Issue 11 · Vol CXXXII November 13, 2019

Confusion follows unannounced departure of recreation director





SOPHIE SMITH EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



NOAH DANTES MANAGING EDITOR

After weeks of confusion among student workers about the unannounced and unexplained absence of their supervisor, Willamette officials confirmed that Kosti Efstathiou, the director of Campus Recreation, has departed from the University.

In a meeting with the Collegian's editor, the officials offered no comment, saying Efstathiou's departure is a personnel matter.

The Collegian obtained an email written by Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Activities Lisa Holliday, who oversees the Campus Recreation department. In the email, Holliday announced to the department's 11 student coordinators that Efstathiou resigned from his position on Oct. 28. This resignation was preceded by weeks of Efstathiou's unannounced absence from work.

Holliday, who is carrying out Efstathiou's duties until a replacement director is found, declined to comment when contacted by the Collegian.

Three attempts to contact Efstathiou by phone were unsuc-

In the email, Holliday thanks the student coordinators for their "patience in the last month with the uncertainty," referring to the nearly three weeks of Efstathiou's absence preceding his Oct. 28 resignation. This period of the director's unexplained absence caused confusion among the student-run Campus Recreation programs Efstathiou supervised, resulting in the cancellation of department trainings and Outdoor Program (ODP) trips.

"Kosti [Efstathiou] was gone for quite a while before we were notified that he had resigned," said Ellis Cobb ('20), co-coordinator of the ODP. Efstathiou canceled an ODP meeting on Oct. 8, which Cobb marks as the beginning of his absence from ODP operations; Efstathiou's resignation did not happen for another 20 days.

Gian Olsen ('20), the Sparks Fitness Center coordinator, said Efstathiou had been student coordinators' "direct line of communication with the department." Olsen described Efstathiou's sudden departure as "jarring," causing Olsen to "think on [his] feet" to operate without the help of his supervisor.

According to Cobb, the ODP had to cancel a CPR training Efstathiou was scheduled to lead. Because several ODP leaders did not receive CPR certifications, which are required in order to lead trips, the organization had to cancel several trips planned for October.

Cobb also said a diversity training planned for the whole department had to be postponed until next semester, since Efstathiou is no longer available to coordinate or conduct this training.

Holliday is filling in as the

help of Zachery Cardoso, coordinator of student organizations and budgets. Both Cobb and Olsen said they are grateful for the support they have received from Holliday and Cardoso.

Without their help, I don't think we would be able to be in the position we are now, which feels a lot more stable than it did a few weeks ago," said Olsen. "I think we have a lot of progress that we were making that got stunted with [Efstathiou's] absence, and now we're in a position that we can be supported to make up for it."

On Friday, the Collegian's editor met with Vice President for Human Resources Shana Sechrist and Director of Media Relations Adam Torgerson, who confirmed that Efstathiou no longer works for the University. Sechrist and Torgerson declined to comment further, saying Efstathiou's departure is a personnel matter.

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Students push for more inclusivity in housing policies



GRAY GAUTEREAUX

Every spring, Willamette Housing becomes central to campus operations as their of $fice\ coordinates\ the\ transition\ to$ the next year's living accommodations. Traditionally, WU has enforced a component of gender segregation in their roommate matching process. In years past, the housing forms sent to incoming first year students were explicit in stating that rooming with someone of a different gender would require additional permission to prevent "cohabitation," or the act of living with a partner without being married to them.

However, as time and culture have progressed, the student body at Willamette has come to foster many vibrant and active LGBT+ communities. As a result, housing options have become more restrictive to those of non-binary and transgender indentities, and policies once intended to prevent couples from taking advantage of the housing system now come across as heteronormative and out of touch with modern gendered social dymanics.

A student who chose to remain anonymous gave testimony to their strained experience during last semester's housing lottery. When going to select their preferred room during their allocated housing lottery time last semester, they said, "I tried clicking on the room I wanted and it said 'you can't mix genders in this room' but I was identified as female and my roommate was living on an all women's floor and we didn't realize that it was considered mixing genders. My roommate is trans and I identify as non-binary now, but it didn't make sense because we both should have been in the system as women at that point." As a result of the error, the student had to fill out a special permission form with housing in person and the roommates were unable to register for the room they wanted. One of their main takeaways from the experience was that "when dealing with Housing, it feels like they only think about gender in a binary and heteronormative way."

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Sparks Fitness Center staff tackles accessibility challenges



The Sparks Fitness Center at Willamette University has long been the hub for community members to gather and train. Its many resources offer opportunities for people to expand their physical horizons, work on specific fitness goals and consult certified experts on nutrition and health. However, many of these benefits are largely unknown or unused by members of the Willamette community who aren't student-athletes.

Many people in the Willamette community may currently feel uncomfortable in, or intimidated by, the gym space and avoid using its resources, but the staff at the Sparks Fitness Center is anxious to fix the feelings of discomfort students may feel. Sarah Grahn ('21), assistant coordinator of personal training at Sparks, attributes the discomfort she hears about to a few main problems. The first is that the current hours that Sparks is open makes it hard for people who don't regularly use the gym to feel comfortable coming in and working out alongside a large group of people.

Grahn said: "This is the biggest issue we've been hearing about and the one that has really sparked this change. We're trying to get some sort of extended hours so that people who might be minorities in the space have a time to



The Sparks front entrance recently became accessible to all students.

come in and not have to feel vulnerable."

The second problem is that the placement of equipment in the gym can sometimes create a space in which people feel exposed or vulnerable. Grahn uses the example of the air runners, like treadmills, and their placement in the middle of the room. "They attract a lot of attention because they're right in the middle of the space and they're really loud when you run on them. I know a lot of my [women] friends don't want to be

pg. 5

working out, dead center, in a high traffic area on a super loud piece of equipment... We're working on figuring out if there's a way to rearrange the equipment in the space so that people can get familiar with the gym and not feel like they're on display."

Besides the general intimidation people might feel when they approach Sparks, Grahn said the current lack of accessibility in Sparks is also a big part of the disparity. Currently, the Sparks building is wheelchair accessible, but the fitness center inside is

Grahn said: "Right now, people have to come and ask us to open the door for them, which shouldn't be how you go about getting into the gym. We're trying to get, possibly through a Community Action Fund for Equity and Sustainability (CAFES) grant, funding for automatic buttons. Unfortunately, they're extremely expensive, so we're trying to figure out the best way to do something that's affordable and timely."

Grahn also talked about trying to create a better space for the LGBTQ+ community at Willamette in Sparks: "We want to bring in personal trainers from an outside source that have experience working with trans [people and] people from the LGBTQ+ community."

One of the biggest issues Grahn has noticed in the gym is how often athletic teams will use the same equipment together, which may make the space feel unwelcoming to outsiders. Fortunately, there are clear rules for conduct in Sparks that target this problem. Grahn said that the biggest rule is this that teams cannot monopolize equipment. If they are using a space, it must be clear to other users that they are welcome in that space and that they have access to equipment in that space as well.

SPARKS, 7

GREATER, 8

LIFESTYLES

Read about best practices when interacting with service animals.



SPORTS

Men's basketball tips off a new season.



OPINIONS

TikTok contest comes to Willamette.

Morrison brings artistic vision to WU

ELIZABETH HYDE STAFF WRITER

Faith Morrison, the new artistic director of dance at Willamette, is spearheading a collaborative and experimental Fall Dance Concert with a broad lineup of dance styles.

"This show is a collection of student, faculty and guest artist work, bringing together different choreographers," said Morrison. "We have a diverse group of dances, which is exciting. We have contemporary dance, jazz and aerial, so this collection of thematic elements all coming together."

The concert is exploring a broad swath of themes, ranging from human connection to vulnerability, loneliness, celebration and ethereal beauty.

"We are celebrating a very diverse concert this year. Hopefully it has something for everyone," said Morrison.

Morrison began working with Willamette in the spring semester of 2019. She brings with her experience working in educational and professional dance across the nation. Morrison received her B.A. in Dance from the University of Montana and her M.F.A. in Dance from the University of Oregon. Morrison was recently an adjunct professor of dance at the University of Montana.

According to Willamette's website, "she has served as a graduate teaching fellow at the University of Oregon (2012-2015) where she taught classes in modern technique, ballet technique, jazz technique and contact improvisation."

In addition to offering guidance from her extensive background in sundry dance styles, Morrison is incorporating the experimental form of screendance to this year's fall performance. Screendance is a video medium that combines movement with film.

Morrison's own screendance project, titled *Ensō*, received the 2015 Grand Jury Award. *Ensō* was created in collaboration with videographer Robert Uehlin. The project was set in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area and foregrounds the sensory experience of place as seen through movement. Clips from *Ensō* of the Oregon Dunes landscape will be projected during the fall performance, and sand will brought on stage as an additional layer of sensory experience connecting to place.

"The intentions behind site-specific dance research has been facilitating a kinesthetic experience of site for the dancers, looking at what energies are at play, how can the environment be reflected through movement, and really, what is the feel of that place. That was the intention in creating movement. And in filming the intention was conveying that feeling of place to an audience," Morrison said.

Additionally, EJ Reinagel, who teaches aerial, has constructed two apparati "which are artforms in and of themselves," Morrison said.

She has also brought collaboration to the Fall Dance Concert by recruiting the expertise of professional dancers Daniel Do and Mar Undag. They are based in Salt Lake, UT and connected with Morrison while dancing professionally in Portland. Do and Undag completed an intensive fiveday residency program working with four students.

"They work collaboratively as choreographers, and I was interested in having students experience two creative voices coming together," said Morrison, who is excited to bring professional-level choreography to the show. "This work is bright, bold and unapologetic. It's closing out the show with very bright costumes and dynamic athletic movements."

Moving forward with her work at Willamette, Morrison will be teaching two classes next semester with an emphasis on the technical aspect of dance, as well as individual expression.

"I would love to build a program with a strong emphasis on technical training in addition to honoring each individual and cultivating each individual voice in artistic expression," said Morrison.

She invites anyone who is curious about dance to give it a try: "Right now we are offering a lot of intro classes, and you don't need any experience to come in, move and express yourself through dance. We have an open door and are inviting any and all who have ever been curious about movement and maybe apprehensive to try, to please come dance with us!"

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Morrison (center) leads a group of students in a warm up at the beginning of a dance class (bottom).

WEEKLY REPORT BY CAMPUS SAFETY

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
Nov. 4, 6:13 p.m. (WISH):
Campus Safety received a report of an individual's items being vandalized. An officer responded and met with the student. A report was filed.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID
Nov. 7, 7:20 p.m. (in a campus residence): Campus
Safety was contacted after a student had injured their wrist. An officer and WEMS responded and the student was transported to Urgent Care.

Detit staff suspicious appeared to searched their ready left.

Nov. 4,3:5

HARASSMENT
Nov. 1, 6:47 p.m. (Goudy
Commons): Campus Safety received a call reporting a
student getting harassed by
another individual. Officers
responded and met with both
parties. A report was filed.

Suspicious Activity
Nov. 6, 2:29 a.m. (Lee
House): Campus Safety received a call from a student
reporting a suspicious individual looking inside their
window. Officers responded
and met with the individual.
Salem Police was contacted

and assisted with removing the individual from campus. The individual was formally trespassed from campus.

Nov. 3, 5:14 p.m. (Goudy Commons): Campus Safety was contacted by Bon Appetit staff after noticing a suspicious individual who appeared to be intoxicated. An officer responded and searched the surrounding areas, but the individual had already left.

Nov. 4, 3:50 p.m. (Art Building): Campus Safety received a call reporting a sleeping bag and trash in the area. An officer responded and encountered an individual sleeping underneath the items. The individual packed up their belongings and left campus after speaking with the officer.

Nov. 5, 8:00 a.m. (Winter Street): Campus Safety was contacted by Salem Hospital security and said that they had removed an individual from their campus and they were heading towards the University. An officer responded and was able to monitor the indi-

vidual as they passed through campus.

Nov. 5, 11:41 a.m. (Goudy Commons): Campus Safety was contacted by Bon Appetit staff after they found a bag of pills. An officer responded and met with the staff member. Item was disposed of.

Nov. 5, 11:36 p.m. (Doney Hall): Campus Safety was contacted by Facilities after they encountered an individual sleeping in the alley. An officer responded and met with the individual who then left campus.

Nov. 6, 12:26 p.m. (Kaneko Commons): Campus Safety received a call reporting a suspicious individual in the building. An officer responded and searched the building and surrounding areas, but was unable to locate the individual.

Nov. 7, 10:14 a.m. (Olin Science): Campus Safety received a call reporting a suspicious individual in the building. Officers responded and removed the individual from the building.

Nov. 3, 6:13 p.m. (WISH): Campus Safety received a call regarding the theft of food from the community kitchen. An officer respond-

ed and a report was filed.

Nov. 5, 10:43 p.m. (Ford Hall): Campus Safety received a call regarding a stolen bicycle wheel. An officer responded and met with the victim and offered to transport them home. A report was filed.

Nov. 6, 10:00 a.m. (Law School): A student stopped by the Campus Safety office to report a theft that occurred while they were using the restroom. A report was filed.

TRESPASS
Nov. 6, 12:22 a.m. (Kaneko Commons): While on patrol, an officer received information of a suspicious individual acting strangely. Officers responded and met with the individual who was deemed to be under the influence. Salem Police was contacted to assist with getting the individual home, and

they trespassed the individual from campus.

WELFARE CHECK
Nov. 1, 10:22 p.m. (Kaneko
Commons): Campus Safety was notified of students
trapped in the elevator. Officers and Salem Fire responded. The fire department was
able to remove the students via
the elevator roof. The elevator company was contacted to
have the elevator repaired.

Nov. 4, 12:18 p.m. (in a campus residence): Campus Safety received a call requesting a welfare check on a student on behalf of a parent. An officer responded and checked with the student. The on-call area coordinator was also contacted to assist.

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

(503) 370-6053 | Facebook: Willamette-Collegian

Letter from the Editor

Hi all,

In last week's issue, the Collegian published photos and a story about the previous weekend's Pacific Northwest Students of Color Conference. This story, which I wrote, failed to include the perspectives and voices of the students who attended, presented at or spent months organizing the conference. Not only does this represent poor journalistic practices, it also undermines the purpose of the conference, which this year was themed, "Pass the Mic: Amplifying our Voices, Ideas, and Actions." The story did not mention the specific experiences of students who attended the conference, nor did it adequately convey the countless hours of work the conference's organizers put into the event.

At the conference, students of color created a space for empowerment and community within an institution that so frequently centers white perspectives and experiences. The *Collegian* has the obligation to de-center these dominant perspectives—something which I failed to do last week

Last week raised a challenging question for us: if a story is timely but unfinished, should it run

in the newspaper? The answer, of course, is no; underreported stories have no place in the *Collegian's* pages. The consequences of this mistake are significant. I apologize to the students whose voices were not represented in last week's issue, as well as to those who were hurt by the lack of intentionality and awareness this story represented.

I would also like to express my gratitude to those who have reached out to me in recent days to share their thoughts and critiques about last week's issue. Your time and generosity are appreciated.

Organizers of the Students of Color Conference are compiling their own piece describing their experiences from the conference, which they will be distributing on their own. I'm looking forward to reading their work.

If anyone would like to discuss this further, my inbox is always open at <collegian-editor-in-chief>.

All the best, Sophie Smith

> collegian-editor-in-chief@ willamette.edu

Willamette School of Law in multistep process of hiring new dean

ANNA SEAHILL STAFF WRITER

A seven-person search committee has been working to find the best candidate to replace Curtis Bridgeman as the College of Law dean after his decision to return to being a faculty member.

Chairing this committee is Provost Senior Vice President Carol Long. She is accompanied by four law school faculty members, the student body law school president and one of the associate deans from Willamette's Atkinson Graduate School of Management.

Together, the committee members have been reviewing the law dean applicants. These candidates were selected over the summer by two outside senior consultants from Summit Search Solutions. In the beginning of the search process, there were 30 candidates; then, there was a semi-final review round of nine prospects.

There are now four finalists left to choose from: Susan Bisom Rapp from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, CA, David Yellen from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, Brian Gallini from University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville and Karen Bravo from Indiana University's Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis. All of these candidates have individually visited campus in the past two weeks to meet with the committee and give a presentation open to the Willamette community.

Long explained that the selection process aims to be as inclusive as possible, through law faculty meetings and a survey that can be filled out by any administrators, faculty and students that attended the presentation, since feedback on the candidates is taken into consideration, too.

The next step is for the committee to make a decision and pass on its recommendation to the University's president, who is the ultimate hiring agent. The Board of Trustees also has the opportunity to meet with the finalists. Long said that the hope is to have a recommendation ready by the end of this week. After that, it can take until the end of the semester for the selected successor to be officially hired. The new law dean will then begin their duties on July 1, 2020.

This complex process of choosing a strong replacement for Dean Bridgeman centers around finding a professional who possesses the career qualifications as well as the personal characteristics of an effective leader.

In the opening letter of the application document for candidates, Willamette President Stephen Thorsett wrote, "I believe that the College of Law is uniquely positioned to meet the challenges of our time and to build upon its strengths." The areas listed as points of focus for the dean include communication and transparency, faculty development, alumni engagement and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Long concluded that she believes the introduction of a new leader to the college community will result in a burst of energy and excitement. "We've had good leadership making progress on all of the things we care about," she said. "We want someone to continue this enhancement of programs... We're looking forward to bringing changes, entrepreneurialism and integration of the schools."

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Voter registration event promotes political participation

REED BERTRAN STAFF WRITER

In an effort to increase voter registration among Willamette students, the Associated Students of Willamette University (ASWU), the College Republicans and the College Democrats sponsored a voter registration table that stood in Jackson Plaza on Nov. 7 and 8. The table was run by volunteers from all three organizations.

In a description of the event, the Willamette website states, "ASWU, the College Democrats and the College Republicans will be tabling with voter registration information to help students register, change their address or request an absentee ballot to vote while at school!"

Alexander Knorr ('22), president of the Willamette College Republicans and one of the central organizers of the event, discussed the mission of the voter registration drive and its target audience.

"The project was initially spear-headed by the first-year class in ASWU who hoped to register first-year students who had not had the opportunity to do so yet. They approached the College Democrats and Republicans and got both organizations engaged in the process. In order to register first-year students, we concentrated our advertising efforts to first-year residence halls and other spaces that first-years utilize on campus. We also used various social media platforms to advertise for the event as well."

The table itself was set up in Jackson Plaza on Thursday from 2:00-5:00 p.m., as well as on Friday during the same hours. Volunteers from the College Republicans, College Democrats and ASWU passed out candy and voter registration stickers to those who visited the booth and utilized the resources there to register

to vote. According to Knorr, there were at least 10 Willamette students who used to the booth to register to vote.

Bethany Abbate ('22), the president of the College Democrats and another lead organizer of the event, discussed the impact she believed the voting booth had on campus and the need for further events aimed at increasing political participation among students: "We were definitely able to register a number of individuals. However, I think it is always hard to reach every possible individual that may not be registered. While I think that tabling is valuable, as it is a way to have direct face-to-face communication with individuals through this process, I think it would be worthwhile for us to also try and pursue other potential strategies that are a bit more direct towards the audience that we are trying to reach."

Abbate also suggested possible future events the College Democrats may host on campus to help students get involved with politics on campus and in Salem: "We are hosting a Democratic debate watch party on Nov. 20 and are hoping to continually host these in the future as we dive deeper into the election season. We are also looking to host an elected officials panel and try to streamline more ways to get involved into politics locally, particularly with connections at the Marion County Democrats and across the street at the State Capitol."

Quinna Sypher ('23), an ASWU senator, secretary for the Willamette College Democrats and one of the main organizers of the voter registration booth, also spoke to her experience planning and coordinating the event: "I helped bring together the ASWU Caucus and College Democrats, which is where the project was able to get started. I serve as the whip within my ASWU caucus for





Listed from left to right, Quinna Sypher ('23), Grant Starr ('22), Bethany Abbate ('22) and Alexander Knorr ('22) led last week's voter registration event (top). Student leaders help peers register (bottom).

the class of 2023, so my main role is essentially project management for our semester project, in this case, the voter registration event. I helped to coordinate communication between the two organizations, train the volunteers to table and make sure everything was running smoothly."

Sypher also discussed the possibilities of continuing to produce voter registration events on campus, saying, "We'd love to keep this going! I think it will depend on the leadership of the organizations next year for who exactly is involved, but we all really enjoyed being able to bring this specific focus to a voter registra-

tion event here and would love to see it happen again."

Members of the ASWU caucus of 2023 who worked along with Sypher to produce this event include Emma McAvory, Bryleigh O'Neil, Michael Burke and Olivia Frenkel.

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Discover campus' mental health resources

AUDREY PIACSEK CONTRIBUTOR

Mental health is an important issue for college students. Between classes, jobs, extracurriculars, planning their futures and navigating the adult world for the first time in their lives, they can end up overwhelmed by responsibilities. But if you're a student having trouble keeping up in class, struggling with stress, anxiety, your identity or any other mental or emotional health issue, know that there are plenty of resources for you at Willamette. As you might have read on the cards scattered across campus bathrooms, Bistro tables and the lobby of Bishop Wellness Center, you are not alone.

Some resources both on and off campus are better known than others: ask a Willamette student where to go for medical issues of any kind, physical or mental, and they will likely tell you about Bishop Wellness Center. Bishop provides a wide variety of medical support at little or no cost to students, including free counseling services. Counseling is generally available by appointment with designated drop-in hours each school day, but during November and December they will be moving entirely to a same-day appointment model. Students have never had to wait more than a few hours for an appointment during this schedule in the past, according to Director of Bishop Don Thomson.

Bishop is a hub for many other support networks available to students. For example, WUTalk, Willamette's mental health hotline, is connected to Bishop Wellness Center. According to Thomson, when a student calls the WUTalk number, (503) 375-5353, they are connected to a company called ProtoCall, which is based in Portland. ProtoCall contracts with numerous institutions, but when a counselor on duty at their center receives a call from Willamette, they can see where the call is coming from and access a list of specific Willamette resources. Bishop communicates with WUTalk and sends them updated information on resources, according to Thomson.

After calling WUTalk, students will be asked if they need a counselor or a clinician. Trained crisis counselors are available to talk to students in crisis, and clinicians can refer callers to local resources that Bishop has sent

"Prior to having WUTalk, all of the counselors were on call all the time," said Thomson. "They could help me call," he said.

be woken up in the middle of the night by a call, which obviously isn't ideal for either the counselor or the student." With WUTalk, which is available 24/7, students can reach trained professionals at

WUTalk does write up the content of calls it receives from Willamette and this information is sent to Bishop Wellness and put in the student's Bishop record. However, like

confidential. No one on or off campus, including family members, can see that a call was placed.

WUTalk is one of many resources at Willamette that can be used on behalf of another student. Often in mental health crises, people can have trouble accessing resources on their own, so many services can

be used by third parties as well. If you are concerned about a friend or fellow student and feel comfortable talking to them about it, you can ask them to try a counseling session at Bishop. Counselors can serve as starting points for figuring out a plan to help you or your friend in the future.

According to Brom Lockard ('22), who used Bishop's counseling services last year, they were helpful in finding him further resources.

"They recommended finding a therapist off-campus. They then scheduled me an appointment with a case manager at Bishop, who brought up a list of therapists that took my insurance, told me what other students had said about them and offered to

If you're concerned about someone but don't feel comfortable talking to them directly, you can also submit a CARE report. CARE stands for Campus Assessment, Response & Evaluation. and refers to a network of staff who work to support students. The form is available on the Willamette website, and can be submitted anonymously. According to the

If you do find yourself in a critical situation, particularly if you aren't on campus, there are still options available. The Psychiatric Crisis Center, located off of 12th St. behind the Salem Hospital, is specialized to provide help in a mental health crisis, acting as an emergency room for psychiatric issues.

"At least one Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) is on duty at all times to provide face-to-

> appointment. Emotional support can be one of the most vital resources for someone struggling with mental health. Willamette's mental health club, their Active Minds, is a place where students can find that support in an inclusive and friendly space. They meet every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. and Sunday from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Smullin 117.

to the ER, or not going anywhere at

Indeed, going to the emergency

room or any other medical setting

can be daunting or anxiety-induc-

ing for many people. If you have

a friend who seems to be having trouble with this, ask if they'd like

you to accompany them, wheth-

er it's driving to the hospital, at-

tending a support group or going

to Bishop to schedule a counseling

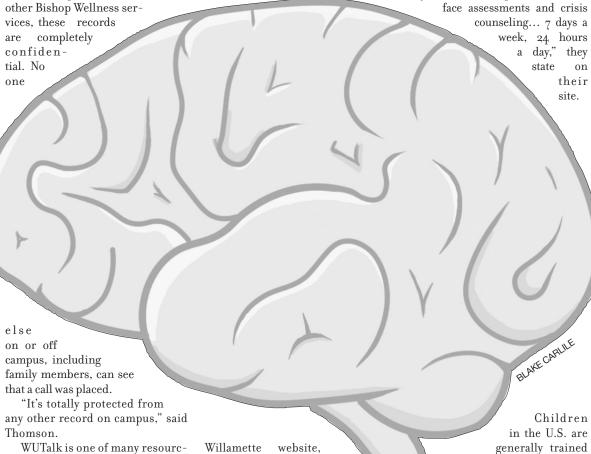
all," said France.

"Our Wednesday meetings are more of a community interaction time, where people can get to know other people who struggle with mental health and find a group that understands what it's like to have some restriction on life that is difficult to explain to other people," said Taylor Gruber ('22), the club's president. "[Our] Sunday meetings are to organize events and outreach-to make resources less scary and easier to approach."

Active Minds is in the middle of some updates this semester: they may soon be changing their name, so keep an eye out for their new title. Meeting times are not scheduled to change. There is also a new group within the club specifically to provide support for people who have struggled with eating disor-

It's been said before, but it bears repeating: you are not alone. These are only a handful of the many resources available to students, both those struggling with mental health issues and those who care about them. If you encounter a problem that isn't covered by these resources, contact them anyway and they will be able to direct you to support. On the Willamette website, you can find on-campus resources for sexual assault, academic support, gender identity, interpersonal violence or any issue you may be confronting that isn't covered here. Never be afraid to reach out for help-there will always be someone ready to reach back for you.

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when someone submits a CARE report for mental health, it's sent to the Behavioral Review Team (BRT), a team of staff that oversees student health and safety. The BRT will reach out to the student, but unless there's an immediate danger, it's ultimately up to the student to accept help.

"I always tell folks if you have a concern, send in [a] CARE report, no matter how big or small, critical or not. Sometimes there are other reports that other folks may have already submitted that can tie into the bit of information you have. No amount of information is insignificant," said Tori Ruiz, the Student CARE and Conduct Case Manager.

If someone is in immediate danger, Ruiz recommends to call Campus Safety.

"They are equipped to contact folks who can help and get emergency services to the right location

generally trained by schools and families to call 911 when they're in trouble, so that's most people's first instinct in an emergency. However, in some cases Psychiatric Crisis Center can provide better and faster care than the

"In my experience, in the ${\rm ER}\,{\rm you}$ don't see a counselor immediately," said Amanda France ('22). At the Crisis Center, according to France, "You just meet with a counselor. It's more streamlined, in that it's specific for mental health."

emergency room.

The Crisis Center is less wellknown outside the community of those who struggle with mental health, so knowing that it's an option is important for friends, family and those who might be helping someone in crisis.

"I think more people should know about it because they would benefit from it rather than going

Local food drives provide volunteer opportunities

SANJA ZELEN STAFF WRITER

With the month of November in full swing, various organizations on and near campus are finding ways to give back to the community through food drives, service events and community meals. Community Service Learning (CSL), the Marion Polk Food Share and Mission of Hope are offering multiple opportunities for students to help prepare and distribute food throughout the month.

CSL is looking forward to joining the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) on Nov. 16 for a day of volunteer work. Volunteers will get to assist in cooking and preparing a Thanksgiving meal for over 200 Salem community members to enjoy at the church.

Students and faculty alike can sign up for 2-hour shifts between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at https://forms. gle/DZV5c2wtC66r3Qqi7.

Bella Green ('20), a ČSL Coordinator, explained what the event means to CSL:

"Having CSL work with FUMC allows for Willamette-affiliated volunteers to get out of the 'Willamette bubble' by helping an organization that provides for the greater Salem community. Not only does this help out FUMC and strengthen Willamette's relationship with a valuable community partner, but it also allows students to interact directly with people they might not have had a chance to otherwise."

The event will directly benefit Salem community members attending the event as well.

"The Thanksgiving meal offers an opportunity for social interaction with individuals from all walks of life while also providing a hearty meal. This is especially important for those who may be experiencing food insecurity, or for those who may not be able to visit with loved ones over the holidays," Green said. "We are expecting closer to 300 [community members], so it really does attract a large group of people."

Green recommended that students sign up for future events with CSL, Marion Polk Food Share or Mission of Hope if they enjoy Saturday's event. "These organizations have similar mission statements."

Marion Polk Food Share allows its volunteers to assist in the preparation and distribution of food to families in need. Their mission is to "end hunger in Marion and Polk counties." Marion Polk serves meals to over 46,000 people each month, who access the meals from various shelters and food pantries. The organization has over 100 partner agencies. The help it receives from its volunteers allows Marion Polk Food Share to distribute food to surrounding districts. Students interested in volunteering can access the volunteer application on Marion Polk's website.

Mission of Hope, created by the Silver Creek Fellowship, is a mobile food bank and pantry. Partnered with Marion Polk, they have a similar mission statement of helping to end hunger in the Salem area. Mission of Hope travels to different Salem locations on

Saturdays and Wednesdays, where volunteers set up tables and distribute food to families in need. The organization visits Houck Middle School, located in Salem, on the last Saturday of every month as well. More information about volunteering can be found on Silver Creek Fellowship's web-

Whether students are reaching out to organizations outside of Willamette or volunteering with CSL, any service work done will make an impact on the Salem community. CSL can be contacted at <service> for any future service events, from planting trees to supporting Salem residents in need.

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Disability Advocacy Club discusses how to interact with service animals

ISABELLA LAMB **CONTRIBUTOR**

Service animals are an active part of Willamette's campus, and it is important that people treat them with respect. Naturally, seeing an animal gets a person excited, but sometimes being cautious of one's actions is necessary.

More often than not, it is easy to assume that an animal enjoys attention and wants to be pet, but this is not always the case. Being mindful of the service animals on campus is crucial to improving the wellbeing of students with disabilities.

According to Sam Nurmi ('22), a member of Willamette's Disability Advocacy Club, the manner of greeting a service animal is crucial. She says in reference to her dog, Newton, "People cannot just come up, because he is working." If the area is more crowded, he is most likely working, and it can be stressful if someone comes up and tries to greet him. However, if Newton's vest is off and they are just playing around, "they can treat him like a normal dog."

Often, people will greet service animals without permission of the owner or the person they are assisting. Nurmi said that if people ask to pet her dog and if she says no, they should "respect it" and not "take it personally, because he's just doing his job."

Nurmi added: "The handlers of the dogs are people. It is nice just our dogs!" Often, people are distracted by the animal, but you should make on your own."

for you to say hello to us and not last treatments you should try, and it should not be a decision

alert and response. She also explained that Oregon has public access rights for service dogs in

can look like a lot of "tasking," as Nurmi called it, as they learn what exactly to do in medical emergencies.

There are a number of organizations that offer people access to service animals. For example, Katherine Locker ('23) got her dog from Canine Companions for Independence. The program that Locker's golden lab mix was in included a training of two years, so from birth, he was in

Having a service animal can be stressful for the owner, especially when students or people passing by have an urge to pet the service animal. It is important for people to be wary of the signs on service animals, which may ask people to not touch them. Locker explained that touching them is "a hindrance to the animal." The service animal's ultimate task is to focus on the person they're with, and by not being mindful of the animal, this can take away from the animal's job and focus on its handler.

The Disability Advocacy Club meets weekly on Monday in Ford 201 from 5:10 to 6 p.m.

"The service animal's ultimate task is to focus on the person they're with, and by not being mindful of the animal, this can take away from the animal's job and fo-cus on its handler."

make sure to greet the handlers and ask permission before you pet their service animal.

Getting a service animal can also be a tricky process. Nurmi explained, "They're one of the

Program service animals are also very expensive, and so Nurmi actually worked with a trainer to train Newton herself. Nurmi's animal is fully trained by law, and is trained in medical

training, so it would be possible to train on campus, if students are seeking this as an option. Currently, Newton is working on public access, and how to perfect day-to-day actions. Training

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Horoscopes: week of Nov. 13-20

BILLY ULLMANN LIFESTYLES EDITOR



Aries: The moon enters Gemini on Nov. 13, bringing an air of play and exploration. On Nov.

15, the moon enters defensive Cancer before entering proud Leo on Nov. 17, so don't be surprised if you find yourself wanting attention. Mars goes into Scorpio on Nov. 18, possibly bringing some hidden motivations or emotions to the surface; watch your temper and make sure there's a good reason for what you're doing.

Taurus: On Nov. 13, moon enters Gemini; don't be afraid to explore other perspectives and remember change can be good. The moon then goes into sensitive Cancer on Nov. 15, so tend vour emotional garden. The moon enters Leo on Nov. 17, making it a good time to show off your accomplishments or best self. Mars goes into sister sign Scorpio on Nov. 18; watch out for possessiveness and getting too caught up in your mind.

Gemini: The moon enters your sign on Nov. 13, making it a good time to see others and make connections. On Nov. 15, the moon moves into

Cancer, so you'll probably have less motivation to go out and more to look inwards. The moon goes into Leo on Nov. 17 which will likely give you a feeling of confidence. Mars exits Libra and goes into Scorpio on Nov. 18. While Mars is in Scorpio, try not to get too caught up in the details of how or why things happen.

Cancer: The moon is in curious and spontaneous Gemini be-





Leo: On Nov. 13, the moon goes into Gemini, putting you in a mood to socialize and connect. But

as the moon enters Cancer on Nov. 15, you'll probably want to focus more on self care. The moon is in your sign starting Nov. 17, so feel free to be confident and secure in yourself. Mars leaves Libra and enters Scorpio on Nov. 18. This transition will likely make you want to dig deeper into the intentions of others.

Virgo: The moon enters Gemini on Nov. 13, likely giving you a little bit of ease with communication and mental process-

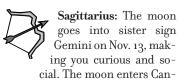
es. On Nov. 15, the moon goes into Cancer; remember that yourself is something that needs care too. The moon then goes into Leo on Nov. 17, making you more likely to be forward and seen. Mars moves into Scorpio the next day. This transit will likely bring hidden emotions or motivations to the surface and call you to act.

Libra: The moon moves into Gemini on Nov. 13; let yourself have fun and be curious. Check in with yourself and make sure you're taking care of yourself as the moon enters Cancer on Nov. 15. On Nov. 17, the moon enters Leo, so flaunt yourself and flirt with others, if that's what makes you feel best. Mars leaves your sign and enters Scorpio on Nov. 18, bringing the motivations of the actions of yourself and others to your attention.

Scorpio: Stir up some chaos while the moon is in Gemini until Nov. 15, when it enters Cancer. During the Cancer moon, try to let go of any old resentments or

pain. On Nov. 17, the moon moves

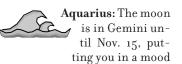
into Leo, making you proud and unashamed to bask in the attention of others. Mars enters your sign on Nov. 18; make sure you know what you're doing before you're doing it and pay attention to what motivates your actions.



cer on Nov. 15, so give your home and well being some attention. On Nov. 17, the moon enters fellow fire sign Leo, which may give you a feeling of security with the self. The next day, Mars enters Scorpio, bringing intensity to your desires and possibly unearthing some hidden side of you or others.

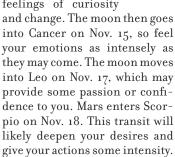
Capricorn: The moon enters Gemini on Nov. 13, so play around a bit and ask yourself 'Why not?' a bit more. The moon moves into sister sign Cancer on Nov. 15, pulling your attention inwards to examine what works and what doesn't. The moon then goes into Leo on Nov. 15, bringing you energy to socialize with sureness. On Nov. 18, Mars moves into Scorpio, which may make you feel more self-aware and intentional in

your choices.



to explore and learn. The moon then enters Cancer, so check in with yourself and make sure all is well, emotionally and physically. On Nov. 17, the moon goes into sister sign Leo, so let yourself be seen and heard. Mars enters Scorpio the next day. This transit of Mars may bring some intensity and a feeling of discovering hidden parts of yourself and others.

Pisces: On Nov. 13, the moon enters Gemini, bringing feelings of curiosity



DISCLAIMER: I am not a professional or trained astrologist. Any guesses made are simply that:

> aeull mann @will am ette.eduGraphics: Blake Carlile



Team of the week: men's basketball

JACOB BLOOM

STAFF WRITER

Men's basketball's Head Coach Kip Ioane treats the beginning of every new season like the beginning of an untouched puzzle: "You're trying to figure out how these 20 humans fit together here. Does that same puzzle hold when you go on the court, when you go on the plane, when you go in the locker room? The challenge is trying to align everybody together, and it's never the same."

This Saturday, Nov. 9, Willamette University's men's basketball team had a home game against Montclair State. Although the 74-107 loss wasn't the outcome the Bearcats were hoping for, the team isn't getting too caught up on individual losses. Instead, they're focused on learning and growing from the valuable experience they gain early in the season before their Northwest Conference (NWC) matches begin. Coach Ioane said: "We want to win, don't get me wrong, but it's also with our eyes on Dec. 7, on the [NWC] opener against Lewis and Clark, that's when we need to be firing on all cylinders. If it takes a while to get there, that's alright."

Junior center Ben Sutton agreed with his coach: "We don't want to diminish the importance of our upcoming games... the main objective is before the conference play starts to figure out our roles on our team and how to get our potential to the maximum."

For the Bearcats, learning from a loss is more desirable than winning without gaining any substantial



First-year Jack Boydell goes for a three-point shot in WU's most recent game against Montclair State.

experience to grow from. Although simply put, the Bearcats were athletically outmatched against their NCAA Division I opponent the University of Portland on Tuesday, Nov. 5, losing 36-86, Junior forward Ryan Peterson sees games like these as valuable experience: "It was hard, but it was good for us, because playing against a team like that, where they're moving much faster than we are, then you go and play against [a] Division III team and everything slows down and it's a lot easier, so I think it will be good for us down the road to have that experience."

In addition to seeing growth on the basketball court, character development is something the Bearcats see as equally important as they prepare for the season. Coach Ioane sees healthy communication as crucial for a thriving team: "We're committed to our team's character development, and really driving healthy manhood. I think that the culture of self-reflection is a culture we try to get the guys to buy into. They're not afraid to have conversations with each other, with me [or] with the whole group about difficult stuff. I think that makes it easier when we lose a game... but also, we can have conversations about difficult issues. It makes us better communicators with each other as a whole."

One unique way that the Bearcats are trying to promote a healthy team environment for the players is through a junior mentorship program for first-years. Coach Ioane said of the program: "[The first-

years] have a mentor that's in the junior class. We pair them together for two years, so by the time they're juniors they're ready to mentor another first-year. [The juniors] have to meet every week with [the firstyears] and it could just be thirty minutes of Fifa, doesn't matter. It's always easier to talk to an upperclassman than to me if they're struggling or stressed."

Peterson expanded on this idea: "It's interesting because the mentor program started when we were firstyears, so you don't really remember how many questions you had for your mentor in terms of things you didn't know when you first showed up on campus, so it feels like they're just asking questions left and right but there is so much learning [that's necessary when] coming to school at Willamette.'

If there had to be one purveying value on the basketball team, it would the value of togetherness. This is Peterson's favorite part of the team: "When I came in as a [firstyear] we had an awesome group of individuals on the team that had made me feel really welcome, and now I feel really good making the incoming guys feel really welcome."

Coach Ioane, who played all four years at Willamette when he was a student, feels the same way: "We don't remember the scores anymore." From his time as a player on the team, he said, "It's togetherness that I remember best."

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Willamette coaches open up about coaching career beginnings

BRITT SHUNN-MITCHELL

CONTRIBUTOR

On Monday, Nov. 4, the Athletics Department had a culture-building event focused on coaching careers after college. At 8 p.m., rows of the Ford Theater Room were filled with athletes from a handful of sports. They all came to have a discussion with a panel of coaches and athletic trainers. The event was led by Associate Athletic Director Leslie Shevlin. To start off the event, all of the people on the panel introduced themselves. Then, women's basketball Head Coach Peg Swadener asked the audience members to introduce themselves as well. Once introductions were through, Shevlin opened the room up for questions.

Assistant Athletic Trainer Teddie Reese shared her story, which started at Willamette University years before she got hired at WU. By her junior year in college, Reese knew she wanted to be an athletic trainer. One of her close friends went to WU, which helped open up the pathway for Reese to get an internship at WU during her senior year of college. After her internship she went on to grad school, kowing she wanted to work at the Division III level. For her, "the main thing was getting to work with a variety of athletes." At a smaller school, Reese gets the opportunity to see many different athletes and work with many different sports, whereas at larger schools, athletic trainers are assigned a single team or even just a small group of athletes on a

team. Reese ended her story with some advice: "Make the most of your time when you have it... The biggest thing I learned in grad school is to make the most of every opportunity"

Men's and women's swimming Head Coach Brent Summers began coaching in the club swimming world. His first team was a group of six to 10-year-olds which Summers said, for swimming, is a good age for growth in the sport. Once he started on the path to get his masters, he took a break from swimming because he never set out to have a career in athletics," but is now grateful to have one. Summers said regarding club coaching: "I was happy to leave club coaching. It can be very cutthroat and political... College athletics give you so much outside of the sport." Summers emphasized that he also enjoys supporting student-athletes outside of his own team as an athletic liaison. He mentioned that in this role he reworked the grade-check system, transforming it from small cards athletes had to have professors sign and grade to a full sheet of paper with the addition of a comments section, attendance check-in and a place to mark if a student is on a path to success. Summers also spoke about how his approach to coaching is more holistic and meant to create better people, not just better swimmers.

Women's lacrosse Assistant Coach Annie Longtain started her coaching career while she was still in high school. She began coaching younger children to help her sport, lacrosse, spread. Once she



The athletic panel, from left to right, included Peg Swadener, Annie Longtain, Brent Summers and Teddie Reese.

went to college she knew that "in order to be happy [she] wanted to do something in athletics." She initially started out on the path to be an athletic trainer, but ended up changing course to become a coach. One member of the audience asked the panel about their work-life balance and Longtain replied: "This has to do with more my personality, work-life balance has always been a struggle for me, even as an athlete. Now that I know that everything I'm doing is for my team and Head Coach [Sarah Lautenbach, it's about trying to figure out when to say no to things... It's about knowing yourself and it is very hard because I

am very young and if I want to continue in coaching I need to make a name for myself."

Swadener began her coaching career in high school as well. She started off coaching kids and still takes time to help coach kids. Swadener had a long road getting to WU, with a lot of different coaching jobs from children to Ivy Leagues to state schools. She said: "I wanted to go big time right out of college, I wanted to do it while I was young and single and see where it would take me. Anybody who works in athletics doesn't have a work-life balance. It's a lifestyle job... with that comes the

When asked about what coaching at the Division III level means, Swadener said: "The Division III world saved my career... We may have bad days, but at the end of the day it's my favorite thing to be around my team and to be here and be a part of this... [Coaching in] Division III creates a good work-life balance because of the amount of travel." Swadener ended her story with some advice: "[The] best piece of advice is just get to know people. Just meet people, talk to people... It's a big network in athletics."

JACK KUYPER

SPORTS EDITOR

This

week at

Willamette

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Bearcat Spotlight: cross country's Kyla Shade



JAKE PROCINO STAFF WRITER

Senior Kyla Shade placed 10th in the Northwest Conference (NWC) Cross Country Championships on Saturday, Nov. 2. Shade headed Willamette's women's team, which finished in fifth place. Now, Shade and the team are preparing for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) West Regional meet, which will be held on Nov.

Shade has a long history with the sport of cross country. She started running in elementary school because she was inspired by her mom. She said: "My mom decided to run half-marathons and me, being the curious little kid said, 'I want to come, too!' I ran with her, and then in middle school, I got into track."

Now, Shade manages to balance 14 hours of running a week with classes. Shade said: "Running makes me a lot more productive. I would have a hard time doing school without running. Running is kind of my release from the day. So it allows me to study for four hours and then run for an hour and take out all my frustrations and refocus and come back to school with a fresh mindset."

Academics and cross country both factored into her attending Willamette University. "I found Willamette through [a] Google search, where I [searched] 'colleges in Oregon with an exercise science program.' And then I came to visit and I fell in love with the campus and the people....I wanted to run in college and I knew I wanted a program that focused heavily on academics while still giving you a really competitive running program... Most people assume Division III athletics is like worse than DI [or] DII athletics, but really it's not true. I think it's just a value shift [towards academics]." Shade mentions last year she missed two races to present clinical research on chronic pain management at conferences and that the time she does not spend with the team, she spends in the Chemistry Hearth.

The women's cross country team mostly runs in team events. This has resulted in a lot of pack running training during practice. Shade said: "We are close enough that we can work out as a team... We're training for competition, so we're not trying to kill ourselves at every practice. It's more important to build up the confidence of the team than [one person] getting a little bit better of a workout."

This pack running mentality has resulted in the members of the women's team getting very close. They attend many events together throughout the year, which usually starts with a camping trip at the beginning of the year in Sisters, OR, and includes going to a pumpkin patch in October.

This chemistry within the women's cross country team will be important for them as they continue with this championship season. In response to the team's fifth-place finish at last weekend's NWC Championships, Shade said: "I wasn't happy with it. Individually, I definitely could've done better. Sometimes you just have off days in running, and you have to move on from that and look forward to the next opportunity... As a team, fifth is pretty disappointing, especially coming off of last year, placing first... We are a better team than we were last vear.

For the women at the NWC Championships, Shade led the pack with her 10th place finish. First-year Sam Smith finished right behind her in 14th place. Sophomore Audrey Piacsek finished 3rd for WU and 18th overall, followed by junior Risa Shutz in 26th and Molly Murphy-Brown in 43rd. Leading the men to a sixth-place finish in the race was senior Michael Montague with a third-place individual finish. Senior Kellen Bulger finished next for WU in 22nd place. Rounding out WU's top five runners for the men's race were first-year Ronan Davies in 27th place, sophomore Alex Matteson in 37th place and first-year Gabe Regimbal in 39th place.

Regarding gearing up for Regionals, Shade said: "I think there are definitely some issues that have to be addressed in terms of team morale going into Regionals. You can't expect to fail going into a race, or you're going to [fail]. I think if we can pull it together and run like we've been training to run all season, we'll have a good race at regionals."

Races at Regionals will be different than previous meets. The NWC championship races only had about 90 runners, whereas Regionals will have about 300 people running in each race.

Shade said: "I try to treat Regionals like any other race. My coach says he's not asking me to do something strange or out of the ordinary. On race day you're just expected to give your 100

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The Sparks staff is looking for

input and advice from the Wil-

"It's hard to figure out where

the weak spots are on your own.

When we get out the advertising

for [a Sparks inclusivity] event,

we're going to open it up to ev-

eryone to approach us and say,

'This is a problem we have in this

space,' or 'This is something we would like to see,' giving [every-

one] the opportunity to tell us

what they need, instead of trying

nity so we want it to be a success

the first time. And knowing that

this can be a sensitive topic, we're trying to go slowly, just

so that our intentions are clear.

Everyone has a right to work on

their own physical fitness, what-

'We want this to be success-

to guess what they need."

Sat. 11/9 Whitworth @ Willamette First-year Jackie Gilroy scored the game-winning goal at 75:12. Sun. 11/10 Whitman @ Willamette WHITMAN 0-3

MEN'S SOCCER Sat. 11/9 Willamette @ Linfield 0-0

Junior Anthony Richard - Bassett registered four saves.

FOOTBALL Sat. 11/9 Willamette @ Puget Sound 14-56 Senior Alec Stevenson led the

WU defense with 15 tackles and a

fumble recovery.

Next week's match: 11/16: Pacific Lutheran @ Willamette

VOLLEYBALL Pacific Lutheran @ Willamette LUTES 0-3 Senior Jenifer Lane recorded 15 Sat. 11/9 Willamette @ Pacific

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Sat. 11/9

Senior Kassin Hopkins led WU with 14 points, five rebounds, six assists and three steals.

Willamette @ Northwest

Christian

Sun. 11/10 Walla Walla @ Willamette 55-83

Next week's matches: 11/15: Pamona-Pitzer at Willamette 11/16: UC Santa Cruz at Willamette

MEN'S BASKETBALL Tue. 11/5 Willamette @ University of Portland 36-86 Sat. 11/9

Montclair State @ Willamette 107-74 First-year Cade Whicker led WU

with 22 points and 10 rebounds.

Next week's match: 11/16: Corban at Willamette

CROSS COUNTRY

Next week's meet: 11/16: NCAA Division III West Regional at Pamona-Pitzer Colleges

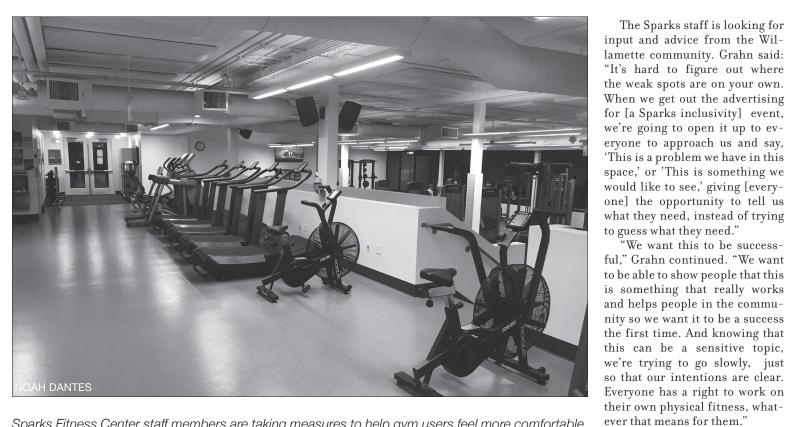
SWIMMING

Next week's meets: 11/15: Willamette at Whitman 11/16: Willamette at Whitworth

All images in the score boxes are used courtesy of the respective institutions and do not belong to the *Collegian*.

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Sparks Fitness Center aims to improve facilities' inclusivity



Sparks Fitness Center staff members are taking measures to help gym users feel more comfortable.

CONTINUED from Page 1

"We're trying to have a clear and appropriate set of consequences for when teams break the rules. Something we're really trying to work on this year is having equal access, equal opportunity and equal accountability for everyone in the space," Grahn

These changes have been happening at a slow and steady pace, as evidenced by one of the recent

rule changes in Sparks regarding open hours. Athletic teams used to have 24-hour access to Sparks while other students did not. This rule has since been changed and the open hours have been made the same for everyone.

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Greater efforts needed from Housing to ensure equity for all students

CONTINUED from Page 1

Scott Etherton, director of Housing, admitted that in years past the software used for sorting students only had options for male, female and non-binary gender markers. Students also have the option to indicate a preference for privacy concerning their gender, which serves to alert housing that their on-campus gender identity may not be public knowledge beyond Willamette. Stephanie Leeth, Eastside area coordinator, explained that there are options for incoming first-year students to input notes and indicate certain preferences, but that the housing office has been working with campus partners to find ways to make gender-based accommodation more accessible in the future. For example, new language will appear on future Housing forms for incoming first years that will allow students to select how "eager" they are to live with a "Sexual minority peer (LGBTQ+), gender-minority peer (trangender, non-binary), racial minority peer, international student peer, or student peer with a disability."

Jade Aguilar, VP of diversity and inclusion, explained that this change was brought about by "students in the Trans Advocacy Committee [who were] uncomfortable that their roommates didn't opt-in to live with a transgender student.

Their roommate might not know they aren't cis-gender. We had to be careful because we don't offer opt-out for other situations, like we wouldn't let someone opt—out of living with a racial minority."

Aguilar also announced to campus at the start of the semester that a new option for students to update their gender and pronouns would now be available in SAGE.

Aguilar explained: "The new gender option in SAGE asks for both pronouns and gender. The gender part is hidden, except Housing has access to it specifically to be able to see it and make appropriate assignments. Pronouns are visible to anyone who goes in and looks."

The general consensus of administrators interviewed on the topic can be summed up in the words of Leeth: "I have been here for two years. I think I have seen more and more students feel comfortable sharing their gender identity if it isn't binary. I, as an administrator, appreciate that because I can't know to make the accommodation unless it is shared with us, so we appreciate when people are comfortable and willing. However, we don't expect everyone to be on that comfort level."

It appears that social and cultural developments have been influencing considerable change in the way that gender is addressed and accommodated across campus. However, at a bureaucratic level, change can be slow as old systems are phased out of the marketing, software and paperwork that has been circulated at administrative levels for a number of years. There is also a concerted effort and support on behalf of campus leaders to get the greater Willamette community on the same page regarding modern sexual and gendered social and cultural norms pertinent in WU society. Interns and leadership in the Gender Resource Advocacy Center (GRAC) have been developing a program to teach WU communities to appropriately and respectfully interact with LGBTQ+ groups, The GRAC is providing education geared for potential audiences, such as faculty and administrative audiences and student organizations. The program has been extensively workshopped by GRAC interns, who will begin offering the presentation more widely-starting with Housing and RA staff-during the Spring

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ADVERTISEMENT

TikTok trend comes to Willamette

CLAIRE ALONGI STAFF WRITER

It seems like just yesterday that Vine was the ruling short-form video social media app. But since Twitter bought the app and discontinued it, TikTok has replaced Vine as the short video social media giant. For those of you who might be feeling a bit out of the loop, TikTok is a social media platform that allows users to post 15 second short videos. In the piece "The History of TikTok," Teen Vogue describes how Tik-Tok was created when Chinese company ByteDance bought Musical.ly and merged it with their own lip synching app. Like many social media apps before it, TikTok is aimed mainly at users in the 18-24 age demographic. Even so, it's a bit of a pleasant shock to learn that Willamette University is hosting a Tik-Tok-based competition. Yes, you read that correctly.

Nov. 4's Today@Willamette email announced: "Be in Willamette's first TikTok video! All Willamette students are invited to enter the Willamette TikTok Video Contest. Deadline: Nov. 24." It's not a bad move, as TikTok is incredibly popular right now. According to the longer post on the WU website, first place gets 100 Bistro bucks, second place is 50 Bistro bucks and third is 25 Bistro bucks.

"TikTok has over one billion users, many who are college-bound or current college students. Currently, it is one of the fastest growing social media platforms. As a future-focused institution, Willamette is committed to engaging with our current and prospective students in authentic ways on

platforms where they are," said J.R. Tarabocchia, assistant vice president for admissions marketing. He noted that the rather large Bistro buck prizes were to account for students submitting TikToks as a group.

Even with all that in mind, students like sophomore Brady McDevitt were certainly thrown off by the news.

"I will be perfectly honest with you, I laughed out loud when I saw it on the Today@Willamette email," she said. "Willamette is catching on with the trends and I love it."

McDevitt is a regular Tik Tok user who has a pretty positive view of the app. "TikTok brings creators together and is a great form of entertainment," she said. This was a sentiment echoed by sophomore Hattie Lewis. She also uses the app, mainly for entertainment, and added: "It's perfect for study breaks. As a social media platform, it's mainly for memes."

Lewis is a little on the fence about whether or not she'll join the competition and is concerned about how the TikToks will be judged. But McDevitt seems to have no reservations.

"I am super excited that Willamette is offering a competition that inspires students to express their creativity in this way. If I can win 100 Bistro bucks for being funny, you best believe that I will be trying my hardest to get it," she said.

So even if the contest is a little out of the blue and the concept of WU trying to be hip with the times is a little odd, the TikTok competition does have promise as a fun thing to do with friends and as an opportunity to fund your Bistro trips for the foreseeable future.

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