

COLLEGIAN

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Students express disdain for Valentine’s Day

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Around this time of year, you may notice an abundance of heart-shaped balloons, chocolates and cards crowding grocery store aisles and T.V. ads. But Willamette students report that the holiday just doesn’t cut it.

Valentine’s Day’s consumeristic focus creates a narrow and exclusionary narrative that this generation overall appears to have difficulty relating to. With shifting ideas of love, as well as changing ideas of what constitutes a valid relationship, Valentine’s Day’s appeal is also shifting.

According to the National Retail Association, in 2020 Americans are projected to spend \$27.4 billion on Valentine’s Day. This is a record high spending amount, but just as surprisingly, only 55 percent of Americans are expected to partake. Participation in Valentine’s Day is down from 63 percent celebrating in 2009, but those who choose to participate

are spending more and more.

This leaves one to question, what factors contribute to the rise in spending but decrease in participation? Who is not celebrating and why?

Those who were interviewed on the subject reported an overwhelming feeling of artificiality surrounding the holiday. Akeyla Hernandez (’20) responded: “It feels like the common narrative about Valentine’s Day [is] a really manufactured capitalist kind of holiday.” Maddy Jones (’22) agreed, calling it “a huge marketing scam.”

McKenzie Potter-Moen (’22) added to this point, saying, “It just puts emotions onto people so that they buy shit. It [is] a slippery logical slope which controls how they feel, which controls how they buy.”

According to Hallmark’s corporate website, 144 million Hallmark cards on average are sold for Valentine’s Day and over 36 million heart-shaped chocolate boxes are sold. The company 1-800-Flowers gets one million new customers on Valentine’s Day



This artistic depiction shows common Valentine’s Day gifts.

alone.

However, interviewees claimed those sales are due more to feeling obligated to buy than from genuine acts of care. Genevieve Melko (’20) weighed in, saying, “It feels

like you need to buy flowers for the ones you love and send cards or maybe you’re bad at love.”

WILLAMETTE, 5

College to change its name

NOAH DANTES
MANAGING EDITOR

After two years of conversation among student, faculty and administrative representatives, Willamette University is changing the name of its College of Liberal Arts (CLA) to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), a change which will be effective this upcoming fall term.

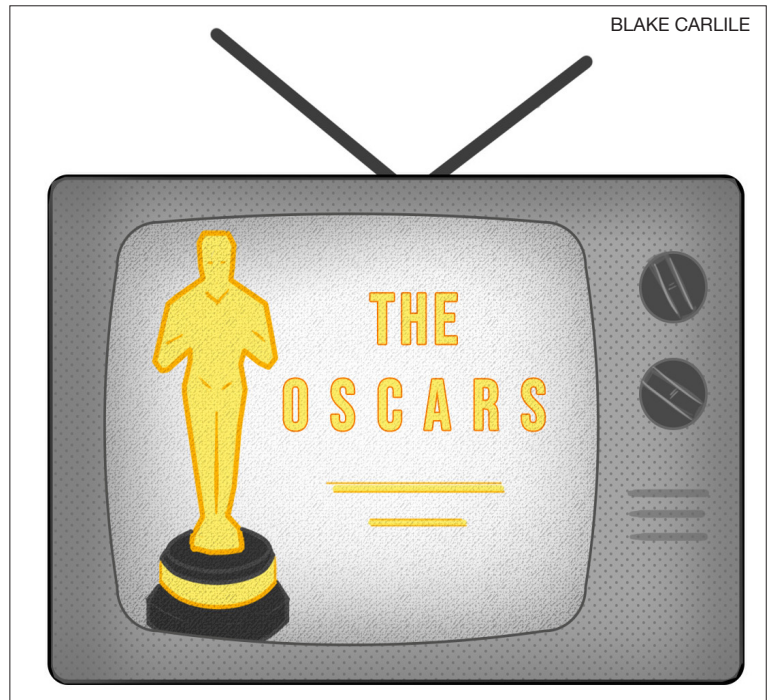
While the name of Willamette’s undergraduate college is changing, its commitment to liberal arts education remains unwavering.

“We’re trying to be more transparent and thoughtful about what students coming into the college search process are thinking about,” University President Stephen Thorsett said.

Willamette is part of the Annapolis Group, which is an organization made up of over 130 liberal arts colleges. The group commissioned a set of surveys on college applicant’s understanding of the words ‘liberal arts,’ and found that many didn’t understand that it is a broad term that includes the sciences, fine arts, social sciences and the humanities.

CLA, 3

The Oscars’ slow progress toward inclusivity



The 2019 Academy Awards, or the Oscars, were held on Feb. 9.

CLAIRE ALONGI
STAFF WRITER

The Academy Awards come around once every year, and just as timely are the articles that decry the show’s lack of diverse nominees; like in past years, the 2019 Oscar nominations were overwhelmingly white and male, although there were exceptions. This year had some historic wins: Bong Joon-Ho’s South Korean film “Parasite” won awards for Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, Best Director and

Best International Feature Film) and Taiki Waititi, an Indigenous man, won Best Adapted Screenplay for “Jojo Rabbit.” However, these are exceptions to larger trends, and it’s still debatable what purpose the Oscars serve if they aren’t willing to honor the full scope of excellent movies being produced each year.

The Oscars have some artists of color in past years: Jordan Peele’s “Get Out” scored a handful of nominations in 2018. In 2017, Barry Jenkins’ “Moonlight” made history for its win, its coming-of-age story

about a gay, black man and its majority black cast and crew. Despite these exceptions, Oscar nominations and wins still largely favor white artists.

There were only three non-white nominees across all acting and directing categories: actor Antonio Banderas (Best Actor for “Pain and Glory”), actor Cynthia Erivo (Best Actress for “Harriet”) and director Bong Joon-Ho (“Parasite”). No women were nominated for Best Director, despite this year being the “highest percentage of female directors [...] seen” according to Stacy L. Smith, director of the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative at the University of Southern California.

The lack of women nominated for Best Director was a major talking point of the night. It was highlighted in a monologue by Chris Rock and Christ Martin, and even on Natalie Portman’s cloak. Portman’s cloak had the names of snubbed female directors embroidered along its edge.

Several notable actors of color did not receive nominations, including Lupita Nyong’o (“Us”), Awkwafina (“The Farewell”), Jodie Turner Smith and Daniel Kaluuya (“Queen and Slim”) and Eddie Murphy (“Dolemite Is My Name”).

OPINION: OSCARS, 7

‘Night to Shine’ sparks new friendships with football

JAMES WILLIS
SPORTS EDITOR

On Feb. 7, students with special needs in Salem gathered at Salem Alliance Church to have a celebration at the Night to Shine event. Night to Shine was started by former NFL player Tim Tebow, whose foundation sponsors the events. It has since grown into an international event, and every state hosts a Night to Shine. For the second year in a row, Willamette football players were invited to volunteer at this event, where they helped with the set-up and clean up. Additionally, the players got to be “buddies” with students and were able to be their “date” for the evening.

According to football head coach Isaac Parker, he found out about the event “through social media mainly. I had seen Oregon State be involved in the event as well. My family attends Salem Alliance Church, and my wife told me that they would be hosting the event.”

According to Parker, the headcount of this year’s event was over 1,500. This number includes the volunteers and participants. His favorite part of the entire night was “both volunteers and guests enjoying each other’s company. It is a total

blast to hang out with someone and get to know each other.”

Parker plans to not only get student athletes in other sports involved, but to open this opportunity to the entire Willamette Community. He noted that this is an amazing opportunity for everyone, as not all students have experience interacting with people with special needs. He mentioned that some players had trepidations before the event, but said that the group quickly found out that “we have more in common than we do differences.”

Carson Pies (’22) volunteered at both last year and this year’s Night to Shine event. He described what a volunteer’s experience looks like: “I signed up two months in advance and had to submit a background check. On the night of the event, I waited in a room until I was paired up with my buddy. My buddy was in a wheelchair and needed someone who understood sign language.” From there, the two went on a limo ride, got a boutineer and arrived at a red carpet entrance.

FOOTBALL, 6



Grant funds programs to aid student success

JACOB BLOOM
STAFF WRITER

Willamette University has recently been awarded a Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust grant worth \$40,000. The grant will fund a series of new Academic Support programs created with a focus on supporting first-generation and underrepresented college students. The programs, which are set to launch this fall, will be available to all Willamette students.

Specifically, the grant will allow for the creation of three new and unique programs: peer academic coaching, supplemental instruction and motivational interviewing. According to the Director of Academic Support Kelvin Clark, all three of the programs were created with an awareness of student development theory: the idea that a student's academic success is determined by far more than their intellectual capabilities. The programs will place a strong emphasis on the student's emotional and personal development in addition to teaching more conventional academic strategies.

One of the programs, peer academic coaching, is already underway. This past fall and current spring semester, 15 Willamette students have either completed or enrolled in a half semester class that will certify them to be academic coaches during the fall of 2020. According to Clark, the class will teach students to help their peers improve their academic mindset and behaviors. This means providing them strategies to improve their attendance, or teaching them ways to persevere through setbacks.

"When you're meeting with a student and they're ready to drop out of school because they failed a quiz, it is not necessarily related to their academic abilities. You're managing their emotions. The frustration is with the school,

themselves and the outcome... You don't just focus on the grade, you focus on the student as a person," said Clark.

The program also places a strong emphasis on teaching first-generation college students how to navigate unfamiliar systems and resources at Willamette. According to Clark, a large part of this means providing first-generation students with "cultural capital."

Cultural capital is the idea that different students have different privileges and knowledge based on the community they grew up in. For example, a student whose parents went to college is more likely to understand how to navigate certain systems within Willamette than students whose parents did not attend college. Clark said that a large aim of the peer tutoring program is to increase the transparency of many institutions at Willamette.

"Particularly with the peer academic coaching program, the goal is to help first-generation, low income, not from Salem [students]. How can we make everything that's implicit, explicit for a first-generation college student? We want to be really transparent with financial aid, registration, course selection, why we choose a major, where the resources are, how you access them and when you access them," said Clark.

Supplemental instruction is another program the grant will fund. The Supplemental Instruction Program is designed specifically to assist students in "high risk courses," or classes where Ds, Fs and withdrawals occur the most frequently. Courses that are part of this program will provide peer teachers who not only have taken and succeeded in these courses, but who are also attending the course again. Peer teachers meet with the professor of the course twice a week to communicate what materials are most important for



EXENE VANDENBERG

Kelvin Clark

enrolled students to understand. The peer teachers will then designate instructional time outside of class to teach material specific to the course. Clark said that this is a crucial aspect of the program, since different professors differ on areas of focus even when teaching the same course.

The last program the grant will fund is "motivational interview." Motivational interview is a technique to uncover the motivations behind a student's academic habits. Clark said this is a process for students to understand why their

goals do not align with their actions: "You say you want to get As, but you don't go to class. There needs to be a systematic way how to question this."

According to Clark, a primary goal of the three new programs that will launch in the fall semester is to allow for more students to use the services at Academic Support. Clark said that all three of these programs have the advantage that they rely on peer support, meaning that these programs will be available after regular hours, as well as more accessi-

ble for students who may not want to schedule an appointment days in advance.

"Right now about 10 percent of students use my services. What I want students to know is I'm providing these different access points to resources, because I know students need help in different ways. When you need help, seek it and we will try to provide," said Clark.

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WEEKLY REPORT BY CAMPUS SAFETY

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Jan. 31, 9:17 a.m. (Atkinson Graduate School of Management): An employee contacted Campus Safety to report a suspicious individual in the area. An officer met with the individual and they left campus.

Jan. 31, 12:40 p.m. (University Center): Campus Safety received a call reporting a suspicious individual soliciting signatures from students. The individual left after meeting with an officer.

Feb. 1, 12:44 p.m. (Sparks Field): While on patrol, Willamette Watch encountered a suspicious individual near the field. An officer responded

and met with the individual who then left campus.

Feb. 4, 8:41 a.m. (Ferry Street): Campus Safety received a call reporting a suspicious individual yelling while walking down the street. An officer responded and observed the individual until they were off campus.

Feb. 4, 4:05 p.m. (Northwood Hall): Campus Safety received a call from a student reporting two suspicious individuals smoking. Officers responded and encountered the individuals who were leaving campus.

Feb. 4, 8:18 p.m. (Baxter Hall): Campus Safety received a call from a Resi-

dent Advisor (RA) reporting a suspicious individual they did not recognize who had entered a restroom. Officers responded and searched the building and surrounding areas, but could not locate the individual.

Feb. 5, 2:17 p.m. (Sparks Center): While on patrol, Willamette Watch encountered a suspicious individual who was walking slowly and unsteadily. An officer responded and observed the individual until they were off campus.

Feb. 5, 5:35 p.m. (Law School): Campus Safety received a call from a student reporting a suspicious individual loitering and harass-

ing students in the area. An officer responded and met with the individual who then left campus.

Feb. 6, 2:35 p.m. (Hatfield Fountain): Campus Safety received a call reporting skateboarders skating on the fountain. An officer responded and met with the individuals who then left campus.

Feb. 6, 10:12 p.m. (Winter Street): Campus Safety received a call from a student reporting screaming and yelling near the Law School. An officer responded and was flagged down by other individuals reporting the same thing. The officer located the individual yelling as they were crossing the

street toward the hospital. The officer contacted Salem Hospital Security to let them know of the situation.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Feb. 6, 8:03 p.m. (Softball parking lot): Campus Safety received a call from a student reporting their car had been damaged by another vehicle in the parking lot. An officer responded and met with the student and a report was filed.

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

Students staff campaign of Senate candidate

ANNA SEAHILL
STAFF WRITER

Deb Patterson’s campaign for Senate District 10, an area that encompasses Marion and Polk counties, is one centered around healthcare, climate change and gun laws, with the slogan “Oregon that Works for Everyone” driving Patterson’s political vision forward.

As the November 2020 election day approaches, Patterson has been working hard to get her message out and flip the district from red to blue. Back in the 2018 election, Democrat Patterson received 45.9 percent of the vote, while Republican incumbent Jackie Winters secured 53.9 percent.

Two years after that close race, students from Willamette have proven to be crucial in Patterson’s second push for state senator: her campaign manager, Malea Kirkland, is a winter 2019 Willamette graduate and three interns are current students on campus.

Kirkland, who began full-time work in January after part-time work in the fall, spends her workdays “catching up and taking all of the information from running last cycle and adapting it... being on the phone, sending emails, recruiting volunteers and managing Deb’s time.”

Her internships while in college, particularly her one as an organizing intern for Pro-Choice Oregon, as well as her experience with event planning from Willamette Events Board and past consulting work have all contributed to Kirkland’s sense of comfort with and interest in state politics.

From these opportunities came Kirkland’s appreciation for learning through involvement, which is why she hired students Claire Mathews-Lingen (’21), Ian Curtis (’23) and Bryce Henshaw (’21) to help with the campaign in exchange for hands-on political experience, academic credit and a small stipend.

Two main duties of the interns are to assist with volunteer mobilization and idea development.

Kirkland said they “bring extra eyes and brains” to the campaign.

Although there are several hundred volunteers signed up to assist with tasks such as canvassing, calling parties and postcard writing, it is difficult to bring everyone together to act. That’s partially why Kirkland and Patterson will be visiting Willamette’s College Democrats on Feb. 24. The hope is to introduce Patterson through a question-and-answer session, discuss the impact and benefits of volunteering and examine the campaign’s strategy so far.

Of course, working on a political campaign can be overwhelming and fast-paced; however, it can also be very rewarding and inspiring according to Kirkland. “As campaign manager, finding a balance between managing up and being able to say, ‘This is my opinion’ is personally challenging... I know how exciting the race is and how invested Deb is. I know it’s a big deal playing a part in something so important,” Kirkland said.

Interns Mathews-Lingen and Henshaw feel similarly about this opportunity and its personal and professional impact. Both spoke about their desires for campaign experience, their support of Patterson’s mission and the benefits of voter and constituent interactions.

Sociology major Mathews-Lingen said: “I have worked on campaigns before and I always learn so much through the hands-on work. I am excited to be working on a competitive race and will definitely be taking these skills into my future career experiences as I work more in politics and maybe eventually run my own campaign.”

Henshaw, a economics major, agreed: “As someone that has never worked on a campaign before, this was a really important first step to learn the basics of campaigning before I try to get a job in a national campaign. Also, some of the tasks that are assigned made me feel nervous, but I now have more confidence talking to others about issues that they are fac-



Deb Patterson talks to former president Barack Obama during one of her visits to the White House.

ing in their communities.”

Kirkland, Mathews-Lingen and Henshaw all acknowledged that political involvement at a young age is something that has the potential to transform the status quo and create lasting change. Henshaw concluded: “We are living in a time where the United States is having a political awakening. It is important that youth movements have a say in what the future looks like.”

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CLA name changes to reflect what WU offers

CONTINUED from Page 1

“Even in academia, especially at big universities, faculty use the phrase ‘liberal arts’ to mean the humanities, or sometimes the humanities and social sciences, as the opposite of STEM,” Thorsett said. “What they found was that in every demographic, the presence of the phrase ‘liberal arts’ reduced the interest in the school, including amongst students who were only looking at liberal arts colleges.”

Several other liberal arts institutions, including Lewis & Clark College, have already changed the name of their undergraduate college in response to these findings.

After being presented with this data, the Board of Trustees then asked the University Counsel, which is a group made up of student, faculty and administrative representatives, to discuss a possible CLA

name change. These representatives additionally consulted their individual groups on the matter. According to Thorsett, many among the faculty thought the name change was an important change to make.

Last summer, Willamette reported to the Board that there didn’t seem to be any faculty or community concern, and in their October meeting, the Board voted to make the name change. The Board will vote on it again in their upcoming February meeting to finalize the change, as any bylaw requires two votes to change.

Willamette is already using CAS in advertising to prospective students, but the name change will not officially happen on campus until the fall 2020 semester to give the University time to transition. Willamette is already scheduled for a regular website update this summer, and plans to use up the CLA-branded

items on campus instead of disposing all the old items. Some things on campus will continue to read CLA, even after the name change.

“Somewhere in the chapel there’s some stained glass that says CLA. It will always say CLA. It’s always part of our history,” Thorsett said.

Willamette is also considering shifting to using bachelor of science degrees instead of bachelor of arts degrees in its science fields. This would not change any of the requirements needed to graduate. In 2001, the University decided to stop offering bachelor of science degrees to become more similar to Ivy League schools, which only offer bachelor of arts degrees. According to Thorsett, this is not well understood on the West coast because students are often comparing Willamette to big universities, not other liberal arts colleges.

“It’s purely a labelling thing, but counselors don’t always understand

that and students don’t understand that. So, we’re trying to think, what do students, especially first-generation students, understand about what we do and where are their understandings different from what we really do and just trying to make it more transparent. That’s a general theme of all of our admissions at the moment,” explained Thorsett.

Additionally, the Board is reviewing the University’s mission statement. This review process is tied to the accreditation process, which happens in seven-year cycles. The Board has delayed the official discussion until their May meeting, but conversations are already taking place on campus.

“There’ve been some proposals for revisions that have been discussed by the University counsel... and I know the CLA faculty have had a discussion,” Thorsett said. “But I think there’s almost certainly going

to be a change in emphasis there. The new mission statement is likely to call on the University to be of service to the Northwest and the world, where the current one doesn’t. So, you can think of that as trying to express the motto at the institutional level instead of just for each of our graduates.”

The mission statement draft that was discussed last year, before the name change, used the term ‘liberal arts and sciences.’ Thorsett doesn’t yet know the phrase that will be used to describe the college in the finalized mission statement. Regardless, Willamette will continue to follow the liberal arts model.

“It’s always been a really important part of Willamette. It’ll always be a part of us, it’s just a matter of how we talk about it,” said Thorsett.

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Chinese department struggles with limited resources

CLEIGHTON ROBERTS
CONTRIBUTOR

With 1.1 billion speakers, Mandarin Chinese is the most spoken language on the planet. Until recent years, China and the U.S. were close trade partners with 18 percent of Chinese exports sent to the U.S. But despite the relevance of the Chinese language in modern-day society, Chinese Studies is the smallest language program at Willamette. The size of the program can be attributed to a number of factors, both internal and external to Willamette University.

"Historically, our Chinese program has been small, and it is relatively new," said professor Juwen Zhang. "It really started when I came here, I was the first full-time person."

Zhang came to Willamette in 2003, making the Chinese Studies program the youngest out of all the language/culture programs by quite a few years. It would be expected for a new program to start out small, but for a language as widespread as Chinese, the program has, in fact, been shrinking in recent years.

Part of the shrinkage could be due to lack of study abroad opportunities in Chinese-speaking countries. In 2015, Willamette cut its ties to its sister school in China, East China University of Political Science and Law. The only sister school in China that Willamette has now has unknown

future prospects.

"XiaMen University was our sister university but the agreement was signed over 10 years ago and it has never been renewed. Theoretically it has expired but we somehow send our students there," said Professor Zhang.

Funding is another problem that the Chinese program currently faces. While cuts don't

year, inviting speakers, hosting concerts and so on and so forth. But in recent years we haven't done as many, mostly because of the funding."

To fill the gap that the lack of culture-event funding created, Professor Zhang started two new classes last semester: one about Chinese food and medicine and another about Chinese instru-

Association (CTCA). "There are cultural anecdotes with almost every character. Chinese culture is rich in history and cultural traditions that make learning the language more engaging because of the stories of the people and the cultural values that are integrated in how words are written and spoken."

Majoring in Chinese might

ulty or staff, when they advise students they hold the idea that Chinese is so difficult, so distracting or so on, whenever you have a challenge drop Chinese first. That's the wrong message I think," said Zhang.

The last detractor from the Chinese program is the small amount of Chinese students at Willamette. Students with a Chinese background are more likely to take Chinese classes than other students because they already have a cultural connection to it.

"I am half Chinese but I didn't grow up speaking Chinese, so I saw this as an opportunity to become more connected to the culture and to the language," said Binder. Only six percent of Willamette students are Asian, and even less than that are specifically Chinese. If the Chinese population of Willamette were to increase, the amount of students in Chinese Studies would likely increase.

"In my year there are no Chinese majors that are actually Chinese. I might be the only one," said Binder.

The Chinese language program may be small, but it is kept alive by culture present in individuals, organizations and the classroom. Clubs like CTCA and professors in the Chinese department prevent this important program from dissolving.

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“Learning about culture is important when learning any language, but Chinese especially because the culture and language are so interwoven.”

directly affect the Chinese program, they affect complementary programs.

"We are in a city where there are not a lot of opportunities to learn about Chinese culture, therefore we try to promote Chinese culture through various events. In the past years we had more support from the Center of Asian Studies and for many years we held more than 10 events a

ments. They aid the language learning aspect because they give a fuller perspective on Chinese culture.

"Learning about culture is important when learning any language, but Chinese especially because the culture and language are so interwoven," said Saša Binder, a fourth-year Chinese major and the president of the Chinese Taiwanese Cultural

also not be considered by many because it is considered a highly difficult language to learn for English speakers. While the same could be said for Japanese, one of the larger language programs at Willamette, Japanese studies students have the advantage being around many native Japanese speakers, who make up the majority of campus ASP students.

"There are a few people, fac-

Horoscopes: week of Feb. 7-14

BILLY ULLMANN
CONTRIBUTOR

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE: Mercury, the planet which rules communication and travel, is in retrograde from Feb. 16, to March 10. During this time, be sure to double-check emails, think carefully about what you say and give yourself ample time while traveling. It might be a bit challenging but allow it to be a time of patience and learning.

MARS ENTERS CAPRICORN: Mars, which rules actions and desires, enters Capricorn on Feb. 16 and exits on March 30. This transit encourages you to put energy towards your goals and to fully realize your ambitions. However, do not forget that you have limits and to rest at times.

Aries: The moon is in sister Libra until Feb. 14, asking you to make a compromise or a choice. On Feb. 14, the moon goes into Scorpio; know that silence can be just as powerful as noise. The moon enters Sagittarius on Feb. 16, giving you a sense of optimism to carry with you. The moon goes into Capricorn on Feb. 18, so be productive, especially if you've been putting it off.

Taurus: The moon is in fellow Ve-

nus-ruled Libra until Feb. 14, making it a good time to meet new people. The moon enters sister sign Scorpio on Feb. 14, so be aware of your actions and their consequences. The moon goes into impulsive Sagittarius on Feb. 16; try something new. The moon enters Capricorn on Feb. 18, calling you to give attention to your responsibilities.

Gemini: With the moon in Libra until Feb. 14, it's a good time to be in the company of others. The moon enters scorpio on Feb. 14, so be aware of what makes your emotions. The moon enters sister sign Sagittarius on Feb. 16, letting you feel free and playful. On Feb. 18, the moon goes into Capricorn, allowing you to focus on what actually needs to be done for once.

Cancer: The moon is in Libra until Feb. 14, encouraging you to reach out to new people and make connections. The moon goes into Scorpio on Feb. 14, so pay attention to your emotional sensitivity and intuition. The moon enters Sagittarius on Feb. 16, giving you energy to go out of the 'ordinary' (whatever that means for you). The moon goes into sister sign Capricorn on Feb. 18; what are you working for?

Leo: Until Feb. 14, the moon is in Libra, which asks you to consider multiple perspectives.

The moon then enters Scorpio, potentially making you secretive or insecure. The moon goes into Sagittarius on Feb. 16; do what you want without caring about what anyone else thinks. The moon goes into Capricorn on Feb. 18, giving you energy to accomplish your tasks.

Virgo: The moon is in Libra until Feb. 14, so try to find seek balance and don't overthink it. The moon goes into Scorpio on Feb. 14, which encourages you to think deeply about your relationships with others. The moon enters Sagittarius on Feb. 16, asking you to act before you think, for once. The moon goes into Capricorn on Feb. 18, so pay attention to your commitments.

Libra: The moon is in your sign until Feb. 14, so let yourself have fun but remember that you are your own person. The moon goes into Scorpio on Feb. 14, asking you to look inwards and spend some time alone. On Feb. 16, the moon goes into Sagittarius; try to let go of any ideas that aren't holding you back. The moon enters Capricorn on Feb. 18, making it a good time to practice self reliance.

Scorpio: The moon is in flirty and social Libra until it enters your sign on Feb. 14. Once the moon is in your sign, feel free to exercise your emotional power. The moon goes into Sagittarius on Feb. 16, making it a good time to question the structures around you. The moon enters Capricorn on Feb. 18, so be aware of where your energy is spent and how to restore it.

Sagittarius: The moon is in Libra until Feb. 14, so try to recognize where in your life you need balance. The moon enters Scorpio on Feb. 14, encouraging you to embrace your intensity. The moon enters your sign on Feb. 16; you will likely feel free to explore and go out. The moon goes into Capricorn on Feb. 18; recognize what needs your attention when.

Capricorn: With the moon in Libra until Feb. 14, you should try to be more open with others. The moon goes into Scorpio on Feb. 14, so pay attention to your deepest and darkest wishes. What do you really want? The moon enters Sagittarius on Feb. 16, asking you to be more fun loving and outgoing. The moon enters your sign on Feb. 18, so do what you know you do best.

Aquarius: The moon is in Libra until Feb. 14, asking you to let others into your life and socialize. The moon goes into Scorpio on Feb. 14, which may make you more prone to isolate yourself; exercise awareness. On Feb. 16, the moon goes into Sagittarius, encouraging you to be candid and speak freely. The moon enters Capricorn on Feb. 16, making it a good time to set intentions.

Pisces: The moon is in Libra until Feb. 14, so if you have been waiting to shoot your shot, now is a good time. The moon enters Scorpio on Feb. 14, making you extra sensitive and emotionally aware. The moon goes into Sagittarius on Feb. 16; feel free to question everything around you and have a good time. The moon enters Capricorn on Feb. 18, asking you to work hard and focus.

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

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Graphics: Blake Carlile



Professor Profile: Karen Wood, spiritual role model



COURTESY OF WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

Karen Wood

OLIVIA FRENKEL
CONTRIBUTOR

If one were to search “Karen Wood” on Willamette’s website, the list of results would be too long. Karen Wood is Willamette’s Chaplain as well as an associate professor of religious studies, yet what catches the eye is her rich educa-

tional background and extensive experience in her field.

Wood attended Brown University in the hopes of studying languages to become a simultaneous interpreter.

“When I went to study in France my junior year, I took a couple of volumes of theology with me, Rosemary Ruether’s ‘Liberation

Theology’ and José Miranda’s ‘Marx’ and the Bible, started reading them, and came back to the States with completely different plans. It didn’t hurt that I spent a week doing translation at a conference of Latin American Christian feminists my senior year and decided that interpretation was not for me,” she said.

Wood went on to receive both an M.Div. (Master of Divinity) and a Th.D. (Doctorate of Divinity) from Harvard University, where she explored the role of liberal Jewish voices in the construction of Christian theologies of Judaism through her doctoral thesis.

“I think the expectation was that those of us who were in doctoral programs in religious studies or in religion were going to be professors and teachers, but I took quite a bit of a different route,” Wood said.

She spent a number of years “working in national and international religious dialogue settings for seminaries and for rabbinical students to help them understand the inner workings of dialogue so that they were able to tell their truths in their communities.”

Afterwards, she served as Dean of Students at Union Theological Seminary in New York City for six years before moving to the National College of Natural Medicine in Portland to take the same role.

“[At the National College of Natural Medicine] students would come saying they were a wiccan

looking for a coven or that they were wondering about the spiritual aspect of medicine, so the job itself wasn’t a seamless fit because I still wanted to talk about God for my living.”

In the early 2000s, “Willamette was one of 88 different colleges that received a \$2 million grant from Lilly Endowment for programs that help students explore vocation, so they were looking for an associate chaplain. I applied and was hired in 2002, and I’m still here!” Wood said.

She explained that her sole purpose is to guide students through questions like, ‘Who am I?’ ‘Why am I here?’ ‘What is my purpose?’ regardless of if those profound questions have any religious backing.

She was appointed as Willamette’s sole Chaplain, saying, “It’s funny because I went to graduate theology school planning to be a chaplain and it took me 25 years to actually do it.”

Recently, Wood has served on the First Year Experience task force and has been talking to students and staff on ways to improve and restructure the program. In addition, she has been working alongside other faculty to create a “series of courses that connects community, ritual and contemplative work. So far it has been a lot of fun,” she said.

Aside from her professional work, Wood has many other pas-

sions. After living in Rhode Island, a small town in Ohio, Finland, New York and Oregon, she found passion and joy from being outside.

“When I was living in New York, I realized that I had to be closer to the wilderness, so moving to the Pacific Northwest was incredible.”

She has become a frequent backpacker and skier, though there are still things she misses about bustling New York. “It was strange and quiet to move all the way here, but the wilderness makes it worth it.”

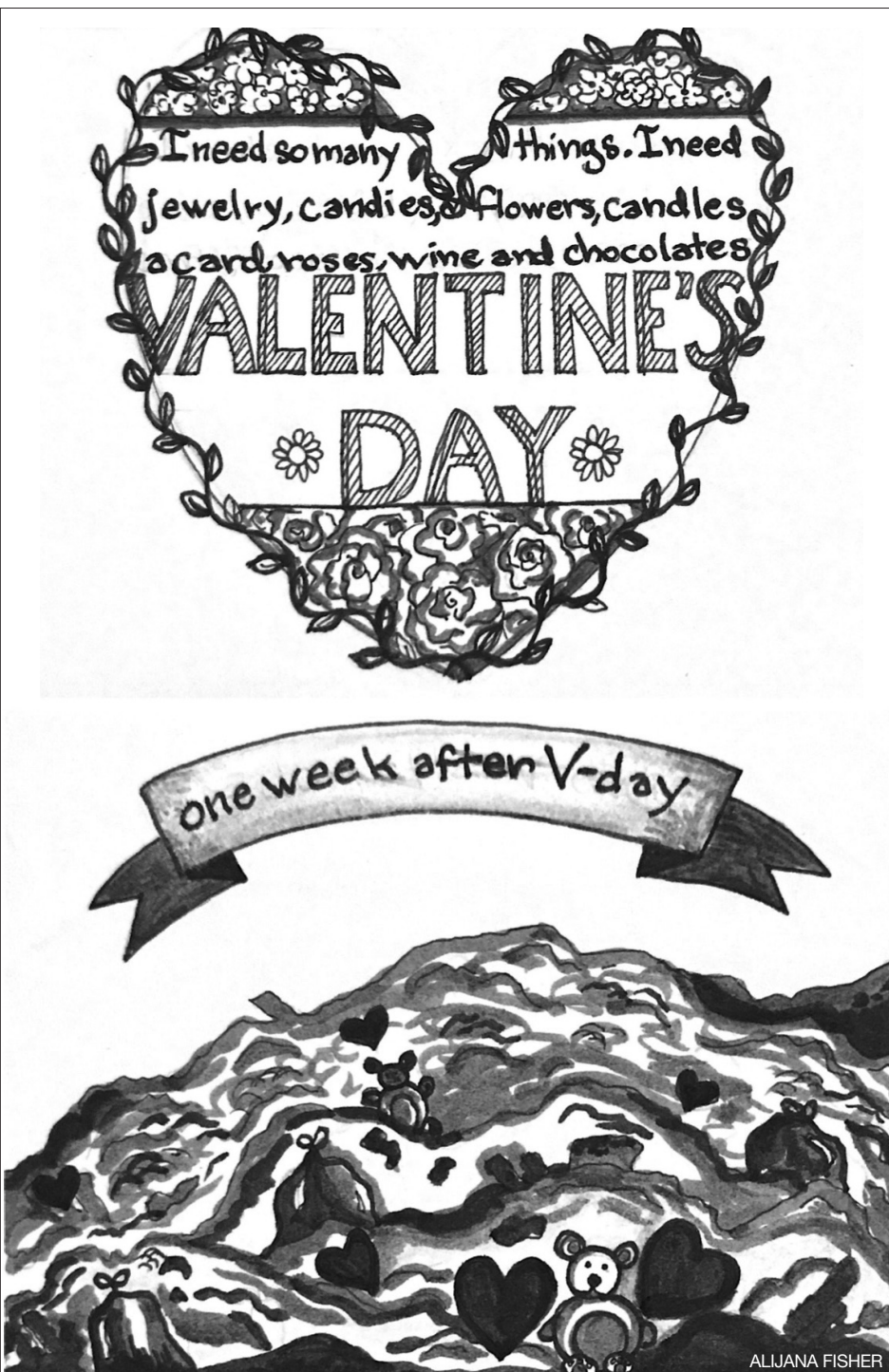
In addition to being outdoors, Wood enjoys reading a mix of mystery, science fiction and fantasy. “To pay rent in New York, I was briefly a science fiction reviewer for Kirkus Book Reviews which paid \$40 per review, so I’ve read a lot of bad science fiction and fantasy.”

One piece of advice she has for Willamette students is to “be kind. There is no way to not sound insipid when saying this, but be kind. Especially to yourself.”

She is a resource to all and can be found in her office on the second floor of the University Center in room 215 and can be contacted at kwood@willamette.edu or 503-370-6213.

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Willamette students weigh in on Valentine’s Day



ALIJANA FISHER

This graphic depicts the capitalism and materiality involved with Valentine’s Day.

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One explanation for the continued rise in purchases is the relationship younger generations have with social media. Claire (Lee) Lebeda (’21) thinks the modern engagement with Valentine’s Day is more of a performance than anything. “You wanna look good. You wanna buy your girlfriend, your boyfriend, your partner, a huge teddy bear and flowers and you know they’re gonna post it on their Instagram story or they’re gonna post it on Twitter and be like, ‘I have the best partner in the world.’”

However, a majority of people in the National Retail Association’s survey still reported not celebrating. There are several reasons for this ambivalence, but everyone interviewed reported feeling that the holiday is not expansive enough in its definition of love.

Oksana Greenwood (’22) reported usually only celebrating with her family, and Enku Castellanos (’21) expressed a desire to see “more platonic relationships and platonic love.”

A major part of this restrictive narrative of Valentine’s Day is its lack of queer inclusion. Jones said Valentine’s Day is “very much a cis, white holiday, a space for hetronormativity and those whose sexualities and genders are not in question or under attack.”

Lebeda echoed this, saying: “As an asexual person, and as I would later realize, as

a gay person, Valentine’s Day always felt like a test. ‘You’re gonna do it the right way and you’re gonna be in a straight relationship or you’re gonna do it wrong.’”

Regardless of the level of involvement in the holiday, it is clear that the current generation celebrates love very differently than past generations. Noah Snizik (’21) said their parents will most likely celebrate by buying jewelry but, “If I were in a relationship, I would be like, oh let’s go hang out and watch a movie.” They later said, “People I know in our generation are handling love in such a different way than our parents’ generation or our grandparents’ generation and so it’s more about not restricting to someone else’s idea of what Valentine’s Day is.”

Melko mirrored this view, saying: “Our generation likes more unconventional expressions of love. To my grandma the act of buying a card is the expression of love, while my friends and I might be more inclined to write a sweet note on scratch paper. I think our generation is known for killing the diamond industry for a reason.”

So where does Valentine’s Day go from here? Many people agreed that the approach to the holiday will shift, but had different predictions for why.

Hernandez said, “In the overarching queer trajectory of the world, I feel like conceptions of relationships and what they look like is vastly

changing, especially among youth of our generation.”

Lebeda thinks the changes will be “at the intersection of the economy and changing cultural ideas of what a valid relationship looks like.”

Snizik has hope for the future of Valentine’s Day, saying, “It could turn more into celebrating that we have a community that cares, the humanness of [all] people, instead of singular pairings of people.”

However, despite these hopes, interviewees were also highly skeptical of Valentine’s Day as long as it is still being celebrated in a capitalist nation.

Hernandez believes that capitalism will adapt to these new expressions of love. “In the same way that I think there is a capitalist capitalizing on liberal-ness, that could eventually happen through Valentine’s Day as well. In that way I think it might reflect our generation to a degree but under a capitalist system it’s always going to reflect in a very capitalist nature.”

Potter-Moen thought that Valentine’s Day practices would change but said, “Not celebrating Valentine’s Day doesn’t change really deep implicit messages that we get about love.”

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Seniors reflect on basketball experience

JAKE PROCINO
STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team is reaching the end of its regular season. While the team is keeping its focus game to game, this spring will mark the end of a few student-athletes' playing careers. These athletes reflected on their overall experience and how the current season is going.

Senior point guard Drew Farmer said: "My last season has gone by so fast and I've loved it. It's been really fun getting to know our first-years and growing closer to the rest of the team. The relationships and bonds that we have created are everything to me."

While the game of basketball does not change much year to year, senior student-athletes have seen their relationships and responsibilities on the team change by virtue of their experience. Senior guard Kassin Hopkins reflected: "My leadership role as a senior has been to teach the underclassmen the dynamics of the team and lead by example. I have been able to be a 'big sister' to the younger girls on the team while being encouraging and picking them up when they're feeling down. I feel that my biggest role is to believe in my teammates when they don't believe in themselves and try my best to make sure they do believe in themselves. As a senior leader, there are high expectations for me to perform, lead and communicate with my teammates so I must strive to do the best I can do in every situation."

As much as the seniors are mak-

ing an impression on the younger members of the team, four years of college basketball has left a mark on the seniors as well. Farmer said: "My experience on the basketball team has meant everything to me. Between basketball and WU, I have grown as a person and made deep, long-lasting relationships. I will carry with me my experiences and I'm grateful for how basketball and WU has shaped me."

Farmer reflected on the lessons imparted onto her: "One of the most important lessons I have learned is how to overcome adversity and persevere. In basketball, there will always be bumps in the road, but it's how we handle those situations and become better in the end that matters. This is a lesson that is rooted within me and will prove to be important in real life."

In addition to life lessons, the seniors also have some fantastic memories to carry with them, both on and off the court. Farmer mentioned that her favorite memories are of "all of [the team's] good times together, just hanging out and laughing way too loud."

Hopkins remembered a specific moment from this season: "My favorite memory... was beating George Fox (GFU) at their home court. Willamette has not beaten GFU in a lot of years so I am glad to be a part of that milestone in the program."

With the end of their college careers, the seniors will spend less time on basketball and more time on other activities. Hopkins said: "After college I don't feel like I will have a great amount of newfound

free time... Directly after college I plan to travel out of the country to explore other aspects of the world and experience other cultures and communities. Within the next year I also plan to attend more school and attain a master's degree and certification in Athletic Training."

Farmer succinctly summarized what she believes her newfound free time will be filled with: "Work."

Though the seniors will no longer be playing basketball for Willamette, they believe that they will stay involved in and be around basketball. Farmer said: "I will most definitely be involved with basketball in the future. I couldn't imagine walking away from it forever. I'll probably play in co-ed leagues with my friends and maybe even coach little ones!"

"I will always be involved with basketball," Hopkins said. "Basketball is something I have put dedication into for my whole life. Since I was [six] I loved playing this sport and I cannot imagine completely forgetting about it once the season comes to an end. In the future, I hope to share my knowledge and love for the game with others around me and teach the next generation how to take what you learn from basketball and apply it to the real world."

Willamette's women's basketball team's next home game is this Friday, Feb. 14 at 4:00 p.m. at Cone Field House vs. Linfield College.

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Football gives back to community

CONTINUED from Page 1

There, hundreds of fans and reporters were present, taking photographs of the guests. Once inside, there were appetizers and desserts for everyone to enjoy. Because this event was designed to be a "Dream Prom Night," there was a large dance floor and a DJ to entertain everyone all night.

Pies said: "My buddy was in a wheelchair so it was difficult to be out on the dance floor, but we stayed on

university and play football while doing so... It was an opportunity for me to make an impact on an individual as well as serve the community and give back. It is very important to me to make sure that everyone feels as if they fit in within the world."

Pies plans on attending this event every year moving forward and heavily encourages others to volunteer for upcoming events. Both he and Parker were adamant that after an individual gets over the nervousness of interacting with people in a new envi-

"There is nothing better than seeing a community bound together by laughter and dance on a Friday evening."

the edge where he was comfortable and enjoyed the great disco lighting and the fun music played for three hours."

He said that his favorite part of the entire evening was "seeing all the smiles on everyone's faces! There is nothing better than seeing a community bound together by laughter and dance on a Friday evening."

After the lights faded and the event came to a close, Pies had a moment of reflection. When asked what drew him to volunteer at Night to Shine, he said: "What drew me to volunteer was that I realized that I am a very fortunate person in life. I've been able to graduate high school, go to a private

ronment, they will have an amazing experience seeing everybody have a great time and laugh the night away. For more information on Night to Shine, you can visit www.timtebow-foundation.org/events.

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Athletic department volunteers at Bush Elementary for NGWSD

BRITT MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

Feb. 5 marked the 34th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD). The Women's Sports Foundation's website explains the day: "NGWSD 2020 recognizes student-athletes, champion athletes, coaches, administrators and lawmakers who are committed to providing equitable access to sports for all girls and women. [The holiday] champions: advocates seeking to protect Title IX and advance gender equity, athletes using their platform to inspire greatness and coaches working daily to promote play."

Senior swimmer Jensine Rasmussen and Assistant swim coach Erin McVeigh celebrate with a high-five

NGWSD started in 1987 and served as a remembrance of Olympic volleyball player, Flo Hyman, for her athletic achievements and dedication to promoting equality for women's sports. Hyman died of Marfan's Syndrome in 1986. The need for this national holiday has been called into question, but the National Federation of State High School Associations found that boys annually have 1.13 million more sports opportunities than girls. WeCOACH posted the following: "In research released by the EY Women Athletes Business Network and espnW, 74 percent of women executives surveyed said that a sport background can help

accelerate a woman's leadership and career potential."

Having positive female coaches as leaders and role models allows young girls to say "If I can see her, I can be her!" This year's theme was #LeadHerForward, so instead of celebrating Willamette's student-athletes on women's teams, Willamette's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) representatives worked with Bush Elementary to create opportunities for student-athletes on women's teams to volunteer with the gym classes and recess there. This helped the kids see representation of women in athletics as well as create a connection between Willamette's



COURTESY OF BRITT MITCHELL

WU athletes and coaches play a game of Four Square at Bush Elementary

women athletes and the greater community.

Associate Athletic Director Leslie Shevlin was one of the Athletics department leaders who went to Bush Elementary. She explained that to her, NGWSD "is a reminder to recognize those who have helped women through what they have been able to do in sports and to remind us that our job is not done and to teach young girls that all the opportunities that sports can bring. All of the skills you can learn that will help you persist as a woman as you go through life."

In addition to volunteering with Bush Elementary, the Athletics department gave athletes on women's teams the opportunity to record a video of them voicing what it means for them to be an athlete or how athletics has

helped them. These videos were posted on the official Willamette Athletics Twitter (@wubearcats). Willamette's Athletics department has been focusing this year on inclusivity with campaigns from SAAC representatives. There was also a post showing a photo of every athlete on a women's team with the caption, "The members of our women's teams develop confidence, strength and character the very tools needed to become strong leaders in life."

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COURTESY OF BRITT MITCHELL

Opinion: Oscars should encourage diversity in movies

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Scarlett Johansson got a Best Supporting Actress nomination for her role in “Jojo Rabbit,” as well as a Best Actress nomination for “Marriage Story.” According to *Entertainment Weekly*, Johansson is only the 12th actor in history to be nominated twice for acting in the same year. However, the accomplishment seems tainted since it serves as a reminder of the ceremony’s overwhelming whiteness.

However, it’s worth noting credit where credit’s due when it comes to this year’s awards. “Parasite” was a big winner, and became the first international film to ever win Best Picture at the Oscars. Waititi became the first person of Maori descent to win an Oscar. And Hildur Guðnadóttir became the first woman to win Best Original Score for “Joker,” since multiple musical categories were combined into one. All of these were big moments of cele-

bration, with Waititi dedicating his win “to all the Indigenous kids who are in the world who want to do art, and dance and write stories” and with Guðnadóttir say-

overcome the one-inch tall barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films,” he said.

These wins are well worth cele-

"These wins are well worth celebrating, but that doesn't erase the fact that the Oscars are still a place where white people, white men in particular, are the norm."

ing: “To the girls, to the women, to the mothers, to the daughters who hear the music bubbling within, please speak up—we need to hear your voices.” Joon-Ho shouted out his fellow directors and thanked the Academy, but when “Parasite” won Best Foreign Language Film at the Golden Globes, he had this nugget of wisdom: “Once you

brating, but that doesn’t erase the fact that the Oscars are still a place where white people, white men in particular, are the norm.

Representation matters. According to an Annenberg Foundation, of the top 100 movies they analyzed between 2007-2016, 47 included no black women, 66 had no Asian or Asian-Ameri-

can women, 72 had no Hispanic or Latinx women, and 91 had no LGBTQ+ women. Of the 900 total popular movies surveyed, only 2.7 percent featured a character with

differences correlate with the racial and gender biases in Hollywood, which casts only white men as heroes, while erasing or subordinating other groups as villains, sidekicks and sexual objects.” What happens on the silver screen has a real world impact.

In the end, some really good movies get nominated for Oscars. But they’re such a small and specific pool of what’s out there. So once you’ve taken a look at who’s in the running to get the little golden statues this year, go hold your own viewing marathon. Watch all the (occasionally or often better and more interesting) movies that weren’t given a shot. If Hollywood won’t recognize them, then you can.

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Opinion: Composting is an important part of Willamette life

BROOKE COX
OPINIONS EDITOR

Sustainability efforts on campus have been aided through a number of different campus programs, including recycling. One of the crucially important ways of recycling excess organic material on campus is through composting. It is an important part of Willamette campus life and should be treated as such.

According to Greencoast.org, composting refers to “the biological decaying of organic waste, including plant materials and food.” Once this waste is broken down, it can be used to easily fertilize plants and soils. But finding a place to easily break down this material isn’t always an easy task at a university. However, Salem, OR is one of the many parts of the country that is lucky enough to have curbside composting, according to Governing.com.

This greatly benefits Willamette because of all the food waste created by Goudy Commons and their catering services doesn’t get thrown out with the trash. According to Joe Abraham, the director of the Sustainability Institute, all of the pre- and post-prep food waste get placed in a series of bins that are walked out to the street each week.

For the last nine years, this waste has been sent to a facility in Corvallis,

where it is turned into a soil amendment (which, according to Yardcare.com, are materials added to soil to improve plant growth.) Since Willamette’s non-compostable waste goes to Covanta, the state incinerator, and not to a landfill, compost becomes a better option for the environment.

The food service composting is year round, but when it comes to composting on a smaller scale, such as in the residence halls, it’s up to the students to be responsible. Abraham said that there is the possibility of expanding the program to offices and other academic buildings on campus, but for now they’re working on standardizing all their bins with information about what is and isn’t compostable.

“There’s a lot of value in us creating a standard and then applying it, and letting it loose with bins and outreach and information about it,” Abraham said.

That’s where the students come in. On campus, composting is organized by sophomore Marion Powell, who is the current Zero Waste and Composting Coordinator for Students for Sustainability.

For the last six years, there have been students responsible for compost bins in residence halls. Typically there are between 20 to 30 student representatives per semester, and one to two per residence hall. Their



Photo of some materials that can be composted, found next to the revolving dish belt in Goudy Commons



Photo of a small composting container found in one of Lausanne's hallways

main focus is to expand it through residence halls and even to offer it to off campus students as a resource.

Powell said that they are “creating a pathway for students on campus to be the most sustainable as possible, whether it’s composting or other zero waste methods.”

Other efforts to increase sustainability have been through workshops where anyone can participate, placing a compost bin in the SOAR Center and setting up a compost store on the Willamette website so staff can purchase one and put it in their location.

According to Powell, the composting store should come out within the semester. Contact <compost-info> to keep updated or get more information on how to get a compost bin.

They also collaborate with other sustainability groups on campus, such as the Climate Action Alliance

and with the Food Recovery Network, where they’ve weighed food waste in Goudy as an educational tool to understand the type of waste that’s being produced. This is an important step on campus, as students might not always recognize the amount of waste being produced in places without composting readily available to them.

“It’s all really educational and really solid to know what type of waste you’re producing and keeping a conscious mind on that,” said Powell.

Get educated about how composting happens, because it’s an important thing to do, and can have a bigger impact than just recycling. Abraham asked students to “take it upon themselves to find out how composting happens locally [even though] we try to make that information available to our students.”

Composting is an important part

of being sustainable, and it’s not out of reach for college students or others on and off Willamette campus. Students should be responsible for their waste in and out of residence halls, and a good way to do that is to sign up to get a compost bin. Without a place to be composted, your waste will end up in a landfill or an incinerator with no chance of being repurposed into something environmentally friendly. If you’re looking to do something about all the compostable waste on campus, students will be handing out compost bins the night of Wednesday, Feb. 11 in Goudy from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Or, keep a lookout for sign-ups during the first few weeks of next semester, and become a compost representative.

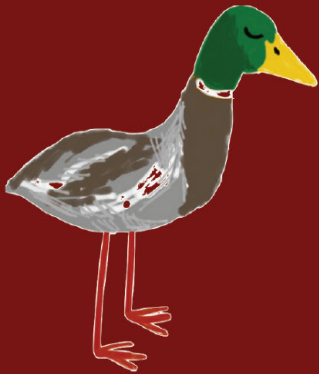
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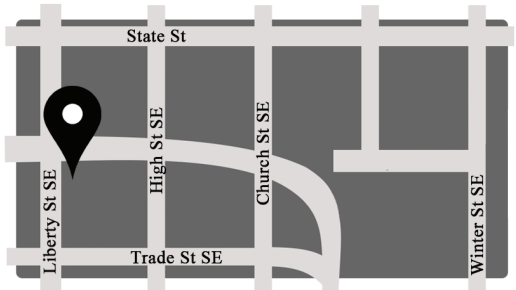
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