

# COLLEGIAN

2007-2008 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE WINNER • VOICE OF THE WILLAMETTE CAMPUS SINCE 1889 • VOL. CXX • ISSUE 22 • MARCH 18, 2009

## SENATE

**FEAR AND LOATHING IN THE STATE CAPITOL:  
ONE STUDENT'S INTRODUCTORY VISIT**  
REVIEWS, 4

**ANGER GROWS OVER  
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**  
WHY ARE STUDENTS, FACULTY  
DISAPPOINTED?  
NEWS, 2

**INTERVIEW WITH ALL-AMERICAN SOFTBALL PLAYER**  
NIKKI FRANCHI'S THOUGHTS ON THE TEAM  
SPORTS, 9

**SEX: HOW DOES IT HAPPEN, SCIENTIFICALLY?**  
PART 1 OF A SERIES: "SEX, DRUGS, AND ROCK 'N' ROLL"  
OPINIONS, 10

# Kickin' it with the Martial Arts Club

## New student organization sponsors self-defense workshop

HANNAH WALLER  
CONTRIBUTOR

On Monday Mar. 16 the Martial Arts Club hosted a self-defense workshop in Cone Field House at 7:30 p.m. The workshop was taught by Associate Director of Residence Life Stephanie Nixon, a self-defense instructor certified through Rape Aggression Defense systems (RAD).

Nixon volunteered to teach the workshop free of charge because of the importance she said should be placed upon knowing not only how to defend oneself if the need arises, but also how to avoid the situation in the first place. "My background in particular is ... around defense against sexual and domestic violence. Folks should feel empowered to have skills to defend themselves," Nixon said.

### meeting times

The Martial Arts Club meets Mondays from 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room in Sparks, and beginning after spring break will also meet Friday afternoons. Membership is free and open to anyone.

The workshop aimed to teach self-defense for "anything that the participant wants to use it for" whether it be "mugging, bullying, burglary, [or] sexual assault," co-founder of Martial Arts Club Trevor and sophomore Latal said. The event consisted of several educational and hands-on elements, including a short talk about self-defense versus self-defense, as well as risk reduction strategies.

Nixon warned against possible overconfidence that could come from self-defense training, and she also discussed the reality that one cannot control all the elements of any situation. Therefore, according to Nixon, people should learn to recognize when their senses are saying that something is "off."

After the discussion, the workshop's participants proceeded to warm up and were finally taught basic punches and stances that would be most beneficial in a threatening situation. As the group opened up a bit more, they began to practice throwing punches in the air while yelling "no!" as if to hold off an assaulter. Participants then

had the opportunity to practice what they had learned while punching at pads held up by the instructor. Nixon also simulated punches coming from different angles, and students worked on blocking them using various techniques taught earlier in the workshop.

This event marked the first of its kind held by the Martial Arts Club, which was founded in the fall of 2007 by Latal and sophomore Elsa Moluf. "[Martial Arts Club is] a group of students who gather whether they have experience or not to just have fun and practice ... and fitness is also a basic principle," Moluf said.

The club is also about sharing experiences and provides an opportunity to learn from peers. "Basically it allows students with martial arts experience to teach and share their knowledge with others," Latal said.

The goal of the self-defense workshop was not only to help students learn how to better protect themselves, but also to provide "some kind of event that the broader campus could participate in, and self-defense is pretty straight forward," Moluf said.

Although self-defense provides benefits such as physical exercise and an increased sense of self-security, the organization Sexual Assault Response Allies (S.A.R.A.) cautions that it may not be sufficient, or could even make an assault attempt more likely. "We know that most perpetrators have some fantasy in mind when they are seeking victims and, while they may be seeking someone who is clearly vulnerable and lacking creditability, they might also choose to target someone who appears strong, sober, conservatively dressed, etc. because that person presents a greater challenge," S.A.R.A. coordinator Lisa Emori said. "Ultimately, individuals do not have the power to, and should not be responsible for, preventing predators from choosing to assault them."

The Martial Arts Club's next event will be "Tai Chi Chai Tea" which will include a lecture and demonstrations from a Tai Chi teacher as well as tea and cookies from the Bistro.

Contact: [hwaller@willamette.edu](mailto:hwaller@willamette.edu)

# Commencement speaker triggers mixed responses

RUTH HEALD  
STAFF WRITER

Following the announcement of Juan Williams as an honorary degree recipient and the speaker for commencement, students and faculty responded to the administration's choice.

"I think it's a dangerous choice, inconsistent with the values we market and hold dear," ASWU President and senior Larkin Smith said in an e-mail. "Juan Williams represents hateful and oppressive ideologies, and the class of 2009 deserves a lot better."

Smith remembers hearing about Williams during the controversy about Bill O'Reilly's racist comments towards restaurants in Harlem. According to Smith, Williams supported O'Reilly's remarks and has provided sexist commentary about first lady Michelle Obama.

Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Media Studies Nathaniel Cordova acknowledged Williams as a well-known commentator in the media. "I'm glad to see a variety of voices represented on campus, and as an institution of higher education we should welcome Mr. Williams to a robust exchange of ideas, especially when those ideas challenge our assumptions and expectations. However, we should not let Mr. Williams off the hook, given certain statements he has made, and positions taken," Cordova said in an e-mail. "He should not be presented just as a national media figure surrounded by the nimbus glow of National Public Radio." Cordova also referred to Williams' comments about Michelle Obama being "Stokely Carmichael in a dress."

Senior sociology and environmental science major Tristan Knutson-Lombardo had not heard of Williams prior to the announcement, but did some research and "learned a lot about him fast."

"I'm pretty disappointed that we're choosing not just to honor Juan Williams with a degree, but also to have him be the commencement speaker," Knutson-Lombardo said. "He's done some ... hurtful and not okay things [and] made a lot of racist and sexist and classist remarks." Knutson-Lombardo gave examples of Williams calling Iraqis "ingrates" and making misogynistic comments about Michelle Obama.

"Once ... given resources to look at, it seems like the reaction is overwhelmingly negative ... especially given that the campus has been so focused in the last few years on ... social justice and diversity and inclusivity," Knutson-Lombardo said of the students and faculty he has spoken with about the issue.

Knutson-Lombardo credits Williams with the research he has done on black history in the United States. "[We] can acknowledge that he's well-written and -read ... [but] to say that and ignore other things ... is not fair to who this institution is," he said. Knutson-Lombardo said he hopes to see the university revoke the invitation and find a different speaker for commencement.

Smith also said she hopes to see the university change its decision. "I don't support the decision. I hope we have the courage to correct this mistake, and I urge students to do some research and have a strong, educated voice in opposition," Smith said. "We made a fabulous decision to award Bernice Johnson Reagon with an honorary degree, but we will effectively tarnish that degree if we also award it to Juan Williams."

Contact: [rheald@willamette.edu](mailto:rheald@willamette.edu)

## A resolution against Williams

NOAH ZAVES  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This Thursday, the senior ASWU senators will introduce a resolution to prevent Juan Williams from speaking at the CLA commencement and receiving an honorary degree, according to Senators David Taylor and Josh Clough.

"In most circumstances we would have no problem with bringing such a figure to our school as our student body is always open for debate," Taylor wrote in an e-mail. "But because he is speaking at Commencement he is one of the last voices the graduating class is hearing before going off into the world. We did not feel as though he is an appropriate choice."

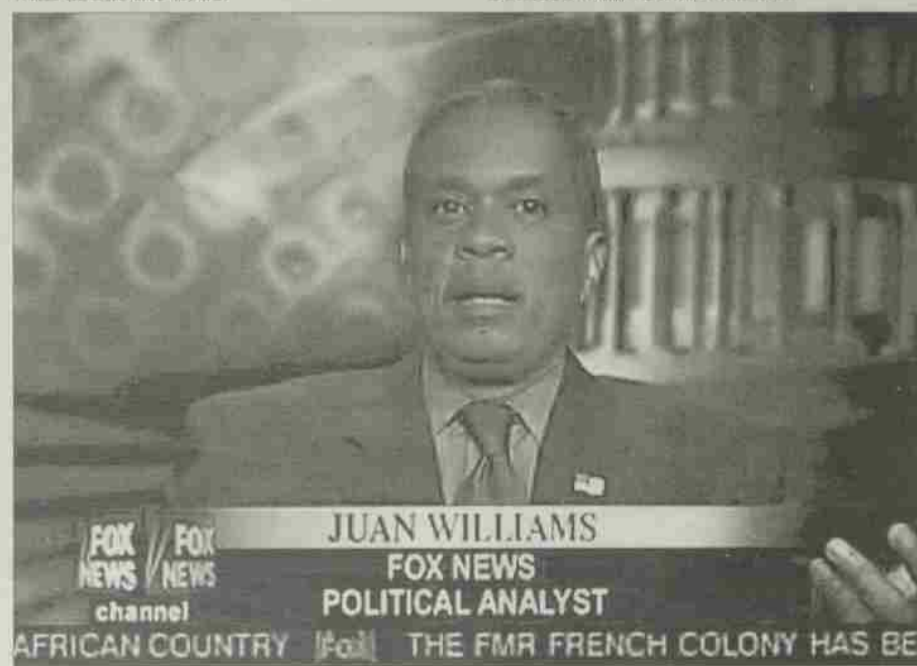
Taylor said that the senior senators gauged the senior class' interest over the weekend, and determined that a "large number of students are quite interested in this issue." They will present the resolution at this Thursday's senate meeting.

According to Clough, the senators wouldn't automatically challenge any conservative speaker, but they are concerned about Williams' "fringe" positions.

"Debate and varying perspectives are fine and should be encouraged," Clough wrote in an e-mail, "but what is not okay are the racially problematic and outdated theories about black culture, sexist comments, and colonialist/imperialist sentiments and arguments made by Williams. These sentiments do not reflect the values of Willamette University nor the graduating class of 2009."

To attend: The ASWU Senate meets every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in Smullin 159. Students are encouraged to come.

Contact: [nzaves@willamette.edu](mailto:nzaves@willamette.edu)



Juan Williams is a senior correspondent for National Public Radio and a political analyst for the Fox News Channel.

COVER PHOTO BY MICHAEL CAULEY

EDITOR IN CHIEF Noah Zaves | [nzaves@willamette.edu](mailto:nzaves@willamette.edu)  
MANAGING EDITOR Lauren Gold | [lgold@willamette.edu](mailto:lgold@willamette.edu)  
PRODUCTION MANAGER Shannon McCracken | [mccracken@willamette.edu](mailto:mccracken@willamette.edu)  
NEWS EDITOR Amber Smith | [asmith@willamette.edu](mailto:asmith@willamette.edu)  
ARTS EDITOR Aissa Alexander | [aalexander@willamette.edu](mailto:aalexander@willamette.edu)  
REVIEWS EDITOR Michael Cauley | [mcauley@willamette.edu](mailto:mcauley@willamette.edu)  
SPORTS EDITOR Tyler Thompson | [tthompson@willamette.edu](mailto:tthompson@willamette.edu)

OPINIONS EDITOR Colleen Martin | [cmartin@willamette.edu](mailto:cmartin@willamette.edu)  
FEATURE EDITOR Lia Wagner | [lwagner@willamette.edu](mailto:lwagner@willamette.edu)  
PHOTO EDITOR Connie Gledhill | [cgedhill@willamette.edu](mailto:cgedhill@willamette.edu)  
DESIGNERS Tyler Thompson • Jeff Collins • Nicole Vigg  
IMAGING TECHNICIAN Patrick Willigals  
COPY EDITORS Ellen Nictrals • Emma Larkins • Caitlin Preminger  
AD MANAGER Kelsey Rogel | [collegian-ads@willamette.edu](mailto:collegian-ads@willamette.edu)

BUSINESS MANAGER Dan Maslanik | [dmaslanik@willamette.edu](mailto:dmaslanik@willamette.edu)  
SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER Andrea Hand | [ahand@willamette.edu](mailto:ahand@willamette.edu)  
WEBMASTER Michael Hashizume | [mhashizume@willamette.edu](mailto:mhashizume@willamette.edu)

COLLEGIAN ONLINE The Collegian is also published online at [www.willamettecollegian.com](http://www.willamettecollegian.com). If you are interested in advertising with the Collegian Online, please contact our advertising manager.

POURCES The contents of this publication are the responsibility of the staff of the Willamette University Collegian and do not necessarily reflect the policies of ASWU or Willamette University.

ADVERTISE/SUBSCRIBE For classified rates, press schedule and subscription information, please contact our advertising manager Kelsey Rogel at [collegian-ads@willamette.edu](mailto:collegian-ads@willamette.edu).

# The two hats of Dave Rigsby

MICHELLE BELLUSCI  
CONTRIBUTOR

The *Collegian* sat down with Interim Director of Career Services and Assistant Dean of Campus Life Dave Rigsby to discuss his long-lasting role in the University community. Rigsby, who graduated from Willamette in 2000, worked for Intel before coming back to work at the university in 2004.

**Collegian:** Where did you work prior to Willamette, and in what position?

**Rigsby:** I'm actually a Willamette alum and I graduated with a degree in chemistry and after I graduated, I had done some networking actually through another Willamette alumnus at Intel, in Hillsboro, and who helped me get my first position ... with the research and development group at Intel. So I did that for about four years, working in an R and D setting at Intel before I came to Willamette and I've done a few different things at Willamette over the last five years.

**C:** What made you decide to come back [to work at Willamette]?

**R:** My wife and I were kind of newly married and we were talking about having kids, and so a part of it was a decision

about whether or not Intel was the best thing for me, was the most appropriate job or career for me given what family goals we had. We liked the idea of having kids and being parents and being a good husband and dad were important things to me. Even though I hadn't had kids yet, I knew I wanted that to be a critical part of my life.

At the same time, it's hard not to be intrigued by working at higher education and there's something very valuable and rewarding about being able to interact with students like yourself and to do the work like I do today in Career Services. And so, when an opportunity came up at Willamette, we lived in Salem [and] I was not 100 percent sure I wanted to continue on the career path I had at Intel. It was almost serendipitous that I made that move and it worked out well - I was here for a few months before we had our first child and I live just by Bush Park, I walk to work every day. It was such a different reality than driving 65 miles each way to Intel. So I was at a critical juncture that led to my career, but also led to my role as a father and a husband and I think those things worked out pretty well.

**C:** How has the position been rewarding, and how has it been different than you expected?

**R:** ... I think it's been rewarding to work with a broader campus community, especially during a time of economic uncertainty. It's not lost on anybody that it's tough out there right now, that the job market is as challenging as it's ever been, and to work in a campus community that recognizes that, and to have people, whether alumni, or faculty, or staff, or students or whoever it is, to want to partner with us to try to make opportunities for Willamette students; that's pretty cool.

I think in Career Services, one of the things I've come to realize is that your best days are days when you work with a student, and they come back and they tell you that they got this great internship, and thank you so much for that help, and I had never known what that felt like until this year, and so to have people come back and tell us about their experience and tell us about this internship they started or to feel good about the résumé that they created, their very first résumé, to helping them network with other people, alumni or friends of the university, that's really exciting. I think in most cases, the students that leave our office feel a lot better about themselves than when they came, and that's a pretty cool experience ...

**C:** What new strategies have you implemented for helping students since you've served in this position?

**R:** One of our most important strategies is that we've sort of developed what I would call an opt-out Career Services model and we do this with the Career Talk Newsletter that we send out. This is something that is a kind of team effort, this is not any one person. It comes out from me every

week, but I am the sender of that. Connie Ralph in our office puts that together every week and constructs it, other members of our staff submit information for it, our work study students help on it: it's a team effort.

But the challenge is, and part of this was in response to student requests, we had students that complained in the past about getting a borage of e-mails from Career Services every week, and they had a hard time wading through all of them, so they just quit reading them. But we also had this issue where we tended to only communicate with certain audiences of people about Career Services opportunities, and in some cases, it might only be the students that we've seen in the office.

My view has been that if we haven't seen you in the office, you need that much more the information that we send out via the electronic newsletter. So that was one of the big changes that we undertook was that we used to send out messages to three or four hundred students, three or four times a week. Well now we send out one or two messages to 1700 students every week. And I think that's really helped us reach students that we wouldn't have reached before.

Contact: [mbellusc@willamette.edu](mailto:mbellusc@willamette.edu)



MOLLY CARVER

Dave Rigsby, a Willamette alumnus, serves as the assistant dean of campus life and interim director of career services.

## Advice from the Interim Director of Career Services

"If you have not thought about what you're going to do with your life until spring break of your senior year of college, it makes our work extremely challenging, but more importantly, it makes your work extremely challenging as that student. It's like waiting until midnight the night before your test to study - it's hard to do well. If you study a little bit every day, you're going to do better on the exam. And I believe that's true in a Career Services context too. And so I think the challenge has been trying to change the culture - that you don't wait until your senior year to take advantage of our services, that we begin to work with you as a first-year student, and that there is a plan. We're a career planning office. ... We're going to talk about the things that motivate you individually, where do you want to be, what's the role of family, and faith, and service, and all those things and who you want to be, and to help you develop a customized career plan for that."

Contact: [mbellusc@willamette.edu](mailto:mbellusc@willamette.edu)

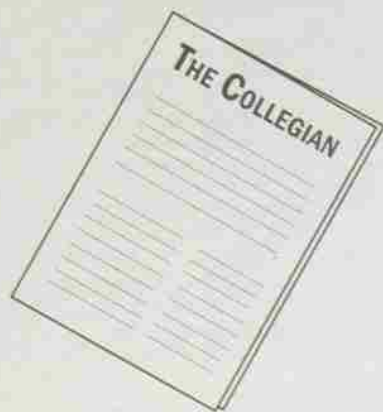
## WANNA BE A REPORTER?

The *Collegian* News Section is now hiring staff and guest writers.

Positions are paid and have a flexible time commitment.

## INTERESTED?

CONTACT AMBER SMITH:  
[ABSMITH@WILLAMETTE.EDU](mailto:ABSMITH@WILLAMETTE.EDU)



## Social Pow Wow | Events celebrate native culture



COLBY TAKEGA

Last Saturday, Mar. 14, Willamette's Native American Enlightenment Association and the Office of Multicultural Affairs sponsored the Seventh Annual Social Pow Wow. The events, which took place in the Cone Field House, included native food, arts and crafts, dancing, drum performances, a raffle, and a men's Grass Dance contest.

Contact: [absmith@willamette.edu](mailto:absmith@willamette.edu)

## SALEM TRAVEL ADVENTURES:

# Fear and loathing in the state Capitol

Enjoy elevator rides, inflatable baby bottles thanks to Uncle Sam



**MICHAEL CAULEY**

REVIEWS EDITOR

As I've told various relatives, acquaintances, and anyone else who's approached me recently, I'm a history major here at Willamette, specifically American History. It was always my favorite subject when I was a nerdy little youngling. I could name the presidents backwards when I was five, and when I was seven I stood out in the rain with my family for hours to get Jimmy Carter to sign, of all things, his book of poetry (which I still haven't read yet ... sorry, Mr. President!).

However, despite this, after residing on this campus for years I have never once been tempted to visit the Oregon State Capitol building, which sits not 30 feet away from the front entrance of Willamette (yes, the front entrance is in the back of the school where there is no parking ... strange world, isn't it?). It may be because I'm not a resident of Oregon and was spoiled by a visit to Sacramento back in the late '90's (this was before Arnold came in and turned the place into a circus), but last week I said enough was enough; it was time for me to walk through the hallowed doors of Salem's big landmark.

The visit started off on a lovely note, as a bearded man greeted me at the entrance muttering something about the state budget and holding a giant inflatable baby bottle that tourists were taking their pictures with. However, I was not entirely convinced that this accurately represented Oregon politics, and ventured inside. Something that's immediately obvious is that the building is absolutely gorgeous and not nearly as old as the relatively ancient U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. As I said in my article two weeks ago, the Capitol building here in Salem has burned down twice since the 1850's, the last time being in the 1930's. The fiends are still at large, no doubt. As part of the latest construction, many murals chronicle state history. The mural is an art form which was not in vogue before or after that time, but I'll be darned if it doesn't work here. There's also a rather majestic and cathedral-like dome that serves as the ceiling of the main rotunda. It causes vertigo almost as soon as you look at it, but it's almost worth it.

The other obvious thing about the Capitol is that it's surprisingly small considering how big it looks from the outside. There isn't even room for a full gift shop - a tad odd considering that's usually a guaranteed money-maker at most public institutions - though I did see an old lady selling trinkets out of a little storefront off to the side. During my visit, all the remaining space of the central section was taken up by various stands for local businesses and establishments, including, to my surprise, Portland State University, which gave me a free pencil and postcard. Now far be it for me to suggest that Willamette, the college that is actually in Salem, should have some sort of presence in the state Capitol that is right across the street, but c'mon. At least spring for complimentary Frisbees or something, guys.

After gathering together all of my pamphlets and other colleges' swag, I finally began to make my way through the actual hallways containing the legislative offices and so forth. And I must say: they don't seem to particularly welcome visitors. Granted, this is a place for people to work on important government-type things, and perhaps there



The front view of the Capitol building.

MICHAEL CAULEY



The view of the Capitol building as seen from the Willamette campus.

MICHAEL CAULEY

was a tour that I just wasn't told about, but there is practically nothing to do in the place except to ride the old-timey elevator up and down (which I did repeatedly). Compared to the national capitol in D.C., which has busts and statues everywhere of famous dignitaries (it's more interesting than it sounds), Salem's local equivalent has a copy of the state song and a window exhibit on state rocks. I'm not saying the place has to be Hollywood, but considering it's this huge ornate building around which a major city was built, you'd think the place would at least have a cool document or two to satisfy starved history buffs like myself.

After about an hour, I was beginning to feel a bit unwelcome. I hadn't shaved yet that day, so I was afraid the sheriffs standing guard outside the legislature doors would mistake me for some shiftless indigent (in fact, my friends have often told me that I'm complete full of shift). Plus, I was taking pictures, and I didn't want some big authority figure smashing my sad little camera into bits and pieces for being a pest. So I made my way to the back courtyard, taking special note of the statue of Rev. Jason Lee, the first missionary of Oregon (this must have been before "Mallrats"). Finally, I almost walked smack dab into a very interesting exhibit: column segments. Yes,

some of the remaining structure from the 19th century capitol had survived at the bottom of Mill Creek and its parts were now unceremoniously dumped into the new Capitol's backyard. Examining the charred remains was a little sad, but it was also nice to see some honest-to-goodness history at long last, and not just a framed copy of "Oregon, My Oregon" and a snapshot of PSU's Simon Benson Hall to send back home to mother. Overall, it wasn't a bad trip, but the capitol building seriously needs work if it hopes to bring in the hip teen crowd. My suggestion: disco bowling. Just think about it, Salem.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Contact: [mcauley@willamette.edu](mailto:mcauley@willamette.edu)

#### ► our great golden man

The building houses several elected state officials - the Governor, the Secretary of State and the State Treasurer - in addition to the entire Legislative Branch of state government. Spacious hearing rooms provide Oregonians an opportunity to participate in legislation.

#### ► capital facts!

A four-story structure of Modern Greek architecture, it was completed at a cost of \$2.5 million and is the fourth newest Capitol in the United States. The exterior is faced with white Danby Vermont marble.

COURTESY OF WWW.LEG.STATE.OR.US

#### DINING CRITIQUE:

## How things can go wrong

JADE OLSEN  
CONTRIBUTOR

Well, hello again! Instead of a restaurant review this week, I will share some food-themed per peeves. Inspired by a number of bad experiences of late, here are the top three ways to get a bad review from me - a fate worse than death, for certain.

#### Good Server, Bad Server

Food service is tough. Just like millions of high school kids on summer break before me, I have worked long hours on my feet serving food to those clearly oblivious of my plight. But if I can have a good attitude about it, then so can everybody else. There's simply no excuse for food workers to treat customers badly because they're disgruntled. Wipe off the scowls and frowns and just give me my food. And for sure don't act like a certain very angry cashier at a pizza place whom I was unfortunate enough to encounter last week: after a very sunny young man served up my breadsticks, the cashier rolled her eyes at me when I complimented her (retrospectively garish) manicure, glared at both me and my dining companion, and when I wished her a good day, replied only with "yeah, yeah." Rude!

#### Coffee, Tea, Me?

Everybody likes a compliment, and everybody enjoys thinking that someone finds him or her attractive. However, flirting with a stranger goes beyond awkward and into sketch territory when it's your waiter coming on to you. Granted, I seem to give off a subtle vibe that whispers, ever so gently, "if you even dare smile at me, I will cut your throat out." This is evidenced by the fact that the last time anybody hit on me, it was a barista in my hometown. In 2006. He was very attractive, though, and is excluded from this complaint.

Many of my friends, however, frequently encounter skeezy waiters and cashiers who think that they are good-looking. This makes life especially awkward for me, the apparently unappealing one in the corner who just wants her pint already. A few glances and a pleasant tone is fine, but I really don't want to hear any more dinner table innuendo from the waiter. I wouldn't want to lose my lunch when I haven't even paid for it yet.

#### Wait, What?

While it's true that an overly friendly server makes things uncomfortable, the other end of the spectrum isn't much better. If I go out to eat, I want to feel like I'm speaking to an actual human being, not a brick wall. I complained at the seemingly vacuous expressions and commentary of the servers at Roxxy a few weeks ago, but even that could not compare to the kid who rang up my friend's order at a burger place the other day. Staring straight ahead, head slightly tilted up and mouth wide open the whole time, this guy didn't look like he knew who he was, let alone that we were there requesting food. When my friend asked for hot mustard, he replied that they didn't have any. But, after a moment, he added that "we do have ... spicy mustard."

Contact: [jolsen@willamette.edu](mailto:jolsen@willamette.edu)

#### ► food for thought

For more information on Salem dining visit:

[www.salem.diningguide.com](http://www.salem.diningguide.com)  
[www.gonorthwest.com](http://www.gonorthwest.com)  
[www.capitalcuisine.com](http://www.capitalcuisine.com)

# Shy poet speaks poetry in two languages

BETHANY HUNTLEY  
CONTRIBUTOR

This past Tuesday in the Hatfield Room, poet Ralph Angel lectured and read from his translation of Federico Garcia Lorca's collection, "Poema del Cante Jondo," or "Poem of the Deep Song." A combined effort from the English, Spanish and Music Departments as well as Chemeketa Community College brought Angel to Willamette.

As the author of four books of poetry and recipient of number literary awards including a gift from the Elgin Cox Trust, the Pushcart Prize, a Gertrude Stein Award, the Willis Barnstone Poetry Translation Prize, a Fulbright Foundation fellowship and the Bess Hokin Award of the Modern Poetry Association, it was an honor to have him read here on campus.

Angel presented on the "cante jondo," Lorca and his "Poem of the Deep Song," and Spanish culture. "Cante jondo," which literally means "deep song," is a vocal style in flamenco. Associated with traditional folk music, the poetry expresses grief, anguish and despair. As part of his presentation,

Angel played recent recordings of the cante jondo, which is recognizable by its stammering sound. Although it seems to lack rhythm and rhyme, it is able to express more than stricter forms of verse.

Lyric poetry is characterized by the strong individual expression and the power of dialect and tradition as a negation of bourgeois society. Okay, you caught me, I'm an English major, but poetry is universally recognized as an expression that transcends form.

Angel's presentation was an interesting combination of lecture, music and poetry. He read in both Spanish and English and even though I only understand a little Spanish, hearing the poetry in its natural form enhanced the experience. Since the cante jondo is so deeply saturated by the Andalusian (gypsy) culture, oral tradition and way of life, hearing both the Spanish reading and the vocal performances he played embodied the human quality of the deep song.

Angel's presentation was really interesting but also difficult to follow. He is very soft-spoken and seems shy. His laundry list of awards and recognitions speaks for his intelligence and ability as a poet, but as a speaker, he wasn't extremely engaging. Despite his quiet demeanor, however, I thoroughly enjoyed seeing him speak and would recommend looking into his poetry and his translation of "Poema del Cante Jondo."

Contact: [bhuntley@willamette.edu](mailto:bhuntley@willamette.edu)



COURTESY OF WWW.FAMOUSPOETSANDPOETS.COM

Poet Ralph Angel performed a poetry reading Tuesday in the Hatfield room.

## Japanther was here, will be back

MATT BAILIN  
CONTRIBUTOR

Native Brooklyn punk rock band Japanther brought a healthy dose of music, moshing and fun to Willamette on March 11 with a show for nearly 70 people. A full crowd crammed into Smith Gallery. Japanther exhibited its talent for combining the grainy hiss of an 8-track tape with the raw power of uninhibited energy.

Combining elements from early punk, new wave and industrial, they performed (on telephone-shaped microphones no less) in a partly-improvised but still polished style that left the crowd begging for an encore. Their material was immersive and low-fi yet still impressive, gritty and easily danceable, featuring songs such as "Evil Earth," "Change Your Life" and "Selfish Kids."

The show was sponsored by the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, known for its love of and involvement in performance arts. The Delts had been planning this concert for weeks and were excited to see their efforts pay off. Members of Delta Tau Delta have personal friendships with the band and say that they are very lucky to know them and see them grow into something that has been recognized by the New York Times, Vanity Fair and Thrasher Magazine.

Japanther's only two members are Ian Vanek on the drums and Matt Reilly on bass (both play cassette tapes and sing). Vanek made Willamette connections through his former neighbor, Richard de Sam Lazaro, and said that Japanther "will come anywhere we know that there will be people dancing and a guarantee of some smiles." Vanek and Reilly have been best friends since their time at the Pratt Institute and have worked as "art partners" in their quest to "keep it underground."

If you didn't get the chance to see this awesome show but still want to attend a similarly independent and hip one, you are in luck. The Cherry City Music Festival is a convention of over 150 local and independent bands that will be playing in Salem from April 7 to 11. It will be hosted all over Salem with shows at the Ike Box, the Elsinore Theatre and the Coffee House Café, among other venues. The wristband to get into the event is a bit pricey at \$30, but for less than the price of three CDs you can experience major talent like Japanther and The Thermals as part of an all-week extravaganza. For a small city like Salem, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity you can't miss.

Contact: [mbailin@willamette.edu](mailto:mbailin@willamette.edu)

### ART HISTORY FOR COCKTAIL PARTIES:

## She's probably seen more naked chicks than you



ALISA  
ALEXANDER  
ARTS EDITOR

Sometimes, as a columnist, I have no freaking idea what to write about. This week I hit the mid-semester burn-out and thought, "you know what, I'd just like to spend my Sunday watching America's Next Top Model reruns, eating gummy bears and ignoring anything that resembles schoolwork." Alas, it was not meant to be and I spent a good amount of time staring at the computer and twiddling my thumbs. As I was looking at my desktop background (a portrait of Julianne Moore styled as Ingres's "La Grande Odalisque," shot by Annie Leibovitz) and wracking my brain for ideas, I thought to myself, "you idiot, why don't you write about her!"

I'm sure all of you have seen the work of the great American photographer Annie Leibovitz. She's been working for over 30 years and has shot covers for Vogue, Rolling Stone and Vanity Fair. Remember that iconic photo of a nude John Lennon draped over a

clothed Yoko Ono? That's a Leibovitz. Pregnant Demi Moore on the cover of Vanity Fair? Also a Leibovitz. Even that supposedly "scandalous" portrait of Miley Cyrus wrapped in a bed sheet is also, you guessed it, a Leibovitz. Trust me, all of your favorite musicians and actors have, at some point, been photographed by her.

I've never been the world's biggest fan of photography as an art medium, but maybe that's just a personal thing. Growing up in this society where I am constantly being bombarded with media and advertisements, I find it difficult to be as moved by a photograph as I am by a painting. There are, of course, exceptions. Annie Leibovitz is one of them. When I was in Los Angeles I was lucky enough to stumble upon the exhibit "Vanity Fair Portraits: Photographs 1913-2008" at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Leibovitz, being one of the magazine's favorite photographers, was prominently featured.

In that exhibit I fell in love with Scarlett Johansson and Keira Knightley (like practically every heterosexual male on the planet) in the photo "Ford's Founda-

tion" (2006) in which Johansson, Knightley and Tom Ford pose in a reinterpretation of Manet's "Luncheon on the Grass" (1863). Manet's painting of two clothed men picnicking with a nude woman shocked viewers of that time, just as this photograph tantalized and titillated viewers of 2006. Leibovitz often reinterprets masterpieces of art, which just tickles me pink as an art history lover, but it also makes me happy because she's bringing fine art to the mainstream.

She elevates photographs to the level of fine art. Leibovitz is no dummy: her work shows that she is highly intellectual, aware of the history of art, and at times, subversively humorous. Her photographs often allude to famous paintings and works of art. By doing so, she often makes these works more accessible to the general viewer, and more relevant with the inclusion of famous subjects. Not to mention the fact that her photographs are impeccably illuminated, stunning in their sheer beauty, and often so luminous they look like paintings. She's messing with us, that's for sure.

Contact: [alexandra@willamette.edu](mailto:alexandra@willamette.edu)



COURTESY OF WWW.NATIONALGALLERIES.ORG

Leibovitz's photos are often reinterpretations of major artworks. Here, Julianne Moore poses as Ingres's "La Grande Odalisque."

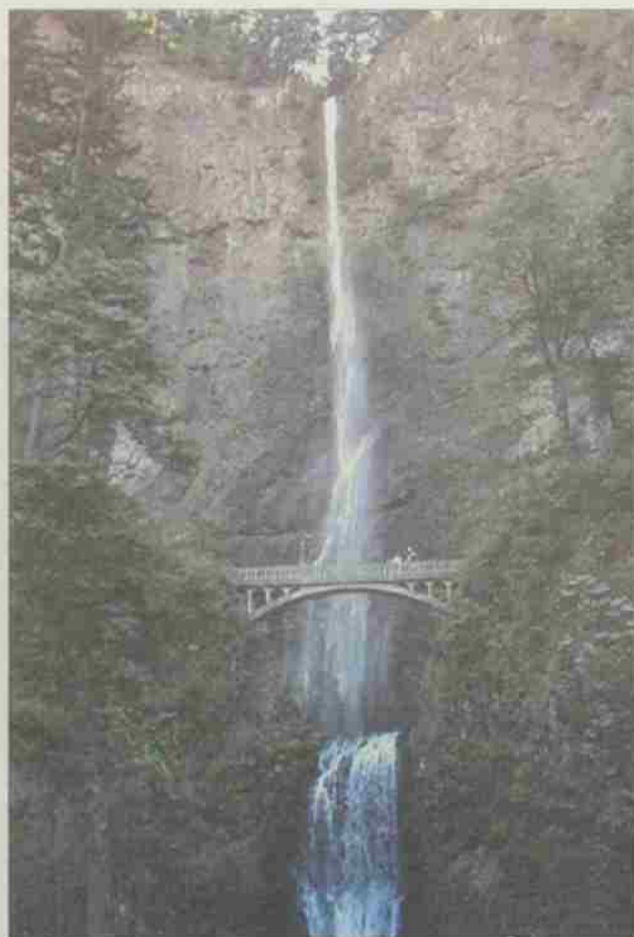
### arts events this week

Wed., March 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the John C. Paulus Great Hall, Collins Legal Center: "Illuminating Art: The Study of Ancient Lamps." Dr. Lisa R. Brody will lecture on a new exhibit in the Hallie Ford Museum of Art about ancient oil lamps.

Thu., March 19 at 8:00 p.m. in Smith Auditorium: Oregon Symphony Pops Concert. "Soul of New Orleans." Trumpeter and singer Byron Stripling will perform music of the Big Easy.

Thu., March 19 at 8:00 p.m. in Cat Cavern: "Invisible Children: The Rescue Screening." Invisible Children Roadie will speak after a screening of their newest film "The Rescue of Joseph Koney's Child Soldiers."

Fri., March 20 at 9:00 p.m. in Hudson Hall: Willamette University music faculty will perform rare mezzo-soprano duets.



Multnomah Falls in summer.

COURTESY OF FS.FED.US

LIS WAGNER  
FEATURE EDITOR

**T**he long-awaited spring break is only a few days away. Some Willamette students are joyfully anticipating sun-filled vacations, enriching TaB trips or visits back home. For everyone else, spring break means a week in Salem with little or nothing to do. Whether you're on a tight budget, chose to stay in town to catch up on work, or this celebrated week simply snuck up on you, don't lose faith in spring break's capacity to refresh your mind and invigorate your spirit.

Our geographic location provides us with breathtaking wilderness and historical richness that is more accessible than we often assume. The following guide offers information on spectacular destinations - in no particular order - that are all within three hours of Salem. These options will not be a strain on your pocket book and will help you achieve the valuable goal of getting out of the cozy Willamette bubble.

## 1 MULTNOMAH FALLS

Native American lore holds that these magnificent falls were created to win the heart of a princess searching for a hidden place to bathe. Indeed, this destination has proven itself to be a jewel of the Columbia Gorge, attracting nearly two million visitors per year. The falls offer many levels of exploration; if hiking isn't your bag you can get a sense of the falls' mind-boggling magnitude from the viewing area or the footbridge. A 1.1 mile paved path will take you to the top of the falls, but if you're hungering for more waterfalls and want to beat the crowds, check out the 5.4 mile loop hike to Wahkeena Falls.

# Still scratching your head over plans for spring break?

## Seven last-minute spring break destinations

**BY CAR:** About an hour and a half northeast of Salem  
**COMMITMENT LEVEL:** Easy to difficult hiking  
**COST:** Free

**FUN FACT:** Multnomah Falls is Oregon's tallest waterfall, and is the second tallest in the nation. It is such a popular spot to visit that it has its own exit (31) off of Interstate 84.

**MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.multnomahfalls lodge.com](http://www.multnomahfalls lodge.com),  
[www.oregon.com/trips/multnomah\\_falls](http://www.oregon.com/trips/multnomah_falls)

## 2 EAGLE CREEK

If you're looking for a true Columbia Gorge hiking experience, look no further than Eagle Creek. A moderate hike to Punchbowl Falls takes you on a 4.2 mile loop with a 400 foot elevation gain. For those seeking a more rigorous route, the 12 mile loop to Tunnel Falls with a 1200 foot elevation gain may get your calves screaming.

Whichever trail you choose, you'll experience a feast for the senses as you pass through rugged canyons, raging waterfalls and awe-inspiring cliffs.

**BY CAR:** an hour and 20 minutes northeast of Salem  
**COMMITMENT LEVEL:** Moderate to difficult hiking. Ideal for day trips or backpacking.

**COST:** Northwest Forest Pass parking permits are \$5 for a day or \$30 for a season

**FUN FACT:** Though it looks and feels like pristine wilderness, this trail is a feat of human engineering. Built in the 1910's alongside the Columbia River Scenic Highway, the trail was made possible by chipping tunnels through masses of solid rock and blasting ledges out of colossal cliffs.

**MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.splintercat.org/eaglecreek/eaglemainpage.html](http://www.splintercat.org/eaglecreek/eaglemainpage.html)

## 3 SILVER FALLS STATE PARK

This destination is included in the Willamette Outdoor Program's "top five hikes" for good reason. It's close, it's accessible and it has something to offer whether you are a seasoned hiker, an urbanite looking for a small dose of wilderness or anything in between. Load friends in a taxi and make a half-day trip; you will understand the magic of this landscape when you experience the exhilaration of walking behind a shimmering Oregon waterfall.

**BY CAR:** 40 minutes east of Salem  
**ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION:** Take a taxi!  
**COMMITMENT LEVEL:** Easy to moderate hiking, 5.2 mile loop, 500 feet elevation gain.  
**COST:** \$3 parking fee  
**CENTRAL ATTRACTION:** Ten breathtaking waterfalls, five of which are over 100 feet high

**FUN FACT:** In 1928, a paying audience watched a stuntman canoe off of a 177-foot tall waterfall in the park's South Falls. Despite serious injuries, he survived.

**MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.oregonstateparks.org/park\\_211.php](http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_211.php)

## 4 CAPE KIWANDA, IN PACIFIC CITY

Get a unique dose of the beautiful Oregon Coast with this stretch of geographic marvels nestled in a quaint coastal village. Cape Kiwanda is only 20 miles north of Lincoln City - a popular day-trip destination for Willamette students - and offers a fresh change from usual beach delights. Director of Campus Recreation Bryan Schmidt, who takes students here for Willamette's pre-Opening Days program, Steppin' Out, raved about the cape's two mile long sand bar, Nestucca Spit, complete with a huge sand dune. "It's the best part about Cape Kiwanda. You can walk out and explore the beach on one side and the dramatic cliffs on the other side," Schmidt said. While the beach is an oasis for those intrigued by biological and geological wonders, those seeking more urban comforts can enjoy excellent clam chowder at The Pelican restaurant or peruse antique shops in town.

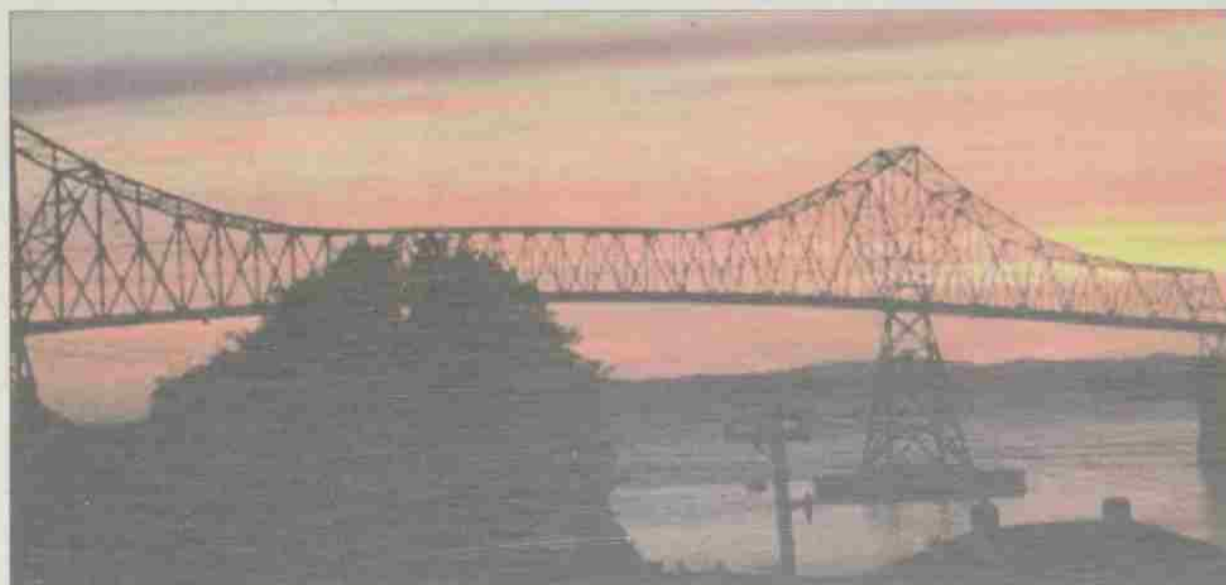
**BY CAR:** An hour and 45 minutes west of Salem  
**COMMITMENT LEVEL:** great for weary urbanites, laid-back beach strollers, and wannabe beach naturalists

**COST:** Cape access is free  
**CENTRAL ATTRACTIONS:** Haystack Rock, Dory fishing, a "mega" sand dune, tide pools galore, the best clam chowder in Oregon

**MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.pacificcity.org/things-to-do/main.html](http://www.pacificcity.org/things-to-do/main.html)

## 5 ASTORIA

If you thought Oregon had no ties to Hollywood, think again. Such classics as "The Goonies," "Kindergarten Cop," "The Ring" and "Free Willy" were filmed in Astoria, and for good reason. The hauntingly beautiful landscape is a striking complement to the city's picturesque Victorian architecture. As the oldest American settlement west of the Rockies, Astoria offers an array of museums and historic sites as well as salty coastal town charm.



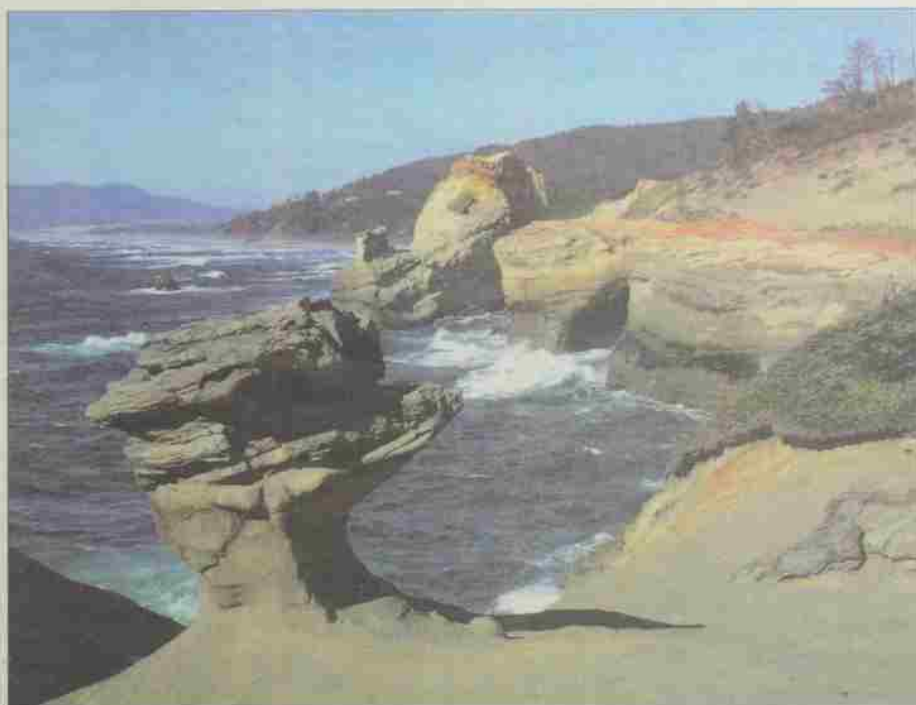
The Astoria-Megler bridge, spanning the mouth of the Columbia River between Washington and Oregon, is the longest continuous truss bridge in North America.

COURTESY OF NWCOAST.COM



Silver Falls in winter.

COURTESY OF BRYAN SCHMIDT



Cape Kiwanda, on the Three Capes Scenic Route along the Oregon Coast, is distinctive because of its dramatic rock formations. COURTESY OF BRYAN SCHMIDT



The first lake you encounter upon entering Minto Brown park in Salem. COLIN WILSON

**BY CAR:** Two hours and 40 minutes away from Salem, located on the northwest tip of Oregon

**COMMITMENT LEVEL:** A low-key detour on the way up to Seattle, Wash., or Vancouver, B.C.

**CENTRAL ATTRACTIONS:** Columbia River Maritime Museum, a restored 1913 San Antonio streetcar called "Old 300," the Flavel House Museum, Fort Astoria, Fort Clatsop.

**FUN FACT:** Astoria is home to one of the world's most treacherous waterways: the mouth of the Columbia River. Specially trained bar pilots use helicopters to maneuver ships through the stretch of water nicknamed "Graveyard of the Pacific." For an in-depth look at this phenomenon, check out a recently published article from Smithsonian magazine: [www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/Running-the-Bar.html](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/Running-the-Bar.html)

**MORE INFORMATION:** [www.oldoregon.com](http://www.oldoregon.com)

**6 DETROIT LAKE STATE PARK**

Located in the heart of the Cascades and only 50 miles from Salem, it should be a crime not to take advantage of this multifaceted destination if you're in search of outdoor fun. Because the park is protected territory with spectacular and unobstructed views of Mt. Jefferson, it provides an idyllic escape from our developed, concrete environments. According to Schmidt, "that's what makes it so spectacular. It makes you feel like you're really isolated, even though you're only [an hour] away."

Beyond hiking and camping, Detroit Lake is ideal for fishing, boating and even water skiing. Though many of its services won't be available until the weather warms up, this destination is worthy of consideration for a last-minute spring break excursion.

**BY CAR:** About an hour east of Salem, a straight shot on Highway 22.

**COMMITMENT LEVEL:** It runs the gamut - whether you're a lazy day paddler or a hardcore backpacker you can find satisfaction here. (Keep in mind that overnight stays are not an option until the campground opens April 1!)

**COST:** \$3 day-use fee

Detroit Lake Marina, opening April 15, also offers canoes,

paddleboats, jet skis and potoon boats for rent at reasonable prices, starting at \$40 for two hours.

**FUN FACT:** Though Detroit Lake's pristine beauty makes one appreciate the power of Mother Nature, the nine mile long lake was actually constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**MORE INFORMATION:**

[www.oregonstateparks.org/park\\_93.php](http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_93.php),

[www.detroitlakemarina.com/rentals.html](http://www.detroitlakemarina.com/rentals.html)

**7 MINTO-BROWN ISLAND PARK**

Last but not least is a destination that is deceptively close to campus but that provides an experience akin to the previously described wilderness locations. When visiting this 898.9 acre National Wildlife Refuge, it is easy to forget that you're in Salem. Just minutes from downtown, the park is chock-full of trails and thriving local flora and fauna. During spring break, or any old time, Minto-Brown is the ultimate local escape from the stresses of academia.

**BY CAR:** About 10 minutes from campus, on River Road in South Salem

**BY FOOT:** 45 minute walk from campus

**COMMITMENT LEVEL:** Ideal for walking, jogging, biking, bird watching or simply taking in some local wilderness

**COST:** Free

**FUN FACT:** The park got its name in the early 20th century when it consisted of two islands on the Willamette River. A major flood deposited so much soil that the two islands merged into one large land mass connected to the shore, in what we now know to be South Salem.

**LEARN FROM A LOCAL CELEBRITY:** Willamette's own Biology Professor Sharon Rose published a book titled "A Natural History of Minto-Brown Island Park."

**MORE INFORMATION:**

[www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/CommunityServices/Parks-Management/ParkTour/Pages/Minto-Brown%20Island%20Park.aspx](http://www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/CommunityServices/Parks-Management/ParkTour/Pages/Minto-Brown%20Island%20Park.aspx)

Contact: [ewagner@willamette.edu](mailto:ewagner@willamette.edu)

**► hungering for the outdoors but need guidance?**

**-The Outdoor Program**

Not to be confused with Willamette's student-run outdoor clubs, the Outdoor Program is funded directly by the university and aims to reach out to as many students as possible, regardless of outdoor experience. According to Director of Campus Recreation Bryan Schmidt, the program has come a long way since it was founded in 2006. "We've spent the last few years building up our internal structure. Now we're able to go much more public and plan more trips," Schmidt said. He described a recent snowshoeing trip to Crater Lake as highly successful. "It didn't matter if you were a snowshoer or not."

For more information on the Outdoor Program's excursions and gear rental, visit: [www.willamette.edu/dept/campusrec/outdoorprogram](http://www.willamette.edu/dept/campusrec/outdoorprogram).

**-The Outdoor Activities Council**

For those more seasoned in outdoor activities, student-run clubs provide a means for collaboration. The Outdoor Activities Council is being developed as an umbrella organization under which more specialized groups operate; included clubs are those devoted solely to backpacking, climbing, kayaking, fishing and skiing/snowboarding.

Sophomore Colin Wilson has brought the Outdoor Club - soon to be known as the Backpacking Club - to a whole new level since he became president this fall. In addition to planning many more trips than in past years, he has worked with Climbing Club President Seth Schumacher to achieve unprecedented amounts of funding for new gear and promotes outdoor leadership among interested students.

Education has also been a fruitful aim, Wilson has established educational bi-weekly seminars on topics such as how to build campfires. To accommodate club membership that is expanding from around 150 students, Wilson aims to make the club accessible to a variety of outdoor enthusiasts. "We have all different ranges of people - people who've never backpacked before and people who've hiked the Pacific Crest trail. As Outdoor Club leader it's my job to cater to all those needs," Wilson said.



Detroit Lake was created in 1953 as part of the Detroit Dam project. COURTESY OF DETROITLAKEOREGON.COM



Eagle Creek. COURTESY OF BRYAN SCHMIDT

**► upcoming outdoor club events**

**Tonight at 5:30 p.m.** on Brown Field: Seminar on how to pitch a tent, followed by a campfire and marshmallow roasting.

**March 28-29** (closing weekend of spring break): two-day backpacking excursion to Eagle Creek. Cost is \$10. E-mail [cwilson@willamette.edu](mailto:cwilson@willamette.edu) to sign up.

**April:** Backpacking month. A guided walking tour of Willamette's Zena Forest is in the works.

**May 6:** White water rafting trip on White Salmon River.

## BASEBALL

# Bearcats hang tough against NWC favorite, George Fox



COLBY TAKEDA

Sophomore shortstop Doug Bloom fields a ground ball in Saturday's suspended game against George Fox.

**TYLER THOMPSON**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Willamette's weekend series against George Fox was supposed to set the stage for the rest of the season.

This was the team's chance to prove it could hang with the cream of the crop. The Bearcats aimed to come out strong for their first home series of the season. They planned to play George Fox tough and they planned to win.

That's how the weekend was supposed to go. Instead, it was the unpredictable North-

west weather that won the day, forcing the Bearcats to cut short the second game of the series after only three innings and postpone the final two.

In the only game the Bearcats completed, the team lost 14-10, watching an 8-6 lead slip away in the final two innings. Including last weekend's sweep of Menlo College, the Bearcats now stand at 5-6 overall and 3-2 in conference play and are trying to ride out a rough five-game losing streak.

"I don't think we're doing anything wrong," Head Coach Aaron Swick said. "We're definitely not beating ourselves. We

just need to capitalize on our opportunities."

Friday's loss was an offensive showdown that saw both teams tee off on opposing pitching. Of particular importance was Bruin left fielder Matt Wyckoff who unleashed for five hits, three home runs and eight RBIs. "He had the game of his life," Swick said.

Not to be outdone, Bearcat senior third baseman David Tufo also had a good game, coming through in two key two-out at bats, one of which resulted in a three-run home run in the bottom of the third.

"The home run was a big moment at that point in the game," Tufo said. "We knew it was going to be an offensive battle the whole game [and] unfortunately we came up short."

For the Bearcats, finding consistent pitching was once again a problem. Starter Jack McGee gave up six runs in less than four innings (though four were unearned). And while Andrew Wyman and Colin Clark both pitched well enough to keep the team in the game, sophomore David Stott was roughed up to the tune of eight earned runs in the final two innings of the game.

"He didn't really pitch that poorly," Swick said. "That's just part of baseball." In the outing, Stott gave up nine total hits and struck out one.

Despite the final score, the Bearcats had nothing but positive things to say about the contest. "As far as conference goes, I still consider us to be the team that can win conference," Tufo said. "Although we lost the first game to [George] Fox, we showed how talented we are and that we are just as talented, if not more talented all-around than them."

Tufo's coach agreed with him. "On the whole, we're playing really good baseball," Swick said. "We bounced back and had some clutch hitting. You've just got to tip your hat."

Despite a threatening Saturday storm, the teams played the first three innings of the second game in the series.

Kelsey Nakata made his season debut for the Bearcats, pitching two solid innings while being limited to 40 pitches. Thought to be the ace of the staff before an arm injury held him out for the first month, Nakata is expected to provide quality senior leadership over the rest of the season.

Suspended in the third inning, the game is tied 3-3 and will be finished as soon as the weather allows.

As for the rest of the series, George Fox and Willamette had planned on finishing the three games yesterday afternoon. However, due to rain and wet grounds, the teams were unable to play. A suitable make up date is yet to be determined.

In a season that is only a little more than a quarter over, the Bearcats still have a long way to go. And though rough patches have given way to a record that may not represent the team's overall talent, this season is not close to over for the Bearcats.

"We still control our destiny," Swick said. "And that's what's important."

Contact: [tthompson@willamette.edu](mailto:tthompson@willamette.edu)

## ▼ next up

Bearcats v. Pacific Lutheran @ Tacoma, Wash. Saturday, Mar. 21 at 12:00 p.m.

## MARCH MADNESS

# Fans of the 'little guy' rejoice

**TIM WALSH**  
STAFF WRITER

As the old saying goes, March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. In between, however, is madness.

Whether or not you're a college basketball fan, everybody knows that this is the time of year for the annual NCAA basketball tournaments, affectionately nicknamed "March Madness." Betting pools are getting started, brackets are being filled out and your friends' updated basketball-related Facebook statuses are taking over your home page. Again, you don't have to be a fan to see what's going on around you.

But to paraphrase a question asked every year by my mother (who could care less about sports): "Why is this important?" Particularly at a liberal arts school like Willamette, where the insanely commercialized world of athletics can provoke a certain amount of apathy, it's a question that deserves answering.

Why did I just spend the last twenty minutes trying to decide between West Virginia and Michigan State in a hypothetical Sweet Sixteen match up, and why will I be riveted to the television all day tomorrow? Between two wars overseas and an economic meltdown at home, is it really possible that we're spending this much time and money on basketball? What does that say about our culture?

To a non-fan, basketball might look like 10 people on a hardwood court trying to put a ball in a small, 10-foot high hoop. But for every player, every team and every fan, there's a story that makes every bounce of that ball mean something more.

My family can probably best be described as "sports apathetic." Neither of my parents were athletes, and I can say with certainty that I've inherited their genes. Aside from a couple of years of youth soccer and one year of CYO basketball, I spent most of my childhood playing the piano. When I had

to choose between sports and music, I went with the latter.

But when I was seven years old, my dad took me to a University of Portland Pilots basketball game – the first time for both of us. I can still remember the game as clear as day, especially the game-winning three pointer that caused me, my dad and the other 3,000 people in the Earle A. Chiles Center to leap out of our seats.

I was instantly hooked, but it's been difficult for me to put a finger on why. Throughout most of my life, the Pilots have been, in a word, terrible. Still, through three coaches, two athletic directors, 10 straight years without a winning record, and the fact that I now go to Willamette, I still always make at least one game a year up at UP.

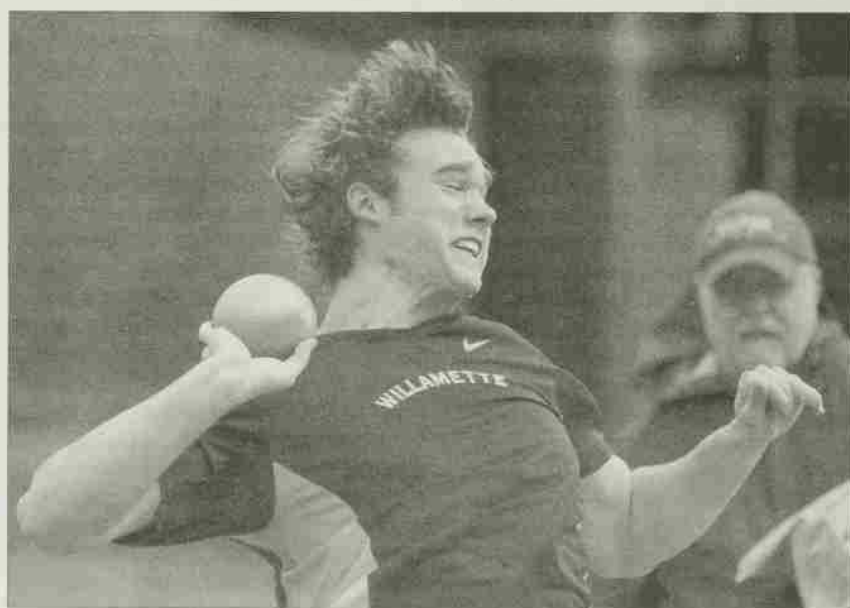
For me at least, stories like that make March Madness so special. There's so much more to the tournament than what happens on the hardwood. There are the fans, developing an amazing sense of community, cheering on their team and despising their opponents.

There are the players, most of whom will never play professionally, but still leave everything they have on the court, chasing their dream. And then there are the little guys. In no other month of the year is David more likely to slay Goliath than in March, and for anybody who's ever been or backed an underdog, there's nothing more satisfying than watching the favorites lose.

As usual, my Pilots fell short again this year, so I'll be watching simply as a fan of the sport and of the tournament. But even if you're not a sports fan, try tuning in anyway. If there's one thing our country could use right now, it's an emotional pick-me-up. Between the fans, the players and the underdogs that every so often do something spectacular, a little madness might be just what we need.

Contact: [twalsh@willamette.edu](mailto:twalsh@willamette.edu)

## SPORTS WRAP | Quick shots



COLBY TAKEDA

### Around Willamette Sports:

- The Bearcat football team received a community service award from the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley last week. The team was recognized for its "spirit of volunteering."
- Willamette has hired new men's and women's head basketball coaches for the 2009-2010 seasons. Replacing long-time coach Gordie James will be Kip Ioane. Ioane has been an assistant at Willamette for the last eight years.
- Taking over for beloved former Women's Head Coach Bruce Henderson will be Anne Lapray, who shared last season's coaching duty with Sara Brooks.
- The men's golf team finished fifth on Monday at Creekside Gold Club in Salem. Senior Ben Bryant led the way for the Bearcats, finishing fourth overall with a two-round score of 150.
- WU's track & field team was also in action over the weekend in a dual meet against Western Oregon University.
- Sophomore Josh Clorhiser (pictured above) won the shot put with a throw of 13.41m.
- Sophomore Kimber Mattox easily won the 3,000m steeplechase, achieving an NCAA Provisional Qualifying Mark in the process.
- Senior Grant Piros also qualified in the javelin while competing in the decathlon.
- As a team, the Bearcats took 17 total victories in the meet, easily outmatching Western Oregon, which led the way in nine events.

Contact: [tthompson@willamette.edu](mailto:tthompson@willamette.edu)

PROFILE

# All-American pitcher discusses illustrious WU career

KIRK STRUBLE  
CONTRIBUTOR

With all the rain Salem received last weekend, playing softball was impossible. As a result, the scheduled double headers against Lewis and Clark and George Fox were cancelled.

In light of this, the Collegian spoke to senior pitcher Nikki Franchi about the team, herself and playing in her final season as a Bearcat.

Last season, Franchi won 19 games for the Bearcats, a team that finished third in the conference with a 19-9 record. This year, Franchi has helped the team to a No. 10 ranking in the NFCA Division III poll. The team currently stands in second place behind Linfield in the NWC.

**Collegian:** What was your outlook on the team before the season began?

**Franchi:** I thought that we were going to have a more talented team than last year with the freshman that we had coming in.

**C:** Granted that it is still very early in the season, do you think that expectation is playing out to be true?

**F:** Definitely. Although we have a young team, everyone is playing well together. The chemistry we have on our team is great. I look forward to seeing how the rest of the season goes.

**C:** What was it like to be nationally ranked in the coaches' preseason poll?

**F:** Everyone was really excited, but we still know that we have to go out every game and practice to prove that we deserve that ranking.

**C:** How has the recent ascension in the national rankings (from 23rd, to 12th, now 10th) affected the team?

**F:** Each time the polls come out it just shows that we are one of the best teams. We don't want to stop until we reach the top, but we still have to go and dominate the teams that we play, especially the teams in our conference.

**C:** How does it feel to be Willamette's only All-American selection in softball, and has that put any extra pressure on you for this season?

**F:** I was very honored to receive that last year, and it is



Playing at home three weeks ago, Nikki Franchi scored, sliding safely into the plate. Franchi has led the team to a No. 10 ranking in the nation.

COLBY TAKEDA

cool to be the only one, but I couldn't have done it without the team last year. I try not to put pressure on myself. I just try to go out and play my best.

**C:** If you don't mind, would you please say a little about your experiences with softball in your time here.

**F:** I've had a great career at Willamette. I wouldn't have had a great career without the girls on my team, especially the other seniors. We have had so many shared experiences on this team and so many great memories. It's been great playing with them for the last four years.

**C:** What is it like to be a senior in her final season between the lines and does this in any way affect how you approach the game?

**F:** It really hadn't hit me until last week that this was my final season. I just couldn't believe how time has flown by. It seemed like not so long ago that I was a freshman starting out my first season. I don't think that it really has

affected the way that I approach the game. I go out the same way every week; just giving everything I have for that weekend and then turning around and doing the same thing the next weekend.

**C:** What's your fondest softball memory?

**F:** I think that I would have to say that my fondest softball memory is our spring break trips. Two years ago we went to Florida. Everyone had a blast. It was a great time to spend with everyone.

**C:** Though it's still early in the season, currently, three of the four leading hitters on the team are seniors. Do you think graduating such a talented group of seniors will have a large impact on the future of the program?

**F:** I think that it will, but this team has so much talent that it will carry on for years to come.

Contact: kstruble@willamette.edu

TENNIS

# Squads show heart, suffer weekend sweep

COURT WESTON  
CONTRIBUTOR

This past weekend was a difficult one for Willamette tennis. The two teams combined for a record of 0-4, being shutout once each.

Men:

The men traveled to Spokane, Wash. on Friday to face the Whitworth Pirates (9-5, 9-4 Northwest Conference), falling 5-4.

Willamette (5-4, 5-4 NWC) was off to a rough start, losing two of the first three matches in doubles play, but fought hard to win three of the first four in singles. After sophomore Matt Houser and seniors Andrew Murakami and Alex Sepenzis won three straight decisions, the Bearcats were clinging to a 4-3 advantage with only two singles matches remaining.

However, Willamette dropped both to lose the contest to the Pirates. "It all came down to the last match at number six," Houser said. "[Sophomore] Mike Moore lost in a close three setter."

Following the heart-breaking loss to Whitworth, Willamette continued to Walla Walla, Wash. on Saturday to take on the conference-leading Whitman Missionaries (9-2, 8-0 NWC).

Whitman, currently ranked 19th in Division III, controlled the match from start to finish and shut out Willamette 9-0. It was the 13th time in the last fourteen meetings between the two teams that the Bearcats were held pointless.

Willamette lost three hard-fought doubles matches to start the day. One bright spot for Willamette on this day was Houser, who managed the only favorable decision in the first set of the No. 3 singles match. However, the match eventually went to Whitman after three sets.

This marked the first time this season that Willamette has lost two matches in the

“Even though this was a rough weekend, we played with a lot of heart and fought hard until the very end.”

MATT HOUSER  
SOPHOMORE

same weekend, and are currently fifth in the Northwest Conference standings.

"Even though this was a rough weekend, we played with a lot of heart and fought hard until the very end," Houser said. "I think we handled it well and are ready for another really tough weekend."

The men meet up with Whitman again this Wednesday at home. They will then travel to McMinnville, Ore. to face Linfield College (8-3, 8-2 NWC) on Saturday, and finish up the month of March with a visit to Portland on the 29th to take on Lewis and Clark College (2-11, 2-8 NWC).

Women:

The women had a similar weekend to the men, dropping both their matches to fall to an overall record of 4-8 with a 3-7 Northwest Conference record, but still cling to the sixth spot in conference standings.

Willamette faced conference-leading Whitworth (12-2, 11-0 NWC) on Friday and was shut out 9-0. The shutout marked the second time in the last three meetings that the Bearcats were held without a point.

Although the end result was the same, Saturday was a much better day for the women as they faced a very tough Whitman squad (10-3, 10-2 NWC). The Bearcats found themselves in a hole as they lost all three doubles matches as well as the first three singles matches, and found themselves down 6-0 to start the day.

However, the match was much closer than the score may show. The No. 2 doubles and No. 1 singles matches could have gone either

way as each required tiebreakers to determine the victor. If those outcomes had been different, the Bearcats would have won 5-4. "[The matches] were right there," Coach Becky Roberts said. "We just didn't take advantage."

Having already lost the match, Willamette showed heart and determination as they closed out the contest with three straight victories by senior Fabi Dieguez, freshman Kristen Dedijer-Small and sophomore Jamie Slonaker in the No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6 singles matches respectively.

"I think it was the best as a whole that the team has played," Roberts said. "We're playing better. I think we'll rise to the occasion. The next two matches will set the tone for the rest of the season."

The Bearcats have three more matches in March, all of them rematches. The first will be played Wednesday, the 25th in Ashland, Ore. as the team takes on Southern Oregon University (3-0). The women then travel to Forest Grove, Ore. to meet up with Pacific University (6-6, 6-6 NWC) on March 27. To close out March, the Bearcats host Lewis and Clark College (5-5, 5-5 NWC) on March 29.

Contact: mweston@willamette.edu

next up

Men v. Whitman @ Courthouse Tennis Center Wednesday, Mar. 18 at 1:30 p.m.

Women v. Southern Oregon @ Ashland, Ore. Wednesday, Mar. 25 at 10:00 a.m.

## NWC STANDINGS

STANDINGS AS OF MARCH 17, 2009

	W	L
<b>BASEBALL</b>		
George Fox	9	0
Linfield	10	2
Pacific Lutheran	6	2
Puget Sound	2	1
<b>Willamette</b>	3	2
Pacific (Ore.)	4	8
Lewis & Clark	1	7
Whitworth	1	10
Whitman	0	4
<b>SOFTBALL</b>		
Linfield	8	0
<b>Willamette</b>	3	1
Pacific Lutheran	6	4
Pacific (Ore.)	3	3
Puget Sound	2	4
George Fox	2	4
Whitworth	2	6
Lewis & Clark	0	4
<b>MEN'S TENNIS</b>		
Whitman	10	0
Pacific Lutheran	9	2
Linfield	8	2
Whitworth	9	4
<b>Willamette</b>	5	4
Pacific (Ore.)	3	8
Puget Sound	3	9
Lewis & Clark	2	8
George Fox	0	12
<b>WOMEN'S TENNIS</b>		
Whitworth	11	0
Linfield	9	1
Whitman	10	2
Lewis & Clark	5	5
Pacific (Ore.)	6	6
<b>Willamette</b>	3	7
George Fox	2	9
Puget Sound	1	9
Pacific Lutheran	1	9



Colleen, Cornered

An exploration of the unknown



Colleen Martin

OPINIONS EDITOR

Maybe I've been watching too much "Ghost Hunters," but I've been thinking a lot about ghosts lately. To confess a horribly nerdy secret, when I was younger I read quite a few books about them and wanted nothing more than to spot one myself.

I suppose this clarifies that I was a pretty strange kid. Reading ghost stories for fun long after Halloween was over, I baffled my parents by not being all that scared (there were exceptions), but instead wanting to find out about real-life ghost stories. It wasn't like I was this creepy kid who wore only black and held seances - it was a weird curiosity. My parents attributed it to the fact that I was born on *el Dia de los Muertos* (day of the dead) and helped me find books at the library to read.

Initially, I tried to remain skeptical, which is typical of my personality. I rarely believe anything or anyone without proof of some kind. But before long, I got sucked in. As I read account after account about personal encounters with ghosts, I found myself unable to argue that every single instance could be explained, or that these people would lie when there was usually no personal gain. Though I tried to resist it, my instinct was to believe.

In my readings, I found out that my hometown of Santa Fe is supposedly very haunted. Since it is such an old city, there was more opportunity for incidents to occur that would prompt a haunting. There are countless locations where people swear they've seen the unexplainable. One day, my dad brought home this stack of stories (eyewitness accounts) about the building he worked in - it was rumored to be haunted by more than a few ghosts. His office was next to an old hospital that had been converted into an assisted living facility.

These two buildings are connected by a long, winding basement where you could easily get lost. Several old nurses had described a room that had bleeding walls and other ghosts throughout the buildings. It took several tries (I freaked myself out and couldn't go through with it), but I eventually did go into the basement with my dad, though we never found the room. After the initial fear of going in, I found it oddly exhilarating - an adrenaline rush with no need for dare-devil antics.

This sparked several other failed attempts I had while in high school at finding ghosts with groups of friends. Though I never found any, I couldn't ever convince myself that my belief in them was unfounded, and I have a feeling that this will never change.

I have had to come to terms with this contradiction in my personality, and in the scheme of things, I suppose it is relatively harmless. In the end, I think my belief stems from a desire for some things to be left unexplained. Ghosts should not logically exist, but the world is far more compelling if they do. Though it may be instinctive to try to find the answers to all the questions the world puts in front of us, isn't there something thrilling in the unknown?

Contact: [cmartin@willamette.edu](mailto:cmartin@willamette.edu)

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

EDITORIAL

A step by step to ASWU election reform

The ASWU election process does not fairly represent students' intent. While the election process includes several problems, the most significant is the voting process itself.

The current voting system does not allow students to have an accurate perception of each candidate's platform. Candidates with highly recognizable names have an advantage over others simply because students may vote based on name recognition rather than a candidate's actual goals for office.

The dedicated voter can find candidates' statements on their Facebook groups, or by clicking on the link in the ballot. However, the majority of students are not willing to go to such lengths to learn about candidates, and some choose not to care altogether about the ASWU elections. This isn't to say that Willamette students are the problem - uninformed voters plague the country on both the local and national level.

So, the question now becomes: Should uninformed voters be allowed to vote in these elections, choosing a winner based solely on popularity or campaign gimmicks instead of the actual issues? We say no, and we've prepared an alternative system that would begin to protect the election from uninformed voters. Our system would improve the overall election process by allowing the student body to vote based on the real issues and, in turn, elect ASWU executives that serve their interests.

1) See candidate.

In the week before the election, candidates would conduct campus-wide campaigns, like they do now. Candidates could, if they choose, focus on issues instead of empty rhetoric.

2) See candidate run.

During the days of the election, students who wished to vote would be required to

attend one of several assemblies. (These assemblies would be spread out over two days, including times in the morning, afternoon, and night in order to accommodate students with busy schedules.)

3) Run, candidate, run.

At every assembly, each candidate or a representative would present a platform. The candidates could explain the changes they wish to make and how that platform differs from an opponents'. If time permits, questions (from either the audience or from opposing campaigns) could be included.

4) See informed voter.

No student would be required to attend such an assembly. However, students would be required to attend if they wish to vote. This way, we could ensure that students who were voting would have been exposed to each candidate's platform. We believe that most students care enough about the election, or would care enough if such a focus were placed on the issues, that a large number of students would choose to attend these assemblies.

5) See informed voter vote.

As they enter the assembly, students' ID cards would be swiped, "unlocking" their online ballot. They could then vote at their leisure, based on their observations and decisions from the assembly.

This isn't a perfect system, and some details remain unanswered, like how students abroad could participate in the process (perhaps they could watch a video online). Another potential problem is student attendance at these assemblies - one remedy could be a small reward at the assembly, like free cookies in addition to the (intangible) satisfaction of election participation. Regardless, our proposal would vastly improve the current system, because it would elect candidates based primarily on their platforms and positions. And isn't that what representation is really about?

ONLINE ASWU VOTING



HEIDI ANDERSEN

Did you vote?

Election participation as a percentage of total students.  
 2007: 53.39% of the student body  
 2008: 56.53% of the student body  
 2009: 41.32% of the student body

COLLEGIAN EDITORIAL POLICY

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

MEMBERS

- Noah Zaves • EDITOR IN CHIEF
- Lauren Gold • MANAGING EDITOR
- Colleen Martin • OPINIONS EDITOR
- Caitlin Preminger • COMMUNITY MEMBER
- David Reichert • COMMUNITY MEMBER
- Michelle Kim • COMMUNITY MEMBER
- Thomas Eliot • COMMUNITY MEMBER

THE BIWEEKLY BEAKER: Sex: That's what I want



LAUREN VICE  
COLUMNISTS



DAVID TAYLOR

Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n Roll. These three words have defined an era. In identifying an American movement, it is fairly unusual for someone to look at this terminology and think of science. In fact, it is almost unheard of. So, we thought it was important to look at some of the science behind these oft used words. In a three part series, we will discuss in-depth Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n Roll.

The Science of Sex:

Copulate, shag, bump uglies, screw, get "it" on, do the nasty - these are all words referring to the ever so prevalent SEX. It is easy to say that everything about sex has to do with science. Sex is the basis for our continued existence as a species and it would be hard for us to go long without it. In other words, sex is in your genes and we would be in a pretty bad position if we didn't have it. So let's tease out the different steps of sex as a process and see if we can come to a better understanding.

The sexual cycle begins with desire, with a sexual attraction between two people. There are an incredible number of factors that come into play when this desire is being gauged. Many of these factors are processed in a subconscious way and serve as a preliminary filter for potential partners.

For example, men see large breasts and

broad hips as an indication that a woman is able to bear and nurse children, while women might notice a full beard and a hairy chest as a sign of a healthy male capable of being a provider. Another interesting factor that contributes to attraction is scent. In particular it has been found that people are attracted to mates with a different Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC), which is a set of genes used in immune system control and can be detected through scent. When two people with too similar MHCs mate there is a high likelihood that the fetus will not be carried to term.

Obviously other factors such as looks, confidence and personality contribute as well in establishing this initial attraction. Once this is established there is often some initial physical intimacy, such as hugging and kissing. This contact allows an exchange of physical and chemical information (and saliva generally), and lets the participants decide if there is compatibility. If

there is compatibility between the two, and the right type of atmosphere, it may lead to arousal. Throughout an entire sexual encounter there is a constant flow of non-verbal signals between that partners that helps maintain sexual excitement, and if the wrong signals are conveyed it can lead to a decrease in arousal.

While on the surface the forces dictating sexual attraction and compatibility may appear simple, you need to go deeper to get a better understanding of what is actually going on when people are gettin' it on.

Contact: [lvice@willamette.edu](mailto:lvice@willamette.edu), [dtaylor@willamette.edu](mailto:dtaylor@willamette.edu)

Joke of the Bi-Week:

Q: How do you tell the sex of a chromosome?  
 A: Pull down its genes!

Goudy Commons: It's not just the meals that are interesting.



MICHELLE FAIRFIELD

## OPINION

## Ireland to ASWU: Reflections of student leadership abroad

CHASE WIGGINS  
GUEST WRITER

One of the most inspiring things I have seen during my time in Ireland thus far has been how active and effective the student union system is. I should point out some key facts about the student union system in Ireland as opposed to in the States. Every university in Ireland is required, under a federal mandate, to have a fully autonomous and independently funded student union with its own separate offices and student representation on the administration's governing board.

Since each school has its own student union, this federal mandate has led to a close relationship between all of the student unions in Ireland, effectively creating a nation-wide system to ensure that the rights of all students in Ireland are respected. I have seen first hand the power these student unions wield: as long as they are not engaged in illegal activities, the school's

administration is, under Federal law, more or less unable to interfere with the initiatives of the student unions.

This obviously gives the student union a lot of freedom with what they can do, and they have a lot of fun with that, while remaining transparent to the student body. For instance, the student union funds student clubs equally and fairly as well as events such as a student union concert series in the campus bar.

However, what is truly inspiring is seeing the student union's commitment to equality and equal opportunity for all of its students, as well as the level of student support and activism behind the student union. The student union incorporates an equality officer into its board of executives who is in charge of recognizing and organizing events around issues of inequality on campus. This year's equality officer also happens to be the president of the Human Rights Activism Society. These student activism initia-

tives often put the student union in direct conflict with the administration and even with prominent Irish politicians, but the students remain well within their rights.

At my host university, National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG), for instance, students have organized and physically barred certain politicians access to rooms where they were scheduled to speak on the perceived need for student fees. Currently, all Irish citizens are entitled to free college level education, but due to the current economic downturn, (amongst other reasons) the government is seriously considering reinstating fees, which the student union is adamantly against, as it will inherently bar a significant amount of the student body from pursuing higher education. Recently, the collective student unions of Ireland organized a huge march in Dublin in response to these fees, and the student union of NUIG provided affordable transportation to any students wishing to attend the

demonstration. The student union is also quite globally minded and has organized a number of marches against human rights violations worldwide, including marches protesting the war in Iraq and the conflict in the Palestinian Territories.

In light of the recent ASWU elections, I urge all of us to critically reevaluate what we expect and need out of our own student union and administration. Regardless of whom we voted for and elected this time around, I believe that each and every one of us has the power to hold ASWU and our administration accountable for seeing to the needs of all students. As students, this is our educational experience and our university, and it is ultimately up to us to come together and make sure that our university is one that works for the rights of each and every one of us, both as students and people.

Contact: cwiggins@willamette.edu

## OPINION

## The origins of our Bearcat

KAELI SWIFT  
GUEST WRITER

In my past four years at Willamette, I, like all WU students, have found myself asking that age-old question: what exactly is a bearcat? After a number of unsatisfactory answers I think it's high time a biologist put in her two cents.

In general, the current two responses to that question are first that it's a mystical animal capable of both cat-like speed and bear-like ferocity, or that it's an animal more formally known as the Binturong, a cute, cuddly, tree dwelling animal from southeast Asia that smells like popcorn. Though our mascot's history is vague and often conflicting, the one thing I can say for sure is that our predecessors weren't breaking out their encyclopedia of Asian mammals when they came up with it. So what might they have been thinking of?

The earliest reference to the Bearcat that I could find was in the 1920 edition of the *Wallowah*, a time when the fur trade industry was in full swing. And what animal was a dangerous, but prized catch for a Pacific Northwest trapper? Why, none other than our mascot the

Bearcat. Or, as it is more commonly referred to today, the wolverine. In proportion to their body weight, wolverines are known for their ability to eat more at one sitting than any other animal. They viscerously defend their kills from wolves, cougars and even bears. Their jaws are among the most powerful of land predators.

Although answers are inconsistent, some alumni will tell you that a bearcat is something that fights or acts with fierceness. Wolverines can most certainly be described as acting with fierceness, but my guess is that they originally received the bearcat nickname because they make a sound very similar to that of a bear, but are only about the size of a medium dog, or large cat. The definition of bearcat cited by alumni probably bloomed out of its association with the wolverine. Given all the characteristics that would make them an intimidating mascot, why our school has settled with the Binturong remains a mystery to me. Perhaps they thought the best defense is a good offense, and the best offense is the distracting smell of delicious popcorn.

Contact: kswift@willamette.edu

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Response to Issue 20 comic:

Two weeks ago, the *Collegian* featured a cartoon about Willamette students snubbing inorganic produce. Sure, there may be WU students who prefer God's blessing of organic carrots to the scourge-of-the-earth, chemically engineered, bio-enhanced carrots that Satan feeds to his minions, but I know people who live on instant rice and frozen vegetables. There was nothing new or clever about this cartoon: the economy's gone all to hell, organic food is expensive and Willamette costs an arm and a leg so everyone who goes here must be loaded. We get it. From someone who's still toughing it out at Goudy, how about we refrain from implying that all students are snobs?

Caitlin Preminger

cpreminger@willamette.edu

## Responses to streak at Serenades:

Panhellenic Council and Interfraternity Council would like to apologize for the incident that occurred

during Phi Delta Theta's portion of the Serenades Dance Share on Friday night. The involved student was not affiliated with any Greek chapter that participated in Serenades.

Evan Jones

ejones@willamette.edu

I would like to apologize for my behavior on Friday, March 13 at the Greek Serenades Dance Share. I have heard that there have been rumors that I am a member of Phi Delta Theta, and that my actions were a planned part of the dance. However, this is not the case. I am not a member of Phi Delta and they had no knowledge that I was going to do what I did. It was a spontaneous act and I am the only one who should be held responsible. I would like the event organizers, the Phi Deltas and everyone present to know that I am very sorry that I disrupted Phi Delta's dance and the evening as a whole.

Robert Blodgett

rblodgett@willamette.edu

## OPINION

## Why you should vaccinate yourself and your children

JEFFREY COLLINS  
GUEST WRITER

This year has not been good to those who oppose vaccination: first one of the most commonly cited (and one of the only existing) papers claiming to find evidence that vaccination causes autism was revealed to be a complete fraud by *The Times*<sup>1</sup>, and then the federal "vaccine court" ruled that parents who brought a lawsuit "failed to demonstrate that ... vaccines can contribute to ... causing either autism or gastrointestinal dysfunction."<sup>2</sup> I hope their year gets a lot worse.

Members of the anti-vaccination club have been bleating for some time that immunizations are unnecessary, a scam by drug companies, or the cause of autism. On all three accounts they could not be more wrong. First, vaccination is absolutely essential to public health. Measles, one of the vaccinations that activists rail against, is not a slightly worse case of chicken pox, as many people who have never encountered a case seem to think. It causes pneumonia in 10 percent of children and 50 percent of adults infected, and death in three out of every 1000 cases (30 percent in immunocompromised patients). It can also cause encephalitis and brain damage<sup>3</sup>. Now the virus is back with a vengeance in the UK, where vaccination rates have fallen below the 85 percent rate needed to create herd immunity<sup>4</sup>.

Anti-vaccinationists have claimed that mandatory vaccination schemes are a scam by phar-

maceutical companies. This makes no sense. Pharmaceutical companies make almost no money off of vaccines, even with mandatory vaccination<sup>5</sup>. Also, no one has managed to find a single case where industry has influenced the results of a study on vaccines. Whatever their other faults, conspiracy theorists make excellent watchdogs - assuming you don't mind being woken up at 2:00 a.m. to investigate shadows, reflections and squirrels.

Finally, activists claim that vaccines cause autism. They are either deluded or disingenuous. First of all, there has yet to be a large-scale controlled study of any kind linking vaccination to autism<sup>6</sup>, and many studies have found the exact opposite<sup>7-10</sup>. Some activists have pointed to observations by parents and educators that either autism has increased over the years (which is more likely a result of increased awareness and screening). One activist, Rebecca Estep, asked "When does anecdotal evidence become enough?" The answer is never. At the risk of being trite, the plural of "anecdote" is not "data." We do not credit people on television claiming that a diet program works when scientific studies show that it doesn't; why should we credit anecdotes claiming that vaccines cause autism when studies show the exact opposite?

I would propose two reforms: first, mandatory vaccination schedules should be expanded to include all children (even those not attending public school) and the philosophical and

religious exemptions should be removed. We do not allow parents to endanger their children by refusing basic medical care such as insulin or antibiotics<sup>11</sup>, and there is no reason to allow parents to deny their children vaccines.

Second, parents that refuse to comply need to be charged with endangerment and doctors that encourage them need to lose their licenses. Imagine parents that put their children in a chamber that has a one in 10,000<sup>12</sup> (or even lower) chance of filling with cyanide gas, despite the fact that every piece of evidence says that it's dangerous and no evidence showing benefit. They would (rightly) be hauled to prison. Parents refusing to vaccinate their children are no different, except that they're endangering more than just their kids. The doctors bear just as much responsibility: they are supposed to be protecting their patients, not promulgating hippy-dippy pseudoscientific nonsense that has been shown to be incorrect.

Think of the children.

## Sources:

- 1) Deer B. MMR doctor Andrew Wakefield fixed data on autism. *The Times* 2009 February 8.
- 2) Johnston A. U.S. Court Rejects Vaccine Connection to Autism. *The Wall Street Journal* 2009 February 13.
- 3) Perry RT, Halsey NA. The Clinical Significance of Measles: A Review. *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* 2004 189(9):545-16.

4) MMR immunisation rate falls again. BBC NEWS 2004 September 23.

5) Goodman JL. Statement before the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the United States House of Representatives. 2005.

6) You can't prove a negative. Thus no citation.

7) Gillberg C, Heijbel H. MMR and Autism. *Autism* 1998 2(4):423-424.

8) Madsen KM, Hviid A, Vestergaard M, Schendel D, Jan Wohlfahrt, Thorsen P, Olsen J, Mads Melbye MD. A Population-Based Study of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccination and Autism. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2002 347(19):1477-1482.

9) Jefferson T, Price D, Demicheli V, Blanco E. Unintended events following immunization with MMR: a systematic review. *Vaccine* 2003 21(25-26):3954-3960.

10) Fombonne E, Zakarian R, Bennett A, Meng L, McLean-Heywood D. Pervasive Developmental Disorders in Montreal, Quebec, Canada: Prevalence and Links With Immunizations. *Pediatrics* 2006 118(1):139-150.

11) Hammar RR. 1991 March 15. The Right to Refuse Medical Treatment. In *Church Law and Tax Report*. <<http://www.churchlawtoday.com/private/library/pcl/p18f.htm>>. Accessed 2009 March 15.

12) Which is (according to my very rough calculations) less than the chance of an unvaccinated kid in Britain getting measles.

Contact: jcollins@willamette.edu

**THIS WEEK IN ASWU SENATE**

» Re-approved elections board (one student unable to serve, substituted new student). Current membership: Elise Helvie, David Taylor, Colin Waite, May Ohara and Paul Eldred.

» Discussed a resolution to change the ASWU constitution, which would ensure that there are measures in place to replace executive members and senators when they leave office.

» Drafted class e-mails to be sent out by senators.

Compiled by Sen. Caitlin Rathe  
Contact: crathe@willamette.edu

**CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT**

MARCH 6 - MARCH 12, 2009  
Information provided by Campus Safety.

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/PROPERTY DAMAGE**

- ▶ March 6, 6:00 p.m., (Smith Fine Arts): An employee reported a broken window. The window was on the first floor, and appears to have been broken from the outside with a heavy object.
- ▶ March 6, 6:00 p.m., (Belknap Hall): Campus Safety investigated a broken window screen on the north side of the building. Unknown suspects pushed the screen out from the inside of the building.
- ▶ March 9, 8:20 p.m., (Mahoney Building): Graffiti was reported on the south side of the Mahoney Building. Three areas were sprayed with red and black paint and ink.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID**

- ▶ March 8, 3:30 p.m., (in a campus residence): Campus Safety and WEMS investigated a potential suicide attempt. A student was taken to the Salem Hospital for treatment.
- ▶ March 10, 9:10 a.m., (Lee House): A student who had become dizzy, nauseous, and then passed out was transported to the Salem Hospital for evaluation.
- ▶ March 11, 4:01 a.m., (Kaneko Hall): Campus Safety responded to a report of possible food poisoning. A student who had been vomiting for several hours was taken to the Salem Hospital. Alcohol was not believed to be involved.
- ▶ March 12, 8:49 p.m., (Kaneko Hall): An RA reported a student had injured her ankle playing lacrosse. She was given an ice pack and transported to the Salem Hospital.

**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/POLICY VIOLATION**

- ▶ March 6, 11:30 p.m., (Lausanne Hall): An intoxicated student was cited for disorderly conduct after harassing a female student and then withholding information from officers.
  - ▶ March 10, 3:48 p.m., (Matthews Parking Lot): An audit revealed that a student had violated university policy by receiving his 11th parking citation. A report was forward to the Campus Judicial office.
  - THEFT**
  - ▶ March 9, 6:30 p.m., (Montag Center): A student reported his iPod was stolen while he was asleep. The investigation is continuing.
  - ▶ March 11, 2:30 p.m., (Goudy Commons): Campus Safety investigated a report of a stolen backpack. Video was obtained and was reviewed which identified the student responsible.
- Please contact Campus Safety if you have any information regarding these incidents: [safety@willamette.edu](mailto:safety@willamette.edu)



WWW.WILLAMETTECOLLEGIAN.COM

ADVERTISEMENT

**THE WILLAMETTE STORE**

**30% Off**

**ALL LEISURE READING BOOKS NO LIMIT!**

*March 17-28*

*Spring Break Hours:  
Mon.-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm  
Closed Saturday 3/21 & 3/28  
503-370-6315*

*No Additional Discounts apply*