

COLLEGIAN

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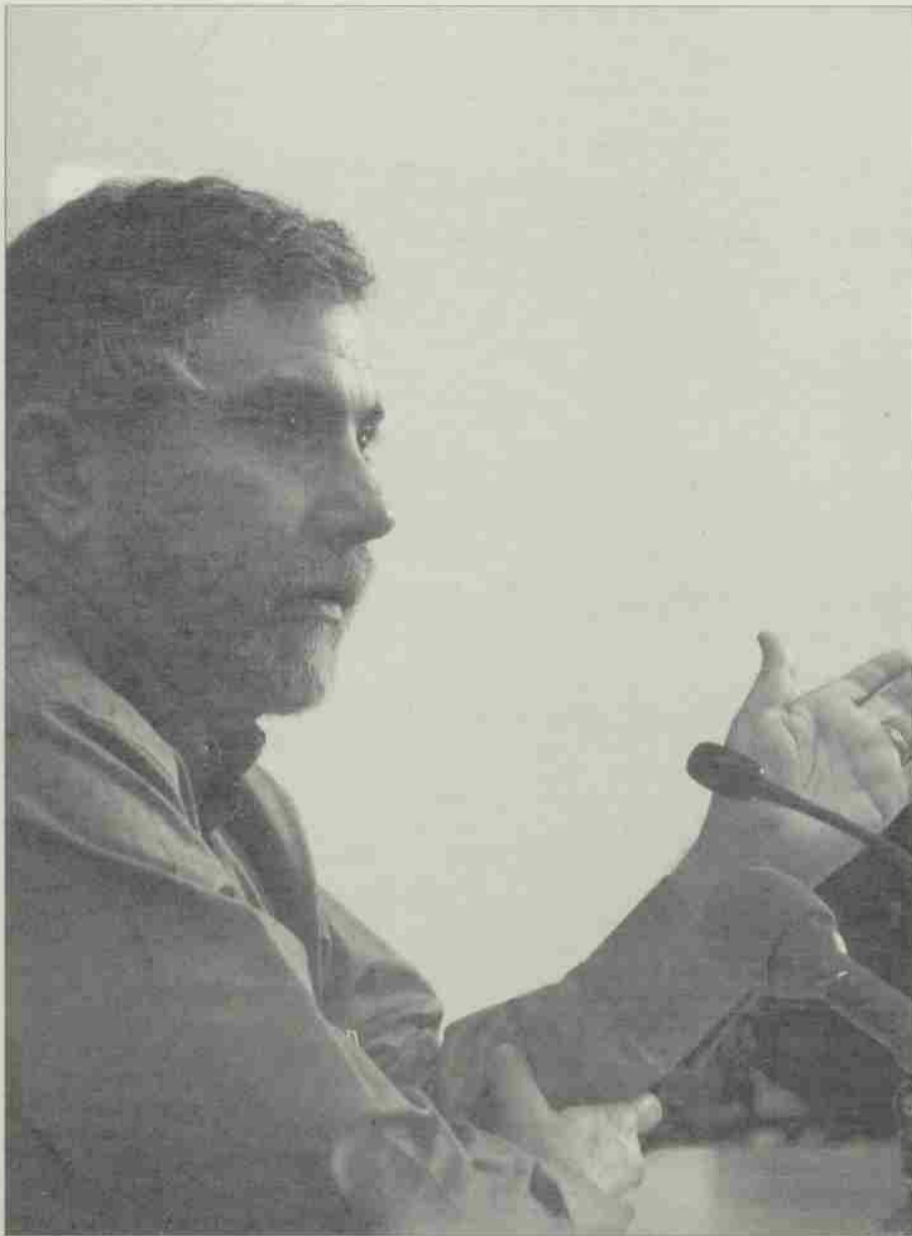
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Paul Krugman talks recession

Nobel Prize winning economist comes to campus



MOLLY CARVER

Princeton University economist Paul Krugman held a professional press conference for the local media at Willamette before his lecture Friday evening.

ZOE LARMER
CONTRIBUTOR

Nobel Prize winning economist Paul Krugman came to the university last Friday to speak about the current economic crisis, several possible solutions and how the country and the Obama administration are handling the recession.

Krugman won the Nobel Prize in economics this year for "his analysis of trade patterns and location of economic activity." He also came out with a new book, "The Return of Depression Time Economics and the Crisis of 2008," that covers many of the issues addressed in his speech on Friday.

He began his speech explaining that the economic crisis was a global problem and that it was not likely to rebound as quickly as many people had been hoping. "This is not what is called a V shaped recession, as was seen in the 80's ... [going] straight down and straight back up," Krugman said. "The recession may be declared early this year or late next year, but it is likely that unemployment rates will just keep on rising," he said in a press conference.

Krugman also spoke about the current government bailout of \$800 billion that involves three parts: one part for public works projects, another to aid failing companies and the unemployed and the last part for tax cuts. "Generally tax cuts are the least effective way of stimulating the economy because most of that money goes to paying off bills or savings accounts," Krugman said. He also said \$800 billion was too small to be truly effective and estimated that the true amount needed was roughly \$1.2 trillion.

As for the Obama administration, "[t]hey are certainly taking a step in the right direction ... but I'm not too happy with what we are hearing about their financial rescue plans. It sounds too me like they

are being too conventional ... at the moment I am waiting for the next exam before assigning grades," Krugman said in a press conference.

At the lecture Krugman talked about what might be next for the Obama administration. "I predict sometime next year the Obama administration will bite the bullet and nationalize all the banks, at least temporarily," Krugman said.

Krugman also addressed the conflicting reports in the news media about what may happen and what should be done about the crisis. "There is no licensing board for economists, if someone says he's an economist I guess he is," Krugman said.

After the lecture there was a question and answer session along with a book signing. Students shared their reactions to the lecture. "I thought that the Krugman lecture was very informative ... it really explained to the students how the economy got into the state it is in right now and some solutions that not everyone might like," freshman Radu Bobirnac said.

The lecture was part of the Atkinson Lecture Series and was designed for educational benefit. "I've heard a lot about the economic crisis, but I hadn't really gotten a full picture of the economic landscape and what the stimulus package means until this lecture," freshman Angela Boston said.

Though the economic picture looks grim in America, Krugman says that he does not see a second Great Depression in the near future. "The only thing that stands between us and the next Great Depression is knowledge," Krugman said.

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► further reading

Visit the Willamette Bookstore to pick up a copy of Krugman's new book *The Return of Depression Time Economics and the Crisis of 2008*.

Increased hiring reflects new 3:2 teaching load plan

ERIN BLOOM
CONTRIBUTOR

The university is looking to hire professors in several departments as part of the new initiative lightening each professor's course load per year. New positions include a jazz professor position in the music department and a position for an Islamic studies professor to work with both the religious studies and anthropology departments.

The university is currently looking to hire 15 new professors, "in order to support a change in faculty teaching load in the CLA from six courses a year to five courses a year," Dean Carol Long said.

The new initiative, started by President Pelton along with the deans and the board of trustees, moves the full-time faculty teaching load to a 3:2 load, 5 classes per year. Previously, the standard course load has been three courses for each semester. This initiative, scheduled to be put in place in the fall of 2010, will change the standard to three courses per professor in one semester and two in the other.

"The president wanted to go to a 3:2 teaching load, with the idea that faculty, with that reduced course, would actually have time for more productivity - more articles, more recruiting, more books published, etc.," Chair of the Music Department John Peel said.

The initiative, along with a larger number of retirements than usual this year, has led to a large number of positions to be filled. "This is a heavier search year than

many," Long said. It shows 13 departments in the CLA are currently hiring at least one professor. The English department is hiring three.

To comply with the new course load, neither the music nor religious studies departments decided to hire extra professors for subjects already being taught. Instead, new positions were created to enhance the diversity of the courses offered. "If we're doing it purely [to comply with the new initiative], that means we're hiring for something that we teach right now. But we decided not to do that, and to have someone teach in a new area," Chair of the Religious Studies Department Xihuan Zhou said.

In the music department, the addition of a jazz professor will allow for a more in depth jazz studies program. As of now, there are a "large number of students involved in jazz related courses: jazz band, jazz combos, jazz theory and improvisation courses and jazz history courses," Peel said. "All are splintered; some of these are only offered every other or every irregular few semesters."

According to Peel, many prospective students inquire about a program in jazz studies. Hiring a professor specifically for this would make the university more attractive to students who wish to concentrate on jazz. "It's an area that we have a lot of interest in, so let's build on that," Peel said.

In the religious studies department, a position is being created for an Islamic studies professor. "Islam is growing

more and more important in American society and life, and Islam is also the third largest religion in the world, whose numbers continue growing," Zhou said. "For all these different reasons we thought that we would need someone who is an expert in that area."

In addition to the new professor for Islamic studies (which will be a joint position with the anthropology department) the religious studies department is looking to hire a replacement professor for Lane McCaughey, who is retiring. The religious studies department has not hired a new professor in ten years.

"For the replacement professor, we're looking for ... a senior professor, or someone who is more accomplished in his or her field to bring in someone with more leadership or a more accomplished scholarship to Willamette," Zhou said. "We're also looking for someone to fulfill the needs of the retiring professor - teaching the New Testament, as well as bringing new knowledge ... to our department."

With so many vacancies in today's downward spiraling economy, one might think that fewer hirings would be wiser to ride out the worst of it. Long disagrees. "The fact that we are continuing our tenure track searches this year speaks to the economic strength of the institution. We have planned this expansion over a number of years and so are prepared to meet the budget challenges going forward."

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Beloved professor Dash dies at 61



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Professor Robert Dash passed away Tuesday Jan. 27. His memorial will be Sunday Feb. 2 in the Cat Cavern.

RUTH HEALD
CONTRIBUTOR

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, Professor of Politics Robert Dash, died of lung cancer. Dash was 61 years old and is survived by his wife, Irma, two adult children, Bobby and Maritza, and a grandson, Nicholas. Dash had been battling lung cancer for two and a half years and last taught classes at Willamette during the Spring 2008 term.

Dash received his B.A. at San Diego State University and his M.A. at California State University in Los Angeles. After earning his Ph. D. in Comparative Politics and International Relations specializing in Latin American History from University of California at Riverside, Dash came to Willamette as a visiting assistant professor in 1986. Shortly after, Dash applied for a tenure track position in the politics department after having filled in for Suresht Bald during her sabbatical. According to Dean of Campus Life Robert Hawkinson, the university was especially impressed with Dash's work during Bald's sabbatical and designed the tenure track position with Dash in mind.

Dash played a strong role in building and maintaining the Latin American portion of the politics department, teaching courses such as Latinos in U.S. Politics, Political Change in the Third World, Globalization and Equity, Latin American Politics and Latin American Revolutions. Melissa Buis Michaux, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Politics, described Dash, the most senior member of the department, as someone who always made himself available in the department and had a great influence on the lives of many people.

"Bob was a wonderful teacher and colleague," Michaux said. "He was an important model and mentor in the department."

Dash was also very involved on campus outside of the politics department. According to Hawkinson, Dash was one of the foremost organizers of the freshman seminar program World Views, now replaced by College Colloquium. Until he was diagnosed with cancer, he also chaired the Special Task Force on Centers for Excellence, which offers research experiences for students and faculty members. Dash also served on the Academic Council

and led a semester long study abroad program to Spain for several years.

University Chaplain Charles Wallace remembers Dash as a "compassionate advocate of ... people in poverty, minorities, and immigrants," as well as a frequent patron of Sparks gym. Dash was involved around the Salem community with PCUN, a farm workers' union. Since 1979, he was a member of the editorial board of the Latin American Perspectives journal, and more recently served on the editorial board for the Iranian Journal of Law and Politics in 2008.

"[He was a] wonderful, friendly guy who was interested in important things [and] connected with the political world," Wallace said. "... [He's] going to leave a big hole in the faculty. It's a very sad moment ... but [he leaves] a wonderful legacy of not only scholarship and teaching, but also collegiality."

The Politics Department and the Office of the Chaplains invite Bob Dash's friends, colleagues, and students to an informal celebration of his life on Sunday Feb. 22, at 3 p.m. in the Cat Cavern.

"Bob specified three things [two days before his death]," Hawkinson said. "It should be short ... it should be by the Mill Stream ... [and] people should wear blue jeans and baseball caps."

According to Hawkinson, Dash had planned to go on a phase retirement, meaning he would teach part time over the next three years before leaving the university. The faculty had been planning a retirement party for Dash in which former students and colleagues would write and present him with letters. When it became apparent that Dash was becoming much more ill, Hawkinson and others brought him the letters and read them to him, providing Dash with "wonderful testimonies" of his career.

"He was a great guy. He was a wonderful man, a terrific teacher and colleague," Hawkinson said. "... I feel proud to have known him."

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► more information

For perspectives from students on Professor Dash, see feature page 7.

University explores smoking policies, smoke-free campus

CHELSEA GREENBERG
CONTRIBUTOR

"No smoking within 25 feet," reads the university's recent smoking policy signs. The university is going beyond the call of duty concerning Oregon state law. The new university policy is in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute 433.845 which, as of Jan. 1, 2009, requires no smoking within ten feet of building entrances, exits and windows. The university's new policy is the first step towards improving the quality of campus health.

A recent email survey was sent out to the university community asking for opinions about a smoke-free campus. The possibility of going smoke-free arose when Marion County Tobacco Health Educator Kelly White collaborated with Director of Bishop Wellness Center Margaret Trout regarding her research.

"The goals of my research are to assess students' exposure to tobacco sampling and promotions in Salem-Keizer," White said. "And also assess student opinion about smoke-free campus policies." A survey regarding White's efforts was e-mailed to the student body.

"Data on student opinions on smoke-free campuses will be provided to [the university] and could be used to provide support if they decided to pursue a smoke-free campus," White said.

Aside from the benefits a smoke-free campus might provide, it seems that students have always been making healthy choices. A different survey, administered in spring 2008 to college of liberal arts students by the American College Health Association, reported that 70 percent never smoke cigarettes. Only 3 percent identified as smoking cigarettes on a daily basis, according to the survey.

Despite students' healthy choices, smoking is still present. In helping students become smoke-free, the Bishop Wellness Center is prepared to provide students with the necessary

tools to quit, and would be an important factor if the university becomes smoke-free, according to Trout.

"Any of the students that are smoking, if they need assistance quitting, we can line them up with the Tobacco Quit Line in Oregon," Trout said. "We can prescribe medications that will assist in that."

While Bishop Wellness Center provides students the opportunity to quit, a smoke-free policy would help others whose health is harmed by secondhand smoke, according to Trout.

"People have a right to clean air more than people have a right to smoke," Trout said.

Sophomore Baxter hall resident Angela Bingham supports the campus becoming smoke-free. "Generally in matters such as this I'm all for personal responsibility, personal accountability," Bingham said. "But in the case of secondhand smoke it is really damaging to other people. Especially other people with problems such as allergies and asthma, and children who are occasionally on campus."

Although campus is not currently smoke-free, there are university-wide efforts to improve current smoking policies. Director of Human Resources Keith Grimm explained that a committee including many university community leaders discussed the possibility of going smoke-free when implementing the latest 25-foot smoking signs. "There's a desire on part [of] the institution to both protect the health of those who work and live here," Grimm said. "And also that people who choose to smoke have the right to do so."

Whether the university will become smoke-free is debatable, but students and staff are looking to the future, one that is both positive and healthier.

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CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

JANUARY 23 - JANUARY 29, 2009

Information provided by Campus Safety

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

► Jan. 23, 9:04 p.m., (Matthews Parking Lot): Students reported individuals throwing beer bottles into the Mill Stream. The suspects fled the scene and the officers disposed of the alcohol containers.

► Jan. 24, 2:23 a.m., (University Apartments): A student reported that someone had urinated outside of his door. A description of a male was given. The investigation is continuing in this matter.

► Jan. 25, 12:55 a.m., (Belknap Hall): Students reported that an unknown individual had sprayed a fire extinguisher in the building.

HARASSMENT

► Jan. 26, 8:00 a.m., (Law School): Several students reported receiving threatening and unwanted phone calls and emails from their fellow students. Campus Safety, the Law School, and the Uni-

versity Judicial Office are investigating this issue.

POLICY VIOLAIONS

► Jan. 24, 11:45 p.m., (University Apartments): Campus Safety responded to a call for a noise violation. The students throwing the party were advised of occupancy limits, and the party was broken up.

► Jan. 27, 11:24 p.m., (Sparks Parking lot): A student was referred to the Judicial board for having received 22 parking citations.

THEFT

► Jan. 27, 09:00 a.m., (Physical Plant West): An employee reported the theft of a Napa Auto Parts model truck.

► Jan. 29, 10:25 p.m., (Hatfield Library): A student reported her jacket was stolen from Hatfield Library.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

► Jan. 29, 7:50 p.m., (Matthews Parking Lot): A student reported that his vehicle was stolen. This matter is being investigated by Salem Police.

Please contact Campus Safety if you have any information regarding these incidents: safety@willamette.edu

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OSCAR NOMINEE REVIEW: "Slumdog Millionaire" | R

'Millionaire' may move too fast for audiences

TOM BROUNSTEIN
GUEST WRITER

Over break, my family decided it would be fun to see the movie "Slumdog Millionaire." We went twice and both times stood in line outside, in the cold, for 20 minutes before finding out the movie was sold out. Everyone wanted to see it. Mind you, this was before it had been given a Best Picture nomination. Fortunately, it just came to Ireland and I was able to finally see it.

The movie tells the story of Jamal, a kid from the slums of India who, miraculously, is about to win the big prize on the Indian version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire." The police suspect he's cheating and bring him in for questioning where he explains how he knew all the answers by telling the story of his life. The story itself centers around him and his brother as Jamal searches for Latika, a girl he was friends with when they were younger.

The thing that struck me most about this movie was how fast a lot of the scenes took place. There were a lot of quick cuts and small flashes. The camera always seemed to be moving and bouncing. This is a great effect in an action movie or a thriller where it can be used to create tension and excite-



Dev Patel and Freida Pinto light up the screen in Best Picture nominee "Slumdog Millionaire." WARNER BROS.

ment. However, here, I felt it was overused. I would have preferred more scenes that were slower paced and gave the audience a chance to relax. As is, I always felt on edge.

Of course, since the main character gets involved with powerful gangsters and is often running from someone, he has good reason to constantly be on edge. Beyond that, this technique does help the audience feel as though they're in the compact slums of India where much of the movie takes place.

Plus, I like to imagine they did this to contrast the absurd slowness of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" where you spend five minutes watching someone stare at a screen making thinking noises.

While this is a pretty minor point, in many ways it ruined the movie for me. It made it so I couldn't get drawn into the movie, made it hard to empathize with the characters a lot. It seemed like too much was happening too quickly and I would

have preferred if the movie slowed down, especially considering it didn't feel long. If there had been another 20 minutes, I don't think anyone in the theater would have cared, and it would have allowed the film to move at a less breakneck pace.

It's really sad that this took me out of the movie, because otherwise it was really good. The characters are well fleshed out, in large part because you see them as children and understand the core of their motivations. The main character wants to recreate the family life he had before his mother was killed, while his older brother wants to both protect him and hold power over him—two often competing goals. The story telling was well done, and there were some pretty clever moments. The answers to the trivia questions were integrated seamlessly into the narrative so it never felt forced.

Overall, I thought the movie was good. Not great, but good. I'm also perfectly willing to admit that I'm the exception. Realistically, it was just one point that hurt the film for me, and if the quick cuts don't bother you this will be one of the best movies this year.

★★★★★

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MUSIC REVIEW: Taylor Swift | 'Fearless'

Singer not afraid to be honest on hit CD 'Fearless'

MICHAEL
CAULEY

REVIEWS EDITOR

The world of music produced by women is not in great shape towards the end of the first decade of the new millennium. In contrast to say, fifteen years ago when Lilith Fair regulars Jewel and Sarah McLachlan, rockers Liz Phair and Courtney Love, and a cast of thousands redefined the music industry's view of female artists, we live in a decade that began with Britney Spears gyrating on the MTV Movie Awards with a giant cobra, and will end with Fergie coming out with yet another album full of songs about how desirable her lady elements are and how they warrant her hitting up her boyfriend for nice jewelry.

Thus, the hardened cynicism that greeted the recent explosion in popularity for Taylor Swift, the up-and-coming young country singer who, as far as anybody can tell, is one of the more honest and hardworking people you could meet, and she didn't even need to win a TV competition to get where she is. Her second album, "Fearless," was released back in November but has not left the tops of the charts since then (plus I haven't had much of a chance to review it). Does the double-platinum album really demonstrate the young singer's innate talents or is she just another pretty face coasting on her looks to stardom?

To answer my own question, I'm happy to say it's the former. I first saw Ms. Swift perform her single "Love Story" in a great appearance on SNL a few weeks ago. While that one's still the best track on "Fearless,"

she manages the difficult task of keeping that same energy up throughout the entire album. There is little deadweight amongst the thirteen tracks, and they're arranged in a way that doesn't create massive shifts in mood; even the last-minute addition "Forever & Always", about Swift's breakup with boy rocker Joe Jonas, slides right in with all the rest. It's a comfortable listen.

What was even more refreshing to hear in "Fearless" is the content of Taylor Swift's lyrics (the artist wrote the entire album herself). As I bemoaned above, too many female artists trade on female stereotypes or lace their songs with frequent sexual come-ons to entice listeners (even my sentimental girl rocker favorite, Avril Lavigne, is sadly not exempt); I mean, I am a guy, but at a certain point it just becomes annoying. However, the songs on Swift's album are of a more innocent and pleas-

ant nature. She is able to get her emotions across in a way that is both honest but accessible, and doesn't need to proposition her male listeners to do it. Swift's the girl you could take home to meet your mother, more so than say, Lily Allen, anyway. Also, the music's pretty rockin'.

I must say, "Fearless" is not for everyone; Taylor Swift's music is still more country than pop, and some songs have such a high estrogen level that I sometimes thought I was listening to Lisa Loeb by mistake (not that it's a bad thing...). However, it is the mark of a true music lover to expand their tastes beyond their comfort zone, and for me that usually pays off. If you're a person with even just a hint of sentimentality in you, this should be an easy buy.

★★★★★

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RESTAURANT REVIEW: Chipotle Mexican Grill

When the burrito gods smile, you smile with them

LYDIA BURNETT
STAFF WRITER

Confession: I am an addict. For several years now I have not (voluntarily) gone a month without a Chipotle burrito. So, as you could guess, I was super-excited to hear that this highly addictive burrito chain was making its way to Salem. With a convenient location across from the Lancaster Mall, burritos can now become movie theatre cuisine, if you can sneak it inside. (Note: I don't actually recommend this. Don't bring outside food into movie theatres. That's obnoxious. And after scarfing down a burrito,

you probably won't be watching much of that movie anyway...)

For a Chipotle addict like myself, the entire experience is intoxicating. From the red and white scrawled sign on the outside to the metal and light wood décor, everything about Chipotle is attractive. The smells and spices entice the senses. One can't help but take a deep inhale after entering the building. It's almost as if the restaurant calls out, "Sit down. Relax. Eat a burrito." I love sitting and relaxing, and I most certainly love burritos. Now, let's pause for just a second. I've gone on about burritos an awful lot. But

let's say that you don't like burritos. That's okay. I mean, it's not okay with me but it's okay with Chipotle. They love customers, even those who prefer options such as tacos, salads or maybe just some chips with guacamole. But when you walk into Chipotle, it's mostly about the burrito. Whether it's a normal burrito, a fajita burrito or a burrito bowl, it's clear that the burrito is where it's at.

Let me walk you through the ordering process. First, you stand in line. This can be excruciating when it's busy and your burrito senses are tingling. At the front of the line you place your order. Usually the Chipotle employee (who, while in my burrito daze, I often call "God") will ask you what you like and if you have any sort of sense in you, you'll say "I'd like a burrito, please." And you really must say "please." If not for politeness sake, then say it to respect the burrito. The burrito deserves respect. Respect it. After you say "please," god will let you choose what goes in your burrito. You choose your pick of beans, meat (or lack thereof) and can add some delicious extra goodies like salsa and guacamole. Then, after you've added all you want, God wraps

up your little baby burrito all nice and snug in a silver blanket. Sleep tight, burrito.

Of course, a burrito this special comes with a price. Not only the \$6.95 one but an intestinal one as well. For one of the special powers of a Chipotle burrito is that after its consumption it will surely be expelled within the hour. However, do not be afraid, every Chipotle I've ever been in has a very tidy restroom. And to be honest, I've never been happier to see a bathroom than after devouring a Chipotle burrito. And though you make not think so as you erupt in a fiery, volcano-like fury, the burrito loves you. So, please, love the burrito. Eat at Chipotle.

★★★★★

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ART HISTORY FOR COCKTAIL PARTIES:

Let Widman knock the wind out of you



**A L I S A
ALEXANDER**

ARTS EDITOR

To those of you who have never been to an art opening at the Hallie Ford: you are missing out. It is the perfect opportunity to schmooze with arty intellectuals, eat free food, drink wine, oh—and look at art, of course. Last Friday night was no exception, the opening of the exhibit “Harry Widman: Image, Myth and Modernism” proved to be one of the most successful fetes to date. The exhibit was curated by WU’s resident pillar of art history, OPB orator and incomparable professor, Roger Hull.

Hull gave a talk on Widman’s art in Cone Chapel prior to the reception. I don’t believe I have ever seen so many people turn out for a talk (an art talk, nonetheless) in my time here at Willamette. The sheer



CONNIE GLEDHILL

Curator and Professor of Art History Roger Hull with Arts Editor Alisa Alexander.

amount of people spoke measures about the importance that art holds here in the Northwest—we are a cultured bunch, after all. As I made my way through the throngs of Widman and Hull fans in the Museum I was finally able to view the exhibit in its entirety. Even though I had a small hand in the installation of the exhibit, one can never really know what to expect until opening day. Art is meant to be viewed, and what I saw by myself the Thursday prior was not the same exhibit on Friday night. The artist, viewer, and art object all need to be present to truly bring an exhibit to life. On Friday night, there was plenty of art and life pulsing through that gallery.

Widman, who has spent most of his life between Eugene, Salem and Portland, (primarily) creates work within the style of mid-century modernism—but adds his own *je ne sais quoi*, which is what makes it special. At times his work is playful, with his use of words like dream, oracle and magic, in the titles of various paintings. On the other side of the spectrum, his paintings can be unsettlingly evocative; the apocalypse makes an appearance, and so do lonely figures falling from the sky.

The way the exhibit is set up, it is easy to see his various artistic stages and the gradual evolution into the artist he is today. His work can read like the history of art of the 20th century. A bevy of influences are present: a sparkle of Cezanne’s proto-cubism, Rothko’s early multiform paintings, and the wrenching contortions of Kokoschka’s and Schiele’s distorted figures.



CONNIE GLEDHILL

Art admirers at Hallie Ford Museum of Art’s newest exhibit, “Harry Widman: Image, Myth, and Modernism.”

From an interesting philosophical standpoint, he has also chosen to create these *imago ignotas*, or image inventions. Widman will experiment and over a long period of time and develop particular forms that he finds aesthetically and conceptually interesting. He then attaches roles to them such as the Navigator or the Oracle. These forms make recurring appearances in his paintings—they become characters in themselves, forms that belong to Widman and Widman only.

The more I learn about art of the Pacific Northwest the more I realize how forward-thinking and contemporary it actually is. A land of solely regionalist artists painting lighthouses and landscapes we are not. Professor Hull has a tendency to focus his attentions on artists who incorporate an ele-

ment of magic in their work; Widman’s use of myth and gender archetypes, George Johanson’s omnipresent flying cats and Carl Hall’s surreal landscapes. Hull has written monographs for all of these artists and curated exhibits with their work (as well as several others). Perhaps art of the Northwest just inherently contains an intangible magical element to it—maybe because, as Carl Hall once described the Willamette Valley, we are living in “Eden Again.”

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► hallie ford museum of art

The Hallie Ford Museum of art is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Headband starts semester

NICHOLAS MARTIN
CONTRIBUTOR

Headband is kicking off 2009 by recording an ambitious new CD that will cover some of their latest and most popular songs. Their upcoming release is an as-yet-untitled EP containing five tracks sung by the most recent members. Headband plans to use the earnings raised from CD sales and fund-raising performances to record another, more complete album.

Since the second week of January, the a cappella group has been in the studio making music and punctuating their process by committing to live performances throughout Oregon. Last Thursday, Headband performed at the Ike Box in Salem with standing room only, a warm up to their competitive performance at the Hult Center in Eugene.

The group was one of five participating last Saturday at the first round of the Western Quarterfinals for the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA). The Willamette singers were up against groups like the University of Oregon’s “On the Rocks” and Oregon State’s “Divine.”

Headband hasn’t put out a new CD since 2007’s “For Your Ears.” Since then, the dynamic sound of the a cappella group has changed significantly. For their new CD, Headband is working with producer and founder of On the Rocks, Peter Hollens.

Headband member Stephen Branch said Hollens was an easy choice. “He not only produces really high quality tracks but also did the last CD, so a few of the guys were familiar of his style and personality.”

Senior Daniel Heathcock hinted that the EP may be released as soon

as April, but will definitely be ready for Headband’s final concert of the semester, in early May. The EP will contain new and classic tracks alike. “We’ve only performed ‘Eleanor Rigby’ once, and ‘Smooth Criminal’ is new this year,” Heathcock said. “The others are polished favorites.”

Expect to hear renditions of songs like Rufus Wainright’s “Hallelujah” and a combination of “Changes” by Tupac Shakur and “That’s Just the Way It Is” by Bruce Hornsby. Heathcock said the selection was meant to highlight the vocal range of Headband’s singers. “[The songs] all have a unique flavor to them,” Heathcock said. “Each one does a good job of touching a different genre.”

Although there will be no new songs, the group is happy with what they’ve chosen. “We really wanted to produce something that we, above all, are proud of but also what would be enjoyed by the Willamette community and past members,” Branch said. “We’re also really proud of the fact that all of these arrangements were set by either current members or group alumni.”

Junior Andrew Theis said that Headband has evolved since the release of its last CD. He expects the sound to be radically different. “One complaint [about ‘For Your Ears’] was that it sounded over-produced and too mechanical in some points,” Theis said. “That’s something we wanted to watch out for. We’re going for a more natural sound this time.”

Heathcock encourages fans of Headband to stay on the lookout for upcoming shows on campus and at venues in Oregon.

Contact: nwmartin@willamette.edu

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The endless possibilities of money

NICK MARTINEZ
ALUMNUS

[The WPA's] legacy is still visible across the country and has helped create aspects of American culture we often take for granted.

Why should you care about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009? That's the full name of the stimulus plan currently under consideration on the floor of the Senate. If you are about to graduate you probably care because your parents chose the wrong year to get busy and now you are stuck with the worst job prospects in years. If you are lucky enough to call yourself a freshman, you might care because that Pell Grant you got this year is going to look a lot greener in the next few years thanks to a proposed \$16 billion addition from the stimulus.

During the past several months we've heard leaders crying out for immediate action. Our new president has urged Congress and now the Senate to act quickly in order to stem the tide of this economic maelstrom. Walking around campus though, it is easy to forget about the turmoil that surrounds you. Classes are still in session and thankfully your favorite professors are still waiting for you when you arrive. But not everything is as peaceful as it seems. Your friends' parents may have just lost their retirement funds. Your parents may sound a bit different on the phone and now you may feel even guiltier when you tell them your money is gone even though you couldn't get a job if you tried.

You are not alone. In the last three months, Oregon's unemployment rate has risen three points, from six to nine percent, and while we have an idea of what started this mess, it has evolved. According to Unit-

ed States Senator Jeff Merkley, we are stuck in a downward cycle.

"This stimulus proposal is aimed at breaking the three cycles of this economic downturn. Housing prices have plummeted leaving mortgages underwater, meaning people owe more money than their houses are worth. Plummeting real estate values combined with fear leads to reductions in spending across the board. When businesses can't get rid of their goods they stop ordering from their manufacturers. When the demand for manufactured goods goes down, the only option for the manufacturers is to reduce their workforce which adds to the cycle by further reducing our ability to spend. While the banks may have helped companies weather these economic slumps in years past, they are no longer able or willing to do so," Merkley said in an interview with the *Collegian*.

This is the kind of problem that can only be solved with intervention. What kind and how much intervention has yet to be determined. Though the bill passed in the House and a revised version will most likely pass in the Senate later this month, opposition remains about exactly what should be included in this package and how it will stimulate the economy.

This is not a matter of Republicans versus Democrats. While it is true that no Republicans voted for the bill in Congress, it is also important to note that 11 "blue dog" Democrats opposed the bill as well. Blue dog Democrats are generally fiscally conservative, which makes sense considering at the time of the vote an estimated \$544 billion was on the table for government spending programs. Understandably, after meeting with President Obama three times in the previous week, the minority of fiscal conservatives must have felt slightly cornered when asked to choose between maintaining unity in a time of crisis and standing by their beliefs.

"The decision not to vote for the bill was not about partisanship, it was not based on



"The Gudger Family," 1938. Sharecroppers pose for photo in Alabama. Funded by the WPA.

emotion, it was about a fundamental difference of ideas on what the role of government is and how best to solve our current crisis," Andrew Whelan, press secretary for Republican Congressman Greg Walden, said. "Admittedly the atmosphere was not one of compromise. The Speaker had written a large portion of the bill behind closed doors and only two minutes of debate were allowed for each amendment." Even if there had been an hour of debate for each amendment, it would still seem meager considering one amendment can represent billions of taxpayer dollars.

"What's important to remember is that every day of inaction means a loss of jobs," Julia Krahe, communications director for Democratic Congressman David Wu's office said. "With any bill of this magnitude, you're going to have some compromise in order to get it done. This bill will have the dual benefit of creating jobs quickly by using preexisting government pipelines while also improving our infrastructure, education system and energy efficiency in the long term. This is not going to be like the bank bailout. The Democrats want more accountability and transparency to make sure the money is being used efficiently and is getting where it's needed."

With all the infrastructure spending there is no doubt that new jobs will be created, but what exactly does this mean for you, the Willamette student? Most likely you are not attending a liberal arts university with the hopes of graduating and pouring concrete or digitizing medical records. What

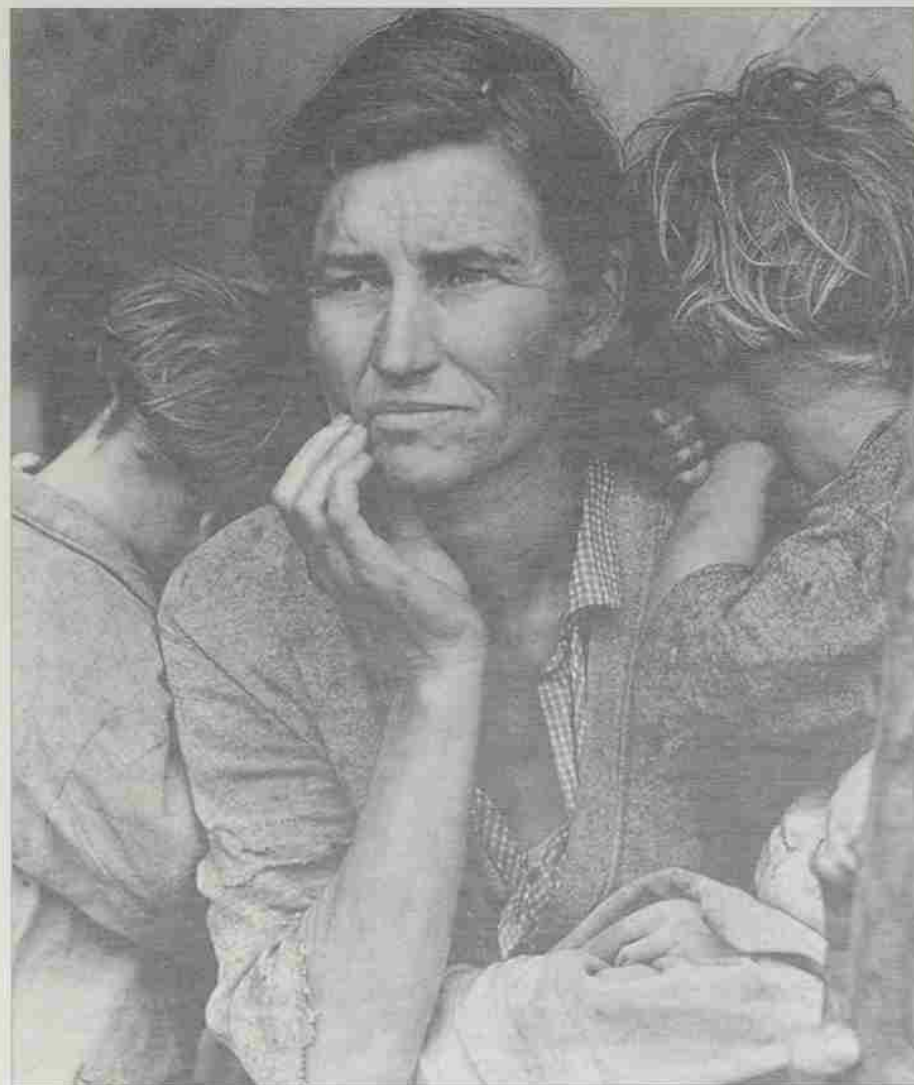
this bill appears to be lacking is opportunity for post-graduates.

President Obama has been championing a spirit of service in the hope that Americans can come together through giving back to their communities. Young Americans want to support this. We still believe that we can be united under the banner of change, but without direction, from where will this change come and what form will it take?

One possibility that is not currently under consideration in the Senate is a revitalization of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program from the New Deal era. This program's legacy is still visible across the country and has helped create aspects of American culture we often take for granted. Among other things, the WPA was responsible for employing thousands of artists to create over 15,000 works of art for government buildings. It sent historians to the south to record the accounts of former slaves before they passed, accounts which have been invaluable to historians for the last 70 years. It also sent photographers, including Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans, across the nation. Their iconic images of the Depression are recognizable around the globe.

"The WPA researchers and writers produced some of the best historical research of our time, including not just the interviews with ex-slaves, but studies of folklore that proved the extent of cultural survival of African folkways in places like coastal Georgia," Willamette History Professor Leslie

continued on page 7



"Migrant Mother," 1936. Taken 175 miles north of Los Angeles, Calif. Funded by the WPA.



"Earth and Sky," 1935. Funded by the WPA.

PAUL MELTZNER

Willamette remembers Professor Bob Dash

“Dash proceeded to, without books or notes, lay out a date-by-date chronological near-history of politics in Nicaragua. Perfectly. From memory.”

ERIC LOWE
SENIOR

Late in my freshman year I decided to declare my international studies major. After doing some research into potential advisors and consulting with my cousin, who had graduated from Willamette a few years ahead of me, Professor Dash's name came up. My cousin, a big football player, told me that Professor Dash would probably be best for my interests but warned me, "he's scary." Knocking on his office door with my advisor form in hand was probably the most difficult thing I did freshman year after that description. Mercifully, he seemed to be amused by a terrified freshman knocking on his door. He was a friendly face on campus from that day forward.

Any time I saw him on campus, he would tease me mercilessly about switching to an Economics major so late in the game. After graduation, he was always ready and available to write letters of recommendation for graduate schools and for job applications.

I am truly saddened by his passing. Everyone I knew who had him as a professor admired and appreciated his knowledge and passion for Latin American Politics. Students always seemed to have a huge amount of respect, bordering on fear and reverence, for him. In my opinion, Willamette has lost one of its best professors and friends.

Katie Bechtel, '06

Professor Dash was an exceptionally hard professor my freshman year. His was my hardest class to that point or since. But over the 14 weeks I spent with him, I came

to realize that the class's difficulty resulted from Professor Dash's endless passion and enthusiasm, and that he couldn't be satisfied with mediocre work. My extra preparation time was worth it, because Professor Dash had so much to teach, and he cared so much about what each of his students learned.

I suppose that his dedication is his legacy. He was a scholar, to be sure, and a quality lecturer and discussion leader, but the real take-home message was his passion. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, I got the sense that he didn't actually "prepare" for class. Instead he enjoyed himself as he reviewed the various instructional materials. Each time we studied a book, Professor Dash's excitement level inspired me to actually do the reading on time. How could I risk disappointing such a dynamic and committed teacher? His was a subdued excitement, sometimes masked beneath a stern exterior, but his love for the subject matter was unmistakable.

And that's what I remember from my first college semester. I met plenty of new friends, I lived far from home in a strange building, I finally learned how to study for class, and I had one amazing professor who brought Political Change in the Third World to life, and showed me exactly how exciting a difficult class can be.

Noah Zaves, '09

Professor Dash was one of the coolest guys I know. I only took one class from him, but he made a big impression. He knew everything, and kids would always ask him what he thought about stuff. I think we all wanted to learn to think like he did. I know I wanted to.

Phoebe R Tollefson, '09

Professor Dash was the reason I became a politics major. I remember taking his Political Change in the Third World course my freshman year and in comes this (to my youthful eyes) stodgy old professor. Dash proceeded to, without books or notes, lay out a date-by-date chronological near-history of politics in Nicaragua. Perfectly. From memory.



COURTESY OF PROFESSOR DASH'S PERSONAL WEB SITE
Professor Robert Dash in 2000.

My jaw dropped, I never would have believed that someone could be so well-versed in and so articulate speaking about one topic. It wasn't just major events either, Dash could recall almost every minute detail of every relevant event on subject after subject, country after country. By the end of his course, I firmly believed that if only I had Dash's commitment (and memory!) I would be just fine in whatever I chose to apply my energies to. For that, I love him and will miss him deeply.

Eric Lowe, '09

► more information

For further coverage on the passing of Professor Bob Dash, see news page 3

continued from page 6
Dunlap said. "If there was another program of its ilk, I would be in line to sign up."

"Everyone remembers the building projects (like Timberline Lodge), but federal programs under the New Deal also included employment programs for artists and writers. The Federal Writers Project helped employ writers ranging from Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright and Zora Neale Hurston to John Steinbeck and Studs Terkel," History Professor Ellen Eisenberg said. "There was also a Federal Theater Project that helped employ playwrights, actors, directors, etc. Programs of free theater and concerts were provided across the country, both to provide employment to the musicians and actors, and to provide culture and entertainment to communities."

With all of these positive externalities and all the money being spent, why isn't the Senate considering a program to employ artists, historians, and writers? They certainly need jobs as much as anyone else. Not only would a program similar to the WPA create jobs, it would allow liberal arts college graduates to use their skills to give something back to American culture and their communities. Remember that this is not the government's money being spent, it is your money and your children's money and they will be burdened with the responsibility of paying it back. Do we want our culture to revolve around television or can we come together and endeavor for something greater? When hundreds of billions of dollars are on the table, why not spend one percent preserving our heritage and building upon our culture?

Currently the only funding for the arts in the stimulus package is a rela-

tively miniscule \$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, but it remains unclear how this money will be spent, or if it will make it onto the final bill. "Admittedly," Senator Merkley noted, "it's a drop in the bucket."

For those of you pursuing sciences, you will be glad to know that billions of dollars are being spent to increase research and development funding in every field. "When I toured campuses during my campaign, the most important topic on students' minds was global warming. We're definitely taking a serious look at that in the Senate and structuring the bill to decrease our dependence on fossil fuels by making our public infrastructure more energy efficient," Merkley said.

So why should you care about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009? It would be superfluous to say that this is a momentous period in American history, but for the first time in recent memory we have a government that is open to new ideas and willing to take them from every source. Most importantly the bill has not been set in stone and you, friends, have the potential and the ability to affect the outcome.

Never before has it been so easy to get in touch with our representatives. Never before has it been this easy to exchange ideas. Now is the time to make your passions known by writing e-mails, gathering petitions and calling your representatives. If there was ever a time when citizens could have a profound effect on their government and their country, this is that time. The only question is: Will you use your time to realize the change you want to see, or will you use your time waiting to see what will change?

Contact: nmartinez1985@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENT

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women win two straight at home, show life in NWC

CAMERON MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

After picking up its first conference win last Tuesday against Linfield, the women's basketball team kept rolling with another impressive victory Friday over the Lutes of Pacific Lutheran University. The Bearcats won 69-56, its second conference game victory, and moved its record to 2-8 in NWC play, as well as 3-13 overall.

Willamette led throughout the game, starting with a jumper from junior post Nicki Clowdsley at the 19:35 mark of the first half. The Lutes had no answer for senior

wing Jenny Fillion, who registered six assists in the first half alone. At halftime, the Bearcats had a slim 30-28 lead, but the team managed to pull away from PLU early in the second half.

A free throw from freshman Kaleigh Westermann at the ten minute mark put the Bearcats up 49-38, an 11 point lead that proved to be the largest of the night. Jenny felt that the Bearcats "played tough full court defense for 40 minutes and that helped us pick up the win." And it was a big win for Willamette; a team that was in dire need of a solid victory like this one.

While the Bearcats shot a less than stellar 41.8 percent from the field, the difference in the game came at the foul line. Willamette shot an outstanding 20 of 23 from the charity stripe, while PLU managed to shoot only 6-10 from the line. The two seniors, Molly and Jenny Fillion, continued to shine for Willamette, as the duo combined for 30 points, ten assists and 16 rebounds.

Molly contributed a team-high 12 rebounds, to go along with 12 points, while her sister Jenny finished with a game-high 18 points. Jenny also dished out a season-high eight assists. Sophomore point guard Alex Zennan shot seven for nine from the free throw line and tallied 16 points on the evening.

"The win was a great confidence booster for us," Jenny, who averages 9.4 points for the Bearcats, said. "We know that our team is better than our record shows and we are finally starting to gel as a team."

The team itself is fairly young, led by seniors Molly and Jenny Fillion, with sophomores Nicki Clowdsley and Alex Zennan alongside freshmen Tiana Abley and Kaleigh Westermann picking up major playing time for the Bearcats.

With six conference games remaining, the Bearcats boast two of the top three scorers in the Northwest Conference. Molly is first in the category, averaging 14 points a game, while Zennan lies in third place with 12.6. Molly also leads the Northwest Conference in rebounding, as the forward has 168 rebounds on the year, averaging 10.5 a game.

While the Bearcats are at a high point in their season, the team needs to continue to improve on defense, as the squad sits last in the conference in scoring defense and defensive rebounds.

The notorious Eastern Washington road trip is next for the Bearcats. This Friday, Willamette will be in Spokane for a game against Whitworth and then the team will travel to Walla Walla to take on powerhouse Whitman College. Both games begin at 6:00 p.m. and hope to catapult the Bearcats in the Northwest Conference standings.

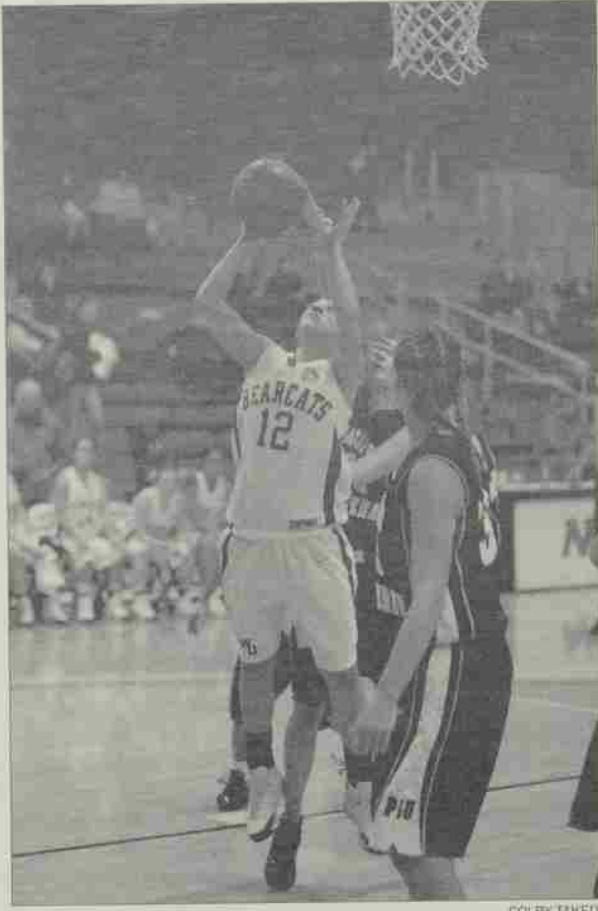
Contact: cmitchel@willamette.edu

▼ next up

Bearcats v. Whitworth @ Spokane, WA Friday, Feb. 6 at 6:00 p.m.



Freshman guard Dayna Jandock came off the bench to record 18 minutes and eight points over the two-game win streak.



Senior guard Molly Fillion takes a jump shot against PLU in a 69-56 home victory on Saturday. Fillion led the team with 12 points.

SWIMMING

Regular season ends in disappointment for swim teams

COURT WESTON
CONTRIBUTOR

The regular season is officially over, and the Willamette swim teams suffered two more disappointing losses.

On Friday, the teams clashed against the Pacific University Boxers. The men (1-7, 1-6 North West Conference) lost by a mere three points to the Boxers, 88-85, and the women (2-7, 0-7) suffered a 111-85 defeat.

Although the men's team lost, it was not decided until the final two races. With two events to go, Willamette held a 78-68 advantage. Pacific (2-5, 2-4) won the first of the final two events, the 100-yard breaststroke, outscoring Willamette 9-7. This cut the lead to eight with only one event remaining, the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Sadly, due to a lack of depth, Willamette was unable to comprise a relay team of swimmers who had competed in less than three events and swam the relay as an exhibition. Pacific went on to win the event as well as the overall competition. Willamette actually finished first, but could not record any points for the final event.

The men won a total of five races and was led by senior James Huang and freshman Michael McGeehan who had two victories apiece. Huang, the captain for the men, gained victories for the Bearcats in both the 400 and 500-yard individual medley events. McGeehan was victorious in both the 50 and 100-yard freestyle competitions. Sophomore John Schmidtbauer chipped in the fifth when he won the 100-yard butterfly.

A very similar situation occurred in the women's match-up. The Willamette women trailed by only five points, 83-78, heading into the final two events. However, the Bearcats were unable to get any closer and Pacific (4-4, 2-4) went on to prevail.

Sophomore Hanna Connert led the women with two victories, the 400-yard individual medley and the 500-yard freestyle. Juniors Gwen Schultze and Jenna Larrow also gained victories for Willamette. Schultze was victorious in



Jenna Larrow competed in six events over the weekend, winning the 1,000 yard freestyle on Friday against Pacific University.

the 100-yard butterfly and Larrow, the women's co-captain, finished first in the 1,000-yard freestyle.

On Saturday, the Willamette hosted Pacific Lutheran for its season finale. Individual performances were overshadowed by the fact that the team is much better suited for short format meets due to the team's small size. However, Saturday's meet was long format and did not bode well for Willamette. The men were outscored 134-46 and the women didn't fare much better, losing 137-62.

The Lutes (7-2, 5-2) won every event in the men's competition. Schmidtbauer finished second in two events, the 50 and 100-yard freestyle races. McGeehan finished third in the 100-yard freestyle.

On the women's side, Connert and Schultze again led

Willamette with one victory each against PLU (6-3, 4-3). Connert won the 500-yard freestyle, followed by Larrow who finished second in the event. Schultze was victorious in the 200-yard butterfly.

The teams are now resting up for the Northwest Conference Championships held February 13-15 in Federal Way, Washington.

Contact: mweston@willamette.edu

▼ next up

Bearcats @ NWC Championships Friday-Sunday, Feb. 13-15

MEN'S BASKETBALL

WU stays in playoff hunt with rebound win against PLU

TIM WALSH
STAFF WRITER

The 2008-09 men's basketball season has been a roller coaster ride for the Bearcats - winless in their first three games, they rebounded to win eight of their next ten - only to follow that with a disastrous three game losing streak that left playoff hopes hanging by a thread. But if there's one thing to be learned about a Gordie James-coached team, it's that you can never count them out.

Rebounding from a narrow midweek loss to archrival Linfield, the Bearcats notched their first win in almost two weeks last Friday, upending Pacific Lutheran 67-53 with one of the finest defensive performances in recent memory. The win brings Willamette back into a tie for the fourth and final Northwest Conference playoff spot with six games remaining.

"Sometimes it takes a couple tough losses for you to rediscover your intensity," junior post Cameron Mitchell said. "It shouldn't, but it does."

Intensity was certainly lacking during the first half of the Bearcats' midweek tilt against Linfield. The Wildcats (7-12, 5-5 NWC) stormed out to a quick 17-3 lead against a Willamette squad still reeling from a 38-point loss at Puget Sound two nights earlier. Turnovers and foul trouble kept the Bearcat offense out of sync. Linfield's deadly shooters picked apart Willamette's man-to-man defense.

The Bearcats were able to close a double-digit deficit to only seven at halftime, holding Linfield without a point for the last three minutes of the first period. That intensity carried over as Willamette rattled off a 13-2 combined run to close within 42-40. The reenergized Bearcats finally tied the game at 48 on an impressive spin move from Kyle McClary and took their first lead at 50-48 on a McClary jumper.

Linfield, however, showed tremendous poise responding to the Willamette run, nailing critical three pointers to build a 71-63 lead with four minutes left. Wildcat guard Cody Tesoro nailed all eight of his free throw attempts in the final two and a half minutes to seal the win, Linfield's first in Salem since 2005.

But the never-say-die Bearcats (9-8, 5-5 NWC) put their destiny firmly back in their own hands with a rebound win on Friday over the Pacific Lutheran Lutes. "Friday's game we won in practice," Mitchell, who contributed 19 points and 12 rebounds to the effort, said. "We had our most

intense practice of the year beforehand. ... The fact that we were down gave us fire."

Earning his first start of the season, senior point guard Josh Erickson ran Willamette's offense out to an early 13-6 lead. The Lutes (8-11, 2-8 NWC) stayed in the game with second-chance opportunities. As the Bearcats shooting touch went cold, PLU took its first lead of the game at 19-18 with just under six minutes left in the first half. Mitchell responded with a spot-up jumper to get the advantage back, and the Bearcats entered the locker room with a 27-23 lead; the team's first at halftime since January 10.

The second half was all Willamette, as its swarming defense took over the game. A steal by McClary led to Mitchell's fast-break layup that put the Bearcats up 34-25. When Robbie Kunke sunk two free throws with 10:58 left, Willamette held a 44-34 advantage. Defensive intensity never let up, as the Bearcats held PLU star Josh Dressler to two points on 0-13 shooting.

Standout performances were everywhere. Senior Nick Babij played seemingly twice his size, grabbing five key rebounds and rejecting two shots. On the offensive end, Corey Costantino repeatedly burned the Lutes with back-door cuts, notching 18 points on 7-9 shooting.

McClary, the NWC player of the week, finished with 18 points in the contest. Over the week, he averaged 20.5 points and 5.5 rebounds per game. His strong week put him at 995 points and 390 rebounds over his four year Willamette career.

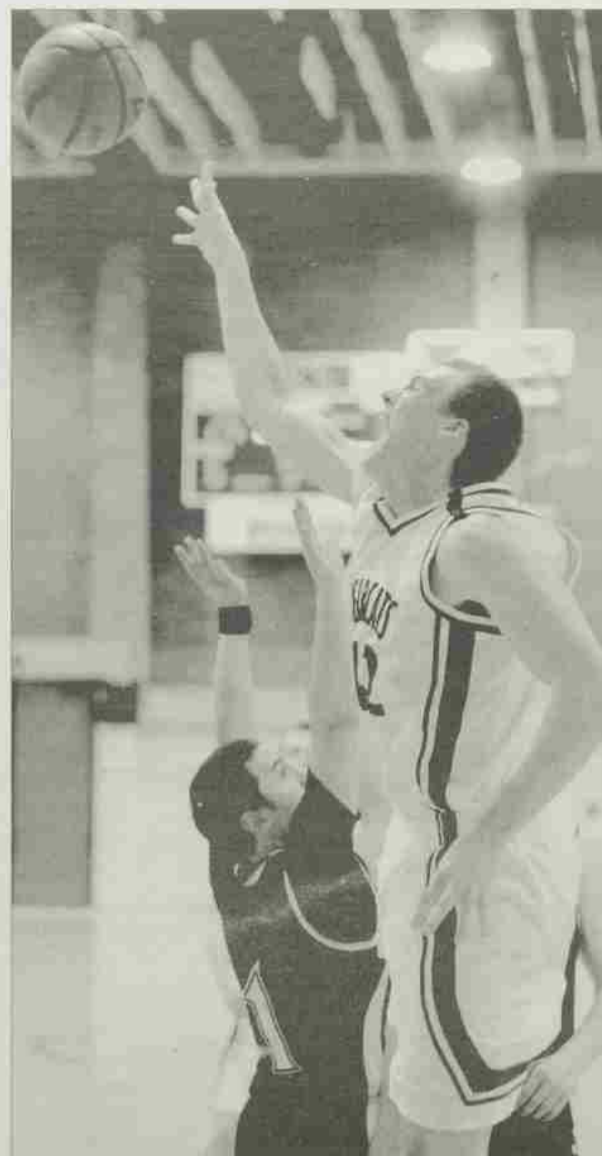
A true test for whether the Bearcats' newfound intensity is for real will come this weekend as they embark on their most difficult road trip of the season: Friday at second-place Whitworth, and Saturday against a vastly improved Whitman squad. Last season, Willamette swept the dreaded eastern Washington trip, jump-starting a playoff run in the process, and Mitchell makes no bones about the goal this time:

"We need to play harder, but we're confident. We want to sweep," Mitchell said.

Contact: twalsh@willamette.edu

▼ next up

Bearcats v. Whitworth @ Spokane, WA Friday, Feb. 6 at 8:00 p.m.



Senior forward Kyle McClary was named NWC player of the week, scoring 18 against PLU and helping the Bearcats to a 67-53 win. COLBY TAKEDA

Rugby | Direct from the match

LUKE RUSSELL
CONTRIBUTOR

Coming off a decent fall season, the rugby team holds high hopes for the upcoming spring schedule. The stability of the club took a hit with junior scrum-half Stephen Scott deciding to study abroad. However, this vacancy at the scrummy position has been competently filled by senior Kyle Nakashima and junior Allon Freiman.

Scott's departure also left the team without a captain. Recently, coach Mike Scott named junior wing David Mynar and senior hooker Cameron Ramey as co-captains, two players known both for their vocal leadership and consistent play.

The club also lost two great wings in Tetsuya Mtsumoto and Shinnosuke Hikokubo. The pair returned to Japan last December after spending a year at Willamette through the TIUA exchange program. The team has adapted to the changes by gaining a handful of first-time players including freshman Nate Wheeler and a number of other talented newcomers.

With its first game on the 14th, the team is trying to prepare as much as possible.

Practice turnouts have been good but we wish more people would come out and try the sport. With a large majority of the team being juniors and seniors, the longevity of the team remains to be seen. Any interested athlete is more than welcome to come and see what the team is all about.

Senior lock Ben Apel thinks this season can be a special one. "As a player I look forward to every season but as a senior I'm looking forward to this season even more. We seem to go through similar motions each year; we show improvement and win big games against DI, II and DIII schools, but often have a hard time filling jerseys," Apel said.

"Nevertheless, we manage each season because there are guys on this team that help to drive us over the proverbial and literal try line. I'd quickly like to thank those guys and each person that has come out to watch a match, home or away. Your support makes our pain seem a little more manageable... just like a cold PBR."

Pictures and club information are available online at www.willametterugby.com.

Contact: russelll@willamette.edu

WOMEN'S ROWING

Bearcats eager to build on strong fall season

JOE GRUBER
CONTRIBUTOR

The women's crew team hopes to continue its conference dominance this semester. After an extremely successful fall semester, the women's team is now focused on the future and the success it promises. With a roster of over 40 dedicated and talented women, the Spring 2009 semester will surely be a historic one for women's crew.

The women made a name for themselves last semester on both the national and local levels. The team had the privilege of traveling to Boston to compete in the prestigious Head of the Charles Regatta. They took two crews to compete in Boston: a Lightweight 4+ and an Open Weight 4+. The crews finished 11th and 13th respectively in a highly competitive national field.

After its return from Boston, the women's crew team continued to push itself toward its quest for supremacy. At the Charlie Brown Regatta, the women's team swept all three events in which they were entered: Varsity 4+, Varsity 8+ and Novice 8+.

After setting the bar so high in the fall season, the team must work equally hard this semester to meet, if not surpass, its expectations. The women's team practices once a day six days a week. This includes towing conditioning, practice on the water, weight lifting and general conditioning.

But this team's efforts far transcend the work it does in the gym and on the water. The relationships of the rowers extend beyond merely teammates. Freshman Becca Hall explained that the team focuses not only on physical preparation but also makes team-bonding activities a priority.

"It's not just a physical sport but also a mental and emotional one. The more we can support each other and become a team, the more successful we will be," Hall said.

The team is hopeful that the spring season will be at least as successful as the fall season. Freshman Lyndsy Clark has high expectations for the team.

"There are quite a large number of us, and I feel with having that advantage we can put more boats out and increase the competition. We ended the fall season on a high note and I don't expect anything less from this group," Clark said.

"We have many students who were abroad last semester who are back and it's so great to see all the new faces and it's going to be an amazing spring season."

Contact: jgruber@willamette.edu

▼ next up

Bearcats @ Tough Love Indoor Rowing Championships Sunday, Feb. 15 at 9:00 a.m.

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Colleen,
Cornered

The value of humor



Colleen
Martin

OPINIONS EDITOR

If you didn't attend the Paul Krugman lecture last Friday, you definitely missed out. The Nobel Prize winning economist is not only incredibly intelligent, he is also a great public speaker who kept the audience captivated, even if we weren't all economists.

However, Krugman didn't come bearing good news, exactly. He discussed in detail the economic crisis we are currently experiencing, calling it "scary" on several occasions. Though he discussed possible solutions, he promised nothing. Emphasizing the possible timeline (years) of the slump, Krugman ensured that the audience was left with no illusions.

Despite all of this disconcerting news, I didn't get a feeling of despair from the audience. In fact, instead of groans and sighs of despondency, there was laughter. Krugman managed to make jokes and keep the lecture light despite the seriousness of the topic. That is what impressed me most. It wasn't until later, when I was alone and the laughter had faded that I started freaking out about how dismal the future actually looks.

Though I read the paper, (including Krugman's column) I often ignore the rest of the articles about the financial state of the U.S. and the world. The uncertainty of it all makes me queasy just thinking about it. People keep telling me that my grandchildren will ask me excitedly about how it was to live in this time period, the way that other generations are asked about life during the Great Depression and World War II. To be honest, there are times when I don't think I would mind living in a really boring era — not much to talk about, but stable.

I realize that this is cowardly, and I eventually buck up and get it together. But these are nerve-racking times. Though I have no solution to our financial state, (I can barely balance my checkbook, let alone understand the complexities of economics) I do believe that there is a something that will keep us going through these times: humor.

When Krugman made the audience chuckle, I realized that as long as we keep laughing, our prospects improve. I'm not saying that making a joke of everything will make it all better, but I do think it shows the resilience that we all will need in times ahead.

Shows like "The Colbert Report" and "The Daily Show," and speakers like Krugman are proof-positive of that. They allow us to get our tension and nerves out through humor instead of anger, a smile instead of a frown. The news may not always be good, but it is only if the laughter stops that I'll truly lose hope.

Though I am often worried, I will put my faith in humor. As Mark Twain said, "The human race has but one really effective weapon, and that is laughter."

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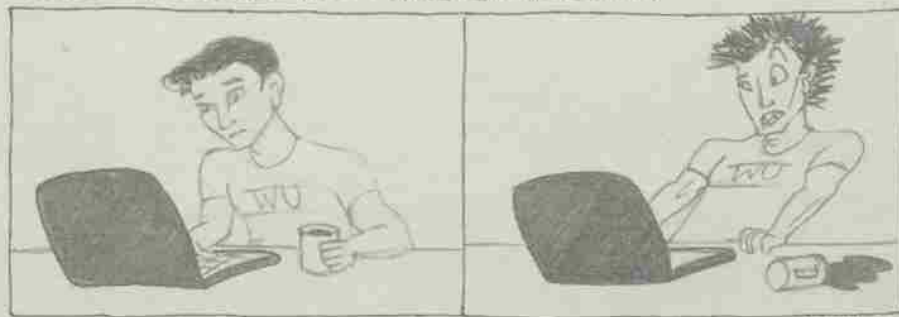
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EDITORIAL

The futility of the grading system

The top five problems with emphasizing grades

JASON CHECKS HIS FALL GRADES....



HEIDI ANDERSEN

5) The Variable Standard

Grades rate students on an uneven basis, because classes and professors vary in difficulty. This variation occurs when different professors teach the same class, or when classes of the same level are taught in different departments, or even when classes are repeated year after year. American Politics is typically taught by a variety of professors, and it's entirely possible that this semester's American Politics student, for example, would have to do more work than last year's student to achieve the same grade.

4) The Death of Evaluation

Grades force professors to put a numerical value on students' work, instead of qualitatively acknowledging and evaluating it. The best professors carefully evaluate submitted work, combing through it word after word to make as many suggestions as possible. While grades can be an effective summary of a student's achievement on a given assignment, they too often

replace substantive comments. Grades furthermore stifle students' desire to improve. If a student gets an A or B, why should he or she try any harder? In-depth professor comments give specific suggestions on what even an "A" student could work on.

3) Added Stress

Grades stress out students who worry about maintaining a perfect GPA for grad. school, because our culture places too much emphasis on grades. Even if everything else in their college experience (i.e. sports, music, club leadership) makes them ideal candidates for grad. school, their stress is compounded because they feel they need perfect grades to succeed. Thus, they prioritize grades over co-curricular activities, relaxation time and even learning itself (see #1).

2) Inaccurate Comparison

Grades establish a standard of comparison between students who might have a variety of strengths. The student with higher grades is automatically as-

sumed to be smarter, more focused and a harder worker, when in fact they may simply be skilled at memorizing facts for exams. They are seen as better prepared for careers, grad school and the rest of the world than students who, for example, might be better at creative thinking or organizational leadership.

1) Grades Discourage Actual Learning

A college's priority should be consistent learning by all students across the board. Instead, America's colleges encourage earning a good grade, which is only tangentially related. Instead of spending countless hours cramming for exams and memorizing study guides only to forget the information a few hours later, classes should be taught in a way that facilitates actual learning.

Students should be so captivated in a class that they don't need to study, except to clarify the information they've already learned in class. If a student is forced to cram for an exam, then the information clearly wasn't presented in a memorable fashion in class, and a valuable opportunity for long-term knowledge retention was lost.

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RESPONSE

From where are we saving the human race?

LUKE JOHNSON

GUEST WRITER

In response to Jeffrey Collins' January 28 opinion

That's right; forget about the whales, we need to save the humans. Wait, who are we saving them from?

Keep this on the down low everybody because I also have a filthy confession: I, too, long to flee into the wild countryside and live a life similar to that of Chris McCandless. Rather than a conveniently placed magic bus I would dwell in a self-sufficient log cabin near a creek with acres on which to hunt and gather my meals. Sounds pretty nice, right?

Yes, I agree this is a selfish desire. I would be escaping civilization and all negative externalities attached. I would avoid evidence of this spiritual, economical and scientific crisis that is environmental degradation. I would be disregarding the transcendentalists' wishes, as Thoreau advised the majority of his readers not to live near the pond as he had. Man, it would be great!

Like Thoreau, I enjoy treating the wilderness areas as my own sublime cathedral. However if I wanted to apply my environmental enthusiasm effectively I would modify my current surroundings, rather than flee to a space that better suits my liking. Build tall and not out, institute car-less cities, and convert waste into energy.

I would blame Thoreau for cities like Aspen, CO; places where yuppies and yuppies have bought their multi-million dollar Walden-esque cabins. But I also credit Thoreau for writing from the transcendentalist perspective, which more or less rooted the American environmentalist movement.

Selectively preserving pockets of land, while everything outside their borders is at our own disposal, indirectly encourages pollution, deforestation and most environmental harm. By having wilderness areas and National Parks, we set aside a place for humans to go and enjoy nature. It is a magnificent getaway, to abandon the noises of city life and absorb the sounds of wind, water and wildlife. We adore the natural surroundings while we are immersed in them and even develop a bit of passion for the beauty around us. We ponder the names of wildflowers and observe the birds in the sky.

We return home, though, and the complete reverence of nature is no more. We overlook the trees along the walkways and birds in the parks because they are part of the developed city, not part of the wilderness we go visit. We will keep driving our cars, emitting carbon dioxide and continue to live our modern lives because our idea of nature isn't present in the populated areas we live in. As long as we have these romantically titled "wild" places to escape to from our loud concrete jungles, we will pollute and degrade the environment from a distance and generally without a second thought.

Let's reassess Collins' facts: Yes, agriculture is one of the largest releasers of greenhouse gases, but farms on the scale that Collins wishes to live on are not. Producing on small polyculture farms, as opposed to commercialized monoculture, actually leads to a more symbiotic relationship with the environment, like humans used to have. The carbon emission of using a small farm as your main source of food emits nowhere near the amount of emissions of a large

agribusiness. Also, don't forget to take the emissions from the transportation of food to urban centers into account.

Forests are most tolerated by suburbia when managed by undergrowth removal. However, undergrowth removal is a form of wildfire control and is by no means healthy or natural. These removal tactics mold the environment to our liking, but most landscapes require wildfires for the germination and renewal of many plant species.

For those that have enjoyed the spruce and pine carpeted valleys of Yosemite National Park, you should know that they used to be expansive fields of various grasses and wildflowers. The indigenous peoples that originally inhabited the area had allowed Yosemite to frequently burn because it was both natural and advantageous for agriculture. Not until John Muir discovered the area and advocated for its preservation was the biome completely transformed. Our willingness to destroy habitat has subdued our ancestral tie to the environment.

E.O Wilson has estimated many trillions of dollars of economic value on the environment and the natural resources it provides. He also estimates a current ten-one-hundred million of unidentified organisms living on this planet. It can be easily convinced that habitat destruction is both an economic and scientific crisis. To deny that this is a spiritual crisis as well is to deny the authenticity of anyone's religion. Let your scientific priorities override your spiritual ones, but do not dismiss a man's walk in the woods as a non-religious experience.

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Students give two perspectives on abroad experience

Currently studying abroad:

TOM BROWNSTEIN
GUEST WRITER

I had a lot of reasons for being interested in Willamette: it's a small liberal arts college on the west coast, it's close to home, its promotional material advertises how many baby ducks are born on campus each year (that one is actually the reason I started to care about the school - I'm not kidding), and a majority of students study abroad.

I've been in Ireland for about a month now, so I still have no idea what I'm doing. Think about your first month of freshman year: it took you a while to understand the college, Salem's downtown, the fastest way to walk to Safeway. Now imagine adjusting to a new culture in addition to that. I'm constantly almost hit by cars driving on the "wrong" side of the street; I'm still awkwardly fiddling with one and two Euro coins, and figuring out how to have hot water at night.

In a lot of ways, though, I'm lucky. I'm in a well-developed country that speaks English as its primary language and has an incredibly strong American influence (because that's not common in the world). There's a lot of stuff here that's the same, from my flat mates watching "The Hills" to all the restaurants serving Coke to the glossy magazines describing 163 ways to please my man. In a lot of ways, it feels like America.

And yet, there are a number of small details that you just aren't used to. I mentioned I was going to eat a peanut butter and jelly, and an Irish student got a disgusted look on his face

and asked "together?" They don't eat mac and cheese here either. While all the name brands might look the same at first glance, you look a little closer and realize you've never heard of any of them before.

Culture shock, for me, wasn't something that happened as soon as I stepped off the airplane, but rather crept up on me over time, day by day. It was the little things that started adding up. In a lot of ways, I miss home, or the little things I got used to at home, and there's a lot of stuff here that I just don't understand.

My solution is simple: throw myself into what I don't understand and try and figure it out. I took an intensive Irish language course to try and figure out that crazy writing underneath English on the street signs. I go to pubs. I've traveled the country a bit, looking at historic and cultural sites like Newgrange and Kilmainham jail. When offered black pudding, I ate it. I should mention, black pudding is a delicacy in Ireland and, despite its name, is not at all pudding like. The secret, and by that I mean main ingredient is pig's blood.

I'm abroad, and I'm enjoying it. It's different; it's outside of my comfort zone, and there are a million little things that make me feel out of place. And that's exactly why I wanted to go abroad. This is, easily, one of the most valuable experiences I've ever had. My only regret is that it has to end.

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Returning from study abroad:

HEATHER WAHLBERG
GUEST WRITER

It's strange the things you miss when you're thousands of miles and an ocean away from home. I remember one of the girls from class finding a shop that sold American food products somewhere near Abbey Road (yes, the same one from that famous Beatles cover). A group of us made a trip down a few days before Thanksgiving and went nuts over the Stove Top, Reese's peanut butter cups and other things from home that we'd been missing for months. I didn't even like Reese's before then.

When you're getting ready to live in a foreign country, a lot of questions and fears crop up, most of them vaguely irrational, if not outright silly. Given my less than adventurous eating habits, I wasn't surprised to have jokes about starving in England thrown at me in the months before. Sure London was different, but I approached it like an adventure and expected things to be radically different from what I'd grown up with. I ended up having a blast! In the end, coming home was an even stranger experience than leaving it.

In coming back to Willamette's campus, I found a lot of little things that I had once taken for granted suddenly seemed foreign to me. Without a host Mom, I suddenly had to cook for myself again. Living on campus has the benefit of eliminating the seventy-five minute commute by crowded underground Tube, but I miss the remark-

able efficiency and convenience of London's public transit system. It's strange to see different faces in each of my classes, rather than the same seventeen people for every class during the week. It's an adjustment not to come home and say that I took a tour of the BBC and went to a play instead of sitting in lectures for a few hours.

Most of the time, London felt like one big long vacation that I just happened to be getting credit for. Plays, museums, palace tours. Heck, I even got to meet David Tennant. Twice! Nevertheless, as much as I loved England and hope to go back some day, I'm really glad to be home. Yes, I have to cook for myself again, but I can stop doing the conversion rates in my head when I do my shopping. Sure, it may be long distance to talk with my family still, but now they're close enough to visit on weekends again.

Living in London also helped me develop a few habits that I hope never to lose. I'm perfectly happy to be without a car this year, for one. In the two weeks since coming back to campus, I've already explored more of Salem on foot than I ever did in the two years previously. I've found museums and theatres to visit that I never really gave much thought to before now. They always tell you that study abroad will change you, but I never really believed it until I went through that change for myself, and I'm glad that I did.

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THE BIWEEKLY BEAKER: Microwaves: more than a small hand gesture



LAUREN VICE
COLUMNIST

DAVID TAYLOR
COLUMNIST

Hello loyal beaker readers, welcome back to the wonderful world of science. This week's article will discuss the basics of microwave cooking as well as the science behind it. We have a lot of great ideas planned for the coming semester, such as the Corona instant freeze trick, heavy metal toxicity in humans and an enlightening discussion on the validity of creationism as a science. So look forward to these topics and, as always, please feel free to send in your questions or any interesting science news.

Now, on to microwaves! The basic principle behind the microwave oven is the

generation of electromagnetic waves that are used to heat the food. In most conventional microwave ovens the electromagnetic waves are at a frequency of about 2,500 megahertz, and given that velocity of a wave equals frequency times wavelength ($v = \lambda f$), the waves heating your food have a wavelength of about 0.12 meters.

Absorption of these waves into food products results in the rotation of these molecules, and when these molecules are in motion they are prone to collisions. These collisions cause lead friction, which essentially transfers this kinetic energy into heat, allowing your food to be cooked! Foods that best absorb the waves used in microwave ovens are sugars, fats and most importantly, water.

It is interesting to note that in frozen

foods there is difficulty in causing rotation of water molecules as they are trapped in a crystalline structure. Generally frozen foods will heat more evenly if they have defrosted slightly and they have a small amount of water to work with. The defrost settings on the microwave recognizes this and pulses the microwave on and off to heat some of the water at the surface and allow the heat to disperse throughout the product. So don't just toss that frozen solid Hot Pocket into the microwave and blast it on high. Use the defrost setting to allow for a more even cooking and eliminate those times when you take a bite into a solid chunk in the middle.

This semester we will be telling a few of our favorite science jokes each week, the perfect thing to get you out of an awkward

spot with a new acquaintance (although they will then think you are a huge nerd). Please feel free to send us any of your favorites and we will use them too!

Q: Why would a bear at the North Pole dissolve faster than a bear at Yellowstone?

A: At the North Pole the bear will be "polar"!

Q: What happened to the man who was pulled over for having sodium chloride and a nine-volt in his car?

A: He was arrested for "a salt" and "battery"!

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IF I HAD A HAMMER: Guarding Democracy: What we can do



KAELEY PRUITT-HAMM
COLUMNIST

Everyone knows that the Iraq war is built on lies. Lies that linked Iraq to September 11 with a leap of faith and ignorance, lies about weapons of mass destruction that were no where to be seen, lies about the legality of the war and its basis in removing a leader the Bush family no longer liked. So we're totally over that, right? New president, new issues, and WMD's were, like, so last year, right?

I found out today that apparently we're not over those lies at all. Those that fuel the GWOTGM (Global War On Today's Googly Man) a.k.a. the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq haven't even bothered to cover up those lies and come up with new ones to base the fighting on. Nope, the legislation calling for the deployment of the National Guard to the Middle East (Authorization for Use of Military Force - AUMF) still reference WMD's in Iraq, Saddam Hussein's regime being alive and well, and the linkage between September 11 and Al Qaeda in Iraq. Our war is still illegal, but we continue to send our family members, friends, and fellow citizens to fight in the name of untruthfulness.

But Oregon doesn't have to be so un-cool. Oregon can be the cool state and do the right thing - refuse to support an unjust war by pulling the power plug of wasted lives

funneling to Iraq. The ball is in Governor Kulongowski's court, and it is in his hands to pass the power back to the people by withholding the National Guard from the government through legislation being passed now.

It might be worth it to remind everyone in this new semester that this column is in the Opinions section and that there are plenty of opinions regarding this issue that need to be addressed but can't fit within 500 words. Of course it is a complex issue and a complex war, and it can't be simply solved by pulling out troops immediately and leaving the mess we made behind. But change surely can't come by continuing to do the same things we have been doing for the same reasons that are clearly irrelevant now.

It's downright embarrassing and pathetic that our government can get away with extreme laziness in its rationalization of huge decisions such as sending thousands of its people to die and kill thousands of others each year. The government doesn't even have to give good reasons, just good orders. We must make sure to hold our government accountable and guard democracy, and Oregon can do that by protecting its own morality and guarding its Guard from injustice as well.

We may have some pretty cowardly people in our government, but we also have some extremely brave people who are fighting for our human rights in America every day. Take Michelle, a mother of six children who has been fasting and sleeping outside the capitol steps the send a message to the Governor to keep the guard home since November. I stopped by last night and saw her curled up in sleeping bags in the chilling night air. That is a fight that's based on truth, and I hope it will be the fight that overcomes and finally allows our country to move on.

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SOMETHING EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW?**

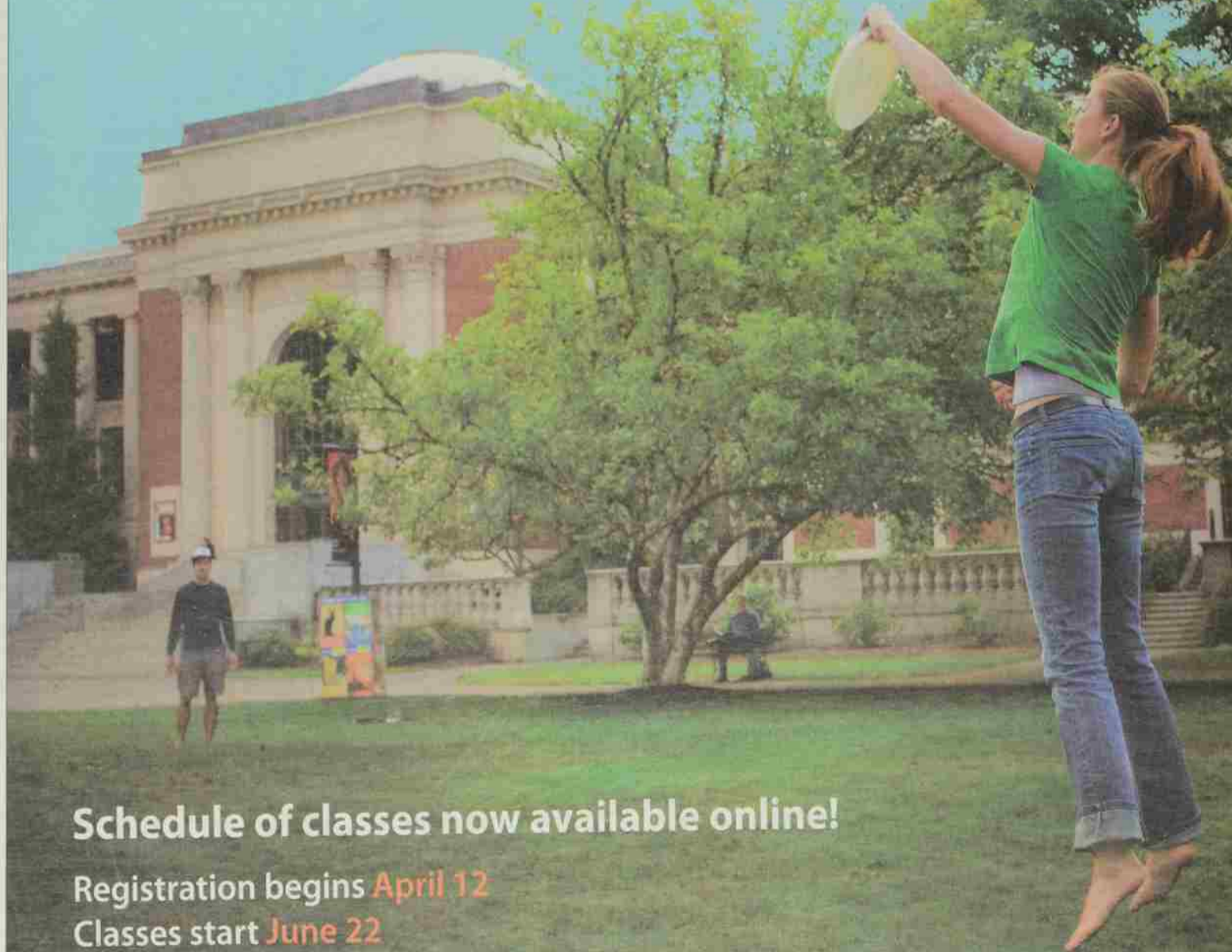
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