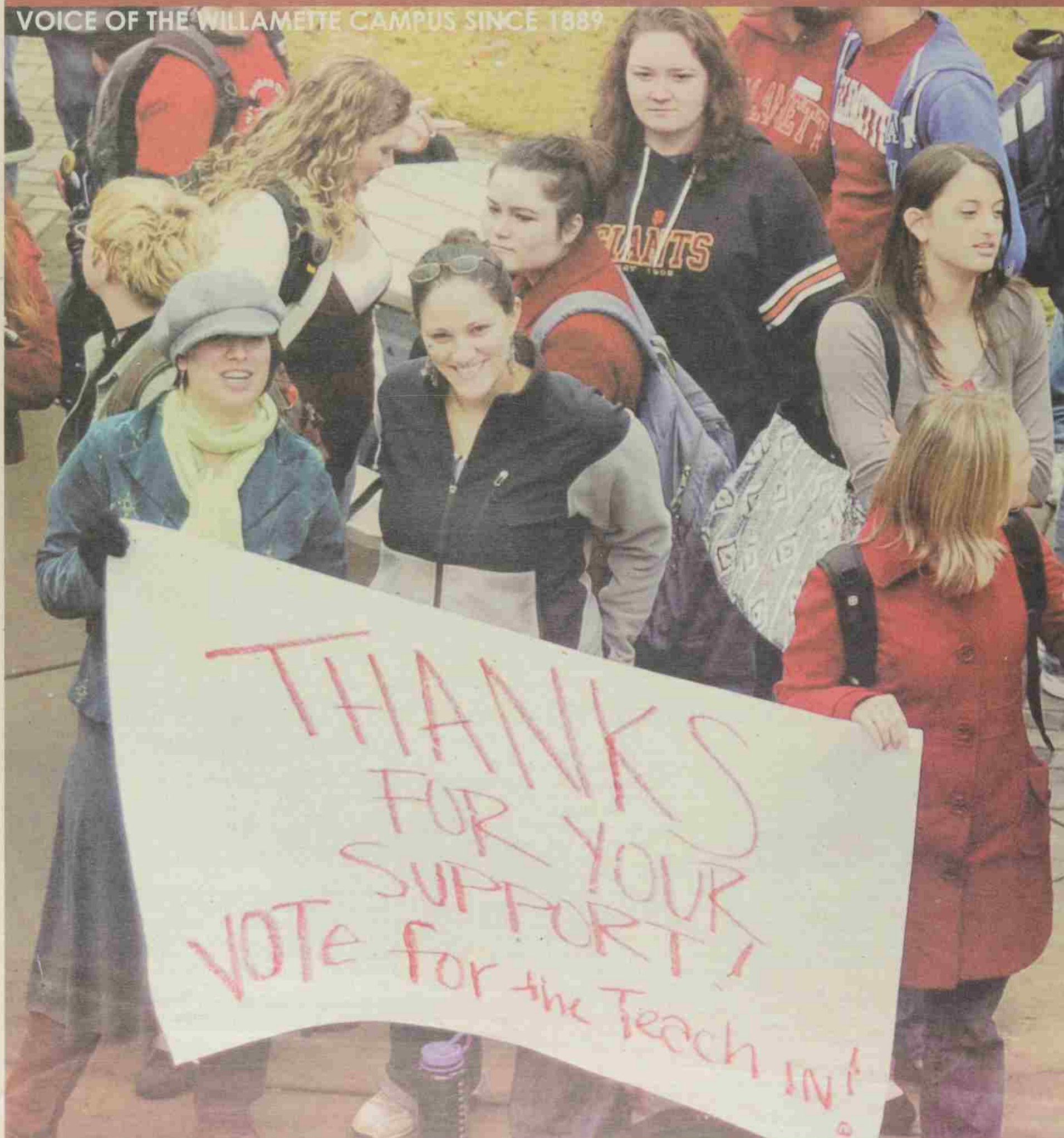


VOLUME CXVII ISSUE XVIV FEB 14, 2007

COLLEGIAN

VOICE OF THE WILLAMETTE CAMPUS SINCE 1889



TEACH IN SET FOR MARCH 1
CLA faculty votes 46-22 to cancel classes

GENDER GAP NOT YET CLOSED
Barriers remain despite new role models

NEWS, 2

EDITORIAL, 10

Faculty cancels class for social justice teach-in

Class time to be used to start debate on racism and other issues on March 1



ELISE YOUNG

LEFT: Sophomore Anyel Groher letters a large sign urging the Faculty Council to cancel classes for a teach-in, as CSSJ members look on. CENTER: The CSSJ displays its sign to faculty entering the Montag Den. RIGHT: The Faculty Council begins its meeting.

JEFF CARLSON

jjcarlso@willamette.edu

On Tuesday, the College of Liberal Arts faculty approved a resolution from the Council on Diversity and Social Justice to cancel classes after 11:30 a.m. on March 1 to encourage students to attend a teach-in on social justice issues ignited by the "Most Offensive Halloween Costume Party" video posted on YouTube last semester. The vote, held in the Montag Den, was 46 to 22 with three abstentions.

As it is currently planned, the Council on Diversity and Social Justice event will first feature a one hour lecture by Tim Wise, an anti-racist educator, followed by two 80-minute discussion periods which students can choose to attend. There will be approximately 13 different discussions available in those time periods on different subjects such as "Class: the Hidden Diversity," "Political Correctness and Freedom of Speech," and "Identity: Construction of Race, Gender and Ethnicity."

Before the meeting, members of the Concerned Students for Social Justice, numbering approximately 50 people, stood outside together in solidarity to urge professors to pass the resolution. "This is to show support and appreciation for the faculty and (to let them know) that this is what the students want," junior Hannah Mitchell

said. "It's not to be angry or cause a riot but to demonstrate that this is something they want on campus."

Mitchell and four other CSSJ members representing the CDSJ went before the faculty to persuade an affirmative vote on the first of two proposed resolutions. The first resolution was to cancel classes outright. If the faculty would have rejected it, however, they could have voted on the second resolution, which would have made the teach-in a university-sanctioned event in which classes would not necessarily be cancelled but students could attend the events without penalty, though they still would be accountable for in-class work they would miss.

"We really looked through all possible options," Mitchell said in defense of the resolution. "We pushed for the idea of cancellation so everyone can participate, start talking about it and do something about it."

Sophomore Emilio Solano acknowledged that some individuals may not choose to attend the teach-in events in any case but asserted that participation by students will be strong. "Though you will probably have a number of students take the time and go to the beach or something, I think the interest is still there," he said.

Professors who expressed opinions at the meeting tended to support canceling classes as an important sacrifice to promote social justice. "I'm not happy about canceling my class," politics professor Melissa Buis-Michaux said, "but

hopefully that shows how important this is to my students."

Mathematics professor Mark Janeba echoed Michaux's statement. "I don't know how I'm going to rearrange the order for my senior seminar class, and truth be told it will probably piss off the students, but I think we have to support this," he said.

There had been some indications that the science department would oppose canceling classes because of the loss of lab time, but nothing materialized beyond the 22 secret ballot votes against the resolution. Biology professor David Craig said that he had intended to vote for the second resolution or no on both before the meeting but was later convinced by colleagues to vote for canceling class.

"They convinced me of the symbolic value of canceling class where I had previously felt that by canceling classes for students was in fact taking credit or energy away from their cause," Craig said.

After the vote, the CSSJ students expressed excitement over what they had accomplished. "I was shocked," freshman Cliff Leek said. "We put a lot of effort into it, and I thought there was a chance we could do it, but I also thought that if we had a chance it was going to be close. So having it that decisive was impressive but it also strengthens it."

Vacant ASWU Senate seat to be filled soon

WADE COLLINS

wcollins@willamette.edu

The Associated Students of Willamette University (ASWU) Senate is short one seat this semester after the departure of one of its members.

Junior Christina Street was the originally elected member to fill the seat in the Senate. She ran in the election along with another student, Louis Pappas, both of whom planned to study abroad. Pappas and Street were supposed to switch positions once the semester ended. However, Street continued her study abroad in Sweden both semesters, leaving ASWU with an empty chair once Pappas left.

Vice President of Administration James Huang said he was unable to comment on the situation, but two other executive officers from ASWU shared their thoughts. President Jessica Motais de Narbonne said

that the seat on the Senate is currently open for new members. "The process for finding a new person was just sent out," she said. "It's an application process, not necessarily a full election." She said Street's absence was unexpected for ASWU. "We didn't find out about it until we got back to Willamette from break," she said.

Vice President of Finances Jared Rieger explained how the Senate functions until the seat is filled. "We're eliminating a lot of signatures from the application process to make it go more quickly," he said. "We're hoping to have the position filled by the 22nd. We want the new member to be able to attend the Senate meetings by then."

Since Street was not actually on the Senate before she left for Sweden, she is not entitled a seat when she comes back. However, according to Rieger, she is welcome to run for a senior Senate position.

President Pelton's Student Office Hours for Spring 2007

Fri 2/23/2007 2:00-4:00 p.m.
 Mon 3/5/2007 1:00-3:00 p.m.
 Thu 3/22/2007 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 Thu 4/12/2007 9:00-11:00 a.m.
 Wed 4/25/2007 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 Mon 5/7/2007 9:00-11:00 a.m.

The location for all of the President's open office hours is his office in Waller Hall.

No appointment is necessary. Students will be seen on a first come, first served basis. If there are a large number of students waiting to meet with the President during open office hours, a time limit may be set on each meeting.

Additional questions can be directed to Wendy Gleason, the President's scheduler, at <wggleason>.

COLLEGIAN

2006-2007 STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Chris Foss

cfoss@willamette.edu

MW 2:00 - 3:00 P.M.

MANAGING EDITOR

Jessica Smith

jsmith@willamette.edu

M 10:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M.

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Sara Taylor

smtaylor@willamette.edu

W 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

NEWS EDITOR

Noah Zaves

nzaves@willamette.edu

ASST NEWS EDITOR

Jeff Carlson

jjcarlso@willamette.edu

SPORTS EDITOR

Annette Hulbert

ahulbert@willamette.edu

STUDY ABROAD EDITOR

Jen Birk

jbirk@willamette.edu

ARTS EDITOR

Jen Aszklar

jaszklar@willamette.edu

OPINIONS EDITOR

Lauren Brooks

lbrooks@willamette.edu

PHOTO EDITOR

Liz Cauley

ecauley@willamette.edu

IMAGING TECHNICIAN

Connie Gledhill

cgedhill@willamette.edu

DESIGNERS

Casey Conzatti

coonzatt@willamette.edu

Claire Lindsay-McGinn

clindsay@willamette.edu

Rhiannon McCracken

mccrack@willamette.edu

COPY EDITOR

Mary Ann Almeida

malmeida@willamette.edu

Jade Olson

jolson@willamette.edu

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Eric Haddenham

ehaddenh@willamette.edu

TH 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Shengxin Xiao

sxiao@willamette.edu

W 9:00 - 11:00 A.M.

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CONTACT

Putnam University Center
 Student Publications Office
 Willamette University
 900 State St.
 Salem, OR 97301
 PH: 503.370.6053
 FAX: 503.370.6407

New policy attempts to lessen paper usage

MICHAEL MURRAY
mpmurray@willamette.edu

As of yesterday, students must use an application called WebPrint to submit jobs to the printers in the library. WebPrint has been programmed to track the number of pages each student prints.

The new tracking system will help students know exactly how many pages they are printing. The university has set an arbitrary allotment of 500 pages per student per semester. In an email to the community, Executive Director of WITS John Balling wrote, "For the time being this is a benchmark, not a limit." Currently, students will not be penalized for printing more than 500 pages.

According to Balling, the idea of limiting student paper use has been under consideration for a number of years. Originally motivated by the Sustainability Council, Balling has been in discussion with various members of the administration, as well as ASWU representatives and the Hatfield Library/WITS Advisory Council, about various solutions to this problem.

The current plan was selected because it was the easiest and

most manageable to institute. Some universities with similar paper benchmarks use a card-swipe at the printers. Students are able to queue their work, but have to swipe their cards to start the printing process. That system was rejected for Willamette because it would require installing more computers and hardware. Instead, the paper tracker was coded into WebPrint by WITS staff.

Professor Fran Michel, who is a member of the Library/WITS Advisory Council, is optimistic about the new system. "[It] seems like one area to place checks and balances on extreme paper use," Michel said. She also referred to efforts to use less paper on campus, such as electronic-only journals in the library, course webpages and some opportunities for electronic submission.

According to Balling, there has been no major opposition to the new printing guidelines. The current benchmark of 500 pages is not set in stone, and will change if needed. Balling said that the majority of students are well within this limit, though there are some who far exceed it.

Many students are in support of the new policy, though there are a few concerns. "It's good to be aware of how much we're printing," senior Lexi Fish said, though she thinks she printed more than 500 pages working on her thesis last semes-

ter. Sophomore Lauren Lathrop said, "As a sophomore, the only things I print out are papers and articles I have to read and take to class."

Lathrop was worried that the new system might slow down the printing process, which could be a problem when printing between classes.

Other students had similar opinions. Junior Jamal Raad said he is not opposed to the new system, though he is unsure of the reasoning behind it. "I don't think people are out to waste paper," Raad said. "It is the onus of the faculty and administration to keep the curriculum in mind." He said that students cannot lessen printing any more than the curriculum allows.

Balling said that most wasted paper is the result of misprinting and impatience. Students often print things two or three times waiting for the job to make it through the queue. WebPrint should help to eliminate that waste by letting students know where their job is. Also, for printing errors, such as smudges and other equipment malfunctions, students can take the damaged pages to the WITS Help Desk and get their quota credited.

Balling is enthusiastic about the new policy. "We hope it will make people more careful with what they print," he said.

Diary of an RA hopeful: the first interview



TOM BROUNSTEIN

Tom Brounstein is currently applying to be a Residential Assistant (RA). Each week he will provide an update on his experience in the application process. Brounstein is a freshman in the CLA and he can be reached at <tbrounst>.

In retrospect, my interview should not have gone nearly as well as it did. First, I signed up for the second-earliest time possible. This wasn't a big deal, considering 9:40 still isn't all that early, but it's earlier than I wanted to get up. Then, of course, I didn't sleep well the night before. But here's the kicker: I was also pretty sick. All of this combined seemed like I would have

a pretty bad interview. Somehow, it turned out well.

The way the interview worked was that I sat in a little room with three current members of ResLife: an RA, an area coordinator and a fraternity rep. They had a list of 12 questions they had to ask me, and I was given any amount of time to respond. During my responses they took notes on what I said, creating odd little moments where I'd be talking to the tops of three heads.

The questions were very similar to the ones from the application; there was a strengths and weaknesses question, a planning events question, and a diversity question. Probably my favorite, though, was asking about if drinking parties at Willamette were okay since they reduced drunken driving. It was a hard question that had to be looked at from a few different ways, and was just completely different than everything else

that was asked. I think that was the best, though probably the toughest question that they asked.

What surprised me most of all was the lack of role-playing questions. I didn't have to deal with a resident complaining about his roommate, or people disobeying quiet hours, and there was only a token reference to stopping a party going on. I asked about this, at the end of my interview, and this was their answer (paraphrased):

"That's all in the second interview. There's a lot more steps after this one."

As for me, I found out that I had made it past the first round of cuts when my RA came to my room and demanded I check my e-mail. There was a moment of extreme nervousness, followed by cheering, then back to homework. Looks like I'm taking at least one more step.

Campus Safety Report Feb. 2-8, 2007

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

- ▶ February 2, 9:59 P.M., (Baxter Hall): A student was treated by WEMS after she slipped and fell, hitting her head on the ground.
- ▶ Feb. 7, 6:14 A.M., (Kaneko Commons): A student was transported to Salem Hospital after he complained of severe pain to his side.
- ▶ Feb. 7, 5:52 P.M., (Kaneko Commons): A student was transported to Salem Hospital as she complained of severe flu-like symptoms.
- ▶ Feb. 8, 5:00 P.M., (The Quad): A student suffered a probable broken wrist during a rugby practice session. The student was transported to Salem Hospital by Campus Safety.

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Feb. 2, 10:16 P.M., (Smullin Hall): Campus Safety observed two students in possession of alcoholic beverages. Both students were under the age of 21 years. The beer was confiscated and poured out.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- ▶ Feb. 4, 4:40 P.M., (Montag Center): Housekeeping discovered several broken bottles that were thrown into the Quad area of the Montag Center.
- ▶ Feb. 6, 11:15 A.M., (Kaneko Hall): An unknown individual(s) sprayed insulating sealing foam around a 2nd floor east, end door. The act caused the door to be sealed and unusable. It should be noted that in the instance of a fire or other emergency, this intentional vandalism could have proven to be catastrophic in nature.

THEFT

▶ Feb. 2, 7:33 P.M., (Baxter Hall): Campus Safety Officers noted that the Emergency Exit sign, located on the north side of the building, was missing.

POLICY VIOLATION

- ▶ Feb. 2, 8:30 P.M., (Sigma Chi): It was reported that an unknown individual shot a couple of students with a "potato pellet gun" from a second floor window of Sigma Chi because of the noise that they were making. No serious injuries were sustained.
- ▶ Feb. 5, 10:44 A.M., (University Center): The Mail Center received an "Airsoft" pellet gun that had been mailed to a student, which is against policy. The gun was confiscated by Campus Safety and stored for safekeeping. The gun was subsequently released to the student with an agreement that it would be mailed to his home address.

▶ Feb. 3, 2:06 a.m., (Beta Theta Pi): Campus Safety Officers observed several empty beer cans and bottles on the ground next to the north entrance of the building.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

- ▶ Feb. 3, 2:22 a.m. (Sigma Alpha Epsilon): Students reported that a student was looking through their window after being hoisted up by another student.
- ▶ Feb. 3, 4:14 a.m., (University Center): A trespass warning was given to an individual as he loitered near the University Center. The individual, as a pretext, tried to convince the Campus Safety Officer that he was part of a construction crew and that he was waiting for his boss. The named company is not actively involved in any projects on Campus.

▶ Feb. 5, 6:40 a.m., (Law School): A student reported observing odd behavior from a passing motorist, who drove near the front of the Law School. Under very foggy conditions, the driver of a dark, late model Chevy pick-up performed a quick u-turn, came to a stop, jumped out of the vehicle and yelled for the Police to be called. The motorist then went through motions and gestures as if he was hiding behind his vehicle. The motorist then got back into his truck and drove away, south on Winter Street.

AGENCY ASSIST

Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m., (Gatke Hall): Campus Safety apprehended an individual that was being chased by the State and Salem Police Departments. The suspect initially tried to hide in Gatke Hall but subsequently leaped from a second story restroom window to avoid being cornered. The suspect made his way into Sparks Center where he altered his clothing and appearance to avoid detection. Campus Safety apprehended the suspect as he was crossing the Skybridge to TIUA. The suspect was held until Salem Police took him into custody.

*If you have any information regarding these incidents, please contact Campus Safety at 503.370.6911.

It's still the toughest job you'll ever love.

INFO SESSION | THU 2/22
4 - 5 p.m.

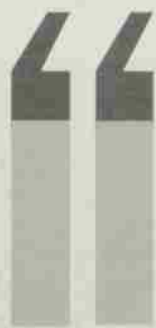
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NAMED ONE OF BUSINESS WEEK'S
"BEST PLACES TO LAUNCH A CAREER" IN 2006

PROFILE: Rachael Nelson

High school student, NASA researcher studies at WU



Like anybody, I was intrigued by the idea of knowing more about the universe and wanted to be able to experience it fully through space technology."

RACHAEL NELSON
PART-TIME STUDENT

MICHAEL MURRAY
mpmurray@willamette.edu

Though she still has not gotten a driver's license, West Salem High School senior Rachael Nelson has worked on original research with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in their Pasadena, California Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

She is also enrolled in two classes at Willamette University through the Gifted Scholar program: Introductory Physics with physics professor Roberta Bigelow and Linear Algebra with math professor Erin McNicholas. "My professors are great," Nelson said. "I'm getting a good head start for college."

The Gifted Scholars program allows students from Salem/Keizer high schools to take classes at Willamette that their respective schools do not offer. Nelson is the second Gifted Scholar to take a class with Bigelow. She also takes four classes at West Salem, where she transferred this year from McNary High School in her hometown of Keizer.

McNicholas said that Nelson meshes well with the other students. "I don't think you would know she was a high school student without being told so," McNicholas said. Bigelow said that Nelson applies work in class to the research she does outside of class. "She asks a lot of good questions," Bigelow said. "She's delightful to have in class." Nelson also took Multivariable Calculus and Intro to Physics I last semester.

Nelson said she has been interested in space from a very young age. "Like anybody, I was intrigued by the idea of



COURTESY OF RACHAEL NELSON

High school senior Rachael Nelson machines a probe she said she designed for data acquisition at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA.

knowing more about the universe and wanted to be able to experience it fully through space technology," she said.

Nelson got involved with NASA last summer. She was working on a competitive science project with Intel, conducting her own research on ion engines, for which she has won

four awards. "Basically I theoretically redesigned parts of the DS1 ion engine to mitigate corrosion in attempt at a more efficient engine," she said. She had always been interested in space science and NASA, possibly as a career. "Being immersed in the professional environment provided me with the opportunity to interact with seasoned researchers to gain solid experience," Nelson said.

She began looking at NASA programs and found that she did not meet the qualifications for any of them, though she had the knowledge to pursue them. Somewhere in the midst of this, Nelson heard about the Cal-Tech SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships) and contacted a researcher through information she found on the webpage and was accepted into the program, under the NASA Space Grant in collaboration with Cal-Tech SURF. Though it is an undergraduate program, when Nelson explained her work with ion engines to the researcher, she was accepted.

According to its webpage, SURF "introduces students to research under seasoned guidance." Their application process is modeled on the grant-seeking process. There is a limited amount of funding available for non-Cal-Tech students like Nelson.

Nelson said she enjoyed her experience. She spent the summer on the Cal-Tech campus, where she lived in the dorms and met a lot of people from around the country. Since SURF is an undergraduate program, she was the only high school student there. "It was also a really great opportunity to be exposed to a lot of JPL projects," she said.

Specifically, Nelson worked on the Hall Effect Thruster, a type of engine that works by propelling an ionized gas from a thruster, which is then neutralized by an electron-emitting cathode to prevent damage to the craft to which it is attached. Nelson examined the exhaust plume to determine if neutrality was consistent in all areas. "This basically means that I was looking for evidence that some areas of the exhaust plume were being more neutralized than others depending on the radial distance from the cathode," she said.

For the future, Nelson is still hoping to pursue opportunities with JPL and NASA. She has applied to a lot of schools in the Los Angeles area so she can be near Pasadena. Her major focus right now is finding funding to pursue research in adaptive optics this summer, which she described as "creating and running algorithms for image correction in space- and ground-based telescopes." She is using the knowledge and contacts she has gained through working at JPL to find out what primary skills she needs to continue in this field.

Nelson is also participating in the Intel project again this summer, using her work at JPL as a basis. She also hopes to attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

Blue Friday Bets

Rules:

The Friday following Glee (February 23, 2007) shall be designated "Blue Friday," during which day bets will be paid by the losers. The following regulations apply:

1. The class which placed fourth at Glee shall walk the Mill Stream from the Library to Goudy @ 11:20am.
2. Bets involving members of the faculty, administration or clerical support staff are expressly prohibited. Faculty members may, however, permit the use of a part of the classroom time for the paying of bets. Since this is determined by each faculty member, his/her permission must be sought in advance.
3. Bets between two people involving a third person are forbidden, unless consented to by all parties concerned.
4. Bets that might involve property damage, personal injury, or violation of state, federal, or municipal law are expressly prohibited.
5. Bets that are wasteful, ecologically questionable, or involve use of alcohol are prohibited.
6. All bets must be paid between 9am and 3pm on Blue Friday.

Bet: _____

I certify this bet adheres to the aforementioned rules and all Willamette University's policies and guidelines.

Bet Challenger: Name: _____;

Signature: _____

Bet Receiver: Name: _____;

Signature: _____

PAID PUBLIC NOTICE

'W(h)acked' explores comedy in a dark tale

MATTIAS OLSHAUSEN
molshaus@willamette.edu

At first, when Willamette alum Stephanie Timm '99 started writing a play based on the tale of Blue Beard, the fairy tale psychopath who murdered each of his successive wives, women were going to be the victims in her story. After doing some research on serial killings and violence against women in general, however, she decided that several hapless men would die in the play, murdered by a group of female serial killers.

The result was "W(h)acked: an Immorality Play," which will be the third production of the Willamette University Theatre 2006-07 season. It opens Thursday at 8 p.m. in Kresge Theatre.

The play centers on the exploits of the members of the Underground Very Secret Hush Hush Ladies Serial Killer Club, whose ranks include Sister Lottie Limerick (Britt Lauer), Tormentina (Annie Rimmer), Abhorabelle (Corinne Becker), Crueliet (Sarah Jo Kendall), Revengaline (Tara McLaughlan) and Detesta (Sarah Hamilton).

The club members meet in the ladies room to compare notes on the various men whom they have terminated, all played by one actor (Aaron Smith).

The homicidal protagonists operate under a set of rules that dictate whom they may or may not kill. Each club member's first kill must be a "kill of kindness," the victim a good, untarnished male individual.

"I was doing research on the murder of a mail-order bride and women as victims in general," Timm said. "All this research started making me really angry and I decided to turn the concept on its head and write a play about women as victimizers. Something I should also mention is that this is not a play about women killing men. It started in one place and ended up in another, which is how destructive women can be to one another."

Theatre professor Susan Coromel, who directs the Willamette production of "W(h)acked," said, "Mostly, the play is about power. It makes us laugh at power struggles."

Its content may be dark, but "W(h)acked" is a classic style farce and aims to provoke laughter. "The darkness within it is relieved [by comedy]," Coromel said.



PATRICK WILGOHS

Freshman Aaron Smith plays the many victims of the Underground Very Secret Hush Hush Ladies Serial Killer Club in alumna Stephanie Timm's, "W(h)acked: an Immorality Play."

S.H.E. celebrates V-Day with 'Vagina Monologues' production

DANI STEVENS
dstevens@willamette.edu

Today is Valentine's Day and the night of Vagina Monologues. For \$5 student admission or \$10 for general admission, community members can take part in this S.H.E.-sponsored worldwide campaign to end violence against women. Showings are at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Vagina Monologues co-producer Mary Klann said the production brings the matter home for college students. "It is extremely important to bring awareness of these issues to the college community, as between 20 and 25 percent of women will experience completed or attempted rape in her college career," she said.

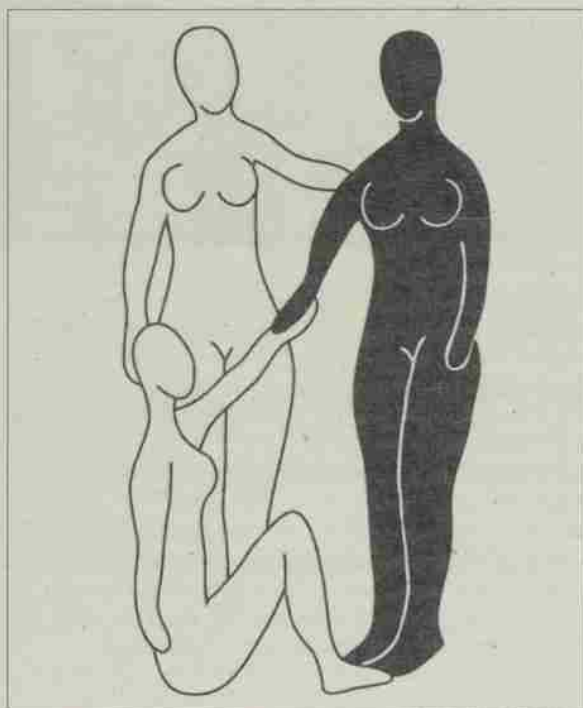
In their campaign to help end violence against women, the co-producer Jessica Cass said that the actors faced some resistance to the show's content.

"It is always difficult to face resistance," she said. "People tend to focus on a single line in a monologue that is uncomfortable to them and forget to look at the big picture. Raising money and awareness to end violence against women is the point of the show."

The women have worked many hours to make the show a reality. They faced funding problems early on in the process. Additionally, it was a challenge to coordinate busy college schedules among the group's members.

Director Lindsay Selser shed light on the kind of time commitment involved. "We rehearsed twice a week for the first two weeks and then we built up to four rehearsals a week," she said.

"The rehearsals are usually around three hours. The last couple have been longer [and Sunday's] was five hours long."



COURTESY OF S.H.E.

S.H.E.'s production of "The Vagina Monologues" is based on over 400 interviews conducted by the play's writer, Eve Ensler.

As a Vagina Monologues tradition, community members who have been or know people who have been victims of domestic or sexual violence are encouraged to wear red today to show their support of the campaign.

STORE REVIEW: EnerChi Living Space & Gallery

Find zen at EnerChi

ALETA BURCHYSKI
aburchs@willamette.edu

With spring semester solidly underway, it's easy to let one's living space devolve into a mess heap. The tirade of homework and that fierce flu virus going around doesn't help either. At the very least, take an afternoon and get things in shape before things get much worse. While you're at it, check out EnerChi Living Spaces and Gallery for some simple ways to improve the energy of your living space.

"We had this passion to have this home and garden decor store, to show people how to create this energy in their home environment," said Rick Osborne, who owns the shop with his wife, Julie. EnerChi specializes in Asian home décor. From plants and water features, statuary, fine art and large furniture, the store has you covered. Several of the store employees are also trained in Feng Shui—the Chinese art of arranging space to achieve harmony with the environment. Although this pseudo-science is hotly debated,

it is widely accepted that things can be done to make a room feel a certain way, from tranquil to studious. Whatever your feelings, there are two easy ways EnerChi can augment your living space.

Plants are a great way to improve the feel of a room. Feng Shui teaches that plants purify and cleanse the energy of a space. They're also a great way to improve air quality, and something like Lucky Bamboo that stands in water can add a gentle touch of humidity when heaters are running constantly during the colder months. EnerChi's plants are high quality and are extremely well taken care of, as the owner also specializes in plant care.

Another idea is to arrange rocks and crystals throughout your space. EnerChi recommends aventurine for healing during flu season, and the staff would be happy to assist in picking out rocks and crystals to suit your needs. Or, pick the ones you like best and arrange them in a small bowl or tray on your desk for a no-mess Zen garden sans sand.

► EnerChi Living Spaces & Gallery info

486 Church St NE
Salem, OR 97301
- 503-485-1898
- Hours: Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- www.enerchilivingspaces.com

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CALENDAR OF ART EVENTS

Feb 12- March 6

15

ECOS documentary viewing about the disappearance of the electric car, 7:00 p.m., Terra House lounge.

17

Culture Shock-sponsored exotic dance and sensual movement class, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in Kresge Theatre. The class is \$10.

18

The Office of Multicultural Affairs, Alpha Zeta Nu (AZN) and the Portland JACL sponsor a viewing of the film "A Most Unlikely Hero" featuring a discussion with its filmmaker, Steve Okino. The film will be shown in the Hatfield Room, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Free admission.

20 &
27

Feb 20 & 27; Mar 6, 13, 20 & 27- George Johanson: Image and Idea Gallery Talk at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art. Free admission, 12:30-1 p.m.

Let's talk about ...



DATING AT WILLAMETTE

COLLEEN IRWIN
cirwin@willamette.edu

“

I think there are a lot of winners on paper at this school, but socially a lot of them are still stuck in high school dance mode. They are just socially misguided.”

MAYA KARP
SENIOR

“A friend of mine recently told me to dive into the Willamette dating pool, but I told him that might not be such a good idea because I was afraid of breaking my neck because it is dangerously shallow,” sophomore Lauren Lathrop said. Lathrop is not the only one on campus who holds this sentiment toward dating at Willamette. Due to recent articles in this newspaper about dating, as well as the fact that today is Valentine's Day, it is about time to take a closer look at dating on campus.

Jessica Cook, a sophomore and member of Culture Shock, is hoping to break Willamette out of its dating rut. Cook noticed a dichotomy between the singles and non-singles on campus when she transferred to Willamette this year. For Cook, it seemed as though there was no middle ground between people in serious relationships and those seeking one night stands. To mitigate this social dilemma, Cook, along with other members of Culture Shock, is planning to launch the project Willamette Singles this semester.

The goal of Willamette Singles is to “encourage casual dating and give easy access to date ideas,” she said. Cook is hoping that students use Willamette Singles as a resource because they need to prepare themselves for meeting people after college because “in the real world you don't have



PATRICK WILLGOHS

classes to meet people.” The emphasis of the group is casual dating, and Cook is hoping the group will redefine dating on campus.

“Dating doesn't need to be going steady. In college, you don't need to be in a relationship. There are so many experiences to be had,” she said.

Cook also said she hopes the program will minimize the dreaded one night stand.

Culture Shock has some initial events planned for the coming weeks. While the program is still in its preliminary stages, Cook said she is optimistic about the group's future and the impact it may have on campus. “It is up to us to change the environment for the incoming freshmen.”

Willamette prides itself on its small class sizes, but with

smaller classes comes a smaller selection of potential significant others. Maya Karp, a senior at Willamette, has noticed somewhat of a trend in regards to dating on campus. Karp said there seems to be a division between those who do not date at all and those that date only within the same small field.

“I know some truly phenomenal and wonderful people [at Willamette] that are single and it doesn't make any sense,” she said. Karp went on to say that perhaps it is just the social climate at Willamette that is to blame. “I think that there are a lot of winners on paper at this school, but socially a lot of them are still stuck in high school dance mode. They are just socially misguided.”

On the other hand, sophomore Andrew Christopher Smith said he did not see social maturity levels as a serious problem to finding a match. “If you put enough people in one city block and keep them there for four years, they'll find someone to tolerate,” he said.

Sophomore Sheila Kelly said that not only is the campus small to begin with, but she believes that the main impediment to Willamette dating is that students enter college already taken. “A lot of people already have a significant other they are dedicated to back home,” she said.

Kelly proposed a method for Willamette students to shake out of their dating ruts: put “I Saw You's” into the *Collegian*. For those students too nervous to actually talk to that special someone, Kelly suggested that they pen their feelings. Kelly provided the following example: “Saw you in the Bistro. You always look so cute and stylish. We made eye contact while you were doing the crossword puzzle. Coffee!”

How is dating at Willamette awkward?



It's awkward because it's such a confined environment. It becomes incestous very fast.

ELLIOT WILLIAMS
JUNIOR

It's awkward because if there is tension in the relationship or the break up, it's a small campus so you'll see each other a lot and this gets weird and you're still mad at each other. If there are any non-caring attitudes you're never going to get away from it because the campus is so small.

COURNEY THOMPSON
JUNIOR



Sex, it's hard to find time when people aren't around. It's annoying in the dorms because you think the people in the adjacent dorms are going to hear you. There is never any time and you want to spend more time together so you end up doing homework together instead of hanging out.

SARA RIDGEWAY
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KAITLIN THACKERY

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- College Night at The Ram
-located on 515 12th St. SE

STUDY ABROAD: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Willamette student attends memorial in "Boys' Town"

DANIEL CARROLL

dcarroll@willamette.edu

I had one of the most interesting nights of my life tonight. I attended a memorial of Chicago AIDS-education activist Daniel (Danny) Sotomayor. Sotomayor died 15 years ago of AIDS complications. He was a gay man and frequent political cartoonist for such publications as the *Windy City Times*, a predominantly queer paper. He challenged the first Bush administration on feeble spending towards safe sex education and had a very fiery personality.

I don't know or remember a lot of the events of 1989-91, which is when Sotomayor did most of his political cartooning. However, a few of them really struck me at the exhibit I visited. For instance, there were a couple cartoons in which Sotomayor used a coat hanger as a symbol of what could happen if abortions are outlawed, including one relatively graphic example. There was another with two men hand-in-hand walking a dog. One woman looks at them and says "That's so sick!" and a nearly identically dressed woman next to her says, "I know! Who wears stripes with checkers?" in reference to the patterns worn by one of the (presumed) gay men. I appreciated this scene as it was portrayed in a society that has come to grips with sexuality.

I came to the exhibit with five others from the Chicago Center, and they all sat together and seemed to forget to save one more chair for me. So I sat in front of them. Alone. A man walked in and sat two chairs left of me. He got up and introduced himself, we shook hands and he sat back down, this time in the seat adjacent to me. Then I noticed something.

I typically sit on chairs in a rather unlady-like fashion. Basically, I usually straddle the front end of the chair. It turns out that this man did as well. And our knees were touching. I didn't mind our knees touching. If you know me very well, you've probably come to understand that I have a very small personal-space bubble. Also, I don't know anyone in my program very well yet, so this has not become common knowledge to members of the group. This also means that, partially due to my anti-socialness, I haven't had a hug since coming to Chicago. The fact that my knee was coming into contact with this man's knee was actually a relatively welcome occurrence. I



JEN BIRK

A bird's-eye view of the Chicago skyline from the Sears Tower. mean, human contact is a good thing.

However, I understood that it was really curious that a man decides that it's okay to be touching another man. But I was at that moment, and I didn't seem to have a problem with it, so who was I to judge? His hand was on his knee, though, and I was watching out for that. My first date consisted of a lot of hand-in-lap, so I wanted to make sure that his hand wasn't going to end up on my knee. If it did, I was going to say something, shift or do something to at least imply that it was not okay.

His hand never crossed over. I remained very stubborn with my knee. I'm not sure why I was so stubborn. I reminded myself a couple of times that I still identify myself as straight. I wondered to myself if all this meant that I was more open to the idea of experimentation than I thought I was. I checked in with myself a couple of times. I wasn't feeling anything exciting or sexual about the touching of knees.

The show ended and the man and I had a short conversa-

tion, mostly about who I am and what I do. I tried not to give him too much information. He knows my first name and that I'm in a special program and that I'm not from Chicago. He did seem like a relatively nice guy, interesting at least, perhaps slightly pushy. He's worth talking to again, if I ever run into him. He gave me his business card. He suggested that I call him and go downtown for lunch with him sometime. He's a law librarian.

It turns out I was in "Boys' Town," a predominantly gay neighborhood in Chicago. It seems I should e-mail the guy in a day or two and explain that I'm straight, but that I would still like to take him up on the lunch offer because I like to get to know people. And, it couldn't hurt to have another contact in Chicago. Maybe I could suggest that I would like to bring a friend so I don't get into a bad situation.

I think I've been asked out by a gay man and I think it was one of the most interesting things I've ever experienced.

closer + look

JEN BIRK

jbirk@willamette.edu

Not many people may be familiar with Daniel Sotomayor, but he was an incredibly influential political cartoonist and activist in Chicago. In 1992 he was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Sotomayor was born in 1958. He studied acting and graduated from Columbia College with a graphic arts degree. Afterward, he began to pursue a career in graphic design and acting, but his plan was thwarted when he was diagnosed with AIDS in 1988. Instead of becoming a designer, Sotomayor focused on activism.

Sotomayor joined ACTUP/Chicago, a "diverse, non-partisan group of individuals united in anger and committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis," according to its website. Sotomayor was extremely involved, forcing politicians and the media to take notice of the organization. He worked with the Chicago Health Department and often challenged Mayor Richard M. Daley to bring AIDS issues to the forefront of people's minds. *Windy City Times* called him a "fearless, in-your-face, trailblazing activist."

Besides the work that he did with ACTUP, Sotomayor was the first openly gay political cartoonist to have his work nationally syndicated. In the three years he worked as a cartoonist, he

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Who is Daniel Sotomayor?

produced over 200 sketches dealing with government indolence, the health care system and AIDS.

Sotomayor succumbed to complications from AIDS on February 5, 1992, leaving behind a legacy of leadership and hope for those affected by AIDS. In one interview Sotomayor said, "I didn't give up, not because I am a particularly special person. I had no choice."

Sources:

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<http://www.actupny.org/>

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=13678>

Jen Birk is the Study Abroad Editor and a Senior German and Russian major in the CLA. She can be reached at <jbirk>.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Bearcats defeat George Fox, fall to Linfield in final minutes

JIMMY MEUEL

jmeuel@willamette.edu

Bearcat basketball has experienced its fair share of frustrations this season. A year that began with high hopes and great expectations turned into a year with flashes of greatness, followed by an inability to find a rhythm.

As the season winds down, the Bearcats find themselves having swept no one in the league, yet having been swept by no one either, with the exception of Lewis and Clark College, which is tied with Whitworth for first place in the conference. The Bearcats will face Whitworth next weekend in the final weekend of the season. Also interestingly enough, the Bearcats never managed to put together any kind of streak, never winning more than three in a row or losing two. "We were never able to find a groove," said senior wing Rob Andrus. "It has been our problem all season. We play a good game and then can't build on it."

This weekend was no different than the way the season has gone thus far, as the Bearcats came out fired up, ready to send off the senior class with a win over George Fox. But then after the high of senior night and the 84-79 victory at the expense of the Bruins, Willamette was unable to put away last place Linfield, and the Bearcats came away with an 83-80 loss to the Wildcats. "It was great to come away with a win in our last home game of the season," said Andrus. "But we couldn't put anything together against Linfield. We really should have beaten them."

As the George Fox contest began Willamette celebrated the careers of its three seniors: Andrus, point guard C.J. Stuvland and point guard Josh Erickson. Andrus had a



JESSIE ROBERTSON

A Bearcat player looks to fend off George Fox defenders as teammate Ian Mansfield looks on.

career game as he scored 27 points and tied a school record by hitting 12 of 12 free throws. Stuvland added 18 points of his own to the total in his final game on the Willamette campus. Stuvland was also 5 for 6 in three-point tries on the night.

Also scoring in double digits for Willamette were sophomore post Kyler McClary with 14 and freshman wing Dan Nugent with 12.

► Men's Basketball

- Willamette will be playing at Whitworth on Feb. 16, at 8 p.m.

- Willamette will be playing at Whitman on Feb. 17, at 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Linfield, George Fox pull away from WU in final home games

JENNIE MORSE

jmorse@willamette.edu

It was another challenging weekend for the Willamette girls' basketball team as they endured two tough losses to George Fox University and Linfield College. The Bearcats knew they had their work cut out for them, as George Fox and Linfield are ranked second and fifth respectively in the Northwest Conference.

The game against George Fox also marked a memorable night for the three senior Bearcats as it was their last game on Willamette's home court. Guard Sara Brooks and forwards Maggie Hake and Kari Woody started the game and each let their presence be known. Brooks had a game-high four steals, while Woody pulled down 9 rebounds, and Hake added 6 points and 6 boards of her own.

Despite playing well, it was somewhat of a nostalgic night for Brooks, who had been looking forward to playing for Willamette since she was 11 years old. "Playing my last game here was bittersweet," she said. "I'm anxious to start coaching, but it's going to be hard to never pull on that jersey again."

Unfortunately, the seniors' efforts weren't enough to fend off the Bruins as Willamette was defeated 75-32. However, as the season has progressed, the Bearcats have seen some improvements in their play. "Last time we faced George Fox, we had a hard time breaking their full-court pressure and then settling into our offense in the half court," said sophomore forward Maggie Wilkens. "This time around we were much more comfortable facing their defense and were able to take the shots we wanted, but they just didn't fall."

Luckily, the Bearcats were able to find their shot against Linfield and match the Wildcats in number of made field goals. Both teams hit 17 shots from the field, but Linfield was able to get themselves to the line considerably more times than the Willamette did. The Wildcats sank 24 of 31 free throws while the Bearcats went 1 of 7



MARK BENNETT

The women's basketball team will close out their season this weekend.

from the line. These free throws were the difference in the game as Linfield defeated Willamette 62-38.

Woody and Hake led Willamette in scoring with eight points apiece as Wilkens added seven of her own. Junior forward Tracie Nygaard and Woody also led the Bearcats in rebounding with seven rebounds each.

The Bearcats will finish their season with a trip to Washington to take on Whitworth and Whitman. With nothing to lose, Willamette will be ready to leave it all on the court. "Coach Henderson always tells us to do 'whatever it takes' and after the last couple games I know we are excited to prove ourselves against our last two opponents," Wilkens said.

► Women's Basketball

- Willamette will be playing at Whitworth on Feb. 16, at 6 p.m.

- The women's basketball team will be playing at Whitman Feb. 17, at 6 p.m.

SAAC takes steps to increase enthusiasm for athletics

ANNETTE HULBERT

ahulbert@willamette.edu

The Student Athletic Advisory Committee has played an important role at Willamette University in years past, uniting student athletes and demonstrating their presence on campus. Comprised of student representatives from each varsity sport, the SAAC states that their goal is to connect athletic teams with the rest of the student body, as well as to reach out to each of the sports teams. Headed up by Selena Levy and Kari Woody, the SAAC devises methods to keep Willamette students active and engaged in the athletic community.

This year, the SAAC has been putting their words to action with several campus-wide events, including a coin drive to benefit the Coast 2 Coast 4 Kalan bike race. Proceeds donated for the race will go to benefit the ALS Association. The SAAC has set the goal for raised money at \$1,000 in the next two weeks—a goal they feel is accomplishable, given the

show of student support. Coin drive jars are located in the Bistro and in Sparks, and SAAC representatives will be tabling in Goudy at lunch and dinner every Tuesday and Wednesday for the remaining two weeks.

Another SAAC goal has been to increase attendance at home athletic events. "This year appears to be one of the worst years when it comes to attendance at athletic games," Levy said. The Bearcat Bench has been started up again, and prize raffles will be held at each home game halftime for members. Becoming a member is simple: at the cost of only \$.55, students can either sign up or renew their membership from last year. With membership, each student receives a Bearcat Bench t-shirt.

In the next few months, the SAAC will continue their mission to make their presence known on campus, as a body of individuals who support student athletics.

"The main thing SAAC wants is to get people excited about Willamette athletics, whether you are an athlete or a student," Levy said.

Chocolate 101

JORDYN SMITH
COLUMNIST



A common question this time of year: chocolate or flowers? "If I give her chocolate, will she even eat them? If I give her flowers, will she accuse me of thinking she's fat?" Shoot, I say he gets both!

Flavonoids, compounds widely found in plants, have been found to be powerful antioxidants. Antioxidants are chemicals that reduce oxidative damage to cells in the human body. High correlations between oxidative damage and the occurrence of disease have been consistently found in research studies. Cocoa is the fermented fatty seed of the cacao tree, which is used to make chocolate. What do flavonoids and cocoa have to do with one another? One of the central flavonoids is epicatechin. Epicatechin, extensive in cocoa, specifically improves blood flow and cardiac health as well

as guards DNA from damage that can lead to cancer.

There are a few things to remember before buying that "Sweetheart Chocolate Rose Candy Bouquet". First, many cocoa drinks and candy are treated with alkali to produce a richer taste. Alkali reduces flavonoid content and the accompanying health benefits. For example, dark chocolate is more concentrated in cocoa content than milk chocolate. Further, the flavonoids found in chocolate are likewise found in fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables however, contain an abundance of additional vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals not found in chocolate. Lastly, the calorie load is of considerable difference. While both contain the benefits of flavonoids, the common chocolate candy bar contains about 200 calories while a serving of fruit or vegetables contains between 50-100 calories.

So indulge in some dark chocolate today without feeling guilty. Just remember: 1) everything in moderation and 2) fruits and vegetables are always a safe addition to any meal!

SWIMMING

Outstanding NWC performances cap off swim season

EMILY BAUSKA

ebauska@willamette.edu

Willamette swimmers competed in their final meet of the season at the Northwest Conference Championships at Whitman College in Walla Walla last weekend. The men placed 6th overall, beating both Lewis and Clark and Pacific, and the women placed 7th, topping Pacific.

This meet put an end to a season that was full of challenges and successes for the swimmers both in and out of the pool. Overall, the women stood at 2-6 and the men were 1-6 on the season.

"The team performed very well at meets and although our record does not always reflect that, our team has bonded and has become more of a family," senior Shanley Roxburgh said. An ongoing battle for the team was the pool in Sparks Center being unusable this season.

"This team has done something no other athletic team (and probably any other organization) has ever done: practice without a "home" facility, practice indoors, outdoors, various pool lengths and configurations, heated and unheated pools and dressing rooms, traveled to every competition, among other obstacles," Head Coach Alan Stephenson said.

"Throughout this ordeal they have represented Willamette University with head high, pride in overcoming problems, and competed very successfully, despite their record," Stephenson

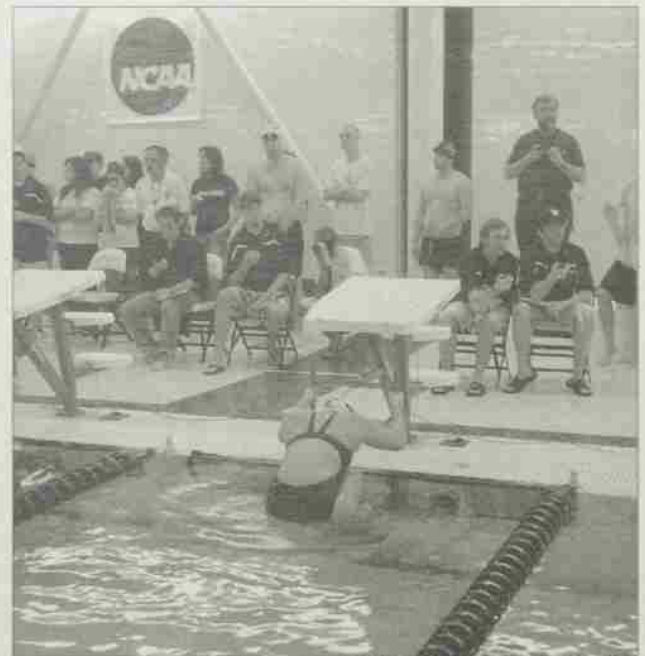
said. He also mentioned many individual time improvements, high conference placings and Willamette all-time top 10 performances. Consistent with the dedication that these athletes have shown to both school and their team throughout the season, the team had seven Conference Scholar Athletes.

"Our team, although small, has more than enough spirit and motivation to work hard and to push through all of the hard times," said Roxburgh.

Top performers in the conference meet included Becca Fischer, who finished in the top eight in three events over the weekend and Shannon Gima, who had outstanding finishes in the finals. On the men's side the top swimmers were seniors Kei Otawa and Cason Schmidt. Otawa had three top-three finishes including second place in the 200-yard breaststroke which helped put the men into 6th place overall. Every person on the team made countless contributions to the team's success. "The team picture is incomplete without mention of every person, because everyone played a role on this team," said Roxburgh.

Although the team will graduate seven seniors this year, the returners are looking forward to the opening of the pool in Sparks and another successful and enjoyable season next winter.

"This team has developed great camaraderie, developed character, tested their commitment and dedication to sport and passed with flying colors," Stephenson said.



COURTESY OF BECCA FISCHER

Junior Shannon Gima contributes an outstanding performance in the NWC finals.

BASEBALL

Bearcats suffer disappointing loss to Lewis & Clark

KARL HUMBLE

khumble@willamette.edu

The Willamette baseball team wobbled their way to a disappointing start to league play this weekend at Lewis and Clark. The Bearcats trudged through the mud and rain all weekend and came up with a little less than they would have liked.

The first game was a case in which they just let it get away from them. Willamette committed four costly errors en route to allowing six unearned runs. The team battled the entire game, however, despite bad weather and fielding issues.

Down 6-1 in the seventh, Willamette put up four big runs, highlighted by a bases-clearing triple from senior outfielder Kelly Gilmore. The game stayed close into the ninth when, down 9-7, senior shortstop Matt Rasmussen doubled in sophomore first baseman Kyle Stalker. After that, however, the

Bearcats couldn't get anything else going.

In the second game, Willamette suffered again from fielding woes, as they again gave up six unearned runs. The game was close until the Pioneers put up five runs in the bottom of the sixth. This time, there was no comeback, and Lewis and Clark got its second victory of the day, with a final score of 8-3.

On the second day of play against the Pioneers, the Bearcats appeared to be making up for lost time. Willamette scored four runs in the top of the first inning and held a 5-2 lead after an inning and a half. Junior Sean Anderson led the team with three hits in four at-bats. However, weather conditions halted the game in the seventh inning, to be completed on April 24th. Willamette was leading 5-3 when the game was suspended. "We had some early season jitters," sophomore pitcher Jarrid Summers said. "It was our first league series, and we were a little rusty, but I think we made some good adjustments and played a lot better on the third game."

Looking ahead at the Northwest Conference schedule for the Bearcats, Lewis and Clark is a must-win for the team. The Pioneers are regular doormats for NWC opponents. Lewis and Clark was picked to finish second to last in the NWC coaches poll, just ahead of last year's cellar-dweller Whitman.

Judging from the performances of recent conference champions George Fox and Linfield, it is clear that teams take care of business when it comes to the weaker opponents within the NWC. The Bearcats are striving to reach this level, but as of now, they're just not there.

Up next is a trip to California for two games against Pomona Pitzer on the 17th, and a Sunday matchup versus Cal State San Marcos.

► Baseball

- Willamette will be playing at Pomona-Pitzer on Feb. 17, at 11 a.m.

NWC STANDINGS

Standings as of Feb. 14, 2007

	W	L
MEN'S BASKETBALL		
Whitworth	11	3
Puget Sound	10	4
Lewis & Clark	11	3
George Fox	7	7
Pacific	6	8
Willamette	6	8
Pacific Lutheran	5	9
Whitman	4	10
Linfield	3	11

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Puget Sound	12	2
George Fox	11	3
Lewis & Clark	8	6
Whitworth	7	7
Linfield	8	6
Pacific Lutheran	7	7
Whitman	6	8
Pacific	2	12
Willamette	2	12

BASEBALL

Whitworth	0	0
Linfield	0	0
Pacific Lutheran	3	0
Puget Sound	1	2
Whitman	0	0
Lewis & Clark	2	0
Willamette	1	2
Pacific	0	0
George Fox	0	0

Men's Tennis

Whitworth	0	1
Puget Sound	0	3
Lewis & Clark	0	0
Whitman	4	0
Pacific Lutheran	2	1
Linfield	1	2
Willamette	0	0
Pacific	0	0
George Fox	0	0

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 Northwestern Mutual
 Financial Network-Lake Oswego
 1 Centerpointe Drive, Suite 120
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CHRISTINE RIIPPI & MAGGIE SHANEYFELT
criippi@willamette.edu | mshaneyf@willamette.edu

Last week marked a first for NMC: our first piece of fan-MALE from an unknown JD. Usually our fan mail is from close friends, relatives or Professor Wogan (congrats on Professor of the Year!). But this time, it was a stranger—alias “Mike”—who showered NMC with suggestive compliments. We thank you, Mike, for your avid readership and wooing us with your gentle keystrokes.

But our e-mail from Mike—who we now graciously refer to as *Phantom of the Email*—got us thinking about “secret admirers.” Not those kinds of “secret admirers” that make you duck into the bushes every time you see them across the Quad. We want to talk about the people you actually admire because they are so darn cool. The people who always seem put-together, help you with your homework, do just the right amount of reading so they can contribute in class but are not showboats and have a plan that involves goals and reaching those goals. The people that just make you smile when you see them.

For those of you just waking up, today is Valentine’s Day, a day normally devoted to showering your flavor of the month with chocolates, flowers or other special goodies (or if you’re Maggie, it’s just about showering). But this Valentine’s Day we want it to be not just for the shiny happy couples, “vomit”, but for everyone. Today we are encouraging you to not just focus on your romantic admirations, because let’s face it, it’s Willamette and as The Eagles observed, “This could be heaven or this could be hell.” Focus on your love of the world—global warming and all—and making said world a better place.

Christine and Maggie grew up on a bison ranch in Buffalo, Wyoming, where they would pass the long workdays by listening to the classic rock sounds of James Taylor. Don’t hate—he’s a genius. But these two ranchers took it to heart when sweet Baby James sang those epic lyrics “Shower the people you love with love. Show them the way you feel.” And for the record, it’s okay for Maggie to make fun of Wyoming—she’s from Montana.

Today we are challenging all seven of our NMC readers to “shower the people [they] love with love” and come clean to a not-actual-crush-Crush that you admire them. This act could occur as easily as this: “Hey, Barbara. I have something to confess.” “What, Billy?” “I think you are really cool and I admire your stellar personality.” “Why thank you, Billy. If you were attractive, I would date you.” “I understand, Babs. My looks are not up to par.” “But I do think you are an excellent human being, Billy. And because of that, we can be friends.” “Oh, gee, Barbara—Happy Valentine’s Day!” “You too, Billy!” See? Easy as pie.

Do not worry, Maggie and Christine are not fishing for compliments with this challenge. Do feel as if you have to tell us how much you admire us for our incredible humor, impressive intellect and intimidating heights. We already know how incredible, impressive and intimidating we are. Modest, too. We want Willamette to feel the love. Share a smile. They’re free.

So join NMC this Valentine’s Day as we pay tribute to our “not-so-secret admirers” and spread the love as if it were that contagious flu that will eventually kill us all. Health and happiness, Love Muffins!

EDITORIAL

Equality is still not a reality for women

In 2006, 2 percent of Fortune 1000 companies had female CEOs. Only 21 percent of Congress is female, vastly under-representing 50 percent of its constituency. Furthermore, the one 2008 female presidential candidate is vilified not only for her policies, but just as vigorously for her physical attributes.

Americans are waiting for Hillary Clinton to prove herself. Our society is waiting to be convinced that a woman can command over 100,000 troops in the Iraq War, act as a voice of reason as tensions escalate with North Korea and Iran, negotiate the world’s biggest economy through trade agreements with Asian powers and push 535 members of Congress to fix the country’s domestic woes.

Whether or not we approve of Clinton’s politics, the media frenzy raises the question: “What exactly is America waiting for?” For a society that claims to be the most progressive in the world, we have a serious problem with gender relations.

In 2006 the Institute for Women’s Policy Research reported that full-time female workers make 77 percent of the median annual earnings of males. Americans are still hesitant about giving a woman as much credit as her male counterpart.

A helpful barometer of social progress is to look at where we are with respect to the world. The World Economic Forum’s Women’s Empowerment Index ranked the United States as a miserable No. 46 out of 58 countries on “economic opportunity” in 2005. In part, the economic oppor-

tunity index refers to the “glass ceiling,” the point at which gender limits the mobility of a woman to the uppermost strata of the professional world. The forum argues that “countries that do not capitalize on the full potential of one half of their societies are misallocating their human resources and undermining their competitive potential.”

Abstractions aside, the Editorial Board thinks it’s time to open up a dialogue about gender relations on campus. For example, The Vagina Monologues valiantly hits the stage tonight to raise awareness about violence committed against women and girls. This physical violence is a manifestation of the greater social power struggle, one that women are still losing. How can we equip ourselves for the real world, where gender still matters? What can we do on a daily basis to squelch these injustices?

These are not easy questions to answer.

However, we do have role models. Today is an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of women pushing past social boundaries in the present, such as the first female Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, whose bold political agenda will raise the national minimum wage, encourage embryonic stem cell research and enact Medicare prescription drug reforms. Additionally, after 371 years, Harvard University will name its first female president, Drew Gilpin Faust. In a *New York Times* piece on Saturday, Faust spoke about her current position as



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the chair of the Harvard Sociology Department: “It has been a lonely place for women, very lonely. There aren’t many of us.”

Overall, this dynamic is scary. If we have not already, once we graduate we will each be privy to the unbridled forces of gender relations in the outside world. We live in a confusing time, when both genders are often unsure what vestiges of femininity females are allowed to hold on to. Women should be able to embrace their femininity while still commanding professional respect. On one hand, stylized media and popular culture images empower women to enhance their sexuality, while on the other hand, data proves that a gender-bias restrains professional achievement.

Willamette students: We will all soon be navigating in less-ideal waters. We need to proactively shape a future so that there is no barrier to what the female gender can achieve. Our country’s economic well-being may depend in part on the desire of our community and others like us to foster improved gender relations and bring about workplace equality. America is certainly not there yet.

CARTOON



MELISSA GRIFFITHS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to Fred Engell’s opinion piece

I was undecided about mixed-gender housing until I read Fred Engell’s stunning guest column last Wednesday. Showing the same sensitivity toward issues of gender and sexuality as John Swanson’s “Limpwrist” piece last year, Engell gets to the heart of the issue in a truly uproarious fashion. Clearly he knows what’s best for all these whiny students requesting optional mixed-gender housing. Seriously, who are they to think they should have any say in their roommate? Why should other students be forced to attend a school where some of their classmates might choose to live with members of the opposite sex? Unthinkable! Engell’s extensive knowledge about the goals of LGBT organizations on campus makes him truly qualified to speak on the issue. So qualified, in fact, that he actually knows better than gay or lesbian students themselves what living situation would be suitable for them. Thanks for telling it like it is Fred!

CHRIS HANSON
Junior

People, come up with less expensive pranks

Webster defines a prank as “a mischievous trick or practical joke,” but in light of recent events, I do not think many people know that. I am troubled by recent pranks involving large quantities of paper on Smith Auditorium. I think that pranking could be done in a more sustainable manner and does not need to involve over 200 sheets of paper that no doubt were printed from an on-campus computer printer that we all pay for. Hopefully, those behind these antics will direct that creative energy toward Glee in the coming weeks.

MATT READ
Junior

COLLEGIAN

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite you to submit letters to the editor. Letters can be sent by postal mail, email (cfoss@willamette.edu), campus mail or fax.

Letters are limited to 150 words, must include your name and phone number and must be submitted by noon Monday, the week of intended publication. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

STUDENT OPINIONS

The Willamette experience: Is this it?

SARA RIDGEWAY
GUEST COLUMNIST



I worked very hard in high school. I maintained an outstanding grade point average, volunteered, got involved in activities and was generally a forward-thinking person. I sometimes went nights without adequate sleep, neglected to eat meals and selected to study rather than to go to this movie or that coffee outing. I was driven. I put special effort and attention into each task with one simple goal in mind: I wanted to attend a good college. I trust this goal is not foreign to most, being that there are many outstanding, dedicated and intelligent people here at Willamette. However, I find myself asking a question of great importance to my well being: Is this it? Is this all that college is?

I have always been under the impression that college is a place where a myriad of ideas abound and yet people are accepting of one another. College is a place where people will praise you for being unique rather than judge you. College is that place where you can simultaneously be child and adult, where you can slide down the stairs on a mattress and yet also treat people with respect and dignity and generally maintain kind and tolerant habits. Clearly, I had misconceptions. The Willamette population has taken it upon itself to teach me about what a real college experience entails.

College is a place where there is spit all over the sidewalk. Drunken people, who could easily have their fun without annoying anyone, are entitled to rip things apart in community areas.

You can leave all of your messes for other people to clean. You say that you are open-minded, but in practice, you are like overconfident middle-schoolers. You talk behind people's backs when they are different from you and take pride in superficial features and possessions. You rally around tolerance and diversity, but use rude slang terms and tell insensitive jokes. You sport expensive clothes and accessories but wouldn't deign to drop an extra dollar in a charity jar. You speak of all the countries you have been fortunate enough to visit but insist that they "weren't really that great" and that you were "bored." I realize that no one is totally innocent of these actions, myself included. However, I feel that the level of immaturity I have seen on this campus is altogether unbecoming. I suppose I expected more from a group of people with so much intelligence and ingenuity between them.

No, I am not as cynical or closed-off as one

might think. If you know me, you know I am a generally sweet-natured and caring person. I always appreciate the good things that the Willamette community does for the world, the everyday kindness from strangers, the drive to do beneficial things and make positive changes. I am simply stating that perhaps we have not come as far as we had thought. There are still many people here who have no regard for others' feelings. I have heard and witnessed many things on this campus that leave me baffled. Did I come to a well-thought-of college and spend money I don't have just to realize that there is no sincerity here? I, who was once driven and enthusiastic, am not inclined to succeed anymore. It is so depressing to me to live and learn in a place that feels too fake and cold. Is this what I worked so hard for in high school? I guess it's all I've got.

Sara Ridgeway is a sophomore at the Willamette CLA. She can be reached at <srldgew>



MELISSA GRIFFITHS

Mixed-gender housing needs better justification

STEVE LESTER
GUEST COLUMNIST



Liberation promotes social progression. The phrase seems almost aphoristic, but as with many absolute ideals, we may not want to commit ourselves to this so hastily. For instance, proposals that liberate specific minorities and consequently oppress majorities do not bring progress to our society.

I do not feel confident that the C.A.P.I.T.A.L. mixed-gender housing proposal realizes social progression. I agree that allowing certain individuals to have the opportunity to live with people of different genders may lead to a more diverse and an overall better campus. Additionally, I have greatly valued my experiences living with women. However, I have not seen sufficient reason or evidence to feel confident that the proposal would not further fragment the Willamette community and create a hostile environment for many Willamette students.

Polarization and division in part define Willamette's dormitories, but further separation greatly worries me. The absence of a strong community has disappointed me consistently during my time at Willamette. When I come back to the university as an alumnus I would like to see a stronger sense of unity between dorms and social groups. Consequently, I worry that the C.A.P.I.T.A.L. plan will hurt our university.

Our society has a delicate balance and even small changes may lead to profound, unforeseen consequences. For example, a mixed-gender dorm room may offend and alienate community members who have differing values. This alienation may lead to further conflicts within the Willamette community. Alumni also may be greatly offended by this development. As former members of our current community and members of our extended community, opinions of alumni should be respected and considered when changing the social structure of the community. Ideally, administrative proposals should unite the community and this proposal has not sufficiently shown that it will improve our campus.



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Mixed-gender housing already exists in Kaneko Commons, but not in a dormitory environment, and only for students who choose their specific roommates. Since Kaneko Commons allows members of all genders to live in an apartment environment, not a dormitory environment, its success or failure is not valid evidence for or against mixed-gender dorm rooms.

Those espousing this proposal should make all their information transparent. We need to know exactly what proportion of Willamette community members will be negatively affected. Genuinely concerned students should have the opportunity to express their disquiet without being ostracized by more liberal community members. In order to gauge opinions of alumni and students, supporters of the plan should conduct random polls. They then should present the information publicly and without unjustified conjectures about what may or may not happen as a result of the mixed-gender housing. If it can be shown that a high percentage of community members embrace the plan, we should actualize it.

I understand the desire to liberate students. But, if that liberation causes overall harm to the society, we should find other ways to improve. Until someone presents adequate support for the C.A.P.I.T.A.L. plan based on facts rather than speculation, everyone concerned about Willamette's community should oppose the plan.

Steve Lester is a senior at the Willamette CLA. He can be reached at <sl Lester>

ECONOMICS

Another kind of discrimination

RYAN SANDLER
COLUMNIST



In addition to being an amateur economist, I am also somewhat of a cheapskate. I'll splurge on the occasional treat, but by and large, I prefer to go for the cheapest option possible when I'm shopping for anything. In economics, we might say that I'm "price sensitive."

This combination makes my weekly grocery run to our local Safeway all the more maddening. Safeway, and most grocery stores like it, have mastered the art of price discrimination, the practice of charging different prices to different people depending on their willingness to pay. The trick with such schemes is to find a way to keep the people who are willing to pay more from buying their cheaper options.

Safeway has no end of tricks to make this work. There's the classic lower-shelf trick: Cheaper bargain brands tend to appear on the bottom shelf, in hopes that shoppers with deeper pockets will fail to look down. They will purchase the more expensive brands at eye level. Meanwhile, the lower-shelf can still get sales from cheapskates like me, who might give up altogether if there weren't those lovely "bargains."

There are other tricks as well. Take the pasta aisle, for instance. After a recent reorganization of the store, all the varieties of pasta of a given brand are placed together, but the brands are separated from each other by the pasta sauce. This requires a greater effort to find the cheapest brand, particularly since at least one brand of pasta is always on sale. Again, the customers who aren't sensitive to prices don't bother to exert the occasionally monumental effort to find the best deal, leaving masochists like me to spend twice as long scouring the obscure little shelf tags.

On my last grocery run, I even observed a display of the store-brand juice sitting in the aisle, and conveniently, blocking from view an even cheaper quantity of store-brand juice.

These forms of price discrimination are exceedingly common in business. Just know that if you can spare the effort, you can often save yourself a lot of money.

And don't even get me started on the cereal aisle ...

- ▶ **economists call it:** Price sensitivity
- ▶ **by which they mean:** Consumers who are price sensitive are more likely to stop buying something (or buy less of it) if prices are higher
- ▶ **they care because:** It is a very important concept for explaining consumer behavior in relation to price discrimination and other business issues

Ryan Sandler is a junior at the Willamette CLA. He can be reached at <rsandler>

GOT OPINIONS?

We're always looking to hear from new voices!

If you have an issue that you're passionate about and want to share it with the Willamette community, please contact Lauren Brooks at <lbrooks>.



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