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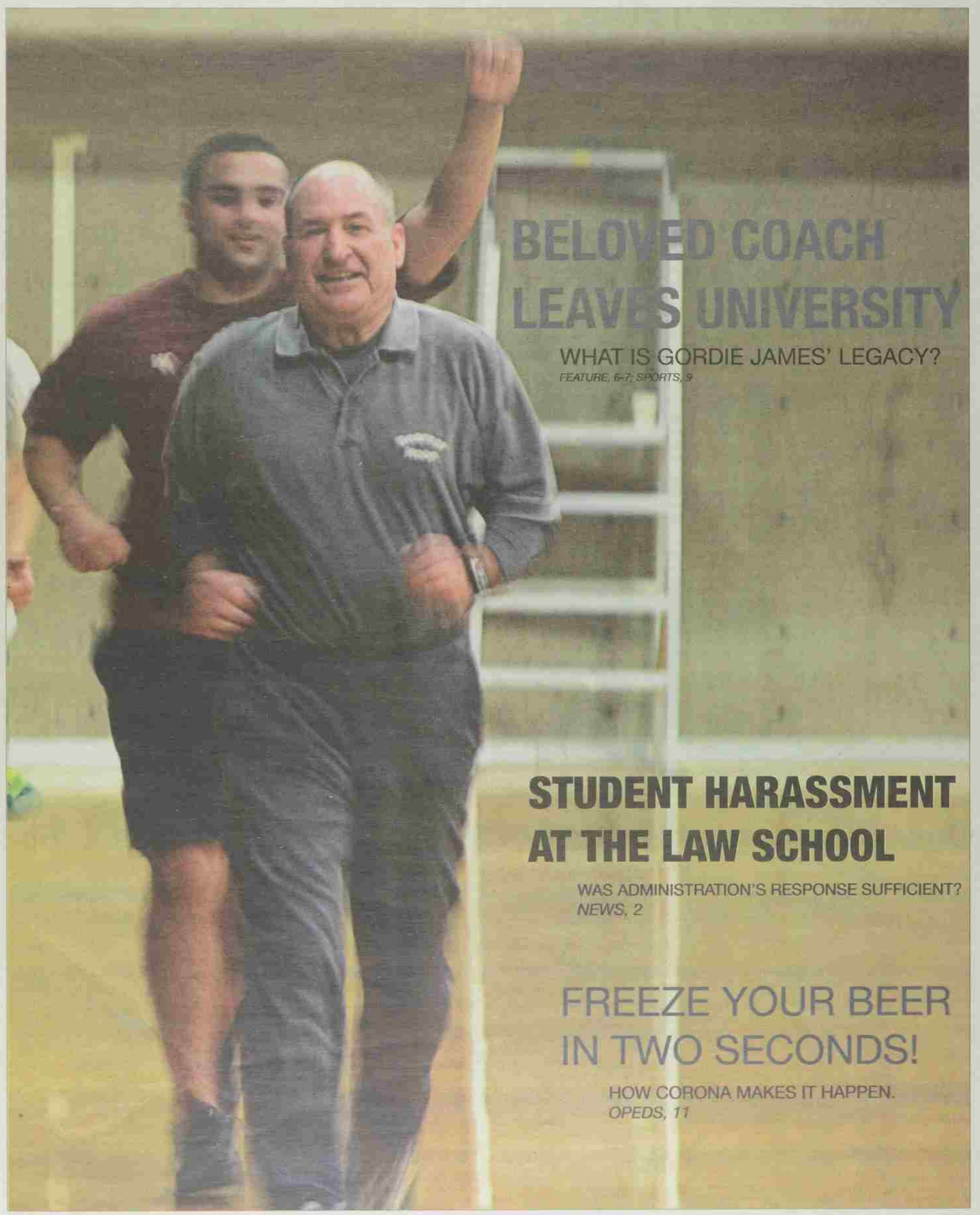

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WHAT IS GORDIE JAMES' LEGACY?

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Death threats at College of Law

Phone messages also contained "sexual content"

RUTH HEALD
STAFF WRITER

The College of Law is currently investigating an issue of verbal harassment by two accused perpetrators of over a dozen alleged victims, all of whom are students at the College of Law.

Since the College of Law has an academic code of conduct but no special behavioral code for law students, those who reported the harassment were referred to Campus Safety and a report was made by Campus Safety to the Office of Residence Life. Chief Judicial Officer Marilyn Derby declined to comment on this issue because of her status as a hearing officer. Director of Campus Safety Ross Stout referred the matter to Nadene Steinhoff in the Office of Marketing and Communications, who cited "federal regulations and university policy" when declining to give details.

According to one victim, who chose to remain anonymous, the harassment began in the spring of 2008 when multiple students said they received messages with "sexual content as well as death threats, threats against family members [and] pets." The victim allegedly received a harassing phone call in late January 2009 and originally believed it was a random incident.

When the threats allegedly escalated in the past few months to include more victims, however, the first victim decided to report the incident. In late January, the first victim went to Campus Safety, which recorded the messages and restricted the accused perpetrators from campus, pending investigation.

"It sounds like they just went through Fusser's [Guide] and looked for people that they knew well enough that they could make the harassing and threatening calls," the first victim said. "All the phone calls were personal, and that's really the only link we've been able to come up with. They had to know enough about you to mention stuff in the phone call so that you knew that they knew you."

On Feb. 2, Associate Dean of the College of Law Peter Letsou sent a campus-wide e-mail to the law students explaining that some students had received "one or more harassing, offensive and sometimes threatening calls and messages, particularly over the last week." Letsou indicated in the e-mail that two students had been "restricted from university property and from contacting any College of Law students ... pending final resolution of this matter." The names of these accused were not released to students, and others who had received harassing calls or messages were encouraged to come forward.

A second campus-wide e-mail was sent on Feb. 4, announcing the presence of security guards who, according to the e-mail, were not present in response to a specific threat. The security guards were posted at the two entrances to the law school and were present for four days, after which another e-mail was sent to students announcing the removal of the guards. The alleged perpetrators were still restricted from entering campus at that time.

Another victim, who also wished to remain anonymous, believed that security at the law school was a necessary action. The second victim emphasized the seriousness of death threats. "In today's society with the nature of such things, you really can't take chances ... with all of the school shootings, with everything going on," the second victim said. "You have to assume the worst."

One of the perpetrators was allowed back on campus on Feb. 11, as Letsou said in a mass e-mail. The administration did not explain why one individual was allowed back on campus while the other was not.

After learning one of the individuals accused would be back in class, the first victim scheduled a meeting with CLA President M. Lee Pelton, Derby and the deans of the College of Law. The first victim and several other victims requested transcripts of the threatening messages that were used as evidence during the first disciplinary hearing.

"It was clear that whoever made the initial decision did not have all the information or even correct information," the first victim said. The first victim cited transcripts of the calls as one example, claiming that clear threats appeared to be missing or significantly altered in the transcription used in the first hearing. The first victim also discovered that the preliminary hearing was only based on three of the harassing messages, and did not include reports made after the initial letters about the charges were sent to the accused students.

A formal request for a new hearing for the second accused student, based on the revised and expanded transcripts, was submitted and granted, according to this victim.

In an e-mail to the first victim, a university administrator said that an administrative hearing for one of the accused determined that his behavior violated three of the Willamette University Standards of Conduct. According to the e-mail, the accused student was administered a sanction of suspension for one year. Another e-mail between the administrative official and the first victim revealed that the accused student is allowed to attend class until his time to file an appeal expires on Mar. 6.

Contact: *rheald@willamette.edu*

▸ statement by symeon symeonides

At the end of January the College of Law received reports that two students had made phone calls and sent emails of an offensive and harassing nature to other law students. We take reports of such conduct extremely seriously and we therefore acted immediately to address the reports we received.

The College of Law asked students who reported receiving calls and messages to contact the University Campus Safety office to make a full report of the calls and messages received. We also reported the incidents to the Office of Campus Life, the University office that has responsibility for administering the University's Standards of Conduct. We also informed students of other resources that were available to them, both on Campus and in the Community, to deal with their concerns.

When we learned that the calls and messages were not isolated incidents, we reported the incidents to the entire College of Law community and asked those who received similar calls and messages to report those calls and messages to the Campus Safety office and to the College of Law administration.

Security guards were posted at the two entries to the law school for four days in February. These guards were hired to ensure the two students would not return to the school without permission, not because of any threats to the safety of the College of Law community. We chose to hire security guards because federal regulations and University policies prevented us from publicly identifying the students involved.

The cases arising out of these calls and messages are now proceeding through the disciplinary process. This process takes time to complete, but we feel strongly that the process needs to be respected, even if it takes longer than we might like.

We understand the desire of students and others for more information about these events and we would like to say more. However, we are prohibited from providing details because of federal regulations and University policies designed to protect the privacy of students.

Symeon Symeonides
Dean and Alex L. Parks Distinguished Professor of Law
Willamette University College of Law

Victims respond to the process

RUTH HEALD
STAFF WRITER

The alleged victims said that they were not pleased with some of the actions taken during the hearing process. "One of the accused was going to be back in class ... with some of the victims," the second victim said. "I suppose that, in and of itself, is just negligent or reckless."

The second victim expressed dissatisfaction with the disciplinary process. "I don't know what other type of conduct could warrant an expulsion more than [this situation]," the second victim said. "By not having two expulsions immediately following this information, it seems like Willamette University is putting a stamp of approval on this type of behavior."

The first victim agreed. "We thought that [the perpetrators] would be expelled or at least told to take a year and a half off and come back when none of your victims have to sit there in class with you," the first victim said. "I guess at the very least we expected [a process] that would allow the full story to be heard and a decision to be made on that story." Although both victims blamed university administration for mishandling the case, the first victim commended Campus Safety and the College of Law for their efforts.

"The process definitely needs an overhaul," the second victim said. "Having victims' rights is probably the biggest part, or at least having them have a say in the process. As it is now, you make the complaint and are never heard from again."

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One person's trash is TaB's treasure: sustainable fashion

CHELSEA GREENBERG
CONTRIBUTOR

Student models wearing sustainable fashion will walk the runway on Mar. 5, for Take-a-Break (TaB)'s Trash Bash Fashion Show.

"The trash bash fashion show is organized by two of the trips—the TaB Native Oregon trip and the TaB Portland trip," Director of Community Service Learning Laura Clerc said. "The money [raised by the fashion show] will be distributed among those two trips for housing, food, etc."

The minds behind the fashion show include TaB Native Oregon trip leaders sophomores Madeline Yoste and Katie Grauel, and TaB Portland trip leaders juniors Tom Salina and Megan Buchanan.

"The focus on sustainable fashion and recycled goods fits in with the trips," Salina said. "Their trip [TaB Native Oregon] focuses on the environment and our trip [TaB Portland] focuses on homelessness."

Outfits for the fashion show are constructed entirely of recyclable materials. There is no limit to the number of participants, and students may either enter a model or display their pieces themselves, according to Yoste.

"Students can sign up for free to enter their costume or model," Yoste said. "I've talked to a lot of my friends and they're really excited. They've started looking at cardboard and other materials to turn into an outfit."

There is a $2 minimum donation at the door. People are encouraged to donate more if they are able. "We invite all people to come and watch," Yoste said. "We are going to have music and there's going to be a runway. There will also be an announcer talking about each model and outfit."

"The audience will vote for whoever has the best costume," Buchanan said. "The sustainability council has been very generous and will donate prizes for the winners."

Funding for all TaB programs is largely based on donations and fundraisers. According to Grauel, participants are required to submit a deposit for the program and are given fundraising goals. Trips are affordable for students because of fundraising events that occur throughout the year.

"Opportunities like the TaB program really go under the radar," Salina said. "To support the efforts of these service opportunities is crucial."

TaB provides service-immersion alternative break programs for students. Each trip has no more than 15 participants and is facilitated by two leaders. Students will volunteer in cities in Oregon and all throughout the country. The fashion show is TaB's latest fundraiser and will be held in Cat Cavern at 7:00 p.m.

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Debate team promotes international relations

HANNAH WALLER
CONTRIBUTOR

On Thursday, Feb. 26 three members of the Willamette Debate Union competed against three Beijing Foreign Studies University students in an event put on by the International Debate Education Association (IDEA) and the Willamette Debate Union. The hour-long debate took place in Eaton and was centered around the resolution: "China should be more concerned with the bellies of its people than with the lungs of it neighbors."

This event was an opportunity for the Chinese debaters to experience the debate styles and systems of an American team, but also for Willamette's team to display its abilities to a bigger audience.

"I'm really excited about it. We don't really have a lot of opportunity to do what we call 'public debate' which is just sort of a demonstration of what we do on a weekly basis in tournaments around the country," senior team member Nic Robinson said.

IDEA, which has an office on campus, aims to bring students from around the world together by giving them the opportunity to discuss and debate important issues facing today's society. "IDEA does a lot of debates with people in eastern European countries to improve their civic education and debate is one way of doing that, so by doing that with China were essentially trying to ... promote that dialogue and build those friendships that bring people and countries closer together," freshman team member Tej Reddy said.

During the debate, the Willamette team argued that China needs to address the most pressing and immediate issues of hunger and malnutrition before they can focus on the bigger and more difficult task of cleaning up the environment. The team from China, on the other hand, argued that it is the very deterioration of the environment that is leading to the hunger and lack of resources, and thus this issue must be dealt with first. The debate consisted of fast-paced arguments from both teams, and after the debate the teams exchanged gifts from their respective countries.

Thursday's debate was unique in that the teams knew the topic beforehand. "One of the really cool things about Parliamentary debate, which is what we do at Willamette, is you have a new resolution every time you go to a debate round, so you find out what the resolution is about 20 minutes before the debate starts, you have 20 minutes to prepare arguments, and then you go in," Robinson said.

Despite the stress and rigor involved in the activity, the Willamette Debate Union has seen a great deal of success. According to Robert Trapp, Director of Forensics and Professor of Rhetoric and Media Studies, "we really do have a great team this year. We don't hear a lot about debate just because it's not a big spectator sport ... but we still have as much interest as we ever have," Trapp said.

Trapp's enthusiasm is shared by the members of the team. "It's innate in who we are as human beings and it's important to care about debate because, to be a productive member of a society and ... a democracy it's important to be able to defend your positions and your ideas and articulate them in order to make a greater society," Reddy said.

The importance of debate to Willamette's team is evident from its achievements. "Right now my partner and I are ranked fourth in the country as an individual team ... and we're competing against much larger schools from across the country," Robinson said. "We're really excited about heading off to the national tournament to see what we can do."

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Convocation | Israel-Hamas conflict

MOLLY CARVER

Last Thursday's convocation featured Ron Young, a consultant for the National Interreligious Initiative for Peace. His lecture "From Hamas-Israel War to Hope for Mideast Peace: U.S., Part of the Solution or a Part of the Problem?" sought to characterize the U.S.'s past and future role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In his lecture, Young addressed the history of U.S. involvement in the conflict, listing the successes and failures of recent U.S. administrations. He specifically noted Clinton's facilitation of the landmark Oslo Accords, which brought Palestinian and Israeli leaders face to face. Young praised such an agreement for its big ideas but chastised its poor execution on the ground.

Young summarized the U.S.'s past role in trying to bring about an end to the deadlock as "part of the problem, part of the solution."

Young said that he sees the development of a sustainable ceasefire between Hamas and Israel as the next logical step. Young also reflected upon the question of "why America?" "The U.S. has special relations with Israel," Young said. He cited Israel's absolute dependence on its American ally as reason for Israel to comply with U.S.-developed conflict resolutions.

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ADVERTISEMENT

8th Annual Senior Salute Celebration

Who's it for?
All Seniors Graduating in the class of 2009 are invited. We want to answer all your questions and help with all your graduation needs

When is it?
Thursday March 5, 2009
11:00am to 3:00pm
in the Alumni Lounge

What is it?
An event designed to help Willamette seniors in handling all of those little arrangements that can be stressful, but are necessary for graduation.
Such arrangements unclude:
- Cap, stole, and gown sizing and pick up
- The ordering and purchase of announcements, class rings, and diploma frames

This event will also allow you to get in touch with department representatives and find out about all the other exciting activities for the CLASS OF 2009

SALEM TRAVEL ADVENTURES

Salem Center: Take a trip to the mall that time forgot

MICHAEL CAULEY
REVIEWS EDITOR

MICHAEL CAULEY
Local denizens of the food court crowd, a typically cluttered but vibrant snapshot of local Salem Center.

Ah Salem, you shining diamond in the rough, you glistening emerald, you ... other precious stone analogies. Having lived in Oregon's capital city for almost three years now while going to Willamette, I'm grown to appreciate its atmosphere and its history. (Fun Fact: the Capitol building has burned down twice since 1855, but far be it for me to ask questions.) But only a cursory look at the layout of the place can tell you what's really number one around here: sweet, sweet commerce. Yes, it's the little shops that really dominate the town but do they ever get their bit of thanks for livening up the neighborhood? No they do not, and I plan to rectify that by first focusing in on the giant metropolis of stores and eateries that towers over anything that stands in its way: our downtown mall, the Salem Center.

The most noticeable thing about the mall is that, despite the massive crowds of people swarming all over the place (when I went there on Saturday, I'd say the count was around 100 bajillion), I've hardly ever actually seen a fellow Willamette student at the place. Seriously, I've visited the Salem mall at all different times of the week during my years here, and I can count on one hand the number times I've run into my peers there. Instead, you're immediately swarmed by the bored elderly and vaguely annoyed high schoolers (who I'm sure finished up all their homework before heading over).

This is not hard to understand since the first floor doesn't really send a clear message. For every Nordstrom's and fine ham sandwich place – I don't know what that means either – you have a Hot Topic (which does have some pretty neat Sonic the Hedgehog shirts) and the abandoned remains of what used to be one of two Gamestops. The fact that there used to be two Gamestops in the same mall should tell you something. Did I mention that you can't walk a foot in any direction without stubbing your toe on a phone sales booth or some coffee stand? It's like a Lego set that came with too many pieces.

But don't let my negativity dissuade you just yet, faithful reader, because once you take the elevator to the second floor you'll find the prospects are a little bit brighter. Of course again, there's almost no walking space, but it's easy to note that the guy who designed the second floor knew much more about natural lighting than the one who did the first. It's downright purdy. There's also a Borders Express here, and while it's a little tiny considering that it serves as the only non-used bookstore within walking distance of a state capitol (I dare you to find one non-fiction book there published before 2001), it's quite do-able. Additionally, for the female segment of our population there's Aeropostale, Torrid, some jewelry places ... it all kind of runs together at a certain point, but they seem to have things pretty well covered.

In order to make it over to the other half of the mall, you must pass through what I call "The Dreaded Corridor of Cell Phone Carriers." Seriously, it's rare in life that you will ever meet such a concentrated group of people whose sole job is to interrupt your day and sell you a product you're not interested in using the most annoying methods possible. Recently I've noticed that their existing strategy of merely yelling at you as you try not to make eye contact has morphed into them loudly asking what you have in your bags. This is clearly their approximation of a friendly inquiry into your personal interests but it comes off more like an interrogation by unfeeling robots from a dystopian future. Personal anecdote: once, one of the saleswomen literally ran 20 feet to intercept me as I was walking away from F.Y.E., which finally forced me to tell her that I already had my own cell phone plan and that I wasn't interested in switching. My opinion of the telecommunications industry really hasn't been the same since.

Anyway, once you're safely across you can partake in that classic mall staple: the food court (called "Willamette Picnic"), and leave it to Salem Center to pull out all the stops. And by all the stops, I mean there are multiple places to eat, but I know malls that can't even manage that. My favorite has always been the modest Sbarro's pizza outlet, where they charge you over six dollars a slice but since the company's so close to bankruptcy, you know every cent helps. However, if that's not your speed, there's always the two Asian places, Orange Julius, Subway (if you're pretending to eat healthy) and McDonalds (when you're just about broke). And of course, there's a Cinnabon stand right smack-dab in the middle of the court, because it just wouldn't be the Salem Center if you didn't have something blocking your way every damn second.

Once you've had your fill of mall food, the only thing left in Salem Center is the other half of the first floor, nestled in somewhat awkwardly below the fast food restaurants. The space a little bit spooky, to be honest. It's dark and poorly lit, and there's only a handful of stores, one of which is abandoned for ten months of the year and then turns into a rather unpopular calendar shop during the winter season. The last remaining Gamestop resides here, as does the sketchy costume store for both guys and gals ("buy your Irish Drinking Team uniforms here!"), but they work in tandem as a nice microcosm of the kind of bawdy eccentricity I've come to associate with this town. In fact, the only qualms I have about this "other first floor" are the kiddie rides powered by quarters (they're the ones you sometimes see outside grocery stores). They're never in use since there aren't a lot of little kids walking around, so seeing them abandoned and in such darkly-lit conditions just reminds me of old "Goosebumps" book covers.

So there you have it. Maybe Salem Center has seen better days, but it's hanging on pretty well in this post-Bush economy (take that, Circuit City!). So be a pal and a good citizen and blow your hard-earned cash at our local mall, or at least stop by and take a look. And do it soon, because Orange Julius needs the attention. Trust me.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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▸ let's go shopping!

Salem Center is located:

Address: 401 Center Street NE

Telephone: 503.364.0495

CONCERT REVIEW: **French Kicks**

Rock band's show in Portland is a call to dig those Kicks

CONNIE GLEDHILL
PHOTO EDITOR

I indulged in a little trip up to Portland on Friday night at the Doug Fir. What I gained from it all: one $15 ticket, two $7 drinks (hey, I wasn't driving), one $15 French Kicks t-shirt with a sweet swordfish on it, one free French Kicks poster, and one free set list (thanks, Liz. I love you), and the chance to listen to amazing live music and ogle extremely cute, scruffy 20-something-year-old men.

This was the first time I had seen them play live, and I was blown away by their talent. If I could keep five of my top favorite bands locked in my closet at my disposal, to let them out and play some live music for me in the comfort of my own home, the French Kicks would definitely be one of them.

At the show they started out with some newer, softer pop songs from their latest full-length album, Swimming, such as "Sex Tourists" and "Carried Away," followed by some older favorites like "Wrong Side" and "So Far We Are." Once the band broke out "Why Tell Me," the crowd was toe-tapping and clapping. The band even paid homage to Portland-based band the Jumpers and performed a cover.

For their encore, lead singer Nick Stumpf and Josh Wise (vocalist/guitar) performed one of their newest songs, a cover of the Ramones' "Questioningly on Covers," their latest project. Aaron Thurston (drums) and Nick Stumpf's brother, Lawrence, (vocalist/bass) returned to the stage to perform their last song "Abandon," (which, let's be honest, I had been waiting for all night).

There are a lot of bands that sound incredible in the studio, but that group chemistry rarely makes the transfer from studio to stage. The greatest bands/artists of all time were those who were able to captivate their audience during live performances through their remarkable stage presence. I've seen the Who and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young in concert, as well as smaller, more modern bands like Ben Kweller and Mirah, and the French Kicks are definitely one of the better bands I've seen play live. If you're a fan of the Strokes, the Walkmen and the like, or if you're just looking to dabble in some new music, then the French Kicks will be a welcome addition to your library as well.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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CONNIE GLEDHILL
French Kicks' lead singer Nick Stumpf sets the tempo at the band's Portland show last Friday.

Film series explores feminist issues

BETHANY HUNTLEY
CONTRIBUTOR

This past Wednesday, Feb. 25, English Professor Dr. Allison Hobgood led a viewing and discussion of "Thelma and Louise" as part of the Feminist Film Series. The discussion centered around the question, "is it a feminist film?"

After the movie showing, those who could stay discussed what they thought. Some people insisted it was a feminist film, while others said it was not. I cannot tell you what to think but I can recommend it as a great film whether you are looking at the larger issues or just looking to enjoy a well-made movie (or if you want to see pre-fame Brad Pitt without a shirt on!).

As part of a larger objective, the Feminist Film Series was first launched in Spring 2008 by Katherine D'Zmura and History Professor Leslie Dunlap. Largely a student initiative, the series will continue this semester with a showing of the film "Paris is Burning" on Friday, April 3 and a feminist speaker, B. Ruby Rich, who will screen a film and lead a discussion on April 16. Rich will also meet with students interested in feminism and films on Friday, April 17.

"It would be hard to find a more prominent leader in feminist film and film criticism than Rich," Dunlap said. "It is an unusual honor that she has agreed to speak at Willamette, considering her many commitments and the demand for her as a speaker. Students are in for a rare treat." Rich is currently writing a book on the "rise and fall of the New Queer Cinema" and serving as chair of the Department of Community Studies and Social Documentation at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Dedicated students are in the process of forming a Feminist Film Club on campus, which will meet every month in various residence halls for informal discussions of films. The club's interest reflects a growing interest in feminist cinematography. For more information, contact Stina Janssen, Becky Alexander or Sonia Lupher.

One of the many goals of the film series is to instigate discussions about feminism on campus and show that it is not "dead." Through films exposing injustice and promoting social change, the group hopes to discuss and explore diversity and disagreement within social movements and the relationship between art and activism. Feminism is a progressive movement in the world that affects both men and women in our world. What better way to explore it than through the modern medium of film?

"Thelma and Louise" (1991) explores a vast array of topics including rape, misogamy, male chauvinism and the role of a woman in modern society.

Through humor, the film lightens the weight of the larger topics but succeeds in not detracting from them. Furthermore, through the power of language, especially derogatory and vulgar names, it showcases the many ways men verbally degrade women without ever touching them. Through their journey, Thelma and Louise throw away the burden of feminine expectations and develop into strong, independent women who are self-sufficient and empowered. Overall, it is a great film with a powerful message. Look out for more from the Feminist Film Club!

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COURTESY OF THEDUELINGCAVALIER.BLOGSPOT.COM

"Thelma and Louise" was shown as part of the continuing Feminist Film Series.

Student improv group presents murder

JAY MONK
CONTRIBUTOR

"Announcement! Announcement! Mr. Harry Ledman (pronounced "leedman") has died in this very residence, and we only know that someone here is the culprit."

And with that we, the Willamette Hardcore Improv Mavericks (WHIM) were destined to solve a mystery of murder and betrayal. My name is Jill Dyner, and I was the costume designer who had worked for Harry before his grievous death. I was about to be fired, but, I swear, I did not kill him! It was Cameron Love who killed him!

WHIM is an improvisational acting club that has been meeting twice a week all year and recently has prepared and eaten for the Willamette community a dinner of murderous proportions — so much so, that we had to make a party out of it. A Murder Mystery Party, to be precise.

When asked about how hard it was to produce this show, co-president Jaimee Fricklas answered that she got a lot of help from friends, but that it was still very difficult to manage. She said that "it was interesting," because even though she knew the basic plot outline, things could happen that she couldn't predict. That's what Improv is like!

Each party follows a specific theme that was announced beforehand, giving the performers a chance to make up a costume in accordance with the theme. Our last party followed the theme of the '20s. The way a party works, is each actor upon their arrival is handed an envelope that contains their name, and everything else that they are allowed to know for the game.

In the latest edition of Murder Mystery Party, love, greed, and betrayal on all sides was rampant. Scandal throughout — Christen Ledman was having an affair with her now-late husband Harry! Who was it to be the murderer, none other than Cameron Love (played by Chris Bingham, aka Jesus) who was in love with Kelly (played by Kira Bohm) who killed good Harry Ledman! Upon the revelation of this, we promptly lynched Chris in an effort to restore the peace. Ultimately, it would seem that "love is a bigger motive for murder than money is" (Carrie Tirrell) as I'm sure Mr. Love would know. WHIM meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30pm in Smullin 159, and anyone is welcome to come to practices regardless of previous acting background. We have several upcoming shows that we are still rehearsing for.

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COURTESY OF JAY MONK

The WHIM meets from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Smullin 159. All student participants are welcome.

ART HISTORY FOR COCKTAIL PARTIES:

The internet isn't just for porn

ALISA ALEXANDER
ARTS EDITOR

Lately I've been spending an inexcusable amount of time not doing my schoolwork. What have I been doing? Ending world hunger, volunteering at an animal shelter, or some other worthy cause? No, I'm afraid not. Embarrassingly enough, it's been on the internet (and no, I'm not looking at porn, nor have I started playing World of Warcraft, and this is outside of my Facebook addiction). I've been trying to figure out why I have become obsessed with certain Web sites. I think I may have figured out why.

Obviously there is a Web site out there for everything. Wanna know which bonsai tree suits your star sign the best? How to mix the perfect cocktail? A blog about the deep philosophical issues present in Family Guy? All of these sites exist for our browsing pleasure. For me, the Web sites that have been the most intriguing are the very specific, simple ones. Let me explain this further.

In art, often the artist is trying to convey one (or perhaps several) ideas through visually stimulating media. An art object is to be looked at as a complered work that may allude to various themes, cultural or otherwise. Many Web sites do the same thing, although many of them have more than one "artist," and often the content is viewer-contributed. I've been fancying sites that focus on one theme and explore all of its permutations.

I know this all sounds kind of silly, but in some ways I see a bit of a parallel between this internet-life and art. The site "F*** my life" is sad, funny and poignant. Members submit gut-wrenching, hopefully true stories about terrible experiences. Examples include posts like "Today, my boss fired me via text message. I don't have a text messaging plan. I paid $0.25 to get fired. FML" and "Today, I went to my first strip club for my friend's birthday. I also found out what my girlfriend does for a living. FML." All stories end with the ubiquitous "FML" and some of the posts make you want to cringe and burst into laughter at the same time.

Want to know why America is one of the fattest countries in the world? Go to www.thisiswhyyourefat.com. The site consists entirely of pictures of the most disgusting gastronomic creations known to man. I wonder if people are actually eating the things they are posting, creations like bacon-wrapped meatloaf with a layer of mac and cheese, or the 30,000 calorie sandwich stuffed with corndogs, onion rings and cheese. People may just be pushing the limits of sanity, or trying to shock the world with their grotesque creations. Hmm, this sounds a little bit like what Damien Hirst is doing with his "sculptures" of dead animals soaked in vitrines of formaldehyde. Except he's not eating them.

I'm not saying Web sites are art, but in this age it makes sense that people are finding new and more accessible ways to express crazy ideas. Web sites that keep it simple and narrow in their scope can often express variations on a theme pretty eloquently. Other favorites of mine include www.failblog.org and www.cryingwhileeating.com. I look at these sites as time-progressive group installations via the Web. It's a stretch, sure, but man, it's just so addictive.

Contact: *alexanda@willamette.edu*

▸ in the arts this week

The newly-renovated Mark and Janeth Sponenburgh Gallery, which houses the Hallie Ford Museum of Art's collection of European, Asian, and American art reopens to the public on March 4. A reception will be held at the museum from 5 – 8 p.m.

The Feminist Film Series continues this Thursday from 7 – 10 p.m.

"The Beauty Queen of Leenane" runs through March 7 at the Kresge Theatre. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Dramatic Vocal Arts Series will present "Cosi Fan Tutte," an opera by Mozart translated into English, performed by Willamette alumni and current students in Smith Auditorium March 6 and 7 starting at 7:30 p.m.

Gordie James

A glimpse at the heart of Willamette's athletic community

TIM WALSH
STAFF WRITER

At first glance, it is difficult to imagine something more ironic than the office of Willamette Men's Basketball Coach Gordie James. Small and slightly cramped at the very end of the Sparks Center office wing, the size and location actually seem to fit well with the low-key man who last week announced he is stepping down after 22 years at the helm, but still answers the phone saying "Bearcat Hoop."

No, it's the décor that's out of place.

The office looks like an extension of the university trophy case – replete with so many figurines, plaques, certificates and cut-down basketball nets that some awards lie haphazardly on bookshelves, since there isn't room on the walls. The filing cabinet, desk and television monitor almost seem like they don't belong. It's not at all in keeping with James's humble personality.

It would be easy to simply recap James's material accomplishments: Willamette's only national championship, national coach of the year, six Northwest Conference titles, four-time NWC coach of the year, 16 winning seasons, a Willamette record of 357-230, and a career record of 697-359. But last week's announcement is far more than a story about sports, it's the story of a man and the terrific impact he has had on thousands of lives.

"Gordie's passion for teaching is his greatest legacy. ... No one can replace him ... the next coach will have to expand and grow into the hole Gordie left."

MARK MAJESKI
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

THE BEGINNING

"Humble" is not only a fitting adjective for James, but an apt way to describe the coach's first experiences with basketball: a backyard dirt court that served as a weekend gathering point for neighborhood kids. By the time James had reached eighth grade (and asphalt surfaces), he already knew he wanted to coach. "I loved sports, and I always ended up in some form of leadership capacity on whatever team I played," James said.

Just one year after graduating from Cal Poly-Pomona, James began teaching biology and coaching freshman basketball. Fourty-four years later, he can still name his first lineup – not their record, but every one of his starting five. "It's always been about relationships," the coach, who went on to become a head coach at just 26, said. "I can think back from the first day – every day's been a joy coaching."

However, by 1973, James was ready for a change of scenery and, through a friend at Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego, Ore., secured a job as the school's work experience coordinator and as an assistant basketball coach. "Oh, Gordie was a lot of fun," Jack Bramsman, one of James's coworkers at Lakeridge, said. "He was very professional, but he'd pull pranks." James became the Pacers' head coach several years later, and Bramsman noted his tremendous positive influence on his players. "Gordie's house was always open – I think even Jerome Kersey spent some time at Gordie's," Bramsman said.

That openness has never left. "What I like most about Gordie is his ability to make his players feel at home," sophomore guard Ricky Thompson said.

BEARCAT HOOP

One of the connections James made at Lakeridge was with Portland Trail Blazers Head Coach Jack Ramsay. Before long, Ramsay and James had teamed up to start the Pro Classic Hoop Camp at Willamette. When Ramsay departed for Indiana in 1986, James continued to run the camp solo, developing a friendship with Willamette Athletic Director Dick Kaiser and one of his assistants at the camp, Wally Wing. When Bearcat Head Coach John Roche left in 1987, Kaiser asked James if he was interested.

"At first I was reluctant, because I loved high school coaching so much, but the more I thought about it, the more excited I got about it, and 22 years later," James said. "Actually, it's interesting – one of the players from that '87 team was on the interview committee. I just got an e-mail from him a couple of days ago – he's working for Nike in China."

James' first group of players (again, he can still name the starting lineup) formed the philosophy for what became "Bearcat Hoop," a phrase that can still be found on bright yellow sheets of paper that James keeps in his filing cabinet. "We were going to be a family first," James said. "That's kind of what's defined us."

The impact was immediate, and James's on-court accomplishments at Cone Field House are well-documented. His first year (1987-88), the Bearcats became the first NWC team to go undefeated in conference play since Elgin Baylor and College of Idaho in 1955. In 1992-93, Willamette completed a remarkable season with a 29-4 record and the university's first – and only – national championship.

An NAIA Division II Coach of the Year award sits just behind James' desk on the windowsill, but the coach never mentions it. "[That team was] talented, they were cohesive, they were determined, and they had a great work ethic," James said. "At our first team meeting, I told them that we could win the conference or finish fourth. By the time the meeting was over, I told Coach Wing, 'This team could win the national championship.' They had unbelievable will, unbelievable togetherness."

COURTESY OF ROBERT MCKINNEY

Gordie James cheers on his team at a home basketball game vs. Lewis & Clark.

THE TEACHER

James then sits upright in his chair: "I want to stop you now and make sure I can say something about Wally Wing." Wing is the assistant coach who came to Willamette with James and has never left. "At this level, to have the same assistant for 22 years speaks to that man's commitment ... loyalty ... love of our players ... and to our friendship. He's been key to this program's success," James said, adding with a laugh, "There was never any question of who was good cop and who was bad cop."

It does not take long to figure out James' two most distinctive qualities: his tendency to deflect praise (however deserved it may be), and his love for teaching. He sees his job not as that of a basketball coach, but as that of an educator. "I would say that Gordie's passion for teaching is his greatest legacy," Willamette Athletic Director Mark Majeski said. "I think people across campus recognize that, especially the tenured faculty."

James' coaching tactics stem from this philosophy: "I've never heard Gordie yell in a huddle, except to be heard," Mike Allegre, voice of the Bearcats since the early 1990s, said. "He teaches in the huddle. It's like holding class."

Willamette men's basketball guard Grant Leslie told of a practice earlier this year at which James was trying to teach junior post Cameron Mitchell about defensive position, giving Mitchell the ball and telling him to try to score. "As Cam backed down the 60-some-year-old guy in the post,

CONNIE GLEDHILL

James (left) runs with students while teaching a personal fitness course.

Gordie took an unquestionable charge and fell to the floor ... hopped up ... and told all of us to run a down and back," Leslie said. Players were laughing so hard that James beat everyone back – and then made them run again.

But James's most successful teaching has come in using the basketball court to teach his players about life. "Sport is about your relationships, and your teammates, and your effort – not about some lighted numbers on a scoreboard," the coach said. "And I think that's the reason that as successful as our teams have been, our players are even more successful when they step into life. When you have past players email you and say, 'The things I learned in the basketball program have made me a better father,' that's what the reward is for me."

He added, "I couldn't tell you what my record is here, I really couldn't."

THE IMPACT

Assessing James's impact is difficult, simply because it has been so broad and so far-reaching. The tradition of Bearcat Hoop is one of the most respected in the Northwest, and when Linfield Head Coach Larry Doty told the Statesman Journal that he had difficulty thinking of someone who's done more than James for basketball in Oregon, it means something. Willamette games have become a community event, drawing over 1000 people on average.

"I've always seen Bearcat Hoop as a community that's part of the Willamette body," James said. "It's always been about our fans, and I think we have the best in the conference."

Probably no word comes up more often when describing Gordie James than "mentor." Allegre, Bramsman, Head Football Coach Mark Speckman and current basketball players Ricky Thompson and Simon Currie all used the word. James himself refers to it. For over 15,000 kids who have been through the Pro Classic Hoop Camp over the years, James has been the example to follow.

Collegiate athletics have a unique ability to reach out to some of the most marginalized and disadvantaged youths in society, providing them with an education that can be a life-changing experience. Allegre cited one example in particular of James's life-changing influence: molding a player's character, changing his attitude and enabling him to become a success. Success has been no stranger to Willamette, which, according to James, has more basketball players go to graduate school than any other college in the Northwest.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

"Gordie informed me of his decision [to leave Willamette] the week prior to the last game," Majeski said. "It did catch me off guard. I really thought he'd be here for a couple more years."

James cites his retirement as merely the end of a period in his life. "For 44 years, I never felt I had a job. I never felt like I had to come to work ... I never set a timetable," James said. "But if you coach for 44 years, eventually you just kind of run out of juice. It was a combination of a lot of little things."

James admits that the sudden death of women's basketball coach, former assistant and close friend Bruce Henderson affected him deeply. He cited Henderson's message, that every day is precious, as one of the reasons he decided to step down.

"Spending more time with my family is number one," James said. "But I have a whole other list of things I need to do, that I'm excited to do. I've a very special lady – my wife Peg – I've got grandkids. I've got a fishing boat on the Snake River that needs to get wet, I've got golf clubs that need to be swung, I've got a mountain bike that needs some mud, I've got shelves of novels that need to be read, and I've got a rose garden that needs attention."

Of course, James's departure leaves a gaping hole in the athletic department, one that no one, particularly Majeski, quite knows how to fill. "The void is huge," Majeski said. "No one can replace him ... the next coach will have to expand and grow into the hole Gordie left."

Bramsman, who watched James leave Lakeridge High in 1973, adds, "I think you're just going to miss Gordie being Gordie. There's just so much to that package ... it's tough to quantify. He has tremendous rapport with everybody."

The outspoken Allegre also had difficulty talking about James's departure. "Gordie's the face of Willamette basketball, and I think he will continue to be down the road. And I'm sorry, but if that court isn't named Gordie James Court in the near future, someone's asleep at the switch."

Of course, the coach who's shaped countless lives and meant so much for so many offers a slightly rosier prediction, having confidence that Bearcat Hoop will "continue to thrive," before insisting that he will continue to attend games, and maybe even lead his trademark "Uumph-Aah Bearcats!" chant.

He then gets a bit more reflective. "I've been so fortunate to be here and to work with such energetic, committed and dedicated individuals. It's 22 years that I've truly cherished."

It is in looking at Gordie James's remarkable heart that the presence of all those trophies in the office finally makes sense.

Contact: *twalsh@willamette.edu*

> *"What I like most about Gordie is his ability to make his players feel at home."*
>
> RICKY THOMPSON
> SOPHOMORE

> *"Gordie's the face of Willamette basketball ... If that court isn't named Gordie James Court in the near future, someone's asleep at the switch."*
>
> MIKE ALLEGRE
> BEARCAT ANNOUNCER

▸ further reading
For a player's perspective on Gordie James, see Camron Mitchell's story on sports, 9.

TRACK & FIELD

Bearcat track launches season at Willamette Opener

LUKE RUSSELL
CONTRIBUTOR

This past Saturday, Willamette track and field started off the 2009 season with a strong performance. Competing against several rival teams and running clubs at the Willamette Opener, the team ended the meet with victories in three events as well as several close finishes.

The first victory included a 1-2-3-4 finish with sophomore Nick Rebol leading the pack in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. He finished in a time of 9:44.52 and was complemented by senior Josh Clough who took second place with a time of 9:47.48. Junior Chris Platano and freshman Ben Donovan finished third and fourth respectively with times of 9:49.04 and 9:49.97.

This solid display was shortly followed by the women in the same event. Freshman Kimber Mattox ran a time of 11:08.33 to take the win. Senior Jena Winger finished second to Mattox in the event, following closely at 11:15.46. Mattox had little difficulty winning the race, beating everyone but Winger by more than 30 seconds.

The third victory was delivered by freshman Jaela Dinsmore in the 200-meter dash. She recorded a time of 27.07 seconds to narrowly fend off Jocelyn Smith of Corban College, who was clocked at 27.80. Dinsmore also competed in a very close 100-meter dash, taking third place with a final time of 13.26, just short of the first place mark of 12.65 seconds.

Willamette barely missed wins in both the men's and women's 800 meter races as well. In a pool of 32 competitors, the men's side saw three Bearcats in the top four, headed by freshman Paul Winger in second. Winger finished with a time of 1:56.02, barely eclipsed by Whitworth's Emmanuel Bofa's time of 1:55.58.

Sophomore Ryan McLaughlin and freshman Reid Gilbertson tailed Winger with respective times of 1:57.48 and 1:57.97. Juniors Lydia Marsalli and Jennifer Luecht finished fourth and fifth on the women's side with times of 2:22.72 and 2:23.35, respectively.

Senior Brooke Smith, competing in three events, took second place in the high jump with an effort of 1.55 meters. Smith also finished fourth in the 100-meter hurdles. Smith's final event was the long jump in which she placed fifth with a distance of 4.73 meters.

In the men's hammer throw, senior Jacob Monroe threw for an impressive 48.10 meters. The throw earned him fourth place out of 19 competitors. Junior Craig Sather threw for 40.34 meters, placing him 10th.

Sophomore Brandt Nevin placed seventh in the men's javelin throw with a distance of 51.50 meters. On the woman's side, freshman Katie Peterson finished in second place throwing for 37.76 meters. Tauni Powell of Unat-Lane Community College won the event with a throw of 43.55 meters.

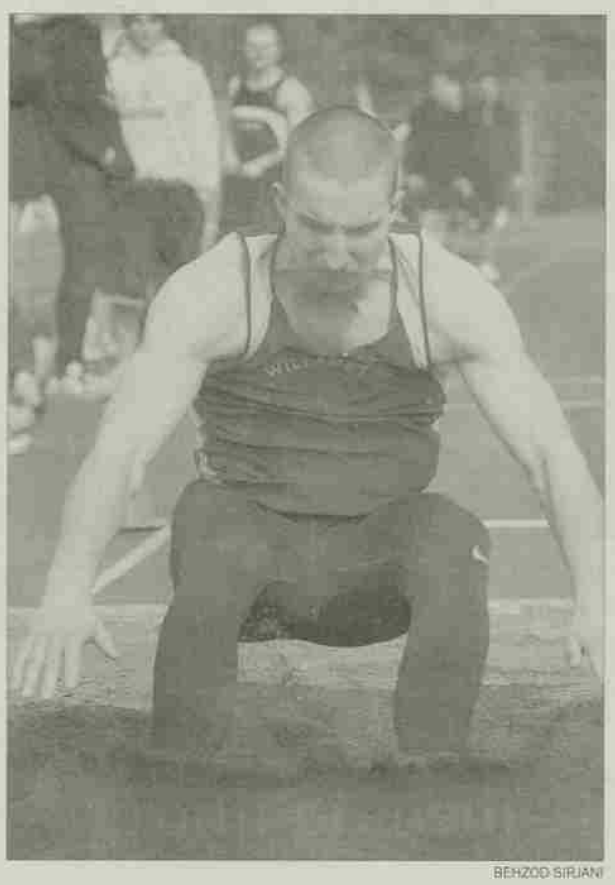
The men's 5000 meter run featured sophomore Stefan Redfield placing third with a time of 15:30.48. Sophomore Matt Parker finished ninth with an effort of 15:57.62. Freshman Sally Venable finished second in the women's 5000 meter run in 19:30.26. Freshman Erin Madden followed in fourth place with a time of 19:58.86.

Other notable results included many third place finishes for the Bearcat men including senior Jonathan Woodland in the triple jump at 12.97 meters, sophomore Josh Clothier in the shot put at 13.86 meters and sophomore David Oppat in the discus at 45.06 meters.

Contact: *russelll@willamette.edu*

▼ next up

Bearcats v. Western Oregon @ Monmouth, OR Saturday, Mar. 7 at 11:00 a.m.



BEHZOD SIRJANI

Senior Grant Piros finished fifth in the men's long jump on Saturday.

BEHZOD SIRJANI

Senior Josh Clough leaps over a hurdle in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. He finished second in the event behind sophomore Nick Rebol.

BASEBALL

Lewis & Clark succumbs to power hitting Bearcats

TYLER THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Facing a hapless Lewis & Clark team, Willamette baseball took care of business over the weekend, sweeping the Saturday doubleheader and dominating the third game of the series before dropping the series finale in a Monday make-up game.

On Saturday and Sunday, the Bearcats watched as the lineup lit up the scoreboard, scoring 34 runs in less than 22 innings before the series was suspended due to rain on Sunday afternoon.

Having to return to Portland on Monday to finish the series, however, the Bearcats could not maintain momentum and finished the weekend at 3-1, losing the finale 2-1 in a pitcher's duel.

"When we have everything clicking on offense, we can put up quite a show," senior first baseman Kyle Stalker said. "[But] as demonstrated by the last game of the series ... things can get cold really fast."

In the first game of the weekend, pitching was the story, as sophomore righties Ryan Hood-Taylor and David Stott shut our Lewis & Clark 5-0.

Hood-Taylor started the game and earned the win, pitching six innings and giving up only four hits. Stott was also sharp, allowing only two hits in three innings of work.

"Anytime you shut out another team, you're throwing the ball well," Interim Head Coach Aaron Swick said.

While the Bearcats could only manage nine hits off of Pioneer pitchers David LaDouceur and Adam Rager, the hits came when they were needed, with the Bearcats scoring all five runs with two outs.

"Two out RBIs are momentum swingers," Swick said. "We have been pressing our guys to keep the momentum on our side of the field."

In Saturday's second game, the Bearcats once again managed to come out on top, this time by the score of 14-4. Cut short after eight innings, the game saw the Pioneers take a quick 3-0 lead in the bottom of the second before Willamette opened the floodgates, pouring on 14 runs starting in the top of the third.

> *"We've got a lot of guys that can put some serious muscle behind the ball."*
>
> **KYLE STALKER**
> FIRST BASEMAN

Sophomore left fielder TC Lee scorched the ball going 4-5 and driving in four runs. Junior center fielder Michael Rierson and sophomore right fielder Michael Dearborn also added three hits apiece. Together, the team collected 15 hits over the course of the game including eight doubles on the way to the rout.

"We've got a lot of guys that can put some serious muscle behind the ball," Stalker said.

Devin Grindy, who started the game for Willamette, got into trouble early and gave up 11 hits over six innings. With the team hitting the ball so well, however, he did not have to be perfect. Though he was not completely on top of his game, Grindy picked up the win - his first of the season.

Having outscored Lewis & Clark 19-4 on Saturday, the team continued the drubbing on Sunday to the tune of 15 runs in less than five innings.

Due to rain, the game was suspended in the top of the fifth inning, but it was enough time for the Bearcats to build an insurmountable 13-run lead.

Before finishing the game on Monday, the Bearcat lineup torched every pitcher it saw, chasing starter Colin Dietz after four innings and eight earned runs. The Pioneer bullpen fared even worse, giving up a total of six runs while only retiring one batter. Eventually, the Bearcats won the contest 15-6.

Monday's series finale was a let-down for the Bearcats, who only put up four hits as a team and lost 2-1 in seven innings. Despite the loss, Willamette showed its potential over the long weekend, battering Lewis & Clark and consistently pitching well.

"This is the best team we've had in recent years," Stalker said. "We have a brutal offense, good defense and our pitching is doing a great job keeping us in the dugout."

Now 5-2 on the season (3-1 in conference play) and with Menlo College on the way, the Bearcats feel that this weekend may be a sign of things to come.

"I know we are not near our best right now," Swick said. "That is still ahead of us."

Contact: *tthompso@willamette.edu*

▼ next up

Bearcats v. Menlo College @ Atherton, CA Saturday, Mar. 7 at 12:00 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Softball sweeps UBC exhibition series

COLBY TAKEDA

Senior pitcher Nikki Franchi slides safely to score one of her two runs in Willamette's Saturday victory over UBC.

KIRK STRUBLE
CONTRIBUTOR

The Bearcats swept the University of British Columbia this past Saturday in a pair of exhibition games played at the Willamette University Softball Field. Willamette was able to shut out the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds 5-0 and 8-0, allowing only six hits in both games.

Willamette posted three runs in the first inning of the opener. Freshman right fielder Sierra Lessel led the first stanza with a single through the right side. One out later, senior Marissa Richards was hit by a pitch and senior LaShawna Holcomb walked to load the bases.

Lessel was able to score on a wild pitch and Richards scored on a throwing error by the catcher. Freshman Susie Krewer eventually drove in Holcomb on a ground ball to the second baseman.

Lessel went 2 for 2 at the plate and scored twice. The Bearcats were able to score again in the third after Lessel walked to start the inning. Richards, who also went 2 for 2, moved Lessel to second on a ground ball through the left side. Senior pitcher Nikki Franchi moved both runners up on a ground ball to the second baseman. Lessel was then able to score on a sacrifice fly by Holcomb.

Willamette tallied its final run in the sixth inning after a lead off double from Holcomb, who moved to third on a sacrifice bunt by senior outfielder Cirbi Anthony. Holcomb, who was 1 for 1 with a walk, two runs and an RBI in the first game, later scored on a wild pitch.

Franchi ended the game by striking out three straight batters in the seventh inning, giving the Bearcats a 5-0 victory. Franchi struck out 16 batters in the first game, allowing only three hits in seven innings.

The Bearcats were unable to score until the fourth inning of the second game, despite combining for 11 hits. Franchi led the inning with a triple down the right field line and went on to score on a sacrifice fly from Holcomb. Krewer added another run by hitting a solo home run to center field.

The Bearcats pulled away in the fifth stanza, posting six runs on five hits, including back to back doubles by Holcomb and Krewer. A single by junior catcher Nicole Wallace drove in Krewer and ended the game, giving the Bearcats the win at 8-0.

Both Holcomb and Krewer were 2 for 2 in the second game and freshman pitcher Alex Watilo threw five scoreless innings for the Bearcats.

When asked about the team's outlook on the season, Franchi said, "We have a young team with a lot of talent, and with our returners, we should have a great season. We are all very excited."

The third-ranked Bearcats remain officially 2-0 this season and will open Northwest Conference play next weekend against second-ranked Pacific University.

Contact: *kstruble@willamette.edu*

▼ next up

Bearcats v. Pacific University @ Willamette University Softball Field Saturday, Mar. 7 at 12:00 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Saying goodbye to Coach James

CAMERON MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

It was undoubtedly a sad day for the Bearcat hoop family last Monday when Head Coach Gordie James announced his retirement. After 44 years as a head coach, 22 with Willamette, James decided to call it quits on a legendary career.

James will be remembered as a great coach for a multitude of reasons. First off, James was very successful at the small college level. With a career record of 357-230, James held a winning percentage of .608, winning the NAIA National Championship in 1993.

But James will be known for much more than just winning. He had a knack for motivating his players, whether by giving inspiring halftime speeches or by making his teams run line after line until they decided to start playing some defense.

I had the honor of playing for Coach during my two years at Willamette. To be honest, James was one of the main reasons that I came to Willamette in the first place.

Coach promised that along with an outstanding education, I would elevate my basketball game to the next level. And he did not disappoint.

I would be lying if I told you that James and I never butted heads. My emotional outbursts and lack of defense are enough to make any coach go crazy, but James remained positive and helped me through these problems.

What made Coach so great was that he often related basketball to life, attempting to make us better players, but more importantly, better people.

No matter if the team was on a winning or losing streak, Coach's excitement for the game remained constant. One day in practice, I was participating in a post drill and James kept yelling at me and the rest of the team, "They will take a charge!"

Not thinking much of it, I continued along with the drill. On one certain play, I received the ball from the perimeter, turned to make a move, and who is right in front of me, but Coach, taking one of his infamous charges (and apparently I still owe him a Ram steak for the charge).

It was this kind of enthusiasm and excitement that made Coach so great.

I am extremely grateful to have played for James and I will continue to use the knowledge that he gave me to better myself both as a basketball player and as a person.

It is only fitting to end this piece the way that James loved to end his games. OOH! AAH! BEARCATS!

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▸ further reading

For a more in depth look at Gordie James' career as Willamette's Head Basketball Coach and his plans for the future, check out this week's feature article, 6-7, written by Staff Writer Tim Walsh.

TENNIS

Women drop two over disappointing weekend

Men continue winning trend, pick off Pacific, Lewis & Clark to improve to 4-1 on season

COURT WESTON
CONTRIBUTOR

This weekend was not a good one for the women's tennis team as it dropped all three of its matchups, winning only six out of 18 total matches.

On Thursday, the women faced Linfield College (6-2, 6-0 NWC) and fell 8-1. Willamette was unable to get into a rhythm and lost two of three doubles matches in addition to all six singles matches during the contest.

The lone victory came from the No. 3 doubles match, in which junior Alyssa Morrison and sophomore Jamie Slonaker won 8-3.

On Friday, the team did not fare much better, losing to Pacific University (3-4, 3-4 NWC) 7-2. Again, the women dropped two of three doubles matches but managed to win one of the six singles matches.

Morrison and Slonaker were victorious in the No. 3 doubles match once again and senior Abby Funabiki won the No. 3 singles match handily.

The women were also in action on Sunday, falling 6-3 to Lewis & Clark (3-3, 3-3 NWC).

For the third consecutive contest, Willamette lost two of three doubles matches. Morrison and freshman Annika Moffert picked up the lone victory in the No. 3 doubles match.

The women won two of six matches in singles play. Funabiki won the No. 2 singles match and junior Samantha Wong was able avoid defeat in a hard-fought No. 4 singles match in which a tie-breaker was needed to win.

Willamette has been without freshman Shannon Palmer due to illness and muscle strains for the last four contests. Palmer, Willamette's No. 1 singles and doubles player, is expected to be back in the lineup this weekend, according to Coach Rebecca Roberts.

This weekend will provide a chance for the women to gain some ground in the standings as they travel to Tacoma, Wash. to take on Pacific Lutheran (0-7, 0-6 NWC) this Friday and then return home to face George Fox (1-5, 1-5 NWC) on Sunday.

The men's team (4-1, 4-1 NWC) had a very positive weekend, winning both of their contests.

Willamette visited Pacific University (2-5, 2-5 NWC) and left victorious, winning 6-3 on Saturday. After losing two of the three doubles matches, Willamette won five of the six singles matches on the day.

Junior Micah Mack and freshman Cody Ferguson were able to get Willamette on the board with a No. 2 doubles victory.

Senior Andrew Murakami set the tone for the comeback win with a decisive victory in the No. 1 singles match. Sophomore Matt Houser, senior Alex Sepenzis and sophomore Michael Moore all showed heart by rallying and earning victories in the No. 2, 5 and 6 singles matches, respectively.

"We may not always have the best strokes or the most talent," Houser said. "But when we get out on the court, it's time to play."

The men continued their winning ways on Sunday, defeating Lewis and Clark (1-7, 1-5 NWC) 7-2.

Willamette started off strong, winning all three doubles matches and finished off the day winning four of six during singles play.

Ferguson and Mack began the contest with a decisive 8-1 victory that inspired the rest of the team to close out the day on a winning note.

Ferguson, Houser, Sepenzis and Moore added decisive singles wins to solidify the win for the Bearcats.

Willamette will look to add to the win column this weekend as the team takes on Pacific Lutheran (6-3, 6-2 NWC) at home on Friday and then travels to Newberg, Ore. to face George Fox (0-7, 0-7 NWC) on Saturday.

Contact: *mweston@willamette.edu*

▼ next up

Men v. Pacific Lutheran @ Courthouse Tennis Center Friday, Mar. 6 at 7 p.m.

Women v. Pacific Lutheran @ Tacoma, WA Friday, Mar. 6 at 2 p.m.

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Colleen, Cornered

The reluctant adult

Colleen Martin
OPINIONS EDITOR

Have you ever been given this massively frustrating scenario: Your house is on fire (or some other natural disaster is imminent), and you only have time to grab three material possessions (your family has made it out successfully). What do you grab?

I have found myself answering this question quite a few times over the years. The second two things have varied with age and mood, but the first object has always remained the same: I would grab my favorite stuffed animal, Peak.

Yes, even at 21, I would immediately run to my room and snap up the stuffed goat that has been living on my bed since I was six years old. He was a covert gift from my grandmother, who was technically not supposed to give me or my sister any more stuffed animals. (I already had enough to cover my entire bed, because for some reason stuffed animals make popular gifts for girls in the 10-and-under category.)

She cleverly gave Peak, a mountain goat, to my dad, and a stuffed owl to my mom for Christmas. Realizing they had been tricked, they gave the animals to my sister and me, telling us that we could take care of the goat and owl. My dad named Peak after the mountain Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs, where my grandmother lived.

Perhaps it was the enchantment that my grandmother saw in him, or the manner in which he was given to me, but whatever it was, Peak became number one from that day forward and has never left that spot. He traveled most places with me, I featured him in many games I played, and I could not sleep without him.

Though I don't play games with Peak anymore, and I do occasionally leave him behind on trips for fear of losing him, Peak still figures prominently in my "adult life." I took him to college with me, risking humiliation (but instead was met with an "aww" from my roommate), and though it is sad to admit, I still have trouble sleeping without him. I also throw him up in the air, making him do flips whenever I have writer's block, and I find that this has generated some of my better ideas for papers.

People don't tell six-year-olds that it is wrong to love material objects, and I suppose I just never grew out of it. I realize that sounds childish, but I think that's what I love most about him. He is my connection to my childhood, and as long as he's around I never have to grow up entirely.

When I came to college, I felt bombarded by the amount of preparation offered for the "real world." E-mails continue to fill my inbox encouraging me to do this or that to further prepare me for my grown up, adult life. As helpful and practical as these e-mails and meetings are, they overwhelm me. I have arrived too quickly at this weird, intermediary "grown-up" state. Though I try to look forward, I can't help but think that we should all occasionally look back.

In "The Little Prince," by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the narrator comments, "All grown-ups were children first. (But few remember it)." Peak makes sure to remind me of this.

Contact: *cmartin@willamette.edu*

Letters can be sent by postal mail, e-mail (nzaves@willamette.edu), campus mail or fax. Letters must include name and phone number and be submitted by noon Sunday on the week of intended publication. The *Collegian* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

EDITORIAL

A letter of disagreement on generosity

Dear Oregon Student Assistance Commission,

We, the *Collegian* Editorial Board, respectfully disagree with the choices for your list of schools in Oregon that are the most generous with financial aid. Your exclusion of Willamette University was simply shocking to us.

Willamette University's tuition of about $30,000 is comparable to similar private liberal arts colleges. We acknowledge that tuition is very high, especially considering the state of the economy, but a numerical figure does not encompass the Willamette experience. Because Willamette is privately owned and small in population, it is able to offer a low teacher-to-student ratio, an accessible staff and an inclusive extracurricular sphere.

However, this article is not a justification of Willamette's price. Rather, we want to inform you about unique reasons as to why Willamette should have been added to your list.

Loan Forgiveness: President Pelton recently started a program in which loans are turned into grants upon an on time graduation. This generous program shows that Willamette is genuinely committed to achieving academic excellence and is a way of allowing all students the chance to experience Willamette.

Scholarships: According to the Admissions Office, over 90 percent of Willamette students receive financial aid. Willamette awards music scholarships, national scholarships, departmental scholarships and scholarships provided by important donors to the university. It is also noteworthy that Willamette is a NCAA Division Three school and thus provides no sports scholarships.

Letters from the President: President Pelton has addressed students' questions and concerns about the economic crisis. He recognizes that the economy is horrendous, and has sent letters to the community assuring that Willamette is not as affected as other colleges. Pelton supported his statements with tangible facts, like how the school has "strong cash and liquidity positions." Additionally, he has laid out plans for increasing financial aid and well as outlining the budgets so everyone understands them. He also held both a faculty lunch and a student government meeting where he described his stance in greater detail and answered questions, so the position of the school is perfectly clear.

Excellent alumni: Willamette's graduates (of all ages) have been outstanding donors to the school. In fact, students celebrated the symbolic last day of paying their own tuition on Feb. 27. The rest of tuition from that day forward has been financed by alumni. "Tuition Freedom Day" included students writing notes of appreciation to alumni donors about the opportunities made possible by monetary gifts.

Willamette has made huge strides to make the college experience a more affordable one. We wish that you would have taken these four factors into account when assessing Willamette's financial feasibility.

Sincerely,

The *Collegian* Editorial Board

COLLEGIAN EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to science fact checking:

There is more to being an editor than making sure that semicolons and em dashes are used properly. They also have a responsibility to ensure that their writers haven't made gross errors in interpreting facts or misrepresenting statements. This applies not only to news editors, but to opinions editors as well. Take, for example, the column by George Will in the Feb. 15 issue of the Washington Post. In it Will claimed that, "According to the University of Illinois' Arctic Climate Research Center, global sea ice levels now equal those of 1979." This is so untrue that the Arctic Climate Research Center issued a statement saying "We do not know where George Will is getting his information." If the Washington Post had bothered to contact any climatologist, they would have learned of Will's disingenuousness.

Unfortunately, the *Collegian* is not immune to failures of fact checking on the opinions page. In Kaeley Pruitt-Hamm's Feb. 25 column, she wrote about the dangers of interdependence. Except she didn't. She was actually writing about the perils of dependence. There's a difference: overdependence on a significant other can be harmful, even pathological. Interdependence refers to mutual, balanced dependence; this is a fact of life, and beneficial. (Think, for example, of food webs, where fish depend on shrimp, dolphins depend on fish, and shrimp depend on dolphins.)

Likewise, Emily Class's Feb. 18 op-ed contained an error any biology student would catch. In her list of tips to avoid catching the flu, she advised using "antibacterial gel or wipes." However, the flu is caused by viruses, not bacteria. According to Dr. Stuart Levy, a researcher at Purdue University, using such products encourages the evolution of resistant bacteria. A 2005 FDA panel also said that antibacterial products do not fight bacterial infections better than regular soap and water. These errors, and the example of the George Will fiasco, show that the opinions page should be subjected to the same rigorous fact checking as the news page.

Jeffrey Collins
jcollins@willamette.edu

Response to 'A call for more newspaper unity':

As the creator of the Facebook group "Make The Collegian Stop Sucking," I think I have to defend myself here. In his letter on the subject, Michael Hashizume did an excellent job of skewering the messenger and totally ignoring the message and its legitimate complaints.

Were there insults? Yes. But Hashizume's letter totally removed the context for them, and misrepresented who they were aimed at (they weren't flung at contributors for the *Collegian* purely because they contribute, as Hashizume's implication seemed to be). In context, it is not nearly as nasty, and by my count, on the wall of the group, there are more posts strewn with insults by those opposing the group than those supporting it. In fact, many of the comments on the group's wall either offer suggestions for improvement (some more tongue-in-cheek than others), or say that any sort of discussion about this is a good thing.

The thing is, we're not asking for the impossible. Technically, the group should probably be titled "Make The Collegian Opinions Section Stop Sucking," because that's where the biggest problems lie. Historically, that section has been quite good. However, this semester has seen a huge decline in quality of the opinions section. That is what has upset us. It's not that the *Collegian* wrote something about racism, but that it wrote it very poorly. It's not that we want to rip on our fellow students, but that we would like to see a return to the previous level of quality.

The fix is pretty simple. Better editing, more thought behind the articles, and just generally more care taken when crafting editorials. The editorial this past week was just fine. Granted, it was not a contentious subject, but it was solidly written. I hope that this keeps up, because this semester, the writing has been inconsistent at best, and very poor at worst. Read things over a few times before printing them, make sure there aren't logical contradictions or sentence structure errors and think about what is being written before sending it off to the press.

Has the current situation kept me from reading the *Collegian*? Of course not. It's part of my Wednesday routine, and the news section is invaluable when trying to keep up with what's happening on campus. I just hope that the problems with the opinions section can be resolved soon.

Ben Gutzler
bgutzler@willamette.edu

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FOR AN APPLICATION OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: TOM BROUNSTEIN, '09 - '10 EDITOR IN CHIEF
tbrounst@willamette.edu

OPINION

Grounds-keeping: Please smile, don't smirk

SARA RIDGEWAY
GUEST WRITER

My name is Sara, and unlike many students, my parents aren't able to afford my needs as much as they truly wish that they could. Thus, I am the one who pays for my textbooks, health insurance, sorority dues (ΔΔΔDG), necessities and the part of my Willamette education not covered by scholarships, grants and loans. I have two jobs. One of them is working for the Office of Admissions by calling prospective students as a Student Outreach Ambassador.

My second job is working for grounds-keeping. It is one of the best jobs anyone could possibly have. The senior grounds-keeping crew is a kindhearted group of guys who are always ready to crack a joke and a smile. I was lucky enough to have worked with them this past summer to help me save up money for school.

The instant gratification that comes with working outside is one of my favorite parts of the job. When I rake, I can see that an area is now cleaner and more aesthetically pleasing because of me. When I weed or cut stranglers off of the base of a plant, I know that the plants can breathe a little easier and more freely. Picking up trash helps to eliminate pollution little by little. All of this (plus getting some light exercise in the fresh air and watching a few ducks and squirrels go by) makes this job a gem. I'd take grounds-keeping over sorting forms or running errands any day.

However, there is one downside to my job that takes away my feeling of peace with the plants and animals around me: People making assumptions. We all know what they say about assumptions...and it couldn't be truer in this case. Oftentimes people who pass me as I work will assume that I am in some kind of trouble with J-Board and will glare or smirk at me accordingly, particularly when I am raking or picking up trash. This really hurts my feelings and embarrasses me. I don't think I deserve that kind of treatment. I am too concerned with working, studying, writing my thesis, volunteering, being a good friend and being a loving girlfriend to have to deal with your assumptions and rudeness. Additionally, you should never treat someone who is in trouble this way either. It isn't any of your business, and everyone makes mistakes.

Although my classmates are usually the culprits, students are not the only ones who are guilty of this behavior. It almost stings more when I am glared at by a staff or faculty member. I think that everyone should treat those who serve them with dignity and respect. Do you know the names of those who cut your grass, take out your trash, feed you or fix the leak? It is something to think about. They have feelings and lives just like you do and they deserve to be treated with kindness.

If you happen to see a girl with brown hair, glasses and a brown coat out raking leaves, please do not smirk or glare. I am simply trying to earn some money to pay off my student account and save money to go to the School of Education and become a teacher. Instead, smile and say hello! I will smile back and both of our days can be brighter.

Contact: *sridgewa@willamette.edu*

IF I HAD A HAMMer: Break out the condoms and bananas

KAELEY PRUITT-HAMM
COLUMNIST

As much as I'd like to put all of my days growing up in one of the most ultra-conservative logging towns in the nation behind me, I have to admit that the town may have shaped me in some ways. In fact, I can remember several incidents that are clear signals of the religious and political ideology remaining inside me from good old Kettle Falls, a small town of 1500 in Northeastern Washington. One day in my elementary school years, I remember my sister and I having a discussion about God. She said, "What if God was an alien?" I gasped and replied, "Don't talk like that! We're not supposed to talk about this kind of stuff!"

Even after the religious filter was successfully removed and replaced by my teen years, an important ideological brainwashing technique left me a changed young woman – and I don't believe I will ever be the same. It was called the "Brad Henning Talk," but now I realize it was a "God Will Hate You if You Have Sex Before Marriage, Says Your Public School-Endorsed Authority Figure." It's called abstinence-only education, and I got it.

Oh, I got it good, and I ate it all up. I listened to his wise words about not knowing about love as a teenager and the only way to protect against certain death by AIDS was to wait until you were bound together in holy matrimony with a member of the opposite sex. And so I took a vow. Although I've been faithful to that vow (wow, this is getting personal!), I believe it raised some important questions about whether or not those talks and others like them are the best things to have in public schools.

Abstinence-only education has been debated for many years. Politicians ranging from George W. Bush to Nancy Pelosi have endorsed it. Statistics show that abstinence education is on the rise in America. In 2002, about one in five teens had received abstinence-only education without receiving education on contraception, while in 1995 that number was only eight percent.

According to the National Institutes of Health, the teen pregnancy rate has been up since 2006 for the first time since 1991, perhaps because of the decrease in youth community resources during the last eight years (coincidence?). And about one-third of young women get pregnant before the age of 20. As the United States has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the "developed" world, one must wonder: does it have anything to do with the way we talk to kids about sex?

As our own community places itself right smack dab in the middle of the debate about whether or not lowering the drinking age will help America's teen drink smarter, I believe the same debate can apply to the discussion of sex education. Will Bush's foreign policy measures that make sure condoms are not mentioned in African schools help or hinder the fight against HIV and AIDS? Will bringing out the condoms and bananas teach kids to be careful when time comes, or will that just make the time arrive sooner?

Contact: *kpruitth@willamette.edu*

THE BIWEEKLY BEAKER: Insta-freeze Corona trick

LAUREN VICE DAVID TAYLOR
COLUMNISTS

Corona may not be the classiest of beers, but as one of the most popular in the world it must be doing something right. It's sort of the Crocs of brews, useful and comfortable, but not really seen as the life of the party. That is, until you go to out with the chemistry nerds!

With one simple trick, you can make Mexican brew freeze before your eyes. This trick utilizes a process called "supercooling." Super-cooling occurs when one lowers the temperature of a liquid below its freezing point without creating a solid. When this liquid is agitated significantly enough, it will undergo a rapid freezing. This can be accomplished easily with the use of our one and only Corona Extra.

- Place a Corona in your freezer for 3 to 5 hours, depending on how cold your freezer is.
- Carefully take your Corona out of the freezer. Notice that it is still liquid, you can turn it upside down and see it move in the glass.
- Now, holding onto your beer by the neck, hit the flat bottom of the glass hard on a table. Or, you can take off the lid and hit the open top with the bottom of another beer, like you would to make someone's beer foam.
- Wait. You will see crystals forming in the center of your bottle. Watch them slowly grow.

(See YouTube: "Freeze a beer in two seconds – Magic Trick," for demonstration of super-cooling beer.)

We've told you this occurs due to supercooling. But, what exactly does that mean? Well, let's break it down for you.

As you know, water at atmospheric pressure will freeze at 0°C. When it is taken below this freezing point and remains a liquid, it is said that the water is supercooled. In order for a liquid to become a solid it needs to form a crystalline structure. This structure can only develop when a site of nucleation is present. That is, a place where the crystalline array can begin to form and grow. This site can be an impurity in the water, or even a jagged edge on the container holding the liquid. Supercooled water can be brought back to a frozen state through several mechanisms, two of which are seeding and direct agitation.

In the case of seeding, a pre-formed crystal is placed into the supercooled liquid. Once this happens, crystals begin to form directly on the seed crystal. With this mechanism the nucleation site is the seed crystal. With direct agitation, another type of nucleation site is formed. This is essentially the same process if a crystalline array develops.

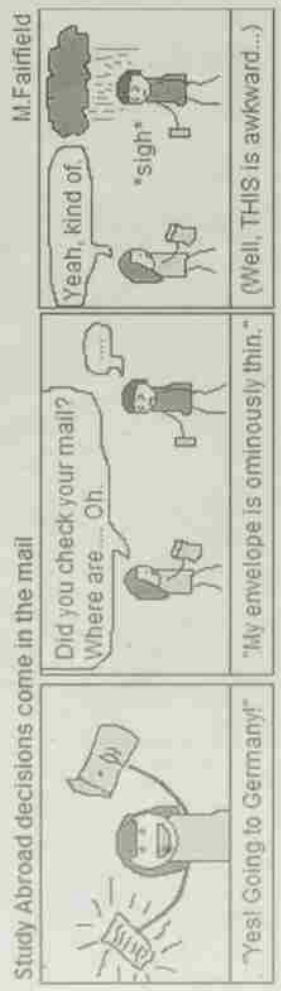
In relation to Corona this supercooling/snap freezing effect is quite similar: a supercooled liquid and a nucleation site through agitation. While Corona is an alcoholic beverage, it largely consists of water and contains less then 5% ethanol. This slight difference allows for minor changes in exact temperatures.

Give it a shot.

Joke of the Bi-Week:

A small piece of sodium, which lived in a test tube, fell in love with a Bunsen burner. "Oh Bunsen, my flame. I melt whenever I see you ..." the sodium pined. "It's just a phase you're going through," replied the Bunsen burner.

Contact: *lvice@willamette.edu, dtaylor@willamette.edu*



CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

FEBRUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 26, 2009
Information provided by Campus Safety

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- Feb. 21, 10:47 pm, (Kaneko Hall): It was discovered that an unknown individual urinated in the foyer elevator of Kaneko. Housekeeping cleaned the elevator and eliminated the smell.
- Feb. 21, 11:05 pm, (Hatfield Fountain): An unknown individual put soap in the fountain, causing possible damage to the mechanisms of the fountain.
- Feb. 22, 12:08 pm, (Mill Street @ Winter): An unknown individual broke the front passenger window of a Honda as it was parked on the street. Campus Safety found the key to the car in its ignition. A GPS system was missing from the car.
- Feb. 22, 11:04 pm, (Hatfield Fountain): The fountain was soaped again.
- Feb. 23, 5:05 pm, (Shepard Lot): A student reported that he parked his car in the guest lot at approximately 8:36am. When he returned at approximately 5:00 pm he discovered that an unknown driver had scraped his vehicle and did not leave a note.

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

- Feb. 20, 10:58pm, (Sparks Center): Campus Safety received information that a group of 10-15 people were smoking marijuana in front of the Sparks Center. The individuals fled the location upon the arrival of Campus Safety. One individual was identified as a Willamette Student.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/POLICY VIOLATION

- Feb. 21, 11:22 pm, (Kaneko Hall): Campus Safety discovered three individuals who were not students wandering around inside Kaneko Hall, C Wing, 2nd floor. The individuals were issued trespass warnings. One of the individuals, a minor, was released to his mother.
- Feb. 26, 9:04 am, (Doney Hall): Housekeeping staff discovered dried blood on a third floor wall in Doney Hall. The blood was cleaned up. The source of the blood has not been determined.

THEFT

- Feb. 23, 4:56 pm, (Law School): A student reported that she left her backpack, jacket and keys at her carrel. When she returned approximately two hours later she found her property had been stolen.
- Feb. 24, 4:40 pm, (Jackson Plaza): A student reported that she locked her bicycle by Hatfield Library at approximately 3:00 pm. When she returned to the location at approximately 4:30 she discovered that the bike had been stolen.

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

THIS WEEK IN ASWU SENATE

- Passed a religious diversity initiative resolution
- Restructured standing committees into "task forces"
- Elected senator to the Elections board

Compiled by Sen. Caitlin Rathe

Contact: *crathe@willamette.edu*

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- Bob Dole – Former Senator and Presidential Candidate R-Kansas, Gamma-Omicron (Kansas)
- Michael Eskew – CEO United Parcel Service (UPS), Chi (Purdue)

The Kappa Sigma Recolonization efforts will begin at Willamette the week of February 23rd.