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First Amendment rights, Islam and Christianity: Is freedom of religion an American myth?

pg. 6–7



Bearcat swimmers performed historically well at the NWC Championships last weekend.

pg. 9



Jessica Weiss questions if continuing to accept refugees is best for the European Union.

pg. 11

‘Zealot’ tells terrorism tales, religious tension



SARAH HAGHI

JOE LINDBLOM-MASUWALE
NEWS EDITOR

If Atkinson speaker Reza Aslan did any one thing at his lecture on Feb. 9, it was to put Islam into perspective. 51 percent of Americans expressed worries about the possibility of future terrorist attacks in the United States according to a Gallup poll taken last year. His lecture being the same night of the New Hampshire Presidential primary, Aslan noted that two-thirds of the state’s Republicans were in support of Donald Trump’s proposed ban on Muslim immigration.

Aslan called these anti-Muslim sentiments irrational fears. In fact, only 45 Americans have died at the hands of Islamic terrorists since the September 11 attacks.

“You are more likely to die from faulty furniture than by Islamic terrorism,” Aslan said. “Your La-Z-Boy is more likely to kill you than Islamic terrorists.”

And yet, “Even though it is an irrational fear, it’s a fear nonetheless. And it has to be taken seriously.”

Aslan is an Iranian-born but American educated scholar, having received his Bachelor’s degree in religious studies from Santa Clara University, a master’s of theological studies from Harvard University, his doctorate in the sociology of religions from University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa.

See REZA ASLAN Page 3

Here’s Johnny

SEAN RHODES
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Trigger warning: domestic violence, sexual violence, alcohol abuse, unchecked masculinity.

In the NFL, players have reputations. The good reputations include players like Anquon Boldin from the San Francisco 49ers and Aaron Rodgers from the Green Bay Packers, who spend enormous amounts of time, money and effort supporting their communities and giving to charities as well as their good sportsmanship, or rather, lack of poor sportsmanship on the field.

Then there are the bad reputations. People like Dez Bryant have a penchant for fighting teammates, leaving the field early and generally being cry babies.

Then, there’s 50 feet of crap, and we get to the Ugly. A perfect example is Pacman Jones who has been charged with assault, felony vandalism, violating the terms of his probation, obstruction of justice and misdemeanor assault.

Jonny Manziel is quickly leaving the “bad” category and is currently swimming down the

50-foot shit creek to ugly without a paddle.

Who is Johnny Manziel? Why, “Johnny Football” is the pride and joy of Texas A&M University, in College Station, Texas. He was the first college freshman, and the second Texas A&M student, to win the Heisman Trophy, the award given to the best all-around college football player. Johnny Football amassed 7820 yards passing and 2169 yards rushing from scrimmage during his time at A&M, and was then drafted into the NFL in 2014 as the 22nd overall pick to the Cleveland Browns.

As Johnny’s reputation as a player grew, his notoriety off the field increased as well. He has been investigated twice by the NFL for violating the league’s personal conduct policy, announced that he was checking himself into rehab for alcoholism, and now, to the surprise of no one, is being investigated for domestic violence after allegedly assaulting his ex-girlfriend. It is reported that he hit her so hard he ruptured her eardrum.

See NOBODY Page 9

Cunningham: original selfie artist

MCCALL CONCANNON
GUEST WRITER

On Saturday, Feb. 13, the Hallie Ford Museum of Art proudly unveiled its newest exhibition, “For Myself: Nudes by Imogen Cunningham, 1906-1939.” The photography showcase of 33 pieces is situated within the museum’s Study and Print Center, and enriches the space with rich, dynamic prints captured by one of the world’s greatest modernist artists, Imogen Cunningham (1883-1976) on the centenary of her opening exposition.

Born in Portland and raised in Seattle, Cunningham was not only one of the most accomplished artists of her day, but also one of the most renowned artists to ever emerge from the region. Her career spans the 20th century to greatly influence photographic innovation and artistic liberty of the modernist movement as a whole.



SAM KEECHLER

Imogen Cunningham reveals herself, for herself in new Hallie Ford exhibit.

See FOR MYSELF Page 5

ASWU club budget in jeopardy

GIA ANGUIANO
STAFF WRITER

The ASWU senate was surprised to learn that the club budget for the spring semester has already been greatly depleted.

ASWU Treasurer Caroline Brinster began the discussion on the issue by breaking the budget down in its current state. The requested club budget for the first allocation round of spring semester totalled around \$51,248.85. Although ASWU's anticipated revenue from student fees will total \$166,745.87, its projected standing balance is only \$22,048.93. This is how much ASWU will have if they choose to make amendments to the pre-spring budget.

This \$22,048.93 would be expected to cover club expenses through both the first and second allocation periods in the spring semester.

Brinster said this is normal compared to past semesters, but the actual starting budget that can be used toward club requests is only \$13,844.94. If the senators were to approve of every funding request as they stood, the budget would go more than \$37,000 into debt.

In order to make up for the

budget deficit, Brinster has zeroed out the club accounts at \$10,059.20. 25 percent of this amount must be placed in the endowment, leaving ASWU with 75 percent to use for the spring semester. The total roll-over of \$7,544.47 has been added to the starting balance for the spring semester, resulting in a balance of \$14,505.46.

Brinster and Vice President Rebecca Brownlee have also created a five-step plan that involves a strict review of the fall budget and possibly a standard percentage of the budget to cut.

Brinster also provided the option to take funds from the endowment, but expressed her disapproval of the idea in spite of the fact that other senates have done so in the past.

"It will be a tough choice to go back and take money away (because) that's going to cut some big programs," said junior senator Liz Gill.

Brinster countered, saying "I would rather scrutinize these allocations now rather than punish future ones. I know we are all trying to be fair here."

A breaking point within the discussion revolved around the Outdoor Program, which has requested a budget of \$27,684,

making it one of the largest club budgets this semester.

"The concern I have is that I don't know if we can sustainably fund this," senior senator Teo Ekstrom said.

First year senator Adrian Uphoff pointed out to the senate that one-third of the club's budget is designated to the upcoming spring break trip to the Florida Keys, a trip that only eight students are going on. While the idea was posed to cut funding for the trip along with other Outdoor Program activities, no drastic action was taken.

"It would be a shame to take that away from students that have already signed up," senior senator Tori Leder said.

Ekstrom and senior senator Jacob Saiki pushed for a cut to specific clubs in order to focus on the return on investment.

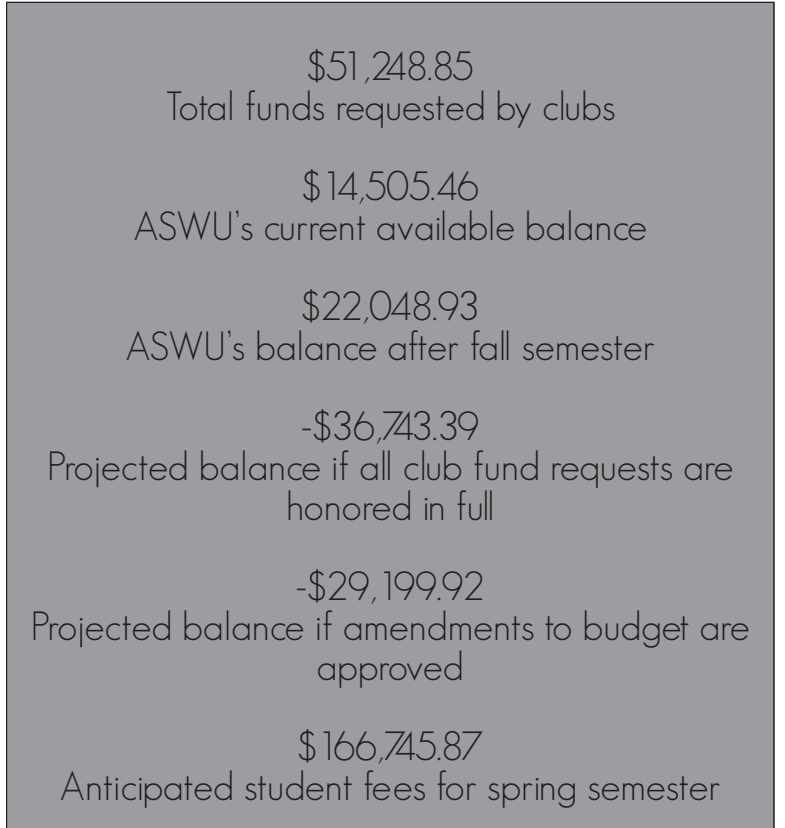
Senior senator Natasha Parekh disagreed with this idea. "I do not want to single out certain clubs and make it seem as if some are more important than others," Parekh said.

In the end, ASWU tabled the discussion to be resolved at a later date. At this point, ASWU is still on schedule, expecting to pass a budget for the first allocation period this Thursday.

In a private meeting between the ASWU Finance board and other senators on Monday, council members proposed amendments to the pre-spring budget in an effort to remedy the shortfall in income. However, Brinster said that the outcomes of this

meeting were only tentative and that ASWU will still need vote to approve of these changes before they come into effect.

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Pepper spray for students? C. Safety says it's possible

GIANNI MARABELLA
LAYOUT EDITOR

Students could have access to free pepper spray on campus within the year. On Feb. 18, ASWU senators will vote on a bill that would open up a number of safety opportunities for students, which would include stocking the Campus Safety office with a supply of miniature pepper spray bottles for student use.

The bill was brought to ASWU by junior senator Kate Steffy, whose first-hand experiences with safety issues on campus prompted the idea.

"Last semester I was living in Haseldorf and I got run after by a homeless man. This happened to me again two weeks ago," Steffy said. "It was an extremely uncomfortable situation, but it made me want to do something about campus safety."

In drafting the bill, Steffy spoke with Director of Campus Safety Ross Stout and Assistant Director of Campus Safety Rich Dennis, both of whom voiced their support for the project.

Stout stressed that while the pepper spray is an effective tool for personal protection, it is a very small part of what the bill hopes to accomplish.

"This is not a program to arm students, this is an education on personal safety," Stout said. "This is about awareness, and students need to know that the pepper spray is a secondary aspect of that."

The education in question would not only instruct people on the proper use of pepper spray, but also give students basic instructions and tips on how they can stay safe on campus in the form of a safety vid-

eo. This would include steps on identifying potentially dangerous situations and how to properly avoid conflict.

"Some of this stuff may seem like common sense, but common sense is learned, it isn't innate," Stout said. "People don't always see danger in the same places as other people due to the geographical place they came from or the culture they had back home."

Addressing possible concerns regarding the dangers associated with the use of pepper spray, Stout said that, "Campus Safety used to sell it and the Willamette store used to sell it. It is legal, inexpensive, and completely accessible even without this bill."

While the project still needs to be approved by ASWU, it has been in development long enough to attract some attention within the University community.

"I've been working on this for a few months now and I've gotten a lot of personal emails encouraging me, which is a good sign," Steffy said. "I've had barely any negative feedback, and what exists has all been about the way students can check out the pepper spray and stuff like that, and we are addressing that by educating everyone before they take any."

Some of the other ASWU senators have also given their support to Steffy and the bill.

"Having worked extensively with Senator Steffy, I support this bill

and call to action wholeheartedly," sophomore senator Joseph Landoni said. "I think this bill has broader implications regarding our campus climate and safety. It needs to become an inclusive and transparent discussion that our community must have, and I believe this bill is a much needed jump start in the conversation regarding campus safety as well as an incredibly vital step towards a safer campus."

Should ASWU approve the project, Steffy and Campus Safety will be able to begin implementing their ideas immediately.

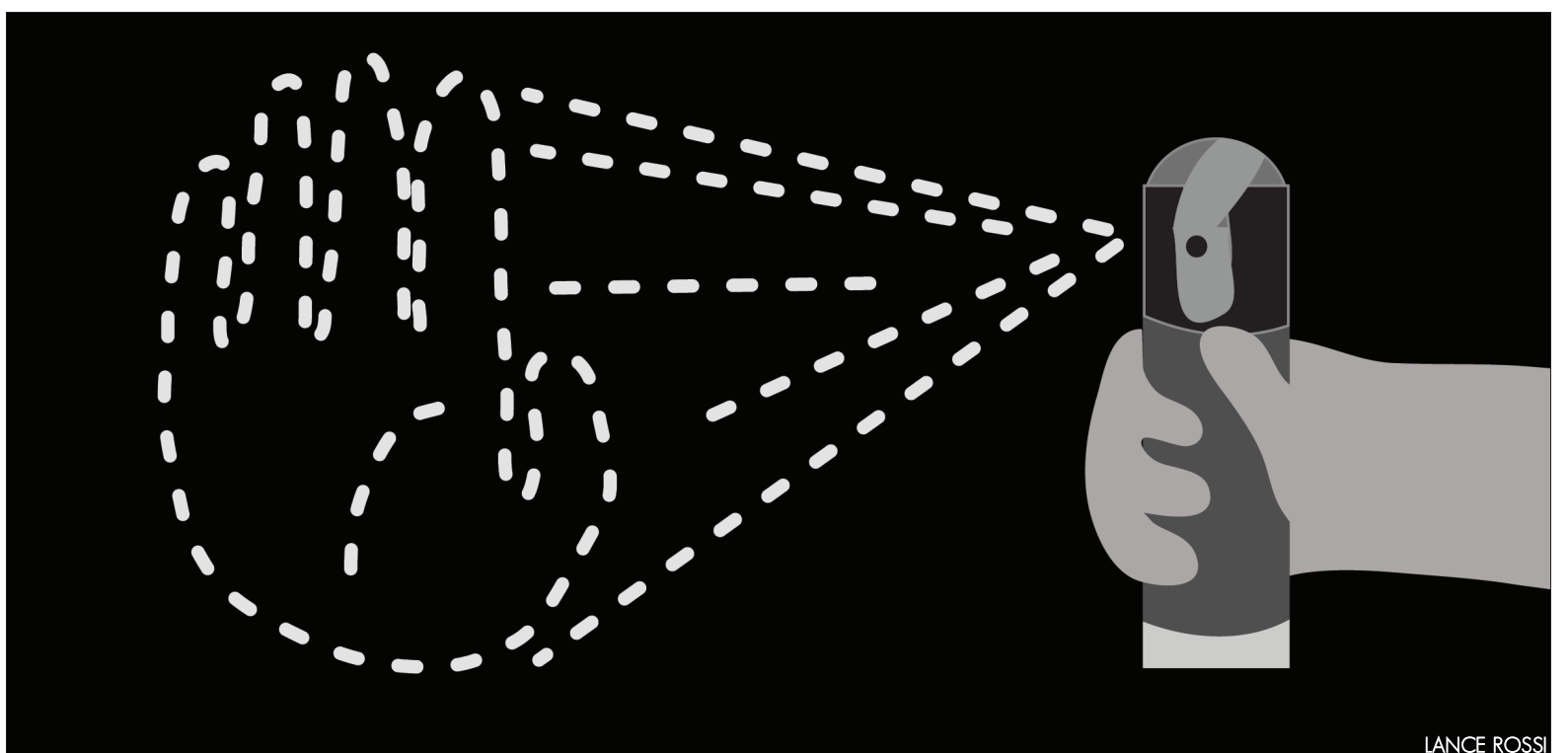
"When the bill is passed, I basically have free range to go about getting it all done. As quickly as I can move, the project will move too," Steffy said.

While all parties involved are remaining cautious in terms of laying out a potential timeframe for completion this early in the project, Campus Safety is confident that it can be rolled out quickly.

"I could get a stock of pepper spray within a week if I wanted," Stout said. "If we can find or create a safety video that proves adequate, we could get this off the ground fast."

After the senate divides itself into class caucuses for final discussion at the upcoming meeting, ASWU will be able to decide whether or not this bill is a step in the right direction for the safety of Willamette's students.

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LANCE ROSSI

Greer gets WU to be a part of the movement

RYAN GAIL
STAFF WRITER

Evan Greer, a singer, songwriter and musician, held a workshop and acoustic guitar concert in Cat Cavern last Friday.

Greer's event, titled "Connecting the Dots of Climate Justice," was organized by Students for Feminism, The Green Fund and Willamette Events Board. The event focused on how issues of climate justice were connected to other social justice issues and offered students the opportunity to enjoy Greer's social and ecological justice inspired music.

For more than a decade, Greer, a trans/genderqueer activist from Boston, Massachusetts, has been utilizing high-energy acoustic songs to "inspire hope, build community and incite resistance," according to her website. Greer also serves as the campaign director of the digital rights nonprofit group Fight for the Future and works with the climate justice nonprofit Rising Tide North America.

At the beginning of Greer's workshop, participants were asked to list off words that came to mind with the thought of climate change. Some of the words students used to describe climate change included opportunity, inequality, extinction, scared, responsibility, movement, critical, discrimination, toxic and greed.

Greer explained to the group that although climate justice is traditionally seen as being a separate cause from many common social justice causes, there are many ways in which they are connected. Greer also explained that many of the issues addressed by the social justice movement can also be seen as the root causes of climate changes.

To emphasize this point, she divided the attendees into four groups and assigned each group to determine the root causes of patriarchy/heterosexism, industrial agriculture, white supremacy and consumerism—what they determined to be the root causes of climate change. Greer argued that these four issues act as substantial contributors to climate change.

After each group analyzed their topic, a diagram showing a large web of interconnectivity was created. The connectivity web offered a clear visual representation of how contributors of climate change relate to the root causes of the climate change contributors.

Upon completion of the workshop, Greer began the concert portion of the event. Greer's setlist of around fifteen songs addressed, in her unique riot folk styles, a wide variety of social, political and economic issues. Many of Greer's lyrics were based on her own personal experiences and heritage as well as the experiences of other activists fighting for social change.

The music Greer performed addressed activism, LGBT rights, mental health, the pharmaceutical industry, gender norms, unions and deforestation, to name a few.

Greer's song lyrics included lines like "we don't need gays in the military, we need militant gays" (Assimilation), "¡ya basta! enough is enough" (¡Ya Basta!) and "another show is

fallen through, another paper got my pronouns wrong" (Six String).

Jesse Sanchez, junior, reports to have enjoyed the event and was impressed by Greer's personality and the nature of the event. "Evan Greer was really approachable and her workshop was really accessible and effective in connecting climate change to social issues," Sanchez said.

"The concert was filled with radical queer and anti-racist folk music, which was pretty chill."

Event Coordinator Sophia Brownstein said that she would like to thank the Green Fund, Students for Feminism and all of the students and staff who made the event possible. She would also like to thank Evan Greer "for coming and sharing her insights and her music with Willamette."

Students looking to learn more about Evan Greer's music and social activism can visit www.evangreer.org.

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WUTalk: 24/7 licensed psychiatry

VERONICA FINNEY
GUEST WRITER

University students in distress now have access to a call-in service that provides immediate assistance with concerns that range from stress to suicidal thoughts, and all things in between. The free service, called "WUTalk," allows community members to speak to a licensed psychiatrist 24/7.

"Students now have access to support in the moment," said Don Thomson, director of the Bishop Wellness Center. Thomson was responsible for bringing the new service to campus in January. It is hoped that WUTalk may help reduce the ongoing backlog of student requests for counseling services.

Demand for mental health counseling services at Bishop has increased to the point where the current wait time is two to three weeks, according to Thomson. "That wasn't OK for me," he said.

Funded by the Dean's Office of Campus Life, WUTalk is provided by ProtoCall, a call center that specializes in expanding the counseling capacities of universities. When a student calls WUTalk, the call is referred to ProtoCall, where graduate-level counselors listen to and discuss the caller's needs, and may offer referrals to campus or community resources.

ProtoCall is a service that started out as a non-profit, but is now a profit based service since the demand had been increasing. They now respond to over 400,000 calls a year.

"This is a free and confidential service to students," Thomson said in an email.

Thomson added that he expects the service will also be helpful to some Willamette staff, such as those in Campus Safety and Student Life who provide guidance to students. He is monitoring reports on WUTalk by looking at the volume of responses. Thomson is also informed on situations that might require immediate outreach.

Any student who would like counseling services can call WUTalk at (503) 375-5353, 24 hours a day.

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Reza Aslan! Reza Aslan! Reza Aslan!



SARAH HAGHI

Aslan addresses a full Smith Auditorium on Feb. 9 as part of the University's ongoing Atkinson Lecture Series.

CONTINUED from Page 1

He is also an adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a 95 year-old think tank specializing in foreign policy.

Aslan's hour long lecture looked specifically into Islam and terrorism, testing common conceptions of the religion and its associations with violence. Aslan posited that Islam's ties to violence are undeniably real, but that ultimately those ties are no more reflective of Islam

in its entirety as Christian and Jewish terrorists, Buddhist nationalists and other extremists are of their respective religions.

According to Aslan, religious nationalism on the whole has been on the rise as people become increasingly disillusioned with traditional notions of secular nationalism. "The twentieth century was by far the most violent, the most beastial century in human existence," Aslan said. "Tens of millions of peoples slaughtered—not in the

name of religion—but in the name of nationalism, socialism, marxism and communism and maoism and stalinism."

"It turns out that we'll just kill each other. We don't really need god in the equation."

This reality, Aslan said, gave away the lie of secular nationalism being the route to peace and prosperity. In turn, people have returned to more traditional ways in identifying themselves, namely through religion.

"Myself and a lot of people I know were already sort of on board with the facts of what he was saying," senior politics major Teo Ekstrom said. "But it was especially enjoyable to watch him present because of how dynamic a speaker he was, and how adroitly he handled different questions and just seemed like a very talented person at working the audience." Indeed, laughter could be heard echoing throughout Aslan's presentation despite the sensitive nature of his topic.

First year Olivia Orosco said, "I think he was able to appeal to a wide age range of audience members." She added that from her perspective, Reza is a figure who is capable of resonating his message amongst those both inside and outside of the communities he addresses.

"The way he walked out on stage, smiling and always laughing," Ekstrom said. "You could tell that it wasn't necessarily just a canned speech. He would respond to how the audience was feeling and acting."

"Aslan is this wealth of knowledge and I wish I could have gotten to hear a little bit more from him," Orosco said.

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CAMPUS SAFETY

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

February 11, 12:20 a.m. (Softball Field): While on patrol, a Campus Safety officer found three signs vandalized. The graffiti was photographed and a work order was submitted.

February 11, 4:49 p.m. (University Apartments): Campus Safety took a report from a student of a stolen bicycle. The description matched that of a bicycle in found property. The officer took report from the student regarding damage to the bicycle and returned it to the student.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

February 12, 8:40 a.m. (Ford Hall): Campus Safety responded to a call of someone who had lost consciousness. After an

evaluation it was determined that the individual needed further medical attention. The officer transported the individual to the Emergency Room.

February 13, 11:55 p.m. (In a Campus Residence): Campus Safety and WEMS responded to a call of an individual drifting in and out of consciousness. After evaluation it was determined that they needed further medical attention. Paramedics were called and the individual was transported to the Emergency Room.

POLICY VIOLATION

February 9, 11:00 a.m. (Kaneko Commons): Campus Safety took a report of marijuana and paraphernalia aban-

doned after a student moved out. In addition, several large bags of garbage were abandoned on the balcony.

February 11, 3:09 p.m. (Law School): Campus Safety responded to a call about a person smoking marijuana on campus. The officer approached the individual and advised them of the Smoke-Free policy. The student refused to stop. A report was sent to the campus judicial officer.

February 12, 6:59 p.m. (University Apartments): Campus Safety received a report of a smoke detector covered with a plastic bag in an apartment. The officer removed the plastic bag from the smoke detector.

February 13, 10:06 p.m. (Bellknapp Hall): Campus Safety responded to a call regarding marijuana and related items to be confiscated. The officer made contact with the occupants of the room, made clear the policy on marijuana on-campus and confiscated the marijuana and paraphernalia.

February 14, 11:55 p.m. (Terra House): Campus Safety responded to a call regarding the smell of smoke that led to the discovery of marijuana paraphernalia. The officer made contact with the occupant of the room, made clear the policy on marijuana on-campus and confiscated the paraphernalia.

THEFT/ASSAULT

February 14, 2:55 a.m. (Off Campus): While on patrol, officers encountered a student who exhibited signs of intoxication. When asked if they were ok, they explained that they had just been "mugged" and that their iPhone was missing. The officer took a report and encouraged the student to call Salem Police's non-emergency number to make a theft report.

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

safety@willamette.edu

Arts

There was more to Vincent van Gogh than "Starry Night". Learn about his romantic endeavors through Willamette Theatre's latest show "Vincent in Brixton." Opening night is Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and the show will continue for this weekend and the next.

...

The Silverton Poetry Association is hosting a poetry festival from Friday, Feb. 19 to Sunday, Feb. 21. The events include a poem project, an open mic event, a poetry writing workshop and more creative events. The festival opening is at Frank Lloyd Wright Gordon House in Silverton on Friday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

...

Shotskis Woodfired Piza just added live performances to the menu. On Thursday, Feb. 18, there are free comedy performances beginning at 9 p.m. On Friday, Feb. 19, the duo that makes up the Fred and Kenny band will be live at 6 p.m. and afterwards, the country supergroup Saddle Boyz takes the stage.

Got culture?
Contact Lifestyles Editor
Christine Smith <cssmith>

The top 5 things I learned from playing the Kim Kardashian game



LANCE ROSSI

AUBRYN WALTERS
LAYOUT EDITOR

1 If you meet a famous person, all you have to do is be nice to them and give them free things, and then they will make you famous.

That's right, it's that simple. At the very beginning of the game, on your first day of work, Kim Kardashian shows up at your job and you give her a free dress. To return the favor, she invites you to a surprise high-end photo shoot. This is more than a game; it's the American dream realized and easier to download than ever. My only plans for spring break include stalking Kim K to find out

the stores she frequents and acting this scenario out in real life. In fact, I should probably just drop out of school now, because this is my true calling.

2 Everyone from Australia lives on houseboats and has a pet koala.

I've never been to Australia, but with this game and Tumblr as primary sources, it seems clear to me that the only animals that exist on the entire continent of Australia are koalas. This is terrifying because I've heard that they have a bad habit of dropping down on your face and killing you. The good news is, if they are kept as pets, they are probably

just trained animal assassins. The bad news is, instead of trying to fend off a vicious koala, you'll probably just be wracking your brain trying to figure out whom you most recently wronged and just as you realize it and angrily call out their name, a koala squeezes your brains out.

3 The best way to be part of a feud is to start it and then pretend there isn't one.

What can I say, Willow Pape deserved to have a drink thrown on her. She accused me of flirting with her boyfriend when I was clearly just trying to network, and has since made it her mission to bad talk me every chance she gets. After throw-

ing that much shade, it's best to act like the victim that only wants to be friends with that fame-sucking low life, because that's how you get the most fans. That's showbiz.

4 If you don't go on a date every 24 hours, your spouse will divorce you.

This is a lesson I learned the hard way. I wanted to get rid of my D-list, man-bun wearing, pharmacist husband in order to move on to bigger fish (like a B-list bartender) but I always imagined it would be on my own terms. After accidentally-on purpose going on a date with someone with the same first name and a much more glamorous haircut, while generally ignoring him whenever he made an effort to contact me, my husband divorced me and caused me to lose two million fans. Ladies, no man is worth that kind of loss. Maybe the real lesson here is, don't get married. Either way, spouses take up a lot of time and energy that could be better served working on your career.

5 You can never be more famous than Kim Kardashian, no matter what.

Although she is present in the game, Kardashian doesn't show up on the top stars list. Why? While it's great to aspire to be as famous as her, putting her on the list means her fame is attainable. Either you become more famous than her and tarnish her image, or you are permanently in second place, neither of which is ideal. To remedy this, they took her off the list entirely. In the end, you may be the most famous celebrity in Hollywood, but you will never even scrape the stardom of Kim Kardashian.

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WU a capella group performed at Northwest quarterfinal



Although Headband did not place in the competition, Newman won runner-up for best soloist and he said the group put on an incredible performance.

CASEY DOBBERT
STAFF WRITER

Large crowds and adoring fans are not unfamiliar sights for a cappella group Headband. This past weekend, Headband went to compete in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) which is an international a cappella competition that attracts hundreds of a cappella groups each year. ICCA was actually featured in "Pitch Perfect", so basically Headband is just as cool as the Barden Bellas (or even cooler).

Headband has been an a cappella group on campus for 12 years and is Willamette's premier male a cappella group. The group is self-described "face-meltingly delicious a cappella".

Headband has participated in the ICCA competition for the past three years. The application process is a video containing all of their hopes and dreams. They usually send in three songs, so they have to prepare those songs and develop the sets. Each year, it is successful and they get accepted. Senior Nick Newman assured me that "they do cut people, they

let me know that they cut people", so there has always been the chance of rejection by the ICCA judges.

"I had to edit the video, which was really hard. I suck at that kind of stuff", Newman admitted. Newman was looking forward to participating in the ICCA because they get crowds of over 1000 people, and it is a great experience for the new Headbanders who haven't seen crowds like that before. "They basically treat you like rockstars", Newman states in regards to the "pro sound checks" and the personal dressing rooms.

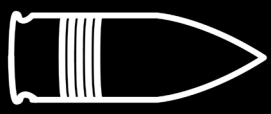
Headband practices for weeks in preparation, but the ICCA experience is more than just competition. Whether they win or lose, "we just go to have fun", because in the end that's the best part of the experience. In 2014, Headband placed third in the regional competition. Headband did not place this year in the Northwest competition, but they had a great experience overall and Newman was runner-up for best soloist.

The group performed "Sugar, We're Goin Down" by Fall Out Boy, "The Wind" by Allen Stone and a Miley Cyrus/ Sam Smith mashup.

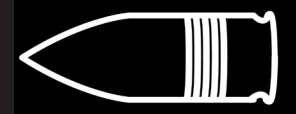
They danced so hard that junior Vince Budak's pitch pipe flew out of his pocket during one of the numbers.

Headband is known on the Willamette campus for their obvious chemistry, silly antics and of course, the funky headbands. They demonstrate the companionship and the determination that can come out of hard work and having fun with your friends. So rock on, Headband, and keep soothing our souls with your wonderful melodic music.

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BEARCAT BULLET



A coffee tour of Salem inspired by Sonya, my favorite coffee companion

CHRISTINE SMITH
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Before Sonya Essadi passed, we were brainstorming potential articles, and one day she suggested a coffee tour of Salem. That girl loved her coffee and picking your brain over a good cup o' Joe. When she was not well enough to stay on campus, we still kept in contact with classic lighthearted chatter. One day, she texted me and insisted that the next time I went to Archive, I had to go with someone really cool, send her a snapchat and tell her every detail. I haven't met anyone as cool as Sonya since, or as warm. Because Sonya's kindness glowed from within, chatting with her, even for a brief moment, was a moment of warmth.

I think that may be why coffee shops were her haven. They are typically warm and cozy. The homier they were, the more she liked it—places like Archive were reserved for special occasions and fly on the wall moments. She liked her lattes and she loved observing her fellow coffee connoisseurs. Whenever I came across a new cup of coffee worth documenting, I sent it her way.

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer held a remembrance for Sonya from the floor of the Oregon State House of Representatives on Friday, Feb. 12 and hearing others speak of her fiery passion and selflessness inspired me to conduct that coffee tour.

I started with the homeland,

and found that as much as I love the house I live in, Pi Phi coffee is really reserved for moments of desperation and 4 a.m. hopelessness. So I ventured on to the Bistro. I had my first coffee date with Sonya in the Bistro, and we both loved people-watching and mindlessly eating our cookies, praying that no one could hear what we were whispering about. The Bistro definitely gets high ratings for atmosphere and the cookies can't be beat. The coffee is often a hit or miss, but anything with notes of lavender or vanilla is usually a safe bet.

Ike Box is closest to campus and luckily for me, they also have lavender, and even make some delectable lavender lemonade. The windows always look slightly frosted and it is the most spacious space downtown. It is my go to for homework, socializing and local music.

Archive Coffee and Bar is an interesting case. Their coffee is honestly probably the worst I have ever consumed in Oregon; I would choose Pi Phi coffee over this coffee any day. Sometimes I feel that they spent so much time on their image, that they forgot their purpose of serving coffee. Still, I will suffer through watery chai or a cup of dirt—I mean coffee—just because it is such a bustling place to be. Every time I go, I still wonder, "where have these people been hiding?"

The Beanery is one of the coffee places you likely have never visited, but probably always pass on the way to the mall. It is always quiet, which

is a plus, and the workers let you stay there for over five hours even after only buying one cup of tea. Sadly, the drinks are a bit bland.

Café Shine is only a couple doors down from the Beanery and I went there during one of their first weeks of service. The staff is the friendliest that I have encountered, but I have only visited twice due to their varied and confusing hours.

to be a nook to power out homework in and admire local art, but it is often far too packed to even snag a chair.

Have I mentioned their chai? Their chai is by far the best I have ever tried. Aforementioned barista said that sometimes people buy one when they get there and then order another to take home and store in the fridge for the next day because it travels well. My mom has even con-

I want it to be successful, a huge part of me wanted to keep it to myself. The whole time I was there, I wished that I could have shared it with Sonya. UG is over on Edgewater St. in an unassuming strip mall. The coffee was enjoyable and almost reached the high marks of my favorite coffee shop in Portland, Extracto Coffee.

Extracto Coffee is one of those gems I chanced upon without any expectations. I went to pick up a friend from the airport and we decided to map the nearest coffee shop and ended up there. There were finely groomed mustaches everywhere in sight and even though the menu was limited in options, I immediately regretted not getting a larger coffee size after I took a sip of my vanilla latte. Maybe it was just my barista, or the excitement of being in Portland, but that coffee rocked my world.

As cheesy as it can sound, coffee tastes better based on who you are sipping with. Sometimes I am so engrossed in whoever I go with, that I don't even taste the coffee. Sonya said I was basically the best coffee date around, but I know she's the best coffee date I'll ever have. Take the time to grab a cup with someone you care about. Whether it be a professor you admire, that individual you have a friend crush on or your best friend, the coffee stays warm longer when someone close to your heart is on your mind, and every cup of coffee reminds me of Sonya.

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“Sonya said I was basically the best coffee date around, but I know she's the best coffee date I'll ever have. Take the time to grab a cup with someone you care about.”

Broadway Coffeehouse is similar to Café Shine because of its religious undertones and squeaky clean patrons of the same nature. Broadway is the largest coffee shop around these parts, but the coffee is overrated and the whole place is too clean and shiny for my preferences.

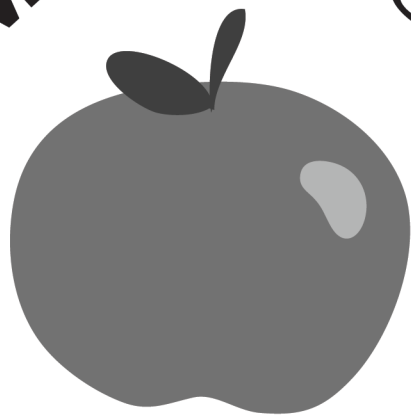
The Governor's Cup is a clear winner as far as my taste buds are concerned. Another coffee shop used to be the number one spot downtown and when it closed, all the patrons flocked to Gov Cup. My best friend is a Gov Cup barista and even she admits that the shop is currently the busiest that it has ever been. It used

tacted me on multiple occasions to try to find a way to send said chai her way.

I just recently discovered the shop that holds my favorite coffee shop atmosphere in Salem. Urban Grange Coffee is a bit of a ways off campus, but worth the trek. The staff possesses the style of Archive baristas, but seems less focused on their image. They are much more inviting, and do what they can to meet your needs even if the store's selection is minimal. The shop is a bit hidden, and deserving of business. I was wary to even include Urban Grange on my official tour because although

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“For Myself” provokes raw appreciation of self and world

CONTINUED from Page 1

Though Cunningham was certainly accomplished in the realm of business, her profession maintained a highly personal connection to her life and remained an important component of her identity. The artist resided on the West Coast from birth and became intimately familiar with the Pacific Northwest and its culture. Her striking photography was able to display both the beauty of nature and that of the human body. Cunningham's series features herself, and includes models, family and friends—all of which culminate to produce an enriching and unique visual experience.

“The photographs themselves echo her home environment... [and] the way in which the bodies of inhabitants experience these breathtaking spaces,” remarked Professor Susik, Assistant Professor of Art History and principal curator of the exhibit.

In doing so, Cunningham presents photographs that are more than pictures; she instead provides us timeless mirrors, portals into an era long since passed which reflect the activities of individuals akin to ourselves as they interact with the world which surrounds them in the most vulnerable of fashions. Full of grace and innocence, Cunningham's works “show bodies that revel in the sun, air and terrain of the Pacific Northwest,” Susik said, an experience not limited to members of the Willamette University community, but rather with which all humanity itself can identify.

Viewers of this exhibition can appreciate the works presented for more than their simple grandeur and elegant depic-

tion of humble and pure interaction with the natural world. We can also connect with them intimately, as spectators see themselves reflected in the subject within isolated moments of time. This communication and imaginative exchange between audience and art, and the power it carries, is executed acutely in “For Myself: Nudes by Imogen Cunningham, 1906-1939.”

With the help of four undergraduate students, Susik curated this exhibit in its entirety, and illustrated and authored the display's brochure which accompanies it. Susik hopes that students will not only understand the “parallel between Cunningham's story and the experiences of current Willamette University students.” These impressions allow us to further “relate to the desire for self-awareness and intellectual engagement” which Cunningham represents, said Susik.

The exhibit is powerful, not merely because it showcases a portion of the artist's life, a particular path of individual self-discovery which laid the foundation for the rest of her livelihood, but also because it challenges the observer to reflect upon our own journeys towards passion. The photos ask, quietly, almost inaudibly, for their audience to assess our own innate courage. These words can only be heard by those who listen. They ring true as an inspiring challenge to students a century later, as timeless mirrors reflect our likeness in photographs taken in our own backyards.

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Religious (in)tolerance

When religious illiteracy feeds Islamophobia and t



ARIANNA
WOICKOWSKI
FEATURES EDITOR

Who needs God?

Capitalism, modern technology and scientific discovery point to a world explained and mastered by the minds of man. Many sociologists and historians have been anticipating a rise of secularism in contemporary America. This holds for a subsequent ascension of the most rational, smooth-running society—without the God problem. Without the fallacious hypocritical defenses that religion provides, it would be a world anew.

The rise of the intellectual atheist seems to coincide with religious shaming and a general distaste to the organized as more people label themselves as “spiritual, but not religious.” The percentage of people who know what’s in religious texts are falling as well. Timothy Beal’s book “The Rise and Fall of the Bible” shows trends demonstrating a tremendous decline in biblical literacy: more than half of graduating high school seniors think that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife; almost two-thirds of Americans cannot name five of the Ten Commandments; less than half of all adult Americans can name the first book of the Bible.

But is it illiteracy due to a decline in Bible reading that connects to a decline in religion? Well, no. According to Beal, the average American household owns between three to nine Bibles, often with at least one being purchased every year, because “in today’s consumer culture, we are what we buy, wear and carry.” So this (supposedly)-increasingly secular society has in fact morphed into a peculiar form of rampant, yet uninformed, religiosity.

And religion has been seeping into politics more than ever. Is religion really dying? Would a mostly-secular society care to alienate a particular religion based on the extremist actions of a minority demographic? The case of the United States’ Islamophobia is one of the most powerful examples of the selective manifestation of First Amendment rights.

So what exactly is Islamophobia? The Gallup Poll defines it as “an exaggerated fear, hatred, and hostility toward Islam and Muslims that is perpetuated by negative stereotypes resulting in bias, discrimination, and the marginalization and exclusion of Muslims from social, political, and civil life.” The holy books allow for interpretation that calls for prayer five times a day, support a moral code of conduct that includes abstinence from particular substances and activities and suggest specific ways of dressing.

This integration into daily life is meant to keep a Muslim (defined as one who submits to God) in a continuous mental and emotional state of devotion.

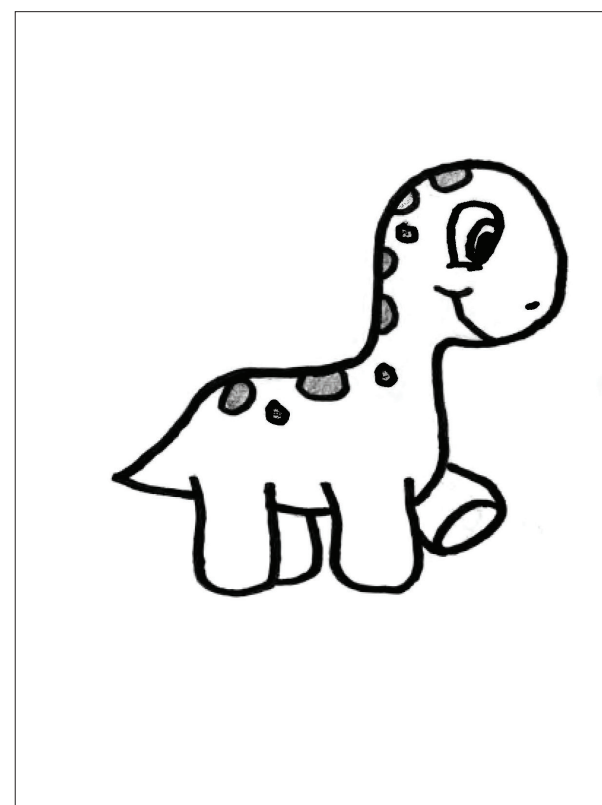
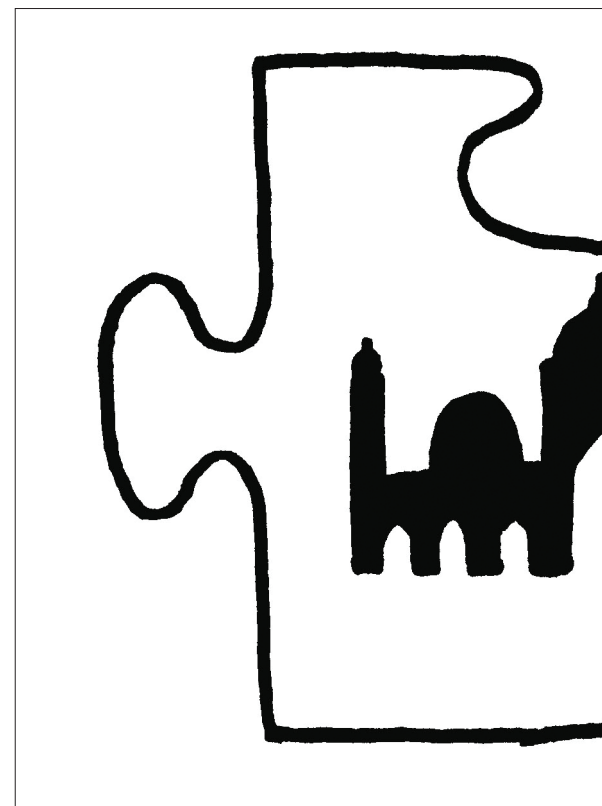
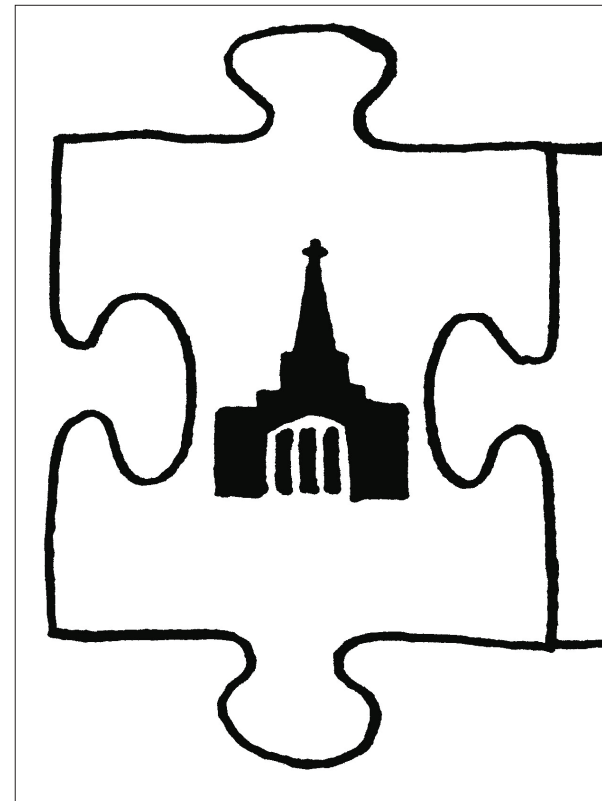
But this integration seems to disturb many Americans; according to some of those most outspoken against Islam, Muslims are not even considered religious practitioners. Some news reporters refer to Islam not a religion, but as a regime. The violent actions of Daesh (which many know as ISIS) draw attention to Islam, especially post-9/11 and the decade of the West’s military presence in the Middle East that followed. Many Americans exhibit symptoms of Islamophobia, both subtle and overt. Is Daesh Islamic? Perhaps we can say it is a particular manifestation of a very specific and violent politicized version of Islam, but it is unfair and inaccurate to associate all Muslims with Daesh.

One particularly negative manifestation of Islam has snowballed into a fear of 1.8 million adult Muslims living in the United States. “Muslim” has become a term that many Americans associate with “terrorist.” Despite the fact that such a rumor should have long ago been put to rest, a CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll in 2015 found that 29 percent of Americans and 43 percent of Republicans believe that self-proclaimed Christian president Barack Obama is a Muslim. Donald Trump’s first officially released Presidential candidacy commercial in January of 2016 highlights his “call for a temporary ban on all Muslims” entering the United States. Without a doubt, a massive misunderstanding surrounds a demographic of 1.6 billion global practitioners.

Perhaps most interestingly, this phenomenon rages in a nation that time and again draws



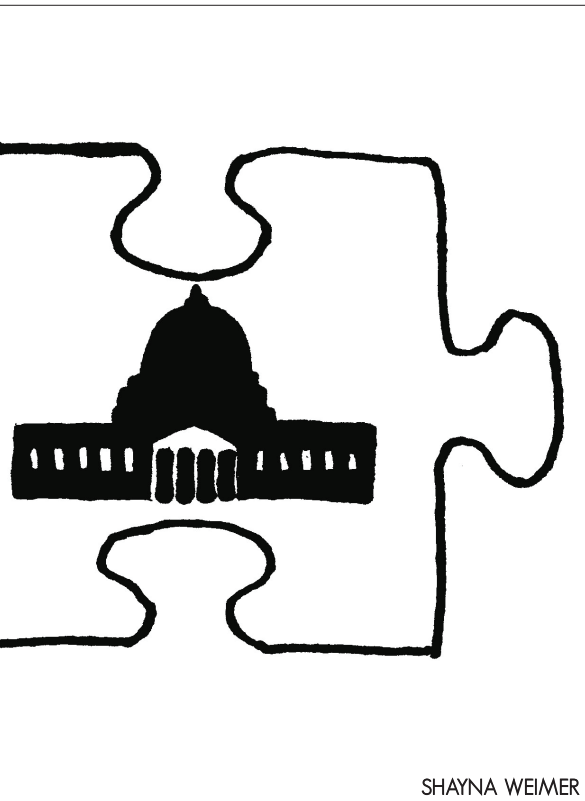
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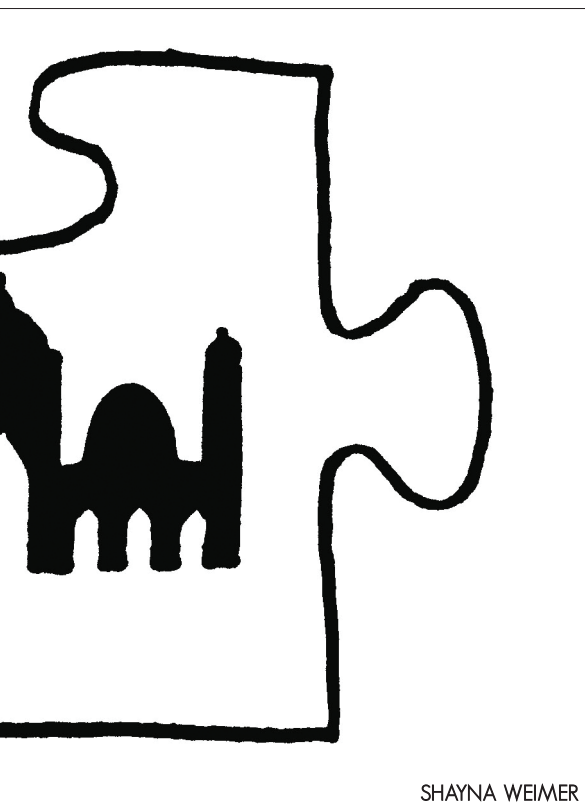
“A CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll in 2015 found that 29 percent of Americans and 43 percent of Republicans believe that self-proclaimed Christian president Barack Obama is a Muslim.”

ance in America

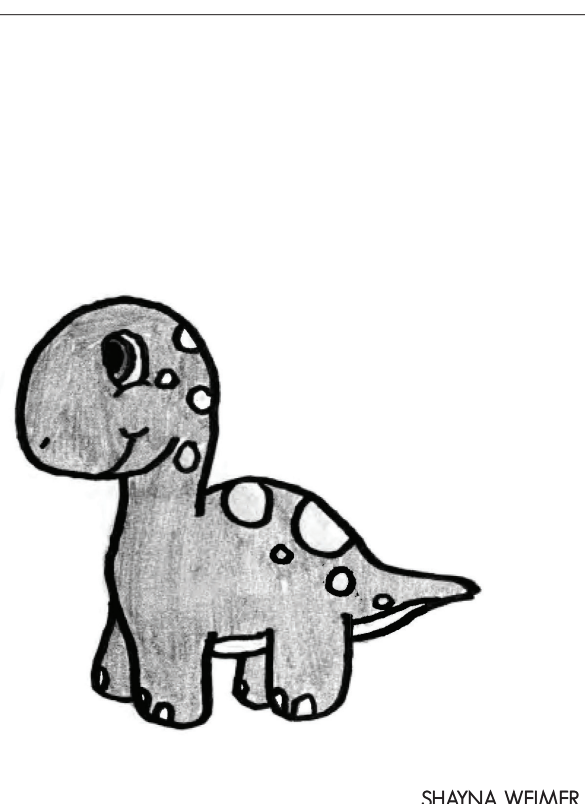
tightens Christianity's grip over American politics



SHAYNA WEIMER



SHAYNA WEIMER



SHAYNA WEIMER

“More than half of graduating high school seniors think that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife; almost two-thirds of Americans cannot name five of the Ten Commandments; less than half of all adult Americans can name the first book of the Bible.”



LANCE ROSSI

attention back to the constitutionally-outlined dedication to freedom of religion. But the United States clearly lacks a separation of church and state; one may suggest this right only protects the practice of Christianity. A divide of church and state allows religion to be personal and the state to function in a secular light. But despite constitutional separation, many Christians bring their religion into the voting booth and the fabric of American society. On America's political stage, much of Christianity has begun to morph in a most peculiar manner into a strange creature of pro-firearms, anti-science and anti-anything-other-than-patriarchal-heteronormativity.

Peaceful Muslims are targeted for exercising their First Amendment right while the Christian Right never face this level of scrutiny or accountability for their faith. Take Mary Lou Brun-

er, a Republican running for the Texas Board of Education, who believes that baby dinosaurs lived on Noah's ark and that President Obama was a prostitute. Bruner is no fringe candidate; she holds a Master's degree, 6 Texas teaching certificates, 36 years of experience as a teacher plus some and an endorsement by the Former Chairman of the Texas State Board of Education. In other words, Bruner has a serious shot at her position, built primarily on anti-Muslim rhetoric intertwined with "literalist" interpretations of the Bible.

Equally concerning are blog headings like "What do we need to know about the faith of the 2016 presidential candidates?" The fact of the matter is that Christian voters are making their choices based on which candidate supposedly aligns with biblical values. "Literalist" or "biblical values" have come to mean an-

ti-gay, anti-abortion and anti-sex education, to name a few. Academic biblical scholars would counter those priorities in part or in whole. This can mean casting the vote for a candidate completely ill-equipped to be the leader of the free world.

Last Tuesday's Atkinson lecturer, Reza Aslan, has been called controversial due to his scholarship in Christianity combined with affiliations to Islam. It should be noted that numerous Christian scholars have said and written plenty about Islam, and no one seems to find that problematic. Perhaps readers know Aslan from a video that trended on Facebook, in which CNN correspondents attempt to ask the loaded question "Is Islam inherently violent?" Aslan articulately, and somewhat indignantly, deconstructs the question itself, pointing to invisible Western biases and highlighting the danger

of generalizations. Why is it that peacefully practicing Muslims are attacked simply for believing in God or wearing hijab while outspoken Christians take political action to blur the lines of the law?

It is hypocritical to see one religion as infallible in a country that defends itself as being constitutionally protective of the freedom of citizens to practice religion freely, while simultaneously defaming another religion in its entirety without even attempting to ask questions or reach a deeper understanding. If we call Daesh Islamic, then we must also call the Westboro Baptist Church or even the KKK Christian. Remember that missionaries slaughtered Native Americans; remember that Christianity was used to defend slave ownership and class segregation.

Manifestations of religion come about in many forms and range from peace-promoting egalitarian messages to the most sadistically enraged calls to violence imaginable. Even religious studies fails to define "religion" or the terms of religiosity concretely and instead focuses on nine theories of religion, ranging from sociology to psychology to anthropology and beyond. There has never been a consensus as to what religion is, nor has there been a consensus on how precisely it should properly be executed.

Reza Aslan quipped that the most patriotic people don't know the Constitution. If the United States is going to be a country that separates church and state, this division must be uniform. If the United States is going to think critically about religion, that criticism must extend to more than the most popular scapegoat. Thinking critically about self-worn lenses, whether by intention or accident, colors the way the world is seen and lived in.



Bearcat swimmers re-write record books

Tallman, Lin capture school records in NWC championships

ERIC DEL PRADO
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend, the Willamette University swim team loaded up the bus and headed to Federal Way, Washington for the Northwest Conference Championships. Coming into the meet, WU ranked sixth in both men's and women's and with plenty to prove to the rest of the conference, they did not disappoint.

Sophomore Cassie Tallman led the aqua 'Cats, placing second in the 200-yard breaststroke with a school record time 2:25.58, but was nowhere near done. She single handedly re-wrote the record books in the preliminaries on Sunday morning, when she lowered the school record time, which she set in the 2015 NWC championships.

It wasn't a one-woman show, however, as six other Willamette swimmers swam in the championships and eight more competed in the consolation races.

Joining Tallman in the 200-yard breaststroke was sophomore Ashlyn Witherwax, who took sixth place in the event with a time of 2:28.46. Her time was good for fifth all-time in Willamette swimming history.

Freshman Kiley Lin also cemented her name in the record books with a time 2:07.81 in the 200-yard backstroke. This time earned her sixth place in the event and third all-time for a Bearcat. In the prelims earlier that day, Lin flew through the water like a fish as she set the school record in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:05.73.

Senior Malia Santos took eighth in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 2:16.85.

The Men's side of the pool also came away with some school

records and plenty of impressive finishes for the Bearcats.

Junior Alika Masei swam up to sixth place with a time of 1:56.47 and just missed fifth place by a mere 0.09 seconds. However, his time put him sixth all time in Willamette history for the event.

Sophomore Mark Yuvienco competed in the championship finals for the 200-yard butterfly, where he registered a 1:55.80 time, which was good for seventh in the race as well as seventh in school history.

The women's 400-yard freestyle relay team took fifth place, missing out on fourth place by a fingernail.

In the consolation final of the 200-yard butterfly, senior Andrew Lum swam a personal record 1:59.56, placing fifth, while his teammate, junior Dan Aki finished right behind him in 2:00.91. Lum placed 13th overall while Aki came in 14th.

In another 200-yard consolation final (for the breaststroke), juniors Jason Bayang and Josh Bumgarner each set personal records in the event. Bayang came in fourth in the race and 12th overall with a time of 2:12.08, while Bumgarner placed sixth in the consolation final and 14th overall in 2:14.71.

The distance events for Willamette also went swimmingly. In the women's 1,650-yard freestyle sophomore Kate Harvey took 15th place, while freshman Anna Burdine took 17th place. In the men's 1,650-yard freestyle, junior Shelby Merrill took 14th place.

The men's and women's swimming teams both took sixth place, however the future of Willamette Swimming looks bright as they will return a lot of key swimmers next season.

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CHRIS SABATO



CHRIS SABATO

Top: Freshman Kiley Lin broke the school's 200-yr backstroke record, with a time of 2:05.73. Bottom: Sophomore Cassie Tallman adds on to an illustrious career with a school record in the 200-yr breaststroke.

this week in sports

sun

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BRAYDON CALDER
STAFF WRITER

NBA

The Golden State Warriors are now 48-4. Oh yeah, by the way that's the best record through 52 games in NBA history! This last week they beat the Houston Rockets and the Phoenix Suns. The win against the Suns wasn't very impressive, considering the Suns currently have a nine game losing streak and are second to last, but only because the LA Lakers are just that bad this year.

The Portland Trailblazers jumped up to seventh this week after also beating the Rockets. They are now at .500 at 27-27 and looking to make the playoffs.

This weekend was All-Star

weekend in Toronto. If you watched the coverage you most likely witnessed one of the greatest slam-dunk contests ever. People are calling Aaron Gordon's under-the-legs, over the mascot dunk the greatest in the history of the contest. However, it was Zach LaVine that took the crown, his final dunk being a between-the-legs dunk from the free-throw line.

This weekend also saw the most points scored in an NBA All-Star game. The West won the game 196-173. Paul George had 41 points, which was one point short of the All-Star game record that Wilt Chamberlain holds. The game was also the 18th and last All-Star game for Kobe Bryant, who is retiring at the end of the season.

MLB

Everyone is waiting for spring training to start, which happens this week. Not much else is going on in the baseball world. Ike Davis signed a minor league contract with the Texas Rangers, so that's cool, right?

MLS

The Chinese Super League has been in the media for making huge signings this year and is now apparently looking to sign Seattle Sounders' forward Obafemi Martins. Mlsgb.com wrote a great article about the affect the CSL might have on the MLS. It is called "Should

the MLS feel threatened by the big-spending Chinese super league" and I suggest you read it if the MLS and US soccer interests you.

The MLS announced this week that the All-Star game will be played against Arsenal this summer. The game is set to take place in San Jose, California. Preseason is still in full swing.

NHL

The Minnesota Wild are on an eight game losing streak, which is currently the worst in the NHL. The closest losing streak to them is just three games. The Wild lost this week to the Dallas Stars, Washington Capitals and Boston Bruins.

The LA Kings remained at the top of the Pacific Division despite a mediocre week. They had two wins and two losses, beating the New York Rangers and Bruins, but losing to the New Jersey Devils and New York Islanders. They are five points ahead of the Anaheim Ducks and six points ahead of the San Jose Sharks in the division.

NFL

The 2016 NFL Draft will be held April 28-30 in Chicago. The NFL combine will be held Feb. 23-29 in Indianapolis.

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Bearcat Spotlight



MARK ANDREONI
STAFF WRITER

Bearcat Spotlight interviews personalities, captains and talents from Willamette varsity and club sports. Find out about these athletes, and what they do when they're not at practice! Up this week: Hayden Russell a senior Bearcat basketballer.

Mark: Who is your celebrity crush?

Hayden: Kate Upton.

Mark: If you could swim with anyone alive or dead, who would it be?

Hayden: Michael Phelps.

Mark: But wouldn't he just trash you?

Hayden: I think I would be able to make it a close race. I'm not very good at swimming, but I am confident in my abilities.

Mark: What is the best concert you've been to?

Hayden: I've only been to one, and that was Luke Bryan.

Mark: Is there something you're obsessed with?

Hayden: Currently, I'm pretty obsessed with learning new card tricks.

Mark: What is the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?

Hayden: I ate some alligator in Florida. It's pretty good. It tastes pretty much like chicken.

Mark: What is an overrated liquid?

Hayden: I'm not a big fan of Powerade. Gatorade is a lot better.

Mark: What was your favorite cartoon as a kid?

Hayden: "Tom and Jerry". It's a classic.

Mark: If you could live anywhere on campus that isn't a residence hall, where would it be?

Hayden: Ford. It's new. Probably on the third floor too, it has the best view.

Mark: If you were teaching a college level course, what would it be about, and what would it be called?

Hayden: I could teach Sports in the News—a writing class about sports.

Mark: Have you listened to Kanye West's new album?

Hayden: Yes, and I like it a lot.

Mark: I know you just listened to it, but how does it compare to other Kanye albums?

Hayden: It's a lot better than 808 [sic]. I mean I think it's getting a lot more similar to old Kanye. He's got a lot of good songs on it.

Mark: If there were a sandwich named after you, what would be in it?

Hayden: I like my sandwiches pretty simple, and I'm not a fan of deli meat. It would be an all-vegetable sandwich.

Mark: What was the worst job you've ever had?

Hayden: Being a soccer referee was pretty bad. I just got yelled at by parents for no reason.

Mark: If you could ride a giant sized version of any animal to school each day, what would it be?

Hayden: I would probably ride a big cheetah. That would be cool. It would be really fast.

Mark: Malia's question for you from last week was, What do you think of squirrels?

Hayden: Squirrels are cool. I would like to have one as a pet if they would let me. I saw this YouTube video where a guy rescued a squirrel from dying and now it's his best friend. He goes on walks with it, and the squirrel runs around his back.

Mark: And what's your question for next week?

Hayden: If you could take one class at Willamette again, what would it be.

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Nobody can put Johnny in the corner

CONTINUED from Page 1

Johnny Manziel has been having a rough year. Media coverage has been calling for prayers and support for Johnny, but this is a serious thing. His problems have now moved past the stage where he's just having fun in a nightclub coked out in Vegas.

Nobody knows what's going on with Manziel, but we hear stories coming from the Browns organization. And there must be a reason for why successful college athletes like Manziel head downhill when entering the league. "Johnny Football" is surrounded by enablers, so it shouldn't be shocking that these things are happening.

There is a total double standard within the reporting on Manziel. Sports shouldn't be about race, but a contradiction emerges off the field when there are players like Greg Hardy, who has issues with alcohol and was arrested for assault. Nobody was praying for him. The sports community called for his head on a platter.

If you removed talent from the situation, and just saw Manziel's rap sheet, nobody would have sympathy for him. He would get no prayers. It seems that Division I football programs have a large part in teaching players that they can have whatever they want, whenever they want it.

For example, take the situation in the Baylor football program with defensive end Sam Ukwuachu. Ukwuachu has been sentenced to six months in prison and 10 years probation after being found guilty of sexually assaulting a member of the Baylor women's soccer team in October 2013. Before the public trial, Baylor Associate Dean Bethany McCraw testified, "there was not enough evidence to move forward" in the school's investigation, and the case was stopped cold at the school.

Ukwuachu was also accused of assaulting a former girlfriend while he was attending Boise State University early in 2013. Ukwuachu denied the allegations in trial. However, CNN reports that the university announced that Ukwuachu was dismissed from the team in May 2013 for violating unspecified rules. No other details were made available.

"It was a personal issue that I don't want to go in depth with," Ukwuachu told the newspaper at the time of the trial when asked about the transfer. "But it wasn't a big issue. A minor problem occurred and the coaches decided I needed to get a fresh start with somebody else."

This isn't the only example of what appears to be different Division I programs sweeping assault and rape allegations under the rug. Peyton Manning, beloved quarterback of the Denver Broncos, was accused of sexual assault in his time at Tennessee. But nobody remembers that, especially not after he won Super Bowl 50.

Surrounded by "yes" people athletes are enabled from day one. Players like Manning, Ukwuachu, Hardy and Manziel have never been told that they couldn't reach a goal, that they couldn't achieve success or couldn't have something that they wanted. They were told that if they wanted something, no one could stop them.

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Softball aims high for the 2016 season



SAM KEECHLER



SAM KEECHLER



SAM KEECHLER

ERIC SPRESSER
STAFF WRITER

After a strong finish to the 2015 season, the Willamette University softball team is ready to get the 2016 campaign under way. Last year, the Bearcats finished 16–22 overall, but went 15–10 over their final 25 games and will look to carry that success into this season.

After losing a few major contributors from last season's line-up, they will be viewed by many in the Northwest Conference as more of an up-and-coming team, but senior Ashley Pender sees a lot of potential.

"As you may know, we are 'polled' to take 7th in conference this year, due to losing such key players in our line up from last year. However, this year, with practices and the team chemistry, it just feels different out there compared to past years," she said. "I feel like it's due to the team chemistry this season that we've never been able to build in the past."

With this type of mentality, the 'Cats will try to seize their moment, coming out of the gate with grit and determination to battle it out at the top of the conference. Although the young squad this season features only two seniors, they have plenty of talent in their lineup and in the circle.

Pender is the team's top returner at the plate as she received Second Team All-Northwest Conference recognition last season after batting .378 with nine doubles, 28 RBI's and 11 stolen bases. In her career, she is third on the Bearcat all-time list with a .372 batting average and fourth on the all-time list with her 94 RBI's. Entering this season, she is just 18 RBI's and nine doubles away

from setting Willamette all-time records in those categories.

Other key returners at the plate for WU include sophomore outfielders Carrie Fox, Dani Saunders and Katie Hammitt, along with junior shortstop Mallory Asaro.

In limited action as a freshman last season, Fox had a .353 batting average with 11 runs scored, three stolen bases, and three RBI's. Saunders saw action in 23 of 38 games as a freshman and was able to contribute 12 runs, five stolen bases and a .382 on-base percentage.

Asaro competed in 27 games and maintained a .912 fielding percentage while scoring 10 runs along with six RBI's and four doubles to go with her .246 batting average.

Leading the pitching staff for the Bearcats will be junior pitcher Jade Smith who appeared in 24 games last season, going 12–8 while pitching in 126.2 innings, earning 51 strikeouts, and recording a 3.04 earned run average.

With plenty of talent, Pender feels that this team has the capability to shock a lot of teams. "This team has fight and never stops competing whether it's with each other or another team," she said. "So what's a better way to go into conference as underdogs and come out as champs. Doesn't sound like such a bad gig to me."

The Bearcats went 10–4 last year within the confines of their own ballpark and will look to maintain that home field advantage as they start the season at home on Feb. 27 and 28 against George Fox University.

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Top: Bearcat infielders talk things over at practice. Middle: Junior Kayla Hari delivers a pitch. Bottom: Freshman Kaylin Bullert takes a swing during a practice at McCulloch Stadium.



Our country, our friends, have a share in us

SIMON ORR
CONTRIBUTOR

Despite what my public persona may lead you to believe, I love this University. I believe it some of the brightest, most dedicated professors I have ever encountered. We have a passionate student body that is vocal about injustice in our lives and those of others. I am a better person for attending this University and am grateful for the personal and professional connections that I have forged here. I am learning my limits and how to balance life with work. I am learning who I am.

Please keep this in mind for the duration of this article.

Willamette University is home to the Atkinson Graduate School of Management, ranked “a top school” (71st in the nation) by Forbes. It is unranked by US News and World Report.

Willamette’s Truman Wesley Collins legal center is ranked by USNWR as tied for the 118th spot in the nation. The acceptance rate is over sixty-seven percent. The top Google results for the phrase “Willamette University College of Law” include our own website, a two star rating from startclass.com and a blog article titled “Fourth Tier Pile of Industrial Waste: Willamette University College of Law”.

Our undergraduate acceptance rate in 2010 was 41 percent. It is now over 80 percent. Our endowment is roughly half of other liberal arts universities ranked in our class, and an order of magnitude smaller than those of top tier ones. We have recently eliminated one major, cut our Zena Farm program due to a baffling legal oversight and axed one entire graduate school. In recent years, we have made the local news for a food service worker raping a student, a professor being arrested for public masturbation, repeated nighttime groping incidents and a football player killing a local townsman while on psychedelics. None of these are the signs of an institution which is on solid financial footing or in a period of growth, to say the least.

I question then the logic of cutting a community outreach program to poor youth of color in a way publicly perceived to be callous. I question the wisdom of the Trustee overseeing the cut in requesting that *The Collegian* editor interviewing her to quote her and a dean laughing at and belittling the editor’s audacity at asking about qualifications. I question the truth of suggesting that meeting the full financial needs of 40 students is in any way remarkable or unique when numerous schools do so for every student who attends, including every top tier liberal arts university who we contend to be our peers.

One need only look at the difficulties Salem Health has had of late with the Southeast Salem Neighborhood Association to see that antagonizing the community leads to difficulty for your corporation.

Willamette would do well to learn by its example. To quote Cicero: *Non nobis solum nati sumus ortusque nostri partem patria vindicat, partem amici.* Not for us alone are we born; our country, our friends, have a share in us.

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Into the streets for more than a day



LANCE ROSSI



JESSE SANCHEZ
COLUMNIST

Social justice is an ever-present topic on campus, but its pursuit can become insular for college students. We learn and theorize about the nature of injustice at various intersections. Our class discussions are critical of everything from education systems to our everyday speech. Yet, we are often unaware of the many injustices happening in our surrounding communities. Remaining critical beyond our campus is important to our college lives.

Equity has to extend beyond our own campus. I understand that we are often left with the question, but what are we going to do about it? There is no single answer, but there are many ways to get involved with the local community, such as volunteering to start a movement with direct action. Liberal college

students can develop a sense that those outside of academic circles will not understand anti-capitalism or get involved in an intersectional social movement. Know that there are plenty of people out in communities thinking people are too apathetic to rise up against social ills. While injustice certainly exists on a global scale, it is also right in our city. With rampant poverty and underperforming schools, there is much to be desired in the Salem community. Of course, while Willamette students are by no means capable of completely fixing these issues, we can certainly get involved.

This message is particularly for the self-proclaimed “radicals” on campus. There are plenty of apathetic students who believe activism doesn’t work, but many of those claiming radicalism understand the effectiveness of activism on a theoretical level. It’s a matter of moving toward action. We are not the apathetics. They

apparently missed the many history lessons demonstrating the impacts of protest from civil rights to Black Lives Matter becoming a central campaign issue. It does work. Those who do not believe in demonstration attempt to explain social progress as resulting from institutions. Established powerhouses gradually allow a few more people to access a handful of privileges every decade or so. For those of us who recognize systems are not going to fix themselves, we have an obligation to do something about it. That might involve writing an informative zine, being a mentor, or organizing people to speak out on a large scale.

It’s not enough to learn about inequality or to just write an article about it. Education without action is education incomplete. Social progress is not a destiny or trajectory we’re certainly set on; it’s a battle. We have to do more. Get out into the streets. Learn about what’s going on with campus relations to

the community such as with Willamette Academy or seek out opportunities with one of the many youth programs that is not being torn down and rebuilt. If altruism alone is not enough persuasion, it’s good for your resume and your soul (if you believe in those). Internships are in abundance at underfunded organizations trying to do good in our communities. Or start something yourself.

Now is the time. If we wait for others to take action for whatever is wrong in the world, change may never occur. Don’t sit around waiting for things to change. If you are mad about the Academy, speak out. Find out who the leaders are. Upset about tuition increases while committees make decisions we disagree with? Sign a petition or even start one. If there is ever a time when we are most free to act, it’s while a college student.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Ms. Manoukian,

As a former editor in chief of my college paper, I empathize with the challenges you face in wrangling busy students, faculty and staff under strict deadlines, but last week’s front page story about changes to the Willamette Academy program contained several errors and omissions.

I was surprised to read on the front page that the program’s interim director, Jacqueline Rushing, was not available for comment. As reflected in the paper’s story on Pages 6-7, Rushing, Marlene Moore, Rita Moore, and I met with you on Monday, Feb. 8.

We discussed the primary reason for the program change: to meet our responsibilities to Willamette Academy students by preparing them for success in college.

The status quo hasn’t worked for most academy graduates. Among the concerns raised by a 2014-15 program review, we found an overall college gradu-

ation rate of 22 percent among Willamette Academy alumni since 2008. The university has a responsibility to do better, and the program changes address many of the issues revealed by the program review.

Instead of a broad college-access program, Willamette Academy will become a much more focused college success program that’s designed to prepare students for college and to support them while they’re in college. The program shifts services from grades 8-12 to grades 10-12 and the first two years of college to better support underrepresented students.

Further, none of the three pieces in last week’s *Collegian* mention the collaboration with the Salem-Keizer School District to leverage the district’s college access program, AVID, which includes specially trained tutors and other in-school support services. Middle school students will now be served by AVID, and the district partnership creates opportunities for

Willamette students working at the academy to garner additional training and experience.

The article falsely implies that changes to the Academy reflect downsizing for budgetary reasons. The university will contribute more to the revised program, including increased fundraising support from our Advancement team and academy students’ increased engagement on campus.

Willamette is working to forge new partnerships with the school district and is committed to meet the financial need of not only students in the revised program but all students in the current program who apply and enroll at Willamette.

The article’s anonymous student supposition about such scholarship support was grossly incorrect. On average, we provide academy alumni attending Willamette with more than \$40,000 per student per year in direct scholarships - not loans, work study funding or other forms of financial aid.

Willamette Academy is changing. We’re creating a more focused, deeper program that’s based on best practices and led by one of the country’s top administrators and Willamette alumna. Ms. Rushing has a long record of successfully preparing underrepresented students of color to complete college; her award-winning Young Scholars program immerses students in college experiences and teaches them how to thrive as a people of color within less diverse communities.

The current program isn’t serving our students well in terms of college graduation. We have a responsibility to act — to go beyond college access and to empower students to succeed in college.

Sincerely,
Adam Torgerson
Director of Media Relations
University Communications

Editorial: Time may change me, but WU can't trace time

Part one

The *Collegian* has some sad news for you: we made a few mistakes in our coverage of the changes to Willamette Academy.

In all of our preparation for the stories, which were published across three sections of last week's issue, we printed several errors that we should address; partially, because the University pointed the errors out to us. We've since corrected these online, and are now doing so in print.

Our front page news story quoted an anonymous source, who provided facts that we should have double checked before they were published.

In the same story, the interim executive director was stated to be unavailable for comment, but she did comment in another story in the same issue.

If the administration ever consents to an interview with us again, we'll know better next

time. We know that small errors undercut our credibility, and we're learning.

It's also true that we didn't make reference to AVID, which the University specifically noted from our coverage. Undoubtedly, there are many students in the AVID program who go on to great success. However, it seemed to be in poor taste to celebrate this new partnership in light of the fact that students will now have access to this program by virtue of their elimination from the Academy.

Now they get to participate in the same program as the other students in the Salem-Keizer School District, which as a whole struggles to support students on the path to graduation. As a direct, material substitution for the Academy, an organization that was constructed in recognition of this lack, these district programs are inauthentic.

As a fully student-run organization, we take pride in the

transparency with which we approach our work. We're ready to recognize that as we move forward with any story, we have biases: proximate ones, because we live here, as well as those that we uncover as we become closer to the stories we report.

Part two

The University has been zealous in its defense of the changes, many of which will be for the better. Of course, the Academy wasn't perfect, and could have benefited from more institutional support, accountability and financial security.

However, the University's failure to hire an executive director, as it should have two years ago, only further isolated a struggling program whose ailments should've been treated, instead of doing away with the whole thing and starting anew.

Addressing this issue earlier on could have allowed the pro-

gram to continue in its service in the way that many wish to see it return.

The Academy is changing, but these changes do not adequately represent the voices of those who needed it most: those underrepresented in higher education, who once had a place to speak out and learn from one another at the Academy. Rather than engage, or acknowledge those affected, the University only reinforces the notion that we do live in an elitist, ivory soap bubble.

This should not be how a university, or any genuinely plural institution should function. It seems as though this democratic model is slipping at Willamette, as students and faculty become increasingly isolated from decisions made above us.

Why not, at least, recognize the frustrations of students? After all, who keeps afloat our own institution, and bankrolls it for four years, if not, the rest of our

lives? While it may seem like we are just passing through, Willamette students share more with Salem, and with the Academy, than just air.

Collegian Editorial Policy

This editorial represents the composite opinion of the *Collegian* Editorial Board.

Elize Manoukian • Editor-in-Chief
Joshua Singer • Opinions Editor
Andrea Risolo • Managing Editor

The *Collegian* invites its readers to submit corrections for publication. Errors found in print can be sent to <emanouki> and will be corrected in the next edition of the paper.

We invite you to submit letters to the editor. Letters are limited to 350 words, must include your name and must be submitted by Monday at noon on the week of intended publication. The *Collegian* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. Please email letters to <emanouki>.

The case for Europe to stop accepting refugees



JESSICA WEISS
COLUMNIST

Sweden's population is now 2 percent refugees, and there is concern that Sweden's reputation as a country that properly takes care of its people will slowly wash away as Sweden is unable to handle the burden. Attacks on refugee camps across Europe, the rise of right-wing political parties, which not only demonize refugees and blame them for Europe's economic issues but are calling for large-scale responses like ridding Europe of the Schengen Agreement which kept borders open. Europe is falling apart, and maybe the only way to guarantee a better life for Europeans and migrants alike is to halt the stream.

It's a hard pill to swallow. However, like I tell my fellow democrats why I would vote for Hillary instead of Bernie, "you just can't have it all." You have to come to terms with it.

You may ask, "Europe, the shining example of liberalism and universal acceptance, closing off their borders when people are suffering?" Yes. It is, because perhaps the only way to protect everything we love about Europe is to stop the largest factor currently tearing it apart at the seams. The Schengen Agreement, and the very liberal values that set the European Union into motion, should not be put at risk for the breakdown of the EU yields consequences far worse.

The EU, one can argue, is the shining star of contemporary liberalism. A delicate balance of countries, with a certain degree of variance socioeconomically, co-existing in a system that has successfully worked to deconstruct the realist ideas of security states always in conflict. The Schengen Agreement remains a key part of this, actively working to discourage the idea of borders between all EU states, and attempting to convince the world that Europe



SHAYNA WEIMER

stands stronger together. While not perfect, the EU represents what can happen when countries pool together their sources of power and set higher standards for club membership. As we can see from the living conditions and governance in European nations, things haven't gone too badly. Until now, that is.

I don't think Europe has an issue with multiculturalism. However, when a sudden occurrence of human capital flight out of the Middle East/North Africa region, inevitably things won't be perfect. Culture clash can manifest itself in ways we may not have expected, threatening the safety of liberal values' protected groups.

When is it enough? Some say Europe should accept everyone, but what they naively miss is that a decent number of people in the Middle East/North Africa regions would gladly leave for Europe, and they have. Seekers of economic opportunity, along with migrants affected by the Syrian Civil War have been pouring out of their regions. Is it right to continue to deplete their regions of the human capital necessary to build its infrastructure? To keep its governments accountable?

Then comes the question of what Europe is doing to address the cause of the problem. Have they shown a willingness to intervene in Syria? Have they pro-

vided more aid to humanitarian efforts in the region? If more right-wing, anti-immigrant parties get elected to office as sentiment turns against the refugees, will this aid continue?

We have reached a point where we must ask ourselves what is it we see as an acceptable outcome for this crisis. Do we want devastated regions of this world with completely depleted populations and no hope for growth? Continued support from wealthy European nations to address the problem in Syria? Violence and conflict in Europe or the election of xenophobic political parties?

For me, I hope for a sustainable outcome in a Middle East

with a thriving population, aided by Europe so that they may achieve goals of democracy, accountable government and economic opportunity. In Europe, I hope to see open borders and a steady exchange of people, rather than a depletion of human capital in one region. Unfortunately, there may be no way to achieve this, but perhaps the next step is to start curbing the inflow, so we can begin working toward sustainable outcomes.

Humans of Willamette

What would you tell yourself four years ago?



Laura Cannon
Senior
Studio Art & Archaeology
Aurora, Oregon
"Practice remembering your keycard. That's still a problem. Actually, no, maybe not because that really helped me getting to know people. So, maybe, that's okay to forget your keycard. Also it's okay to be terrified of social situations. Do it anyway. Also take Stats as soon as possible."



Luke Russell
Sophomore
Physics
Kent, Washington
"I guess I would just be like, only apply to Willamette because that's where you're going to go and you don't have to apply to those ten other schools. Save yourself some time. I can't even remember what I was like as a sophomore in high school. I feel like past me wouldn't listen to any advice I would give him. So I guess I could tell him whatever I want because he's not going to listen to it."



Brenden Ramirez
Junior
Music
Trabuco Canyon, California
"Just to go for it. I feel like I've really held back on a lot of things when I was a freshman, and, I tried really hard to fit into specific images or ways of living, and I think, like, once you let go of all of that and you just go for it. I think a lot of opportunities come and you just have a lot more fun that way."



Ben Johnston
First Year
Biology
San Carlos, California
"I would tell myself to value the time with my family and good friends, because in high school I thought like, oh, I'm going to be so happy to like, get out of this place and never see some of these people again, but I'm missing people way more than I thought I would. I'm very glad to go back home and value the time with them a lot more."

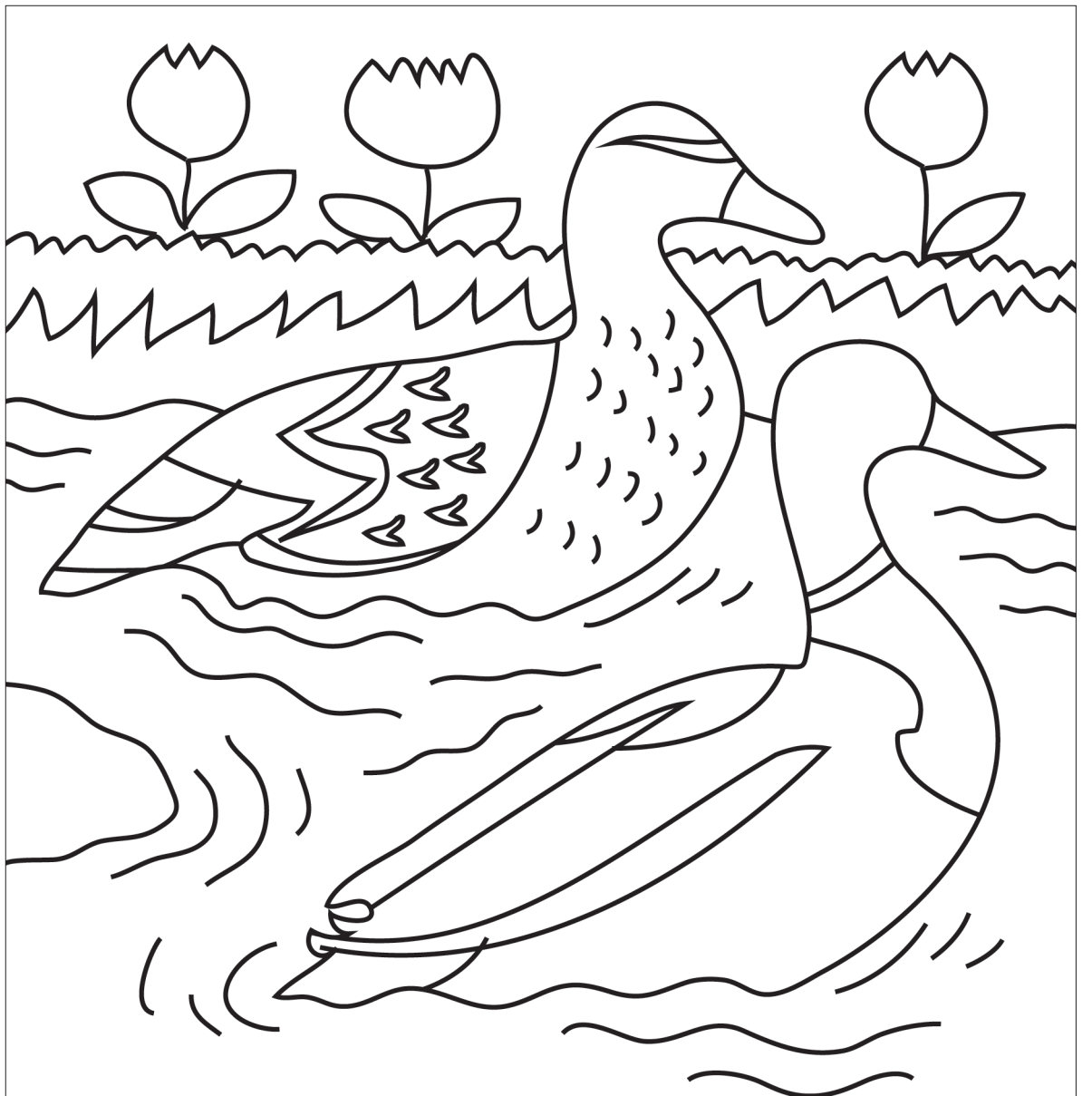
PHOTOS BY SAM KEECHLER

SUDOKU

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