

COLLEGIAN

2008-2009 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE WINNER • VOICE OF THE WILLAMETTE CAMPUS SINCE 1889 • VOL. CXXI • ISSUE 21 • MARCH 10, 2010

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University pursues School for the Blind property

TOM EHRMANN
CONTRIBUTOR

The former residence of the Oregon School for the Blind may go on sale soon and Willamette University is interested in the property. Last June, Oregon lawmakers voted to close the school as part of a larger movement to reform state support for the visually impaired, according to an article from www.statesmanjournal.com.

According to Vice President for Administrative Services Jim Bauer, "Their approach was to decentralize services. Arguably, the School for the Blind represented a centralized hub for support that was no longer needed with this change in service."

Though Willamette is considering buying the property, this is not a guarantee of its purchase. "Willamette is interested in the property. This does not necessarily mean that we are interested in purchasing it," Bauer said. "We have interest in it because its location is across the street from our stadium and of close proximity to the central campus."

If Willamette ultimately does decide to buy the School for the Blind, it is as of yet unclear how the land will be

used. What would be done with the land "is generally a decision made by the Board of Trustees and the president," said Bauer.

According to an article from www.thelundreport.org, Willamette is not the only institution looking into buying the buildings and land on which the School for the Blind used to reside. Other potential buyers include Western Oregon University, who, with the support of Salem Hospital, would like to build a nursing school there. Salem Hospital is also interested in owning the school due to its proximity. There is also a family-funded private development firm out of Portland making an offer.

Bauer is optimistic about the sale of the property. "Good things will happen for Willamette, regardless of whether we are the purchaser. The property's redevelopment has potential to invigorate the neighborhood and illuminate the assets already apparent, such as the hospital, Bush Park, our Stadium, et cetera," Bauer said. "I would expect the redevelopment of this 8.2 acres to become another revitalizing catalyst for our campus neighborhood."

Freshman Ryan Thomson supported a purchase of the property. "I think we should go ahead and buy it," Thomson said. "We could definitely use some better athletic facilities, and if that's what Willamette uses the land for, it's fine by me."

However, freshman Bennett Welker did not support the purchase. "I really don't see any need to buy it. I mean, we just built Ford," Welker said. "What do we need another building for? And where would the money come from to pay for that? I would hate to see an increase in tuition."

Freshman Shayna Stigman had a similar opinion. "Quite frankly, I think neither Salem Hospital nor Willamette really need the land," Stigman said. "The hospital just expanded, and what would the university use it for?"

Only time can tell what will happen to the School for the Blind site, but whatever transpires, it is certain that Willamette and the Salem community are prepared to make the most of it.

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Show funds women's health advocacy



VALERIE JACOBSON
CONTRIBUTOR

In Tanzania, there is a program called the Women's Dignity Project. This program works to help improve disenfranchised women and girls' access to health care, specifically for a disease called obstetric fistula. This childbearing injury occurs when women are unable to give birth due to a smaller bone structure caused most often by malnutrition.

"If these women had access to adequate health care, obstetric fistula could be completely eradicated," co-organizer of Fashion for Women's Dignity Megan Jones said. The Fashion for Women's Dignity event has been organized over the past four years in an effort to raise awareness of this injury and to help combat it.

Fashion for Women's Dignity is a fashion show in which both men and women participate, with an auction afterwards. Funds go toward the Women's Dignity Project. At the show, three faculty members, Amadou Fofana, Nathaniel "Nacho" Cordova and Joyce Millen, will be modeling along with about 20 students.

Along with the clothes that the models wear, other items donated from a variety of local businesses will also be on sale. Additionally, a woman from Nigeria selling jewelry will be present, and will donate 10 percent of her profits to the Women's Dignity Project. "We raised enough money last year for 22 C-sections," co-organizer for Fashion for Women's Dignity Katie Martin said.

In order to learn more about what obstetric fistula is and how it affects the lives of women in Africa and Asia, there will be a screening of a film called "A Walk to Beautiful" today at 8 p.m. in Smullin B17. It follows the stories of three African women who have suffered from the childbearing injury of obstetric fistula.

According to the founder of Fashion for Women's Dignity, Shannon Satterwhite, there is not only a physical suffering that accompanies the injury but also a societal one. Many women believe that they suffer from obstetric fistula alone, despite the fact that over two million women are affected. The disease carries a strong social stigma, causing many women to be ostracized from their communities.

While obstetric fistula seems like a fairly obscure cause to be tackling, it is actually linked to a vast array of other issues like war, malnutrition, equality, poverty and health in general. "If we can prevent fistula, that means we are working to [address] all of these other things," Satterwhite said.

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COURTESY OF SHANNON SATTERWHITE
Past fashion shows have raised money to fund up to 22 cesarean sections.

Magic trio performs

ANNA MENCARELLI
CONTRIBUTOR

Card tricks, mysterious appearances, disappearances and wondrous escapes from terrifying imprisonments are all components of a magician's repertoire. However, these are by no means limitations for the three magicians appearing today at 7 p.m. WEB members first encountered the trio, consisting of Brian Brushwood, Nate Staniforth and Daniel Martin, at the National Association for Campus Activities, a convention that showcases various performers.

The committee members previewed some of the magicians' acts and were impressed. Freshman and WEB chair Sveta Krishna said, "We have three magicians coming. Each have very different acts - for example, Brian deals more with fire, and the other two do other tricks like pulling a bottle through your stomach and out of your back."

The three magicians created a Web site, www.ultimatemagictour.com, to introduce the tour and the magicians. The Web site explains that the three are close friends who have wanted to tour together, but only had one week available in which they were able to do so. "Basically, they are the top three magicians in the country, and they have never done a tour together before," senior and WEB chairman Cassandra Graves said. "They have been wanting to do this tour for a while and we were the first ones to book this show." The Web site also contains video segments showcasing each of the magicians' distinct style.

Brian Brushwood's profile contains clips of the various talk shows he has performed on, such as "The Jay Leno Show." His famed "human crazy straw," "nail in the eye" and "brick on the head" tricks have been performed on NBC, CNN, FOX and many other programs. Brushwood is also known for his podcast entitled "Scam School," which was named "The Top Podcast of 2008" by iTunes.

Nate Staniforth's profile displays several clips of his sleight of hand including a trick in which he swallows a thread and several needles, and then pulls the thread from his mouth with the needles dangling from the thread.

The third performer, Daniel Martin, is able to catch a shot from a paintball gun with his teeth. He is also able to escape from entrapments which include being tied to a chair and having his wrists locked in a sturdy plexiglass box.

Throughout the day, the magicians will perform street magic for passing students. Then at 7 p.m. in the Cat Cavern, the three will come together to create a show that will display each of their unique abilities. "The magicians didn't show how to do any of their tricks," Graves said. "But it's going to be an awesome show, so try to come and find out for yourself."

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► see the show

The magic show will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in Cat Cavern. For more information, visit www.ultimatemagictour.com

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Students hit by quake

EMILIE JENSEN
CONTRIBUTOR

On Saturday, Feb. 27, a massive 8.8 earthquake struck Chile. It was reported to be the seventh strongest earthquake in recorded history. The quake has killed more than 900 people and caused widespread devastation in the South American country. Its aftershocks are continually being experienced by Chilean inhabitants, including current juniors studying abroad Abigail Doerr, Lauren Gold, Emily Peter and Janice Rasmussen.

Arriving in Santiago on Feb. 25, just two days before the earthquake hit, both Doerr and Gold said that their experience in Chile has not been quite what they had anticipated. "I definitely wasn't expecting to be here to experience one of the largest earthquakes ever recorded in history," Gold said. "So that has made my first week here a bit different, to say the least."

Both girls were on the sixth floor of a hotel building when the quake began. "I was quite convinced in my delirious state that it was not a big deal at all," Doerr said. "I stayed in my bed that was swimming around the room with all the other furniture as my roommates were yelling at me to come stand in the doorway. Turns out it was quite, as we are now aware, a major earthquake."

According to Gold, aftershocks are frequent and have been difficult to adjust to. "Tremors and aftershocks are still occurring four to five times every day," Gold said.

Doerr described the disorienting effect of these tremors. "When they happen at night, I'm sometimes not sure when I am dreaming and when there is really a tremor," Doerr said. "During the day, when I'm a little dehydrated, I sometimes think that the tremors are my dehydrated body messing with me, but actually the whole building is shaking a little bit, which is slightly disorienting."

Although the experience may have been interesting, "the damage that has

happened and the deaths that have occurred, especially in the south, are absolutely terrible," Gold said. "I really feel for this country and what it has had to go through in the past five days. I wish there was more that I could do to help. I really encourage Willamette students to see if there is any way they can help those who are suffering."

According to International Programs Coordinator Stacy West, "All four students currently studying abroad in Chile on Willamette sponsored programs are doing fine." She said that although the university has delayed its orientation and start of classes by a few days, the students will still attend Pontificia Universidad Católica del Valparaíso this semester. "Many of the students are spending this extra time volunteering with the recovery efforts on Valparaíso and Viña del Mar," said West.

Doerr gave students who might be considering going abroad advice based on what she has learned from her experience so far in Chile. "I came into this experience with very few expectations for how the semester will go," Doerr said. "I recommend that for any study abroad or traveling experience. You never know what will happen and it's best to set the bar at a place where you will always be satisfied. The surprising and unexpected always turn out to be the best stories; I think the earthquake is a great example of this."

According to Gold, this experience will have an immense impact on her life. "Pushing yourself outside that comfort zone is how you grow as a person and have experiences that will significantly influence your life," Gold said. "This is going to be a time in my life that will stay with me forever, *terremoto* and all."

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► **further reading**

For a personal perspective on Chile's earthquake, see next week's feature.

Puttin' on the Ritz | Music department sponsors formal event



KESA SOVULEWSKI

On Friday, March 5 and Saturday, March 6, students and community members attended the 15th annual "Puttin' on the Ritz" at 7 p.m. in Car Cavern. The event was sponsored by the music department, and featured music by the Kemtones Little Big Band and the Willamette Singers vocal jazz choir.

The event has become immensely popular over the years with both Willamette students and the Salem community. A formal evening, "Puttin' on the Ritz" included both a dinner, provided by Bon Appétit, and live, swing era jazz music for dancing.

The Willamette Singers is comprised of 12 solo voices and accompanied by piano, bass and drums. In addition to its appearance at "Puttin' on the Ritz," the group also performs for the "Jazz in Smith" series, as well as at off-campus venues.

Other music department events coming up this month include the Dramatic Vocal Arts Ensemble's performance of "Our Town" on March 12 and 13 and a wind ensemble concert on March 18.

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CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 6, 2010
Information provided by Campus Safety

BURGLARY

► Feb 28, 10:00 a.m. (Doney Hall): A student reported that someone had removed a television from his room. The television was taken between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m., during which time the room was left unlocked. The television was later found in the bushes near the Mill Stream.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

► March 1, 1:04 p.m. (Smith Fine Arts West): An employee reported graffiti on the generator box of the building. A work order was submitted to clean the graffiti.

► March 3, 4:12 p.m. (Smullin Hall): Campus Safety was notified that the projector screen in room 314 had been pulled loose from the ceiling. It is unknown when the damage occurred.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

► Feb 28, 6:09 p.m. (Sparks Center): Campus Safety responded to a call from Sparks in which an employee had hurt his ankle. The employee was transported to the emergency room and treated. The employee was later transported back to campus from the hospital.

► March 3, 8:59 a.m. (Beta Theta Pi): An employee called to report he had injured himself on the job. He decided to seek the opinion of professionals at

Bishop Wellness Center. The employee was notified that if he decided to go to the hospital Campus Safety would transport him.

► March 4, 11:56 a.m. (Rogers Music Center): Campus Safety was notified that an employee had been injured. His supervisor was informed and he was transported to the ER.

► March 6, 1:35 p.m. (Sparks Field): A student injured himself on the soccer field. WEMS arrived and evaluated him. His ankle was wrapped and he then refused any further assistance.

► March 6, 7:50 p.m. (University Apartments): A student called reporting she had sustained a knee injury. WEMS was contacted and they treated the wound.

OTHER

► March 6, 4:33 p.m. (Atkinson Building): A student became stuck in the elevator at the Graduate School of Management. On-call maintenance was notified of the problem, as was the elevator company. Salem Fire was able to extricate the student from the elevator. The elevator technician fixed the problem shortly after he arrived.

POLICY VIOLATION

► March 3, 8:35 a.m. (Campus): A student received his twelfth parking citation since March 2007.

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

► March 3, 9:24 p.m. (Smith Fine Arts): An employee caught a group of students

who may have been smoking marijuana in the women's dressing room, and one student, who was identified, ran away. The report was forwarded to the Office of Residence Life.

► March 5, 1:30 p.m. (Beta Theta Pi): Marijuana paraphernalia was found in two rooms during fire inspections. Marijuana paraphernalia was confiscated from the second room.

► March 6, 12:45 a.m. (Doney Hall): Campus Safety received a report of the smell of marijuana coming from a room. The resident of the room admitted to the officer that marijuana had been smoked. The officer confiscated a case of beer but no drug paraphernalia was found.

POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY

► March 1, 11:30 a.m. (East House): During fire inspections a street sign was found in a room. The campus safety officer confiscated the sign and secured the unoccupied room after leaving.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

► March 5, 8:35 p.m. (Lee House): A student called to report that two people in a University golf cart drove by and backed up while she was getting dressed. The officer advised the student and her roommate to close their blinds if they change or get dressed in order to prevent any unnecessary attention. Investigation continues.

THEFT

► March 1, 2:05 p.m. (Boys and Girls

Club on Summer Street): A student reported that his bike had been stolen. He had left it secured on Feb 26th and returned the evening of Feb 28th to find it was gone. The student said he would report the theft to Salem Police.

► March 1, 3:50 p.m. (Collins Science): Multiple items belonging to workers from a contracting company were reported stolen. The contractors were able to contact a person via one of the stolen cell phones and met him off campus to retrieve some personal items.

► March 1, 4:15 p.m. (Atkinson Building): A student called to report that his backpack had been stolen. He had left it on top of his locker at 2 p.m. and returned at 5 p.m. to find it missing.

► March 3, 2:45 p.m. (Lee House): A student reported that his unlocked bike had been stolen from the Lee House lobby. The bike had been rented from the Bike Shop.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT

► March 3, 2:19 a.m. (Sparks Parking Lot): An employee called to report that while delivering supplies to Sparks he accidentally struck another vehicle. Photographs were taken to document the damage to the other vehicle. The other vehicle's owner was later notified of the damage.

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

BUILDING REVIEW: Smullin/Walton

Explore the academic labyrinth



MICHAEL CAULEY

REVIEWS EDITOR

In the 1880s, millionaire Sarah Winchester of San Jose, California began building her dream mansion, a project that would continue for the next 40 years as per the woman's wishes. Started without a master plan, the house would continue to expand over the decades, but with quirks such as stairways and doors that lead to nowhere, as well the presence of over 150 rooms, 47 fireplaces and 17 chimneys. Today, I make the claim that Smullin/Walton Hall is Willamette's own Winchester Mystery House.

Now, I don't mean to cast aspersions on the man who designed the Smullin building, 1938 Portland architect Pietro Belluschi (or on Mrs. Winchester for that matter); I'm sure he had no idea that 50 years later they would be connecting his building (named after broadcaster William Smullin, by the way) to Walton. I'm sure that the merger, which took place in the '80s was conducted with high hopes as well.

Still, I must say that Smullin/Walton is probably the most confusing building I've ever been in, and that includes the rather hectic gift shops at Disneyland. It's a veritable labyrinth of classrooms and hallways, with new ones behind every turn. Everything looks the same, but nothing's marked clearly enough to tell whether you're in one part of the building or the other, and it feels like there are beige walls and wooden doors all around you no matter where you go. I've gotten seriously lost trying to find classes in this building that I've been going to for months - it's that disorienting.

The basements are even more confusing. In a traditional building, you would have one large basement that would be home to all of your basement needs, right? Well instead, the place seems to have multiple basements for different classes, all requiring their own special staircase, which looks exactly the same as the other staircases. One begins to feel like Patrick McGooohan in "The Prisoner," except with fewer penny-farthing bikes and more French classes. A reasonable trade, I think.

Actually, there is one large basement in Smullin, but despite attending this school for almost four years and the entrance to it being, in fact, right by the front door, I had never noticed it until a few months ago. Like everything else in Smullin, it's rather odd. It has its own soda and snack machines, but I never see anybody down there, despite a plethora of doors lining the place. Salem's own Bermuda Triangle? You be the judge.

Also, this basement is a fairly unnerving place to be when Willamette lowers the lights over the weekend, because they in fact shut the lights off entirely to the staircase, making the journey to go downstairs and get a Dr. Pepper feel like a scene from a horror movie. If they're going to make "Scream IV," they could do worse than to film some scenes in the dark depths of Smullin in off-hours.

If my diatribe has imparted any information to you, loyal readers, it is to approach the Smullin/Walton building with care. Bring a map, bring a compass; hell, bring a packed lunch, because getting lost in the Smullin maze can stymie even the best among us.

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ALL PHOTOS BY KESA SOVULEWSKI

CD REVIEW: 'Broken Bells' | Broken Bells

DJ & rocker join forces

SAM MENEFFEE-LIBBY
CONTRIBUTOR

The release of Broken Bells' eponymous album, the collaboration between Danger Mouse and The Shins' James Mercer, comes on the heels of the news that the album containing their first song together, "Dark Night of the Soul," will finally see legal release this summer after Danger Mouse's protracted legal battles with EMI.

Before I begin talking about Broken Bells, I should mention that Danger Mouse's collaborative partner on "DNotS," Sparklehorse's Mark Linkous, took his own life this past weekend. Mr. Linkous was a wonderful musician who produced some incredibly poignant music, and if you haven't heard him, I highly recommend picking up one of his albums. He will be terribly missed. Rest in peace.

"Broken Bells" is certainly a worthy follow up to "DNotS." The album is, as is to be expected from a Danger Mouse production, a tightly constructed pop gem that is both innovative and comfortable. It seamlessly blends Mercer's distinctive, melodic indie-rock sound with Danger Mouse's Hip-Hop-inflected, layered beats. The lead single, "The High Road," provides a strong opening with a laid-back groove and poetic reflections on decision-making from one of indie-rock's most notoriously introverted wordsmiths.

The album successfully blends the artists' sounds without compromising either, a feat that Danger Mouse in particular seems to have mastered over the past several years amidst his collaborations with other pop visionaries like Beck, The Black Keys, The Gorillaz and Cee-Lo. Like

other Danger Mouse joints, there's not a spare second and the album clocks in at a breezy 35 minutes. His signature drum-machines and retro ambient sound effects abound, but always complement Mercer's pensive melodies and lyrics.

"Broken Bells" isn't like most of the other albums that have caught my attention this year. It's not flashy, and doesn't have much up-tempo fare or over-wrought emotional display. It's mostly just a solid little pop record. The news of Mercer and Danger Mouse's collaboration has set music blogs ablaze with eager speculation, and though the album is enjoyable, I'm not sure it warrants the kind of hype it has gotten. It's good, but it's not mind blowing.

There are several standout tracks besides the opening single. "The Ghost Inside" has a heat that wouldn't be out of place on a Gnarts Barkley record, and Mercer's falsetto melody is infectious. "Float" provides an excellent showcase of Mercer's hook-writing capabilities and Danger Mouse's drum machine beat gives it a feel that puts Mercer's work in a light that he never could have found with The Shins. "Vaporize" is another great track, with solid synth work and interesting backing vocals.

Overall, the album is a satisfying addition to both artists' catalogs. It doesn't have the rushed feel of a gimmicky side project or the bifurcated feel of two artists whose sensibilities don't blend. It's a solid collaboration between two great artists who are continuing to develop in new and unexpected ways.

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BOOK REVIEW: 'Autism's False Prophets' | Paul A. Offit M.D.

A look into the controversy

ERIN HANDLEY
CONTRIBUTOR

"My child has autism. Now what?" This is a question asked by thousands of parents each year, a number that continues to increase. Often, the next step is not asking "how can I make this better" but rather, "who is to blame?" It is just this question that this book attempts to address and deconstruct.

"Autism's False Prophets," by Paul A. Offit M.D. examines parents' desperate attempts to find something to blame, from the MMR vaccine to Thimerosal for their children's condition. The book also details how there is a lack of ethics shown by "experts" that claim to have a cure to autism, and in many cases they cause more harm than good. The frightening look into what parents made desperate will do, how some scientists take advantage and the hatred thrown towards those who stand up for the good science and point out the flaws is gripping. Once you start reading "Autism's False Prophet," you won't want to put it down.

Not only does the book show what does not cause autism, it also explains in a clear and understandable way how the scientific method works, and much about how medical recommendations are determined. Expanding from the simply scientific, the book also examines how the human mind works when confronted with a problem that has no known solution. The book covers everything from why parents today are still reluctant to get their children vaccinated (even after vaccines have been proven safe) to why those involved cling to false hope offered

by unproven and sometimes dangerous alternative treatments. Through it all, the authors make a point of presenting their side of the argument in such a way as to show that the panic and drama is caused largely from ignorance, willful or not.

The book is certainly educational and engaging, but does nothing to hide the fact that it comes from a very strong viewpoint, which colors the entire work. While this bias on the part of the author does not detract from the book, it does need to be kept in mind while reading. If you're the type inclined to believe the world is flat no matter what science tells you, this book will not go over well.

Despite the strong tendency towards one side of the argument, all of Offit's points are backed by science, not swayed by emotion or personal anecdotes. The book has a tendency to make the case appear black and white and set in stone. While in some cases, this is true, it is important to keep an open mind, and be aware of the bias of the piece, and to remember that the facts presented are accurate, but written with an agenda, as is almost everything.

The book "Autism's False Prophet" is all in all an amazing and captivating read that not only entertains, but also teaches the reader. No matter what level of comfort you have with science, the work remains accessible, and is well worth the time. Whether you're looking for a book to read on the treadmill, by the Mill Stream or in the comfort of your own room, "Autism's False Prophet" will not disappoint.

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ART UNDRESSED:

The sheer terror: Raw art in the independent film



KRISTEN
SVENSON

ARTS EDITOR

The element of surprise is very important in art. Even at the esteemed Louvre Museum in France, a fine painting or sculpture can seem mediocre in comparison to the expectations we hold upon entering. By the same token, people are constantly impressed with graffiti on the side of overpasses and train cars. The lesson: If you catch someone by surprise, art becomes all the more effective.

In no other medium is this better demonstrated than in film. When you sit down to watch the latest Scorsese flick, for which you've been bombarded with ads for months, some of the meaning and beauty of the film can be lost simply because of your expectations. What better feeling is there than sitting down to a "no-name" movie by an unknown production company starring a cast straight from the streets only to discover a truly compelling film? Though independent cinema may not have the same clout that the big studios give to their productions, much of its pleasure is in the surprise of opening the film oyster to find a pearl, instead of the same old oyster goop.

Here are three independent films that are not only pieces of art in and of themselves, but also display the passion and creative joy that can be expressed through cinema without the limitations of trying to produce a blockbuster.

"Forbidden Zone" (1982) Directed by Richard Elfman

This flick is certainly the least well-known of the three, with the lowest budget and entirely unknown actors. However, although the campy cardboard sets, ridiculous costuming and brilliant writing and music failed to launch the careers of essentially the entire cast, it did give singer/songwriter Danny Elfman the boost into the limelight that he needed. After "Forbidden Zone," he went on to headline the rock band Oingo Boingo for 20 years. After this stint, he then won an Emmy, a Grammy and was nominated for four Oscars for his film scores (most notably during his partnership with director Tim Burton).

"Braindead" (1992) Directed by Peter Jackson

Long before winning three Oscars and becoming the acclaimed director that he is, 30-year-old Peter Jackson directed this zombie comedy-horror film set in his hometown of Wellington, New Zealand. While modern zombie movies have taken the genre to new levels with special effects and state of the art costuming and makeup, none display anything close to the pure delight that Jackson clearly takes in creating this film. From the Sumatran Rat-Monkey who triggers the zombie outbreak to the hero's defense against a zombie onslaught with a lawnmower and the local priest who "kicks ass for the Lord," "Braindead" is an amazing example of what beautiful art a true passion for filmmaking can create.

"The Evil Dead" (1981) Directed by Sam Raimi

As mentioned above, modern horror has become a genre ruled by budget. Scary today requires special effects, costume, makeup and, sadly, little else. "The Evil Dead" is a legitimately frightening movie (unlike the later two installments of the trilogy, which are perhaps even better than the original) which relies mainly on acting and atmosphere. What happens when you run out of red blood halfway through filming a horror film? Raimi's solution was to use black, green or whatever color dye he could find and throw it into the film. Though the result is anything but finely polished, it is the product of a group of friends who had real passion for film, and their enthusiasm is contagious to the viewer.

It's all in the element of surprise. If you allow the voyeur to become comfortable with the storyline, even for a minute, or predict the next scene with unmitigated accuracy, the art and surprise of the film is lost. Let this be a message to all you independent filmmakers out there - never, not even for a minute, believe that you can cut back on the suspense.

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► correction

The March 3 article "A classic play gets a musical twist" stated that "My Town" is a collaboration between the Theater Department and the University Chamber Orchestra. It is actually a collaboration between Dramatic Vocal Arts and the University Chamber Orchestra. We regret the error.

'New Voices' transcend poetry

NATHAN COMBS
STAFF WRITER

In what may be a look toward the future of American poetry, three emerging young poets will showcase their new works on March 16 at the "New Voices" poetry reading. Their pieces encompass a wide range of poetic styles and topics, inciting thought and appreciation to listeners and writers of poetry alike.

"[Their] work is exciting and fresh - [they are] new poets whom we should watch and who are adding their voices to Oregon's literary scene," Assistant Professor of English Mike Chasar said.

The three poets, Kimberly Rasmussen, Jonathan Peacock and Simon Bravo are Oregon State University MFA poetry students who are working on creating the next step in modern American poetry. Additionally, Rasmussen, Peacock and Bravo all hold graduate teaching assistantships in the Oregon State University English Department. "New Voices" will give these emerging artists a chance to share their work with fellow students and professors of poetry, giving listeners a chance to experience some of the newest poetry to come out of the northwest region.

On the second Thursday of each month, Oregon State's MFA students host evening readings at the Old World Deli in downtown Corvallis. Each reading features two prose writers and one poet, as well as the artwork of at least one Oregon State student. These writers and artists hark from both the undergraduate and graduate level. Over the course of the school year, each student in the MFA graduate program is given the opportunity to share his or her work as the featured reader. The readings also include an open microphone at the end of the

night for anyone interested in sharing creative work.

All of these readings are open to the public and the MFA students are sometimes accompanied by several members of the English Department faculty at the readings. Readers from last year's series included poets Robin Jordan, Jon Boisvert, Sarah Harwell, Simon Bravo, Jon Peacock and Kim Rasmussen, along with prose writers Robert Hinderliter, Vick DeTal, Cate Doucette, Vanessa Senter, Jed Wyman, Dio Morales, Jacob Mercer, Erin O'Sullivan, Kushlani DeSoyza, Kathi Brisker, Liz Wyckoff and Jaclyn Watterson.

Bravo's work is often shown at the Fairbanks Gallery of Art at Oregon

State University, where poetry readings are very common among the visual arts, while Rasmussen and Peacock have appeared in several literary journals. One of Peacock's poems, entitled "Transfer Cases," was published in the April 2009 edition of *decomp* literary magazine.

"New Voices" is sponsored by the English Department and is a great chance to experience first hand these poets and the latest that Oregon has to offer. "New Voices" will occur in the Hatfield Room on Tuesday, March 16 at 7 p.m.

Contact: ncombs@willamette.edu



Poet Simon Bravo reads one of his works at OSU's Fairbanks Gallery of Art.

Scholar discusses Milton

KRISTEN SVENSON
CONTRIBUTOR

The story of the Fall of Man is best known in literature through John Milton's epic poem, "Paradise Lost." On Thursday at 4 p.m., students will get the chance to learn and discuss Milton's interpretation of the biblical Adam through "Milton's Adam," a talk featuring the critical mastery of Rick Rambuss of Emory University.

Rambuss specializes in 16th and 17th century English literature at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. His focus is primarily on Milton, Shakespeare, Spenser, the metaphysical poets, Renaissance devotional literature and the Baroque. He also works in gender and sexuality studies, contemporary cultural studies and film.

Earning his Bachelor of Arts from Amherst College in Massachusetts and his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, Rambuss began teaching at Emory in the fall of 1996 as a member of the Department of Comparative Literature.

He has written two academic books on literature, "Closet Devotions" and "Spenser's Secret Career," as well as four different articles on literary criticism and women and gender studies since his employment at Emory began. His works have appeared in various journals, including the ever-relevant *Milton Quarterly*, which focuses on the topics of Rambuss' upcoming lecture.

Rambuss' comparative literature course, entitled simply "Milton," provides his students with an opportunity

to study the major poetry of Milton, specifically "Paradise Lost." He tends to tune his readings and discussions of Milton's poetry with a concern to the shape of Milton's literary career. Most importantly, this includes ideas on Milton's poetic, political and religious vocation, as well as his endless influence on genre.

In her book, "Unto the Breach," literary critic Patricia Cahill said, "I thank Rick Rambuss for being a magnanimous reader and colleague, and I continue to be inspired by his luminous writing and his uncommon enthusiasm."

Other critics agree. "I am also enormously grateful to Rick Rambuss ... whose uncanny and astute suggestions are everywhere reflected in this book," Madhavi Menon said in his book "Wanton Words: Rhetoric and Sexuality in English Renaissance Drama."

Rambuss' talk is expected to delve into the many aspects of the character of Adam in the poem and in biblical contrast. In correlation with the current humanities course entitled "Paradise Lost," Rambuss will introduce new thought on Renaissance literature to the current study of English and humanities students.

"Milton's Adam" will take place on Thursday, March 11 at 4 p.m. in the university Hatfield Room, located on the second floor of the Hatfield Library and accessed through the landing outside the elevator. Admission is free of charge and open to the public.

Contact: ksvenson@willamette.edu

Art-Attack

Melancholia

By Anonymous

I want to be able to walk through the summer fields without the dandelions making fun of me; to know that I walk in shoes that are not knotted in the earth. I want to see that loose patch of sky open up, and crawl past the fickle blue abyss into the truth that is laced with darkness.

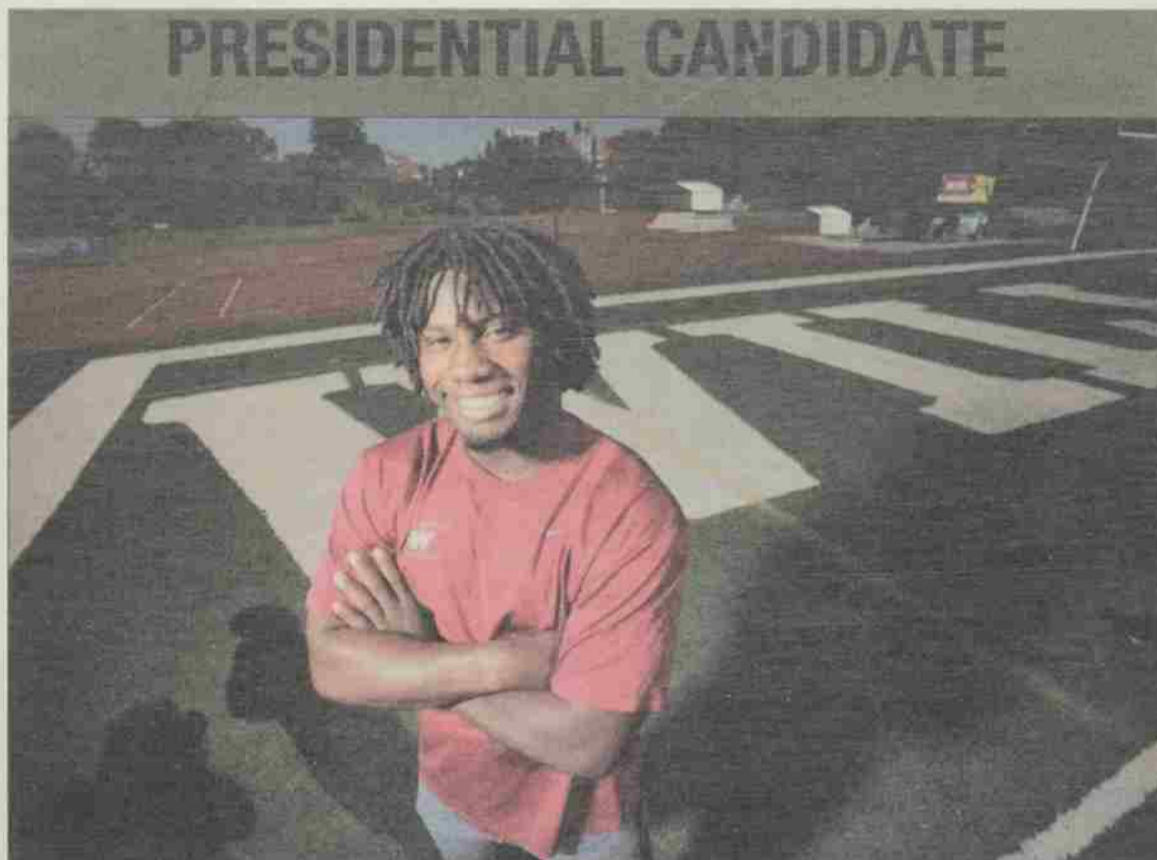
I don't want to know, or even attempt to understand, the rules of the dewy morning grass; I've always hated the earthworms anyway, they take up too much space. I don't want to hear about the wilting roses you just planted yesterday, even though you knew you shouldn't. Stupid girl.

I've never been tied to humanity, 'Let them rot in Hell,' I say! They've ruined this place for the rest of us. What is the difference? I'll chew out your soul in the morning, and never care - And never care at all.

To submit artwork for publication in the *Collegian*, contact Kristen Svenson: ksvenson@willamette.edu

ASWU Executive candidate profiles

The Collegian staff invited all candidates for ASWU Executive positions to write 200-300 words about themselves and their reasons for running. Read on to see what they had to say.



WALTER ROBINSON

My name is Walter L. Robinson II and I am from Pasadena, California. I am currently a junior majoring in Political Science with a minor in American Ethnic Studies. I am a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and was vice president of my chapter in 2009. I am one of the founders of Black Student Union and am also the president of the organization. I am a member of the football team here at Willamette and have been involved in multiple clubs and organizations here on campus. Being involved in so many spheres on campus life has given me a different lens in which to view ASWU. It is for this reason that I have decided to run for ASWU President - so that I can remind students that ASWU works for them, not the other way around.

As ASWU President, I hope to bring accountability, visibility and accessibility to ASWU Executive. If elected, I would hold ASWU Executive, Willamette University and myself accountable for how student funds are allocated. In order to be held accountable, students have to know who we are. If elected I plan to bring visibility to ASWU Exec by creating a huge campaign which will promote ASWU and bring exposure to members of ASWU Executive and Senate. Visibility goes hand in hand with accessibility. We as ASWU Executives plan on sitting in on student organization meetings. Having meetings with club presidents to find out what students need and brainstorm ideas on how we as the Executive can help ASWU better serve Willamette students. If you would like fresh ideas and creative solutions, then vote Walter Robinson II for ASWU President.

Contact: wrobinso@willamette.edu

VP OF THE EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES

TEJ REDDY

I am campaigning to become your next Vice President of the Executive, the leader of the senate, because I have served two years in the ASWU Senate and I have worked to bring real and tangible change to the lives of students.

Aside from other projects, I have worked with other senators and the current Vice President of the Executive Evan Jones to update the constitution. This is just one role of the Vice President of the Executive. Furthermore, I implemented a program that allowed students to donate their extra meal points to the University's Haiti Relief Fund, raising over \$700 for the Willamette Haiti Relief Fund. On top of these projects, I have succeeded in implementing a new five all-you-can-eat a week meal plan. Eventually, by working together, this may lead to more variety in terms of meal plan options and I am fully committed to this endeavor as your next Vice President of the Executive.

Real change in student governments comes not from changing rooms but from changing the atmosphere in the senate room. As the Vice President of the Executive I will work to increase the visibility of Senate by changing the culture of the senate. Working with other senators, we will create committees that will be directly responsible and accountable to student organizations. These senators will work with leaders in the student organizations to inform them about information about ASWU finance and the bureaucracy. Most importantly, these committees will stand as an advocate and ally for student organizations and clubs on campus.

Let's work together to protect the interests of all students on campus. I hope I have earned your vote to become your next ASWU Vice President of the Executive and I look forward to the positive changes we will bring to campus.

Contact: treddy@willamette.edu



ALEX LOPEZ

Alex Lopez has served campus in many ways during her past three years here at Willamette. From Kanelo Council to Opening Days to being a tour guide, she's familiar with the Willamette community and the issues it faces. Now approaching her final year, she felt it was time to use all her experiences here at Willamette to serve her community on ASWU.

Running for Vice President of the Executive, Alex promises to bring visibility and accountability to our student government. Tired of ASWU seeming like the monster from "Lost," vague and leaving many unsure of its

purpose, Lopez would implement changes to make our government a bigger part of campus life. This would include moving Senate to a more visible and consistent location such as the first floor of Ford, so students could see ASWU in action. She would also make Executive and Senate officers distinguishable campus-wide so our community would know who to bring ideas and concerns to.

Alex Lopez is ready to bring a fresh perspective to our government. She is ready to bring leadership to WU. She is ready to lead for YOU.

Contact: alopez@willamette.edu

VP OF FINANCE CANDIDATES

MARCO FIALLO

I was born in Norwalk, Connecticut and lived there until the age of 12, after which I moved to Quito, Ecuador, where I finished high school. I joined the United States Marine Corps in 2000 and was deployed to the Persian Gulf for 18 months as a result of the attacks on Sept. 11. In the Marine Corps I did database analysis and database administration for F-18 fighter jets.

After leaving the military I was lost as to what I wanted to do with my life, but then I was introduced to the Willamette community. I decided to move to Salem from San Diego, California and began school at Chemeketa Community College and then transferred to Willamette University.

At Willamette, I received the Kemper Scholarship for business and leadership, I led a Take a Break group to New Jersey to do community service, I've worked in Chicago setting up a community gardens program and I began the Willamette Investment Group at school. I have also traveled to over 19 different countries around the world.

I will be a successful VP of Finance because of my strong sense of ethics, my grasp of finance and my dedication to my peers. Willamette is my home and you are my family. I think we can work together to create strong organizations and stronger students. Please vote Marco Fiallo for VP of Finance.

Contact: mfiallo@willamette.edu



SHAFFER SPAETH

As a freshman Shaffer lived in the best hall at Willamette - Matthews third. Most of his best and worst memories of college were born there. The tiny cinder block rooms forced him into the hall where he met his best friends and almost everyone else he knew. Hall personalities included Shaffer's roommate James Cebron, who talked about road equipment in his sleep, and Geneva Hooten, who pulled textbooks from the garbage and sold them back to the bookstore. Shaffer and his best friends spent every Wednesday night sitting by the Mill Stream contemplating the meaning of life. He had his share of freshman hurdles, but he developed deep friend-

ships with those who helped him and he learned a lot about himself. His hall-mates and him were stuck with each other through good and bad, yet Shaffer still has strong connections with the Matthews third community, even those people he doesn't see anymore.

Shaffer wants his time at Willamette to feel like this. The framework of our college experience is shaped by colorful characters, good friends, fun classes, boring classes, sports teams, student clubs, Goudy food, etc. But Shaffer strongly believes that a community must be greater than the sum of its parts. One of Shaffer's goals as VP of Finance is

to create a list of organizations that give away money, such as hall councils and class councils, along with their budgets and meeting times. This will improve student access to on-campus funding and ensure that groups are given the opportunity to put on the events and activities they want. After three semesters on finance board, Shaffer also knows how to write effective budget requests and will happily help anyone write their own.

As VP of Finance, Shaffer Spaeth will help make creative events and ideas happen that strengthen the Willamette community. After all, it's your money at work!

Contact: sspaeth@willamette.edu

KEITH FAKHOURY

As a current member of Finance Board and ASWU Senate (the two most important parties for configuring student funding), I am very familiar with the day-to-day operations that enable the student funding process to function smoothly. I have used inside knowledge to calibrate a set of solutions that will enable Finance Board to control the deficit, promote fair funding throughout the year and make funds more accessible to student clubs. Some of these solutions include the Fund Matcher, which will automatically match the amount any student organization raises from outside sources, and the "One Week Promise" - my oath to student clubs to meet with them and prepare them for their hearing in order to increase their chances of securing funding.

I believe that my qualifications make me the best candidate for the job. At 16, I was the youngest certified man-

ager for the Kahala Corporation. With my training, I supervised two restaurant franchises until I graduated high school, where I was the student body president. There I managed several aspects of the business. From inventory to bookkeeping, I learned a strong and fair work ethic and how to allocate resources efficiently to benefit the entire business as a whole - something I want to carry on as I want student fees to benefit our entire campus.

With several new and innovative measures, I'm extremely confident that every student organization will receive satisfactory funding. Please vote for me, Keith Fakhoury, for VP of Finance on March 11 and 12. A vote for Keith Fakhoury ensures "Fair Funding for You and WU!" Please contact me for any concerns or questions. Thank you!

Contact: kfakhour@willamette.edu



VP OF ADMINISTRATION CANDIDATES

KYLA BARR

Kyla is a junior from Bainbridge Island, Washington and has been a member of ASWU Senate for the last two years. As part of her role in Senate, she was the chair of the Food Committee last year and helped bring the recipe contest to Goudy in addition to spearheading the Waste Reduction campaign.

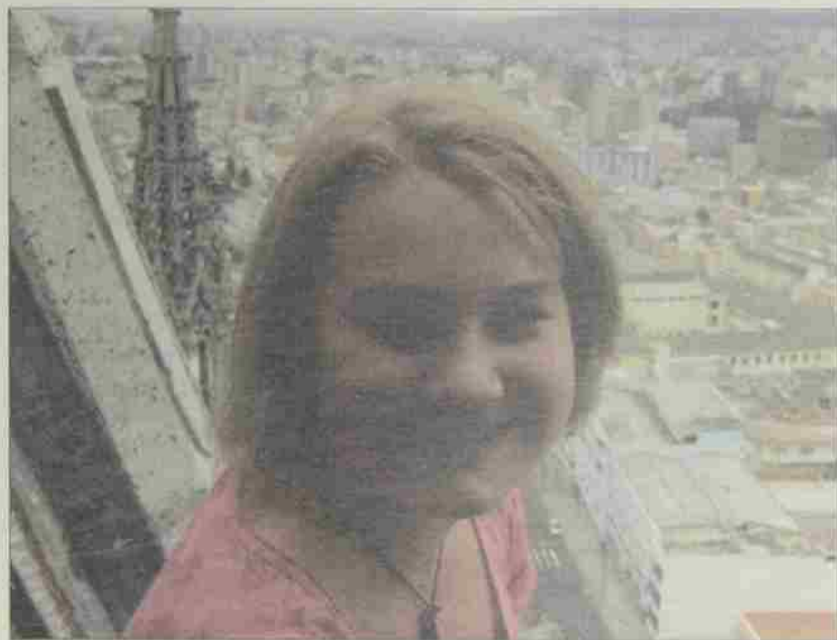
Even though Kyla spent last semester abroad and has not had a chance to start working on her senator project yet this semester, she has recently been appointed to the Sustainability Committee. This week, the Sustainability Committee is presenting a resolution to support a coal free Oregon. This is an extremely important thing to have the student body behind.

Along with the experience she brings from having spent the last two years as a senator, Kyla

is also an extremely well-organized person who has a great record of getting things done in a timely manner. Extremely outgoing and approachable, Kyla is excited to step up and take on a more active leadership role in student government. As VP of Administration, she hopes to make ASWU as a whole more accessible to all Willamette students, and one way of doing this is to advertise the ASWU Web site. Hardly anybody knows about the Web site, but it has a variety of important information including information for clubs, ASWU Sound and details about what Senate is working on.

Contact: kbarr@willamette.edu

*Dan Echeverri is also on the ballot but was unavailable for comment.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE RESPECTIVE CANDIDATES

BASEBALL

Bearcats snap losing streak, take series from L&C

JOHN LIND
STAFF WRITER

Coming off a rough weekend in Southern California that saw Willamette baseball swept by Claremont-Mudd-Scripps and Chapman, the Bearcats hoped to kick off their Northwest Conference schedule on a different note starting with Lewis & Clark.

"It's important that we start off the season strong," head coach Aaron Swick said. "We're facing three of the top teams the next three weeks, so we want to be on our game."

But with Willamette (4-6, 2-1 NWC) entering the first game of the weekend scoreless for 23 innings streak, the Pioneers took control early, shutting out the Bearcats through the first six innings. Willamette had plenty of opportunities to score, but left five men on base and had one runner thrown out trying to steal home. Meanwhile, L&C (3-7, 2-4) jumped ahead with a two-run first inning



Freshman center fielder Tyson Giza had an RBI triple to bring home the final run in Willamette's 11-7 win on Sunday.

and added runs in the third, fifth and seventh to build a 6-0 lead.

In the bottom of the seventh, Willamette finally snapped out of their scoreless slump thanks to solid hitting and a few Pioneer errors. Freshmen first baseman Derek Collins hit a leadoff single before giving way to pinch runner Mikey Lemon. Sophomore catcher Dylan Summers drew a walk, and a passed ball allowed the runners to advance to second and third. Freshman center fielder Tyson Giza then drove in Lemon on a groundout to second base with Summers advancing to third.

From there, Summers scored on a botched throwback to the pitcher by L&C catcher Geoff Wertz. Summers appeared to be thrown out at the plate but managed to jar the ball loose from Wertz's glove. Pioneer infielder Roland Greene was ejected for arguing the call, and Bearcat shortstop Doug Bloom capped off the inning with a solo homer to right-center field.

But the 'Cats could not make up the deficit entirely, despite another run scored by Bloom in the ninth. With designated hitter Max Stepan at the plate representing the tying run, the junior flied out to left field, giving the Pioneers a 6-4 victory.

The second half of the doubleheader was a different story, however. Willamette's offense exploded early, keyed by a strong performance from Stepan. With one out in the first inning, Stepan crushed a two-run homerun to deep center field to give the Bearcats the lead for good.

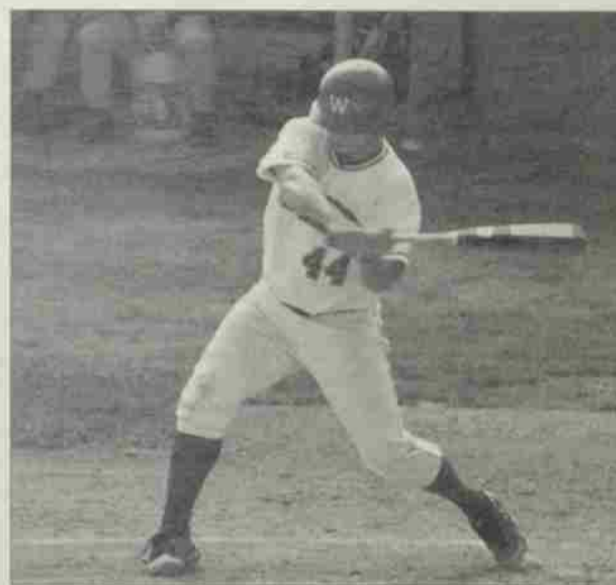
"I wasn't surprised by Max's performance at all," Swick said. "He's definitely a player I expect to help carry the offensive load game in and game out."

Willamette notched an additional two runs in the second inning, as third basemen Tim Schilf made his way around the bases and eventually stole home on a wild pitch. With the bases loaded, Stepan struck again, singling up the middle to drive in freshman second baseman Eli Kass.

"It's great that Max stepped up, and we definitely want other guys to step up too," Bloom said.

The Bearcats plated three runs each in the fifth and sixth innings. Stepan blasted his second two-run homer of the game for his fourth and fifth RBIs of the day, and pinch hitter Adam Reid later drove in Collins from third. In the sixth, Collins returned the favor with a two-run single to bring home Bloom and Mitchell Rowan, and Stepan eventually delivered the final blow, scoring on a wild pitch to put Willamette ahead 10-2.

L&C staged a wild comeback, scoring six runs over the next two innings against shaky Bearcat pitching, but



Junior catcher Max Stepan hit two two-run homers, powering the Bearcats to a 10-8 win in game two.

freshman closer Parker Johnson pitched a perfect ninth to seal the 10-8 win and notch his first save of the season.

Sunday's deciding game saw the Bearcats start slow yet again, but with Willamette down 3-1 in the fourth inning, Bloom - not known for his power - belted his second homer of the weekend, a three-run shot to right field that allowed both Reid and freshman right fielder Sky Kelley to score. The Bearcats added a run in the fifth and plated two more in the seventh. T.C. Lee scored on a Pioneer balk, which led to a heated exchange between L&C coach Eric Deovlet and home plate umpire Eric Gorham, before pinch hitter Michael Oliver hit an RBI single.

Willamette put the game away for good with a four-run eighth inning. Rowan hit a solo shot to left, followed by a two-run double by Kelley. Kelley then scored on a Giza triple to seal the game for the Bearcats.

Next week the Bearcats travel to archrival Linfield, ranked 23 by *D3baseball.com*, for a three-game series. Last season, the Bearcats killed the Wildcats' playoff hopes by splitting four games in McMinnville.

"They're a talented team with some pretty good pitching," Bloom said, "but we're just going to take it like any other game."

Contact: jlind@willamette.edu

TENNIS

Men split, women swept on tough weekend

CAMERON MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

MEN

After six consecutive Northwest Conference wins, Willamette men's tennis finally met their match last Saturday, as the Bearcats were defeated 7-2 by Whitman in a battle for first place. The Missionaries (6-1, 5-0 NWC), ranked 25 in the nation, came into the match-up with Willamette a half-game behind in the NWC standings, and jumped in front quickly in Walla Walla.

The Bearcats were unable to pick up a doubles match win in the contest, falling into a 3-0 hole early. But freshman Michael Baumgartner, Willamette's number one singles player, turned in a stunning 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 6-3 upset of Whitman's Matt Solomon - the nation's 11th-ranked player - to close the gap to 3-1. Still, the Missionaries carried the day, with Joshua Wong pulling out the 'Cats only other victory at #3 singles.

Despite the loss, the Bearcats (6-3, 6-1) kept pace in the NWC race with a win Friday over Whitworth in Spokane. Despite losing two of three doubles matches, Willamette rallied for a 5-4 win over the Pirates (3-7, 3-3). Senior Luke Lagatutta broke a 4-4 deadlock in the team scores, rallying from a 4-1 first set deficit at #5 singles to win 6-4, 6-4.

Lagatutta attributes the team's newfound success to the recruiting class brought in by second-year head coach Toby Krauel. "We've had two freshman who have come in and been able to step up and handle pressure really well," Lagatutta said. "They've produced great results for us."

This weekend, the Bearcats return home for a match on Friday against George Fox at 2:30 p.m. The team then heads to McMinnville on Saturday to take on the unbeaten Linfield Wildcats at 1 p.m. with second place in the NWC on the line.

"The Linfield match will be a tough battle," Lagatutta

said. "We know that they're coming for us, and the match will be crucial in the scope of the rest of the season."

WOMEN

The Bearcat women's tennis team suffered two setbacks this weekend, losing to first place Whitworth on Friday and to traditional powerhouse Whitman on Saturday. Playing at home for the first time since Feb. 13, Willamette (6-3, 6-3 NWC) dropped a 7-2 decision to the Pirates Friday afternoon. Whitworth (8-2, 8-0) won two of three doubles matches to seize the early momentum.

"The doubles matches are very important," said head coach Becky Roberts. "If we don't win any doubles matches it is extremely hard to win the match."

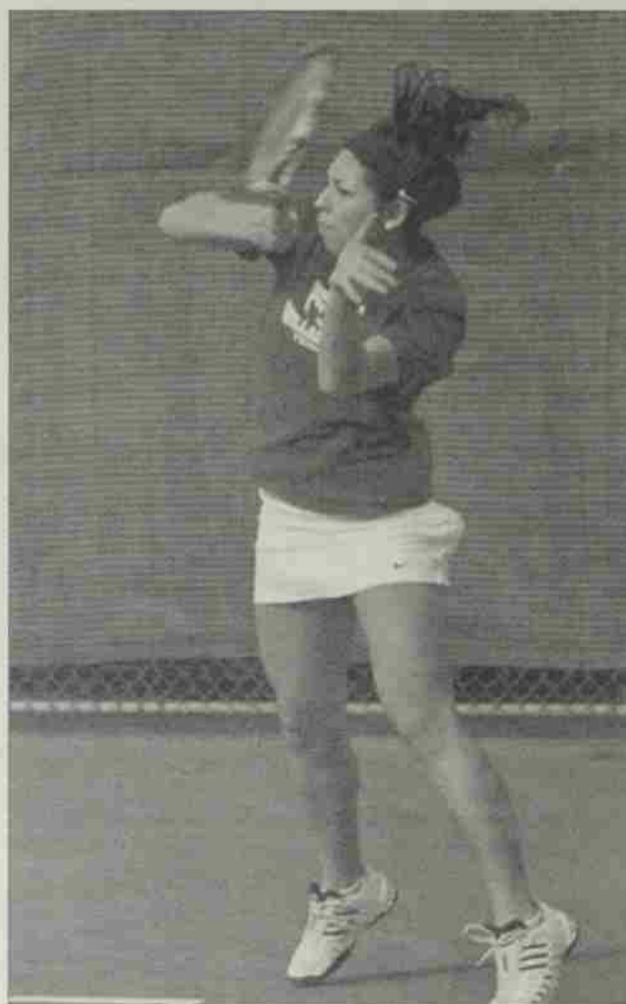
Junior Natalia Agarycheva provided the Bearcats with the team's lone singles victory on Friday, defeating Whitworth's Rachel Burns 6-1, 6-3.

Saturday saw more of the same, as Whitman (5-3, 5-2) began the match by also taking two of three doubles matches, then squeaking out wins in four of the six spots matches. Agarycheva won at #1 singles again, rallying after losing her first set, but the only other Bearcat victory came at the number five spot, where Fabi Dieguez won 6-1, 6-4.

"We knew coming in that both teams were very good," Roberts said. "When playing teams like that, everyone needs to be playing their best tennis and that didn't happen this weekend."

With the two losses, Willamette drops to fourth place in the NWC, and has played more conference matches than any of the three teams they trail. The 'Cats head to George Fox on Friday for a 3 p.m. match, then return home on Saturday to take on archrival Linfield at 11 a.m.

Contact: cmitchel@willamette.edu



Sophomore Fabi Dieguez was a bright spot for the 'Cats last weekend, winning her singles match against Whitman.

TRACK & FIELD

Men and women begin title defenses

LUKE RUSSELL
STAFF WRITER

Willamette kicked off its outdoor track and field season this past Saturday, hosting the Willamette Opener at the Charles Bowles Track and McCulloch Stadium. The competition featured small colleges from around the Northwest, including cross-town rival Corban, Division II Western Oregon and Northwest Conference foes George Fox and Whitworth.

"Our team had an awesome showing on Saturday, with really impressive results across the board," junior Stefan Redfield said. "We also had a large number of conference qualifying marks, and both the men and women's teams are expecting to defend their titles at the conference meet this year."

The nine-time defending NWC champion Bearcat women turned in a number of strong performances, highlighted by outstanding individual efforts from sophomores Kimber Mattox and Katie Peterson, each of whom recorded provisional qualifying marks for the Division III National Championships.

Mattox, who earned All-American honors last year with a sixth-place finish in the steeplechase at nationals, won the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 11:04.42, 8.58 seconds under the provisional standard of 11:13.0.

Peterson won the javelin on Saturday over Carolanne Powers of Western Oregon, registering a throw of 40.87 meters that surpassed the provisional standard by 1.87 meters. Peterson also competed at the NCAA Championships in the javelin last spring, and hopes to do so again.

"I am excited to potentially have another chance to throw at

nationals, but this doesn't seal the deal," Peterson said. "It's a long road before I can get on the plane to Ohio."

Willamette won two other women's events at the meet. Senior Jennifer Luecht won an extremely close 200-yard dash with a time of 25.93 seconds, barely edging out two other runners in the tight finish: Lacey Meusec of Western Oregon took second just 0.03 seconds behind Luecht, while another WOU runner, McKenzie Redberg, placed third, 0.08 seconds back. Willamette senior Kaitlin St. John took fourth place at 26.19 seconds.

Senior Elizabeth Andrews brought home another win for the Bearcat women in the pole vault, clearing 10'2" for the victory. Andrews won the event by almost a full foot, with second place awarded to Danielle Kermode of Western Oregon, who cleared 9'2.25".

In the 100-meter dash, St. John was Willamette's top finisher, placing third, 0.19 seconds behind Western Oregon's Meusec. Luecht followed in fourth, just 0.01 seconds behind St. John.

For the men, defending their seventh NWC title in nine years, Redfield led a 1-2-3 finish in the 1500-meters, clocking in with a time of 3:56.33. Sophomore Leo Castillo came in second at 3:56.65 and junior Ryan McLaughlin took third, finishing at 4:00.58.

Sophomore Neal Howard excelled in the 200-meter dash to give Willamette its second victory on the day. Howard timed in at 22.61 seconds, beating Alex Bourne of Western Oregon by a full 0.24 seconds. Howard nearly claimed another victory in the 100-meter dash, losing by just .04 seconds to WOU's Bobby Alexander.

The Bearcat men also won the 400-meter dash, as sophomore Paul Winger defeated the field of 20 runners with a time of 50.14 seconds. In the men's 3000-meter steeplechase, Willamette claimed both first and second place. Sophomore Ben Donovan won the event, crossing the finish line in 9:27.82, and junior Nick Rebol finished second at 9:30.67. Also winning for the men was junior Trevor May in the triple jump, whose winning leap covered 42'3.5".

The Bearcats also turned in an excellent performance in the shot put, placing second, third and fourth. Junior Josh Clothier led the way with an effort of 48'11", junior David Oppat finished third at 45'3.5" and freshman Trent Michels placed fourth at 44'6.25".

Both squads continue their season with a dual meet set for Saturday, March 13 at 1 p.m. at Southern Oregon University in Ashland.

"There is a lot of good energy and high aspirations regarding this season," Redfield said. "I know that everyone will only improve upon their results next week."

Contact: lrussell@willamette.edu



EMILY SCHLIEMAN

Willamette's men's and women's track squads won a combined nine events at Saturday's meet.

SOFTBALL

Romero leads 'Cats to sweep

TIM WALSH
SPORTS EDITOR

If Willamette softball hopes to challenge national powerhouse Linfield for the Northwest Conference title this year, their first priority will be to handle the Northwest Conference's lesser teams.

So far, so good.

Riding the momentum from their fast start to the season, the Bearcats (7-1, 4-0 NWC) sandwiched one blowout win over the Loggers between three tight victories to close out a perfect weekend, putting them in a four-way tie for first place in the conference.

The first game of Saturday's double header was a low-scoring affair, with sophomore pitcher Alex Watilo tossing a complete game, striking out six and scattering three runs over seven innings of work. Watilo got run support from fellow sophomore Mica Romero, whose RBI triple in the top of the third inning brought home two runs to give Willamette a 3-1 lead.

The pesky Loggers (0-8, 0-4) rallied, knotting the score at three in the bottom of the same frame, but back-to-back singles from another sophomore, Jessica Barry, and freshman Yvonne Drabin set the stage for Romero once again, who belted a double to score Barry's game-winning run and clinch a 4-3 victory.

The 'Cats started slow in the second game of the series, with junior Bri Compton spotting Puget Sound three runs in the top of the first. But in the fourth, Willamette's bats came alive, racking up six runs in the inning, 20 hits in the game and a decisive 11-4 win. Romero added four more hits to her league-leading total of 17, and is batting an eye-popping .654 on the season. In fact, three Bearcats are batting over .500, with Compton and sophomore Sierra Lessel hitting .524 and .522, respectively.

Romero continued her torrid hitting on Sunday, as the 'Cats took two more wins in Tacoma. The sophomore led off the second inning with a double, then scored on senior Nicole Wallace's two-run double. Another double from Lessel later in the inning brought home one more run en route to a 7-5 win, but Wallace was the star of the game, going 3-4 at the plate with two RBIs and a run scored.

The fourth and final game of the series was a different affair entirely, as UPS got to Watilo early, roughing the sophomore up for five runs on 10 hits in just 2 1/3 innings. But the Bearcats rallied with five runs of their own in the fourth before Compton blasted a two-run homer in the fifth to give Willamette the lead for good. Compton then took to the mound, sealing the 9-7 win with 4 2/3 innings of solid relief. The unstoppable Romero finished the game 3-3 with one RBI.

This weekend, the Bearcats head to Florida for the NCAA Division III Leadoff Classic, which will match them up against the fourth- and fifth-ranked teams in the country - Cortland State and Texas-Tyler, respectively - among others. Three preliminary round games will take place on Friday and Saturday before bracket play begins Saturday afternoon.

Contact: twalsh@willamette.edu

▼ next up

Friday, March 12

Softball vs. LaVerne
@ NCAA Division III
Leadoff Classic
Panama City, FL, 11:00 a.m.

Men's Tennis vs. Whitworth,
4:00 p.m.
@ Courthouse Tennis Club,
2:30 p.m.

Women's Tennis @ George Fox,
3:00 p.m.

Softball vs. #4 Cortland State
@ NCAA Division III
Leadoff Classic
Panama City, FL, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 13

Rowing vs. Lewis & Clark
Governor's Cup Regatta, 8:00 a.m.

Softball vs. #5 Texas-Tyler
@ NCAA Division III Leadoff Classic
Panama City, FL, 10:30 a.m.

Baseball @ #23 Linfield (DH*),
11:00 a.m.

Women's Tennis vs. Linfield
@ Sparks Courts, 11:00 a.m.

Track & Field @ Southern Oregon,
1:00 p.m.

Men's Tennis @ Linfield, 1:00 p.m.

Softball Bracket Play
@ NCAA Division III Leadoff Classic
Panama City, FL, TBA

*DH - Doubleheader

Sunday, March 14

Baseball @ #23 Linfield,
12:00 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. Whitman
@ Sparks Courts, 1:00 p.m.

Softball Bracket Play
@ NCAA Division III Leadoff
Classic
Panama City, FL, TBA

Monday, March 15

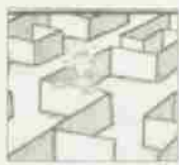
Men's Golf, Willamette Invitational
@ Creekside Country Club,
9:00 a.m.

Women's Golf, Willamette
Invitational
@ Illahe Hills Country Club,
11:00 a.m.

NWC STANDINGS

AS OF MARCH 09, 2010

Baseball	NWC	Overall	Softball	NWC	Overall	Men's Tennis	NWC	Overall	Women's Tennis	NWC	Overall
#17 Pacific Lutheran	2-1	11-2	#16 Linfield	4-0	6-0	Linfield	6-0	6-1	Whitworth	8-0	8-2
#23 Linfield	2-1	10-5	Willamette	4-0	7-1	Whitman	5-0	6-1	Linfield	6-2	6-2
Puget Sound	2-1	6-5	Pacific Lutheran	4-0	6-3	Willamette	6-1	6-3	Whitman	5-2	5-3
Willamette	2-1	5-6	Pacific	4-0	6-4	Pacific Lutheran	7-3	7-3	Willamette	6-3	6-3
Pacific	3-3	5-7	George Fox	0-4	3-7	Whitworth	3-3	3-7	Lewis & Clark	4-3	4-4
George Fox	1-2	7-7	Whitworth	0-4	0-4	Puget Sound	3-5	3-5	Pacific	4-5	4-6
Whitman	1-2	1-13	Puget Sound	0-4	0-8	Pacific	2-6	3-7	Pacific Lutheran	2-7	2-8
Lewis & Clark	2-4	3-7	Lewis & Clark	0-4	0-11	George Fox	1-6	2-6	Puget Sound	1-8	1-8
Whitworth	0-0	3-10				Lewis & Clark	0-9	0-11	George Fox	0-6	0-7



Colleen,
Cornered

It's game time



Colleen
Martin

OPINIONS EDITOR

As much as I love them, I recently realized that I don't play many board games anymore. I used to have grand ideas about throwing game nights, in which friends would gather over popcorn and a fun assortment of games, ranging from Monopoly to Pictionary. However, the other night, I was reminded why these dreams never come to fruition.

My lovely thesis class decided to get together for dinner, in which we would socialize and eat and not discuss a word about our theses. It was indeed an enjoyable evening, and I was extremely grateful to get to know the people in my thesis class with whom I was not very well acquainted. The food was delicious, the conversation light-hearted and amusing.

Then, we decided to play a game. It was called Mad Gab, and I literally could spend the rest of this column explaining the rules to you, but all you need to know is that there are two teams, and each team spends their turn trying to guess these scrambled up phrases while the other team is required to remain silent.

This game was very fun - except that it wasn't. I am a horrible game player. I am disgustingly competitive, and it was nearly impossible for me to keep quiet when it wasn't my team's turn. When it was my team's turn, I would scream out answers at an unnecessarily loud decibel. As the game ended, I remembered that this has happened before.

I played "slap the jack" with my sister when I was younger. As I lost round after round, my frustration would mount, and eventually it became "slap my sister's hand until it's red" or "pound my sister's hand that is on the jack with my fist." That game was nixed rather quickly. I haven't played it since I was about eight.

Monopoly was just too much pressure. It lasts forever, and there are too many chances for you to blow it. After playing by the rules for years, I decided that I could no longer take it seriously if I was going to be able to survive a game. So instead of being an honest banker, I started to embezzle. This worked extremely well, until people started figuring out that I actually earned \$500 when I passed Go. My rights to play Monopoly were revoked.

Finally, I attempted to take a classy turn and learn chess. Sadly, I began this venture too late in life, and everyone who played against me was miles ahead of my skill level. The truth is, I am far too impatient to keep track of all the pieces on the board, and I focus entirely on the queen, and it inevitably gets taken. At that point, I usually try to distract my opponent and "accidentally" upset the board.

While technically the point of these games is to win, I've never thought of myself as a "winning is the only thing" sort of player. Having fun is equally important. If I can learn to have fun watching someone else win - well, that would be better than a "get out of jail free" card and checkmate. Let the games begin.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters can be sent by postal mail, e-mail (tbrounst@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

The real world is rather rough

Ten reasons we should be grateful we're in college

As college students, we often complain about our lot, but here are 10 reasons we at Willamette are spoiled compared to what we'll face in the real world.

► Compact Campus

If you're on one side of campus and need to be clear on the other side, chances are you can make it in 10 minutes, and less if you really book it. This tends to come in handy when you wake up 15 minutes before you have to be in class. Good luck pulling that one off after graduation.

► Convenient Food

Even during the lunch rush at Goudy, there's always something you can grab quickly that's relatively healthy and cheap. For those of us with back-to-back commitments from nine to five, not having to forage for food is a relief.

► Support for Success

Even when it seems like the system is out to get us, the truth is that every office on campus really does want us to succeed. If you're having personal problems and need to talk to someone, there's an office for that. If you can't figure out what you want to do after graduation, there's an office for that. Willamette is a series of safety nets - let's not take that for granted.

► Sympathetic Professors

Willamette professors are about as

understanding as they come. If you're having a personal crisis or trouble with the course material, most professors will make allowances and go out of their way to help. Don't count on every future employer to make the same effort.

► Schedule Flexibility

It doesn't always work, but if you're hell-bent on not having class before noon, there are ways to swing it. Sure beats getting up at 6 a.m. to start your commute.

► Cheap Tickets

Did you know you can see the Oregon Symphony perform in Smith Auditorium for the low, low price of \$5? Or that normally that ticket would cost \$25 to \$54? Let's not forget that none of us paid extra to listen to Fareed Zakaria, editor of Newsweek and frequent guest of "The Daily Show."

► Summit Access

Sure, there are libraries on the outside, but how many of them will ship you material from other libraries? Whether you're trying to track down a foreign film or researching the latest environmental legislation, Summit expands your resource-borrowing horizons at no extra charge.

► Free Coaching

Besides free academic tutoring, we have an entire office (the Writing

Center) dedicated to helping students write their papers. If you can find someone in the real world to parse through every piece of writing you're assigned, you're a winner.

► Free Wireless

A wireless router runs anywhere from \$22 to \$60 and Comcast high-speed Internet is \$20 a month. But what if you want to take your web-surfing show on the road? Probably doesn't work. Just try to escape wireless access on campus and you'll appreciate that someone else takes care of that.

Gym Access

A membership to 24-Hour Fitness costs \$25 to \$35 a month. A trip to Sparks costs you 30 seconds in order to show the attendant your compass card. Maybe Sparks isn't the nicest gym, but it's a perk that comes with tuition. Not many apartment complexes throw in a gym membership once you've paid rent.

COLLEGIAN EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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TOM'S THOUGHTS: Tom seeks relaxing and fulfilling activities for senior year



T O M
ACKERMAN

COLUMNIST

As my action-packed life becomes ever more stressful, I find myself searching for more sedate pastimes. Even my normal college destressing activity (playing violent video games) has become stressful in its own right. Under other circumstances, I would turn to reading trashy science fiction novels to decompress from a hard day's work, but between my classes and my ever-present thesis readings I find that I have little appetite for the written word when I am presented with some free time. (You might be saying to yourself at this point, "Hey, this is a lot like Tom's column from several weeks ago where he talked about procrastinating." Let me be clear, what I do when I have work to do and what I do when I have nothing to do are very different things, with the exception of video games, which can serve both purposes.)

It would be nice if some group on campus could help me relieve my anxiety, but all of the clubs and extracurricular activities here seem pretty stressful. Even the Boffering Club, the most laid-back club at Willamette, requires an awful lot of running and pain. Ideally there would be some sort of Loafers, Loiterers and Layabouts Society that would meet whenever they sort of felt like it and would proceed to do very little.

Maybe on a nice day, the 3L Society

would organize a polite, uncompetitive afternoon of throwing rocks into some body of water. Or they could have a TV show marathon night with only the least stressful series (I'm thinking maybe some "How It's Made" as well as "Hey Arnold" or some other classic cartoon). Perhaps there would even be a synchronized napping event (not a competition, but a group performance art). The 3L Society would definitely spend some of its club funds to buy a quality hammock to be put up around campus on pleasant days to foster public idleness.

I'm sure many seniors would be interested in the Loafers, Loiterers and Layabouts Society. I've noticed that many of my peers in the class of 2010 seem to be suffering from overwork and under-idleness. However, I realize that 3L Society will never be a reality, because any organization that is characterized chiefly by its lack of organization is doomed to fail.

Thus, it's up to me to find my own relaxing, yet spiritually fulfilling activities. At this point, I have it narrowed down to three options. Firstly, doodling, which is an excellent idle pastime that has none of the lofty expectations of "painting" or even "drawing." When doodling I like to use a regular lined notebook. Buying a sketchbook might make you feel pressure to make a proper drawing instead of a doodle and we don't want that. Also, doodling is best done with a standard ballpoint pen. A pencil with

eraser will just make you more worried about your mistakes.

Secondly, I might take up "playing catch." For this I would need to invest in a baseball glove. Of course, you can play catch without a glove, but I'm trying to tap into some nostalgia here and relive my glory days on the t-ball team. For a game of catch to be truly relaxing there must be a "no simulated pop-fly rule" in effect. You know what I'm talking about. Nothing ruins a catch session like having to dive for the ball.

Finally, it has been suggested to me that I should take up whittling. Whittling has always fascinated me. It might be the perfect useless idle activity. It's cheap (pocketknife - \$5, wood - \$0, something to sit on - \$0) and it will be an important skill for me to have if I want to grow up to be a cranky old man (and I do). Of course, I would start small, perhaps just making sticks into slightly sharper sticks. I don't want to get too ambitious; that would defeat the point entirely. Baby steps my dear readers, baby steps.

Anyhow, if you see me doing any of these things, I must urge you not to bother me with any of my real world responsibilities. Don't ask about my thesis or my future life plans. But if you want, there's always room for another catcher in a game of catch, and, if you bring your own knife, I'm sure there's no shortage of twigs that we can turn into toothpicks together.

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OPINION

Editor in Chief election picks

TOM BROWNSTEIN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

With ASWU elections just a few days away, I think it's important for all students to sit down and research the candidates and their positions, to think about who they want to vote for. Turn to the Feature on page six to see what each candidate has to say about their platform, or check out their various Facebook groups for more information. After attending the election forum last Thursday, and doing my own research, I support the following candidates:

President — Only one person is running for ASWU President: **Walter Robinson II**. Fortunately, Robinson seems serious about the job, and has a clear interest in working to make ASWU better. A cornerstone of his plan is to increase ASWU visibility, and he had some great ideas to accomplish this, such as creating a "state of the campus address" and ensuring that at least one ASWU representative will be present at each event ASWU supports.

Vice President of the Exec — Both candidates for this position raised some good points and had some interesting ideas to improve ASWU, but in the end I'm supporting **Alex Lopez**. While Tej Reddy's plans were more ambitious, Lopez's were more concrete — she was able to articulate specifically how she would go about changing senate.

For example, Lopez wants to institute "class coffee," a regular event for people to sit down and discuss issues with their senators. Though simple, this idea is easy to implement and would go a long way towards increasing ASWU visibility and helping students understand what senate actually does. More importantly, this was just one of her ideas, and she was able to cite several other specific ways to make ASWU more visible.

Vice President of Administration

This was another tough decision as both candidates have a fair amount of experience and would do well at the job. Once again, though, I'm supporting the candidate who has more detailed plans: **Daniel Echeverri**. While his opponent, Kyla Barr, is a very qualified candidate, I was more impressed with many of Echeverri's ideas.

In an effort to increase ASWU accountability, Echeverri plans to make senators give regular updates to the senate, making them hold each other responsible. Another idea I liked was to have ASWU arrange community service programs for students. ASWU would find the project and organize it, and all students would have to do is show up and work. Hopefully this would get students more involved with community service as now they would just be signing up for a project.

Vice President of Finance — You might have noticed by now that I like candidates with clear, direct plans rather than abstract promises. A couple examples of how a candidate will implement change is far greater than a million promises that they will. To that end, I'm supporting **Keith Fahkoury** who had a set of solid and innovative ideas. Not all of them would have startling effects — the "25k cap" on budget requests would affect literally one club in its current inception—but they would all be useful.

The most significant idea he mentioned was fund matching, in which ASWU would automatically match any funds student organizations raise from outside sources. This would encourage students to go beyond the bubble, increase Willamette's presence in Salem and is an interesting way for clubs to get more funding. It's ambitious, sure, but it's still a good idea and one I would love to see implemented.

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ORDERED ORDURE:

Everybody still poops



MICHELLE
K I M M

COLUMNIST

Most people who have taken a high school health class (can't feel smug about this one, psych majors) have heard of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs. This theory arranges a person's needs on multiple layers, often shown in pyramidal form with the most basic, physical needs (like eating, breathing and excretion) placed at the bottom and the more cerebral/emotional ones at the top.

According to Maslow, one can only address a particular level of need after the level below it has been satisfied. A person who reaches the final (topmost) level is said to have achieved self-actualization: with things like self-worth, interpersonal functionality and physical health out of the way, they can focus on creative activity, problem solving and morality.

So far, it seems basic, intuitive and sensible. However, there is a less-referenced component of Maslow's findings that shakes me to the core.

Evidently, the self-actualized individual has a different sense of humor from the rest of us. He does not laugh at crude, hostile or subversive humor. Instead, his jokes are generally meant to communicate a helpful message or educate us on the value of remembering our place in the universe. (No shit, guys; I Wiki'd this.) The self-actualized individual has evolved past *schadenfreude*, past potty humor, ethnic jokes and slapstick comedy. In short, he is an unfunny jerk.

After working this out with my own modest cognitive apparatus, it dawned on me: we, as college students at a private liberal arts university, are all sitting high on the peak of Abraham's pyramid. In

fact, higher education itself seems to be an expression of a society that has, for a large portion of its citizens, addressed certain basic needs, freeing us to engage in moral, creative and intellectual pursuits.

This is precisely why we're so boring — why I can't publish a column filled with one-liners, penis jokes and the appallingly insensitive, slur-filled banter that I know for a fact we all engage in. By being here — by dedicating so much time and money to the development of our higher, critical faculties — we have abdicated the right to laugh at farts and accidental injury.

The comedy gold that brightened our younger years is now considered crude, unenlightened, low-brow or uncouth. It is seen as a hindrance rather than a facilitator for economic advancement, academic achievement and access to sexual activity. It's cute and funny to read "Everybody Poops" to a classroom full of preschoolers, but not a single professor (to my knowledge) has ever begun class with a blow-by-blow retelling of their morning bowel movement.

I wish this would change. I wish people would excuse themselves from important meetings by saying they need to "take a dump," or call in an order for three-dozen extra-large cheese pizzas to the Dean's office in Smullin. No more art history puns, Hemingway suicide allusions, or (God, this is the worst) cheap shots at pop culture: everybody knows that "Twilight" lacks literary value and that sodomy laws are a pathetic remnant of a heteronormative patriarchy.

Drop the SAT vocabulary words, stop trying to drag philosophy into your everyday discourse and forget about developing a critical framework for your shitty puns. Pick your nose. Make fun of audible farts. Let's all be 12 (and funny) again.

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WITH GOOD PENMANSHIP:

Intellectual honesty



M A T T
PITCHFORD

COLUMNIST

Going to school has, since my first experiences with the educational system, carried a direct correlation to going to class. One goes to class, in turn, in order to learn. Yet the learning that occurs, both inside and outside of the classroom, must pertain to two important lessons that are at the core of life outside of college. As in, you can peel away the mysteries and plumb the depths of whatever field of knowledge you choose, but unless you understand the philosophical foundation of learning, our experience becomes less like a human and more like a computer. To compute is to take input and file it. To think is to take input and evaluate it.

First, college is about learning *how* to learn. While this certainly entails aspects of pragmatic study — like effective study techniques, sleep patterns and the strategic application of caffeine — I am speaking more to the deeper concept. Learning must be a lifelong process. It's like going up the down escalator. To stop learning is to stop living. In learning how to learn, we practice gathering resources, following reasoning and critically engaging every aspect of our environment. This concept makes a lot of sense and is even expressed explicitly at times throughout our experience at Willamette University. That being said, it is important to keep it in the back of our mind, especially as this semester continues.

The second lesson has to do with how we interact with new ideas. No matter where we come from I hope that an aspect of what we think and believe is challenged here on campus. In the clash between ideas, sometimes we react

particularly violently to a challenge of our beliefs. The long and the short of it is that we don't like to be wrong. The shorter part of it is that no one has it totally figured out. When we react strongly against an idea or concept, it is important to examine the deeper reason why.

College is a place to find out the parts of what you think that need to be refined. This may not be with everything, nor does it need to be. But what you have thought before is no more right for being what you are habituated toward. What you have thought before is no more wrong just because there are "newer" or different opinions on the subject.

There is a difficult degree of intellectual honesty here. Frankly, it can be unpleasant or even painful to seriously engage with an idea and then believe it to the exclusion of our previously held opinions. This unpleasantness does not detract one iota from the importance of being willing to change our mind.

John Stewart Mill called it "The Free Marketplace of Ideas." He postulated that, when ideas are placed into discussion and contention, the truth has a unique propensity and ability to survive. College is a maelstrom of different ideas, but the only way for Mill's ideas to work is if everyone is willing on the onset to change, refine and fully admit the validity (true or false) of their ideas.

So, there are many subjects to be learned at college. More importantly, college is learning how to learn consistently throughout life. Finally, college is learning about how to be wrong ... in the best and most vibrant sort of way possible. It is about learning to be wrong such that you can learn more about what it means to be right.

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RESPONSE

Risk and responsibility

JONATHAN THOMPSON
GUEST WRITER

In the last 10 years, there have been 37 deaths attributed to acceleration problems in Toyotas in the U.S., or slightly fewer than the number of people who drowned in toilets in the U.S. during the same period of time. Why is one a national emergency and the other not? Flippancy aside, the fear-mongering over Toyota has real consequences. This problem accounts for less than 0.1 percent of all motor vehicle deaths involving Toyotas. They are some of the safest cars on the road.

However, as a result of recent press coverage, Toyota's sales have dropped, while virtually all other car companies are rebounding. Ironically, convincing people to switch from Toyotas to other cars will almost definitely kill more people than Toyota's acceleration problems did.

Consumer Reports recently pointed out that a Toyota, starting at highway speeds, brakes faster with the accelerator down than a comparable Chevy does with no pressure on the gas. So, why do people report a total inability to stop? Because they probably aren't hitting the brakes at all; unintended acceleration is a commonly reported problem that all cars face, and is usually caused by user error. In other words, people are probably hitting the gas and not the brakes, and end up blaming the car for their own mistake. NHTSA administrator David Strickland has said, "[Toyota] had the same percentage

of sudden acceleration issues as other manufacturers. They just had more of them because they have more cars." People don't like this, as it supposedly blames the victim, and leaves no one to sue.

Venial self-interest underlies much of the coverage and Congress' reaction to the Toyota recall. Toyota itself is bending over backwards to apologize for a problem that probably doesn't exist. Democrats are bashing Toyota because they have never liked imports, and Toyota has avoided unionization in its American plants. The media is piling on because a good scare story always sells. Trial lawyers salivate at the idea of a problem that is so high profile, because such publicity makes it easier to convince a jury that a company has acted inappropriately.

What is most disturbing to me is the point of view put forward by both the liberal and conservative voices. Namely, that the Congressional hearings on Toyota were anything other than partisan political grandstanding (Democrats support the unionized Big Three, Republicans support imports). I object to the view that cars can be made perfectly safe, or that it is wrong to make a cost-benefit decision about what safety features to incorporate. Every car is deadly, and deciding how to mitigate this and at what cost is the work of cold, somber reason — not hysterical grandstanding.

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