the sandwich that will ultimately bear my name for years to come, I hope all of you students reading this ponder how your college career will be remembered. I urge you all to make your mark. Get involved. Break records. Build Monuments. Eat sandwiches.

Tom Ackerman is a freshman at the College of Liberal Arts. He can be reached at <tackerma>

GOT OPINIONS?

We're always looking to hear from new voices!

If you have an issue that you're passionate about and want to share it with the Willamette community, please contact Lauren Brooks at <lbrooks>

CAMPUS SAFETY REPORTS Dec. 18 2006 - Jan. 18 2007

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

December 12, 11:59 P.M., (Matthews Hall): A student, attempting to tackle his friend, missed and accidentally head butted the wall in his dorm room. The student was transported to Salem Hospital where was treated for the injury to his head.

Dec. 13, 7:29 P.M., (Belkap Hall): A student injured his head while wrestling with a friend. The student was transported to Salem Hospital and treated for his injuries.

Jan. 19, 12:58 A.M., (Kaneko): A student, suffering from severe flu-like symptoms, was transported to Salem Hospital for treatment.

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
Dec. 12, 3:59 P.M., (Baxter Hall): Campus Safety Officers smelled burning marijuana and subsequently discovered a student to be in possession of it. The student was very cooperative and admitted to smoking the marijuana in his room.

Jan. 18, 9:50 P.M., (Lee House):

Marijuana was confiscated from students and turned over to Campus Safety.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Dec. 11, 1:03 P.M., (Terra House): An unknown individual activated a fire extinguisher and damaged an exit sign on the south side of the 2nd floor. The extinguisher was immediately replaced.

Jan. 10, 8:27 A.M., (Legal Clinic): An unknown individual(s) painted graffiti on the north wall of the clinic. It appears that the new tagging was placed on or over prior tagging vandalism.

Jan. 13, 20:26 P.M., (Haseldorf Apartments & Legal Clinic): Additional graffiti was observed on the east wall of Haseldorf and on the east door to the Legal Clinic.

Jan. 14, 10:42 A.M., (Phi Delta Theta): An unknown individual broke the glass in a north facing window with an unknown object.

Jan. 17, 12:55 A.M., (Lausanne Hall): An unknown individual broke the glass of a window on the 3rd floor men's restroom.

Jan. 18, 1:55 A.M., (Montag Center): An unknown individual threw 'nachos chips' onto a window next to the center's double glass front doors.

THEFT

Dec. 20, 8:47 A.M., (Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Beta Theta Pi): During the established cleaning process, Housekeeping recovered and a Kaneko Hall sign from SAE and a loveseat, and City of Salem "no parking" sign from Beta Theta Pi.

Jan. 15, 11:50 A.M., (Lausanne Hall): An unknown individual stole the tires from a student's bicycle as it was parked at the bike rack in front of Lausanne.

Jan. 15, 12:40 P.M., (Terra House): A student reported that she left her room with the door unlocked for about three hours. Upon her return she noted that someone had entered her room and stole a laptop computer, digital camera, and a pair of Bose speakers.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Jan. 13, 5:19 P.M., (Matthews Hall): Upon returning from break, a student dis-

covered that an unknown individual had smoke marijuana in her room. Evidence was left in the room, corroborated the student's supposition

Jan. 14, 1:10 A.M., (Haseldorf Apartments): Campus Safety observed an individual prowling the parking lot and subsequently setting off a car alarm. The individual successfully eluded the Willamette Officers, as well as responding Salem Police Officers.

TRESSPASS

Dec. 10, 1:07 A.M., (Terra House): Campus Safety observed a 36 year old man standing on the steps of Terra apparently smoking a cigarette. The Officers issued the individual a trespass warning after realizing that the individual did not have a legitimate reason for being on campus.

*If you have any information regarding these incidents, please contact Campus Safety, ext. 6911.

EASY

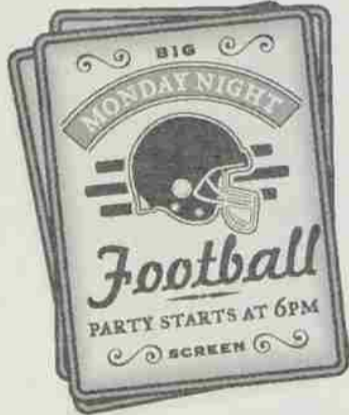
		1	7	3	5
7			3	6	
8	3	6	5	1	
			9		1
	7			8	
4		8			
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	1	9			3
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HARD

6			4	1	
	3			2	
9					8
2	5		4	6	
1		9	3		7
		1	2	5	4
5					2
	8			6	
9	7				5

SUDOKU by PAUL FRIEDMAN

Sudoku rules are easy: Fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear once and only once in each row, column and 3x3 box. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. Solve the puzzle with reasoning.



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