

COLLEGIAN

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BREAKING NEWS:

Religious holidays vindicated

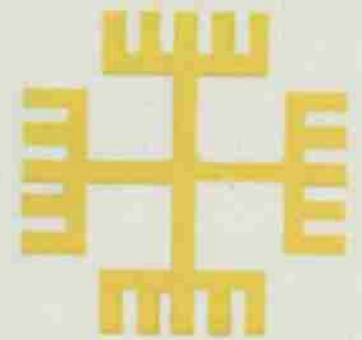
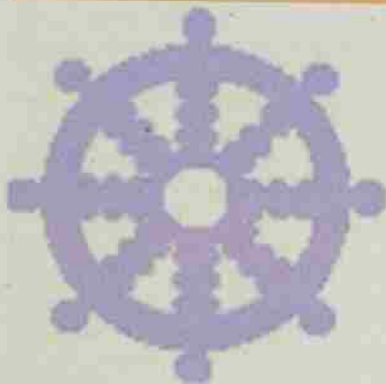
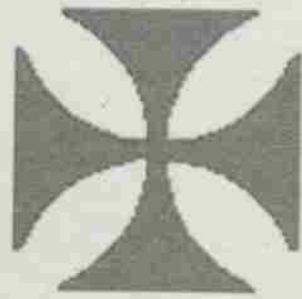
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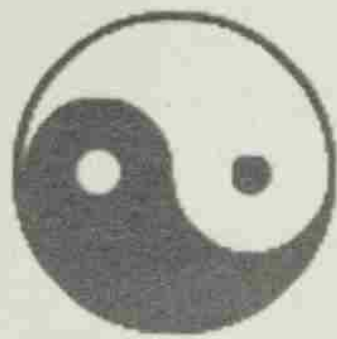
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2009-2010 budget approved, increased by \$3 million

RUTH HEALD
STAFF WRITER

The university budget for 2009-2010 was recently devised and approved by the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee and University President M. Lee Pelton. At \$80 million, the budget has increased by \$3 million from the 2008-2009 school year to accommodate rising costs of utilities and health care.

"The FY 2009-10 budget is based on a set of sound priorities: maintain core academic programs and activities, sustain competitive salaries for faculty and staff, manage financial aid in order to maintain a diverse and quality student population, and insure that academic facilities satisfy educational mission," Pelton said in an e-mail. "These prin-

ciple and disciplined priorities protect our revenue drivers (marketing and fund-raising) and programs that are most likely to increase consumer demand (financial aid)."

The budget falls approximately \$925,000 short of the administration's expectations in September 2008. A reduced dependence on part-time instructors and a 1-2 percent savings in academic/instructional areas and non-instructional areas will compensate for this shortcoming.

Pelton said that the adjustments are not necessarily permanent. "We develop new budgets each year, and the expenditures are dependent on economic and budget realities," Pelton said.

According to Pelton, the budget was balanced through cuts in the College of Liberal

Arts faculty, permanent cuts in operations, and a 4.9 percent tuition increase for CLA students. Despite a 40 percent increase of applicants for the CLA, the budget was conservatively planned based on a modest target enrollment for the CLA.

"This will be a very difficult year to predict with reasonable accuracy how many students will matriculate," Pelton said in a phone interview.

Pelton estimates that only 56 percent of student applicants will be admitted to the university this year. "This is the most selective class in our history," Pelton said. "Moreover, it appears that our creative undergraduate loan forgiveness program may be attracting new students while retaining current students." Pelton added that financial aid has increased

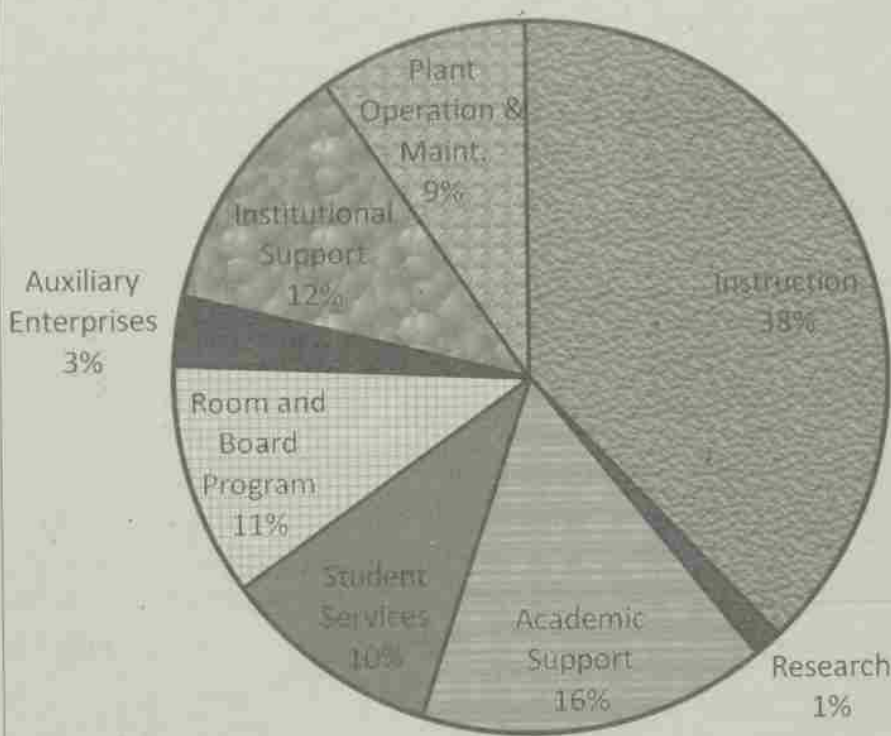
for undergraduate students by 2.3 percent.

Programs at the Atkinson Graduate School of Management and School of Education are all demonstrating upward trends, and applications at the College of Law have increased by approximately 50 percent since the 2008-2009 school year.

Pelton addressed concerns about the economy in his e-mail. "Most important, the FY 2009-10 budget recognizes that the recession may be of uncertain duration but it is not permanent," Pelton said. "Therefore our goal should be to design a budget that has the best chance of making Willamette more resilient and competitive when the economy recovers."

Contact: rhead@willamette.edu

2009-2010 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES



PATRICK WILGODS

	2008-09 BUDGET	2009-10 PROJECTED BUDGET	% CHG	2010-11 PROJECTED BUDGET	% CHG
REVENUES					
Tuition & Fees	\$81,791,920	\$83,369,220	1.9%	\$88,137,458	5.7%
Less Institutional Student Aid	27,983,392	27,759,972	-0.8%	29,961,169	7.9%
Net Tuition and Fees Charged	53,808,528	55,609,248	3.3%	58,176,289	4.6%
Room and Board Fees	10,372,000	11,333,500	9.3%	11,900,175	5.0%
Auxiliary Sales and Services	2,741,165	2,693,165	-1.8%	2,773,960	3.0%
CWS and other Federal Sources	480,000	500,000	4.2%	500,000	0.0%
Gifts	1,430,000	1,430,000	0.0%	1,458,600	2.0%
Endowment	7,330,000	7,330,000	0.0%	6,989,000	-4.7%
Other	866,500	914,500	5.5%	932,790	2.0%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$77,028,193	\$79,810,413	3.6%	\$82,730,814	3.7%
EXPENDITURES					
Instruction	\$29,707,946	\$30,309,692	2.0%	\$31,501,153	3.9%
Research	974,329	974,329	0.0%	1,003,559	3.0%
Academic Support	12,335,690	12,569,816	1.9%	12,957,241	3.1%
Student Services	7,765,185	8,094,853	4.2%	8,407,906	3.9%
Room and Board Program	8,165,636	8,423,636	3.2%	8,705,936	3.4%
Auxiliary Enterprises	2,635,764	2,635,764	0.0%	2,714,837	3.0%
Institutional Support	8,794,510	9,228,689	4.9%	9,680,429	4.9%
Plant Operation & Maint	6,649,133	7,573,625	13.9%	8,391,955	10.8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$77,028,193	\$79,810,413	3.6%	\$83,363,016	4.5%
REVENUES LESS EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$0		(\$632,201)	

SOURCE: M. LEE PELTON

A comparison of budgets from FY 2008-2009, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011.

CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

APRIL 3 - APRIL 9, 2009
Information provided by Campus Safety

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF / PROPERTY DAMAGE

▶ April 4, 10:10am, (Doney Hall): An unknown individual broke a pane of glass in the window of the second floor men's room.

▶ April 5, 10:00 am, (Found Property): Campus Safety found a partial human skeleton (assembled for teaching purposes) on the ground near the fountain at Sparks. The property was taken and stored at Campus Safety for safekeeping.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

▶ April 5, 2:49am, (Beta Theta Pi): Campus Safety responded to a WEMS call relating to a student suffering from alcohol poisoning. The student was transported to Salem Hospital for treatment.

▶ April 5, 5:00am, (Kaneko Hall): WEMS and Campus Safety responded to a call that a student was suffering from alcohol poisoning. The victim was assessed by WEMS, who recommended additional treatment. The victim refused and WEMS advised the victim of what precautions to take.

▶ April 8, 12:51pm, (Doney Hall): A student was transported to Salem Hospital after she apparently fainted in the hall of her residence.

▶ April 7, 11:10pm, (Delta Gamma): A student was transported to Salem Hospital for treatment because she was suffering from severe abdominal pains.

▶ April 9, 8:15am, (Haseldorf Apartments): A student, suffering from a strained foot, was transported to Bishop Wellness and then Urgent Care by Campus Safety.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY / POLICY VIOLATION

▶ April 3, 4:30pm, (Various on Campus): It was reported that an unknown number of Collegian newspapers (the April Fools edition) were removed from their stands located throughout campus. The reporting party stated that he believed that the papers were taken because of an unflattering story. At this point, no information has been discovered relating to the missing publications.

▶ April 3, 11:48pm, (Belknap Hall): Campus Safety observed a male student urinating, in public, on the south side of Matthews. The student, under the age of 21 years, admitted to con-

suming alcoholic beverages.

▶ April 7, 9:02 am, (Kaneko Hall): During the investigation of a false alarm at Kaneko, Campus Safety discovered that a student ignored the alarm and chose not to evacuate the building, because he was texting on his cell phone. The student was seen shortly thereafter in the lobby of the building, apparently having never left the building as directed.

▶ April 7, 3:00pm, (Matthews and Spark Lots): During an audit it was determined that a student had received his 13th citation in violation of University policy.

▶ April 8, 2:20pm, (Matthews Lot): A student was found to be in violation of policy after receiving his 13th parking violation.

▶ April 9, 7:47am, (Hatfield Library): Campus Safety approached an individual who had been frequenting Campus with increasing regularity. The individual quickly gave his name, closed his game session, gathered his things and left the campus without being asked.

THEFT

▶ April 4, 8:00am, (Beta Theta Pi): A student noted that his bicycle had been stolen from the side of Beta Theta Pi, where he had locked and secured it a few hours earlier.

▶ April 7, 3:20pm, (Matthews Hall): A student reported that she fell asleep in the lobby of Matthews with her laptop computer next to her. She said that when she woke up the computer was gone.

▶ April 9, 8:20am, (Eaton Hall): An employee reported that an unknown woman removed a large poster of an upcoming event from an easel in the Lobby area. It was also that other smaller posters were missing from Waller Hall and Smullin.

TRESPASSING

▶ April 3, 4:55pm, (Smith Fine Arts): After receiving a telephone notification, Campus Safety located six young men doing skateboard tricks around Smith Auditorium. As the group was approached the Officers observed one of the individual to jump and fall on the sidewalk. The individual denied an injury and refused any medical treatment. The group was very cooperative as they were issued written trespass notices.

▶ April 5, 7:45pm, (Smith Fine Arts): Campus Safety issued an individual a written trespass notice after he violated a previous verbal warning.

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

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Students sweep the floor at national debate tournament

MICHELLE BELLUSCI
CONTRIBUTOR

Senior MaryAnn Almeida was awarded top overall debater out of 446 students at the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championship Tournament, held March 27-30 at the University of the Pacific. She and her partner, senior Nick Robinson, advanced to the quarter-finals, taking seventh place out of 223 teams. Seniors Acacia McGuire and Eric Lowe advanced to the semi-finals, taking third place in the tournament.

According to Robert Trapp, Professor of Rhetoric and Media Studies and Director of the Willamette University Debate Union, Almeida is the first Willamette student to have won the top overall debater award at the national tournament. Also, Lowe and McGuire's third place finish is the best that a Willamette team has done in 18 years at this tournament.

Almeida said that winning this award was a good way to end her college debating career. "It's really satisfying and rewarding to win this award, after being on the team at Willamette and in the debate community for the past four years," Almeida said. "I'm so grateful for the experience I've had, and this was a nice way to say goodbye."



COURTESY OF ACACIA MCGUIRE

From left, senior Acacia McGuire, senior Eric Lowe, junior Brett Dahlberg, and senior MaryAnn Almeida prepare for a debate round at championships.

According to Trapp, teams are judged primarily on their argument, rather than on speaking ability. "What the judges are looking for are the most convincing arguments that each side presents, so speaking ability ... is not supposed to be the main point," Trapp said. However, in every debate, each speaker is awarded between zero and 30 speaker points. Almeida's average was over 29 points, winning her the best overall debater award.

McGuire said that participating in these national tournaments takes an extensive amount of preparation. Students generally ready themselves by researching and keeping up with current events, creating fact sheets for possible topics and doing practice debate rounds. "It's kind of an ongoing preparation - there [are] a lot of things that go into doing well at debate," McGuire said.

Students debate on a wide variety of topics. According to Almeida, topics she debated included military intervention in Mexico, domestic food safety, aid to Tajikistan and the use of bailout funds for CEO bonuses.

Because students are only given their topic 20 minutes before the debate, it is essential for them to have a wide knowledge base. "You sort of have to be up on basically everything that's happening in the world, because anything is fair game," Robinson said.

Debate has no divisions, so these students debate against both small schools and much larger schools, like Berkeley and the University of Oregon. "It's pretty cool that our school is able to be competitive with [bigger schools]," Lowe said.

Lowe explained that he enjoys debate because it has both a competitive and an academic aspect to it. "What I like about it is that it's intellectually stimulating," Lowe said. "I like the level of academic vigor and learning new things all the time that I never would otherwise."

Almeida said that she participates in debate for similar reasons. "I love the thrill of intellectual competition and the adrenaline of focusing on the debate at hand to the exclusion of anything else," she said. "I've really benefited from working with the team [and] getting to know students from all over the country."



COURTESY OF ACACIA MCGUIRE

Senior and top debater at the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championship Tournament MaryAnn Almeida.

Both Robinson and McGuire claimed that they were concerned about the future of the debate team with regard to funding. "The debate team is always in a bit of a precarious situation because we're sort of easy to cut," Robinson said.

McGuire added that she hopes that the debate program will survive budget cuts. "I view debate as very important, at least in my life," she said. "It's definitely changed my college career, and so I hope that it can do the same thing for other people in the future."

Trapp remarked that he was pleased with the hard work and the accomplishments of the team this year. "To be at the level where these four debater students are ... it's a lot of work," he said. "I'm really proud of these kids."

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Religious holidays accommodated

MERYL HULSE
CONTRIBUTOR

On Tuesday, Apr. 14, the faculty voted on AWSU's Religious Holiday Initiative, a policy that will excuse students who recognize religious holidays that conflict with academic work.

The policy, which has been revised multiple times at the request of faculty and staff, was passed at the faculty meeting on Tuesday. "This policy is a culmination of four or five months of work," senior David Reichert, who has spearheaded the campaign, said. Reichert is an ASWU senator, as well as a member of the Multicultural Affairs Committee.

The team behind the Religious Holiday Initiative includes Reichert, the Office of the Chaplains, Associate Dean David Douglass and Eastside Area Coordinator Dan Herman, among others.

Reichert said that his interest in creating the policy started when he realized several of his friends were having difficulty keeping up with assignments during Yom Kippur, the most important Jewish holiday. "I realized other people of different religious faiths had similar problems," Reichert said.

Reichert said that the initiative had taken many forms the initiative since its first draft. "I thought that there should be a list of which religious holidays could be taken off, so that faculty could be cognizant of that," Reichert said. He included a list of 12 religious holidays, and an ad hoc committee that students could meet with should their religious holiday not be included.

Reichert then sent the policy to the Faculty Council. At the faculty's suggestion, Reichert made some modifications. "There was too much emphasis on the list, Reichert said. "It wasn't exhaustive ... and there was a question of which holidays would be religious."

In its current form, the Religious Holiday Initiative states that students should talk to professors during the first two weeks of the semester about class work they may miss due to religious

holidays. "A lot of [the policy] is symbolic," Reichert said. "There have been students who have considered Willamette and ended up not going ... because Willamette has not had a policy even stating something about religious diversity."

Of the many diverse faiths on campus, Reichert also mentioned Muslim MBA school students who have had trouble keeping up with classes while fasting during Ramadan. Reichert said he hoped the policy would also support faculty of diverse faiths.

"As our campus reflects the increasing religious diversity of our region and our nation," Associate Chaplain Karen Wood said. "Our own commitment to inclusiveness requires that we ensure that all of our students - those of diverse religious backgrounds and those who do not consider themselves religious - feel not just welcome but also comfortable on this campus," Associate Chaplain Karen Wood said.

According to Reichert, religious diversity has long been an overlooked issue. "Even this religious diversity stuff hasn't totally crept in to a lot of college campuses. Willamette is going to be ahead of the curve once we pass this thing. [Willamette] has been more focused on racial and sexual orientation diversity, and religious diversity hasn't really come into effect," Reichert said.

Among many other groups on campus, ASWU has supported the policy. Senior and ASWU President Larkin Smith said that she looks forward to the initiative's ability to attract possible international students as well. "In the Council for Diversity and Social Justice we discussed how this might affect policy for staff and for all levels of the administration, not just in the classroom, so that's exciting," Smith said.

Wood also mentioned the educational opportunity for both students and staff. "I hope, as well, that such a policy will offer opportunities for members of the Willamette community to become educated about religious holidays and traditions that are of importance to many of their classmates and professors," Wood said.

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Bistro gets composter

ZOË LARMER
CONTRIBUTOR

The Bistro recently purchased a new composter in cooperation with Bon Appétit at Cat Cavern in an effort to become a more sustainable operation. Both Cat Cavern and the Bistro have been using the composter since its arrival just after spring break. "It was one of my goals [for the Bistro] when I became general manager to become more sustainable," Bistro general manager Maureen Goltz said.

The composter was paid for through a grant from the Sustainability Committee. Though the composter has yet to produce any compost, the compost it does eventually produce will be used by the university. "It's going to be used around campus with the grounds crew," Goltz said. "[The composter] is located by the UC dumpsters, which is where the Bistro and Cat Cavern put their garbage, so it's not a lot of effort for us to be doing this."

The composter is one of several changes the Bistro has made in an effort to become more sustainable. This year vegetables from the Kaneko Community Garden have been used in several recipes and the Bistro has begun encouraging its patrons to bring their own "to go" mugs.

Bistro employee Madeline Yoste said she is happy with the changes. "I think it's great that [Goltz] has taught us how to use the composter and that our garbage is becoming sustainable, reusable dirt," Yoste said.

Contact: zlarmer@willamette.edu



MOLLY CARVER

Senior Mara Engle putting food waste into the Bistro's new composter.

► learn more

To read the initiative in its entirety, visit the *Collegian* website at www.willamettecollegian.com.

SALEM TRAVEL ADVENTURES:

The phantom of the opera house mall is here

Enjoy 'Puppy Bling,' marionettes and big slabs of soap at Salem's other shopping center



MICHAEL CAULEY

REVIEWS EDITOR

If there is one thing to say about Salem, it's that it is filled with historic (and in some cases just plain old) buildings. In fact, one might say it is lousy with them. In fact, many of these buildings have been around for a century or longer. Much like the people who leave their Christmas trees tied to their car because they don't have the heart to throw it away, Salem keeps these landmarks around despite their age, instead finding ways to give them new life, much like Frankenstein. Of course, nothing epitomizes this more than the old Reed Opera House, which was once a site of city culture and is now a shopping mall. Ain't that progress?

The first thing you'll see when you approach the Reed Opera House Mall is that you can't really actually see the place, except for a small brown sign which is obscured by an overhang and a half-dozen other signs. Bizarrely, the mall seems to be almost hidden away from the rest of downtown Salem. Although numerous storefronts do make themselves seen, you'd have no way of knowing that they were all connected in some way. I was blaming myself for getting lost just trying to find the place, but I guess I needn't have bothered.

Immediately upon entering, the building insists on explaining itself by relaying its entire history, not through an easy-to-read pamphlet, but through a gigantic framed poster on that wall that goes through every



The interior of the Reed Opera House Mall. Macedonia and Kilt & Thistle are pictured.

bit of Reed Opera House minutiae that you could ever think of. For example, did you know that back in 1870s, Salem's residents often made fist fights and gambling nightly events? Very enlightening! It also told me that the building's patriarch, Cyrus Reed, designed the opera house to have 1500 seats when there were only about 1200 people in the entire town. It was not a very heartening thing to learn. That, and the fact that the poster proudly trumpets that the Opera House welcomed both one-term president Rutherford B. Hayes and various minstrel shows onto its stage.

However, the Reed Opera House's days

as the entertainment hub of this fair town are long gone (thanks to those dangblasted moving pictures they were showing over at the Elsinore no doubt), and since the 1970s it's been living out its days as a small-time mall, living in the shadow of a substantially bigger mall filled to the brim with big-time businesses. How could it possibly compete?

The answer, I discovered, was with sheer insanity. In the place of the standard mall McDonald's and Hot Topics, the Reed Opera House seems to have invited nearly every other manner of tenant that would be turned away with a rude scoff by the overlords at the Salem Center. Sure, a fancy restaurant greets you on the way in, but when I dug a little further it was astonishing by what some people considered viable businesses in this particular economy.

Kilt & Thistle: It was closed for its lunch break when I stopped by at 2 p.m., much like a number of other places in the mall (hmm, suspicious), but it seemed to trade in almost exclusively traditional Scottish regalia for both men and women. My heart bleeds for the store's bottom line. I mean, are there really a swarm of people who drop by each week, kids in tow, asking if the new kilts are in, or could they place a bulk order for a new batch of tunics? I'd imagine this kind of place having trouble in Scotland herself, and we're talking about Oregon, USA here. However, big points for the suit of armor camped outside the storefront. It's nice to have something greet you at a place of business that looks like it may gouge you with its spear if you don't nod approvingly at all the fine plaid clothing while you're inside.

Macedonia: It was already covered fairly exhaustively by one of my fellow writers last week, but I'll take this opportunity to note all the national flags that are inexplicably in front of the restaurant and everything else on the top floor. I mean, it's pretty neat and I guess it's nice to celebrate world peace and all that, but it seems odd that the Canadian flag is up there since, I think, the only thing that Canada specifically did for Oregon back in the day was to help England lose the War of 1812 so we greedy Americans could annex it. Watch me get a bunch of e-mails on that one...

The Crystal Mirror: Newly opened downstairs, this place advertises that it specializes in "Dragons, drums, fairies" and so, naturally, I just kept right on walking.

Studio Gallery and Marionette Theater: I was a bit weirded out by the six-foot tall giant old man doll in a suit that greeted me at the front of this place, which also just opened up. I didn't step in since the store was empty and I feared the kind of conversation that I would get roped into if the owner saw me, but observing from a safe

distance it seems like a pretty delightful place (though a bit small for a "theater"). Like the kilt shop, it does seem haunted by the problem of selling rather expensive and non-essential items at a time in which people are selling their cars in order to buy little Joey his Corn Flakes. This is just simply not the best time for Victorian-era whimsy.

Yuppy Puppy: Now on the completely opposite side of the taste spectrum, we have the store that proudly sells, and I quote, "Bling for You and Your Pup." So these are the kinds of people you're dealing with here. To be serious, the lady in the store seemed very nice from outside (again I didn't enter the store because I'd like to hold onto what little manhood I still have left), but it's hard not to get a little nauseous when you look at the row upon row of dog clothes, shoes and other crimes against nature. I'm not saying that dressing up your terrier in a small denim jacket with accompanying sneakers isn't as cute as all get out, but isn't the animal already covered with fur? That's like wearing a sweater in the middle of summer and then putting on a down-filled jacket on top of that. Not so adorable a feeling, I'd imagine.

Dinkum Gear: An outdoorsman shop that is staffed by positively the most steely-eyed old man that I've ever seen in my life, the kind that you imagine eats rocks for breakfast and when he's done spits out ADVENTURE. I also gave him high props for the Indiana Jones cardboard cut-out that he left up in the window because as a typical American male consumer I'm very insecure about my faults, and will purchase things I don't even need in order to emulate popular characters. Well played, old man!

Slab Handcrafted Soap: Technically the main reason I actually brought money to the mall, since I promised my mom I would pick her up some of its wares while I was there (she's a sucker for the stuff). Founded by a Willamette graduate, the store is charming but really sparse, with only its many trays of soap and a cash register adorning the room. However, compared to the other off-kilter businesses at the Reed Opera House, the smells of the soaps make the place almost feel like nirvana, and it was nice to see natural sunlight after spending an hour downstairs trying to observe the inner workings of a marionette theater. There was some confusion about which was the better moisturizer, Avocado Butter or Tuscan Olive, but once I'd sided with the latter the check-out was downright friendly. A* all the way.

This tour doesn't even touch on the number of other stores in the Reed Opera House Mall that were closed for lunch or had simply gone out of business (one vacant space was quite attractively dressed up with a fancy table set and everything). However, what I did get to see of the place was both a little bewildering but also rather fun in that odd, Salem way. I can see why tourists love to stop in here. Where else do you get to see a puppy boutique and a marionette shop nearby each other anymore?

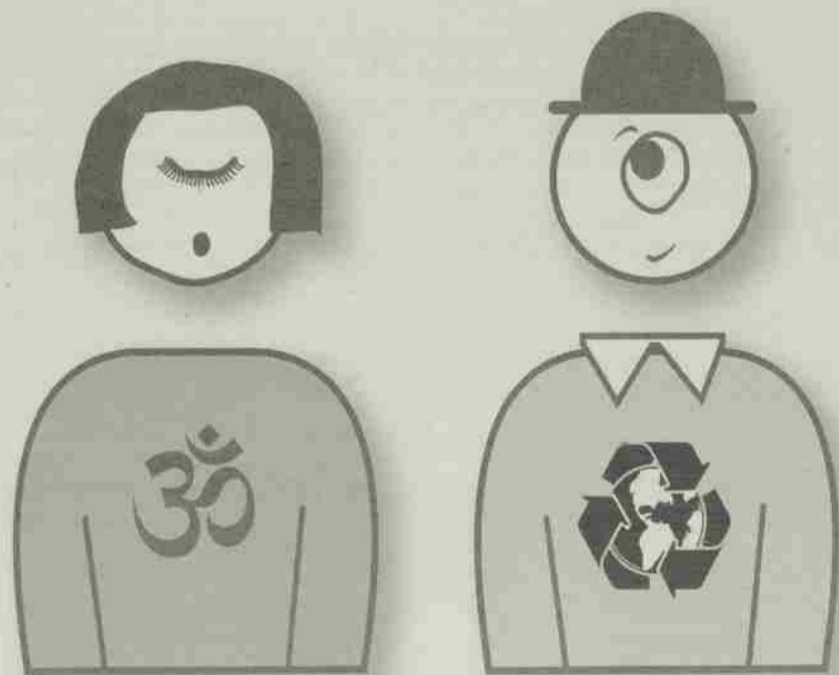
The whole place is a nice modest little throwback to the days when major malls could support these quirky little shops and didn't have to sell their space to boring sure bets like Starbucks or the Gap. Obviously you couldn't do all your shopping in the Opera House's stores (not unless you include kilts and fedoras in your regular wardrobe), but I bet it's a great place to bring a friend and poke around in all the little establishments that are trying to make a very specific subset of people happy. Anyway, it's an easy hour or two to kill, so give it a try.

★★★★★

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ART HISTORY FOR COCKTAIL PARTIES:

Looks damn good, senior art majors

A L I S A
ALEXANDER

ARTS EDITOR

For the senior studio art and art history majors, it's all smooth sailing from here. Unlike students from other departments, art students are all done with their senior theses. The beautiful fruits of their painstaking labor are currently on view at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, where they will remain until May 17.

Every year the senior class of the Art and Art history Department has the opportunity to exhibit their work in the museum. This in itself is a tremendous and perhaps once-in-a-lifetime chance for them to bring their work into public view. The openings for this event are always jam-packed, the mood cheerful and proud, and the nibbles are unfortunately always gone by 6 p.m.

Now I hate to have to say this (I must have some sort of disorder that makes me be brutally honest at all times) but sometimes these shows are a little uncomfortable — only because some of the art shown is really quite exemplary, and some of it is, well, fit only for a middle school fundraiser. However, this year I am pleased to announce that there are truly no weak points in the show. Every artist this year has something different, interesting, and beautiful to contribute to the exhibit. Whew, this certainly makes my job a lot easier. No one likes to be sneered at on the way to class.

The graduating class this year is a little smaller — there are only eight studio art majors and eight art history majors. This is great because it means each artist is allowed more space to exhibit his or her work, and in turn make more (or larger) pieces. What struck me the most about the show is how diverse it is for being so small. The media ranges from encaustics (wax-glazed paintings) to textiles to found-object sculpture. This is not a show that consists only of traditional oil paintings or life-like drawings.

Each artist also addresses in their work a very personal and well-articulated viewpoint. Susannah Kelly chose to paint a series of pieces based on the lives of saints and includes a vitrine full of archaic objects associated with each one. I must

say I am a little biased — I love me a modern interpretation of tried-and-true art historical references — and Kelly does a spectacular job depicting the expressive and human side of each of these saints as well as recreating a history of these figures based on her own personal interpretation.

Lauren Lathrop explores the complexities of what is meant to be human — inside and out. Her large textile pieces of anatomical human figures titled "Legio Imago, or How I Understand Myself" echo ancient scientific drawings and yet seem modern and relevant through Lathrop's refined and minimalist eye. This may be the first time I have seen a fabric artist at the senior art exhibit.

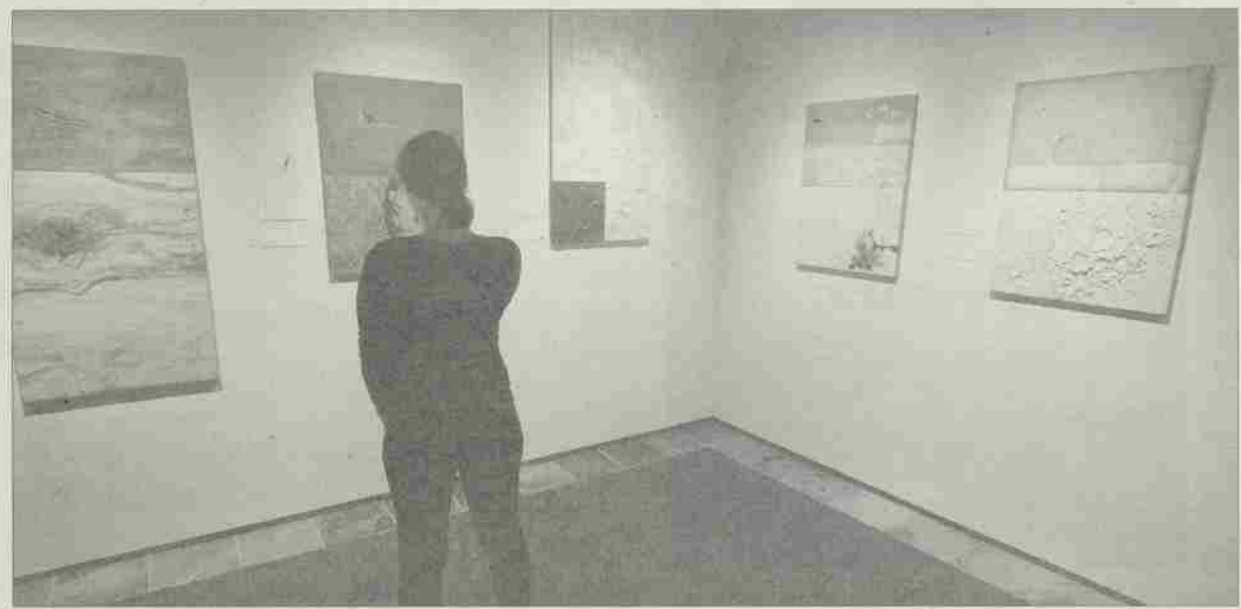
Tess Milio however, explores not the internal but external world, most importantly college culture. Her massive sculpture of stacked alcohol containers surrounded by ashtrays has a faint odor of the remnants of a party that begs to be cleaned up after, and the fond nostalgic associations of the always dependable two-buck Chuck (good ol' Charles Shaw wine, three dollars a bottle, baby).

Next to her sculpture is a large installation of television sets playing footage of actual Willamette parties (only from the neck down to protect the guests' anonymity, although I could certainly spot myself as well as many others in the film).

For me, that piece was a poignant and observant homage of the experiences of college coeds everywhere. It touched on substance abuse, the frenetic chaos of balls-to-wall weekends, and a time in each of our lives that will never be replicated again — this crazy, lovely experience we call college.

Seriously, go see this show. I know I haven't discussed the art history majors' theses (and the other outstanding studio art theses, sadly — my space is limited) but honestly I didn't sit down and read them, though perhaps I will. It's really a fine show this year, and, damn, does it look good. You should be proud, senior art and art history majors, I mean it.

Contact: alexanda@willamette.edu



Senior Lauren Vice views Georgia Watson's display of encaustics at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art.

BEHZOD SIRJANI

'Woyzeck' will rivet audiences

BETHANY HUNTLEY
CONTRIBUTOR

"Is it the yes that makes the no? Or the no that makes the yes? I'll have to think about that one..."

And think about it you will after watching Willamette Theater's final production of the year, Georg Büchner's "Woyzeck." I caught a preview of the show and spoke with two students involved in the production, and this is not a show to miss. This will be the last show in the Kresge Theatre as is (before it is remodeled this summer) and many of Willamette's finest actors will be graduating in May.

Franz Woyzeck is an impoverished soldier in a small town. Bullied by his captain and subjected to bizarre medical experimentation by an army doctor, Woyzeck's nerves are already strained when he begins to suspect that his wife, Marie, is having an affair with a drum-major. Through a series of vignettes, the play charts his increasing distrust and anger until, overcome with jealousy and despair, Woyzeck is driven to destroy the only thing he has ever loved. It starts in the middle of the action, an ordered and organized reality strictly governed by authority that quickly crumbles into chaos. Sarah Jo Kendall, a senior theater major, warned me "this will be different from usual WU theater. It will be fast-paced and hard-hitting."

The original script for the play was incomplete at the time of Büchner's death, which provided the theater program with the chance to create a truly collaborative piece. An exciting and challenging process,

the company drew from several adaptations of "Woyzeck," Büchner's original German manuscripts, and additions from director Jonathan Cole as well as the company. This piece exemplifies Willamette's tradition of students and faculty working together, compromising and sharing ideas. The director, cast and crew were all involved with the creation and process of this performance.

One of the greatest things about this show is the set. As a school which prides itself on sustainability, it's nice to note that 90 percent of the set is made from recycled material. The set design team, composed of Christopher L. Harris, sophomore theater major Geoffrey Suthers, and junior art history major Sarah Lydecker, visualized the dystopian universe of the play as a dark environment where the world seems to be falling apart. They translated these themes into theater in the round, where the audience will literally be in a circle around the "stage."

The strongest element of the set is a central ring or ramp which forms a broken circle and sets the ground space. Along the same lines of distress and destruction, there are hanging pipes, chains, ropes, and suspended netting which actors frequently hang from and cages which actors will be in at different points in the performance. All of these elements focus on the reality of violence in a world where order is breaking down into chaos.

Please note that they're not exaggerating when they warn about nudity, violence and adult language that is absolutely inappropriate for children. Also, think about attending the opening night gala — it will be well worth your while.

Contact: bhuntley@willamette.edu

Share stories with S.H.E.

JAY MONK
CONTRIBUTOR

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Strength Health and Equality (S.H.E.) with help from the Sexual Assault Response Allies (S.A.R.A.) will put on Take Back The Night and The Clothesline Project, two major events that combine to raise awareness about the issue of sexual assault. These programs with foster peer-to-peer sharing of stories in a safe setting and open forum. This year these two events will be taking place during the week of April 19-24.

The Clothesline Project gives participants a chance to decorate a t-shirt, focusing on how domestic and sexual assault have affected their own lives. The shirts are decorated beforehand, and then every t-shirt ever made with S.H.E. is displayed on clotheslines in front of Eaton Hall. Each t-shirt is unique, and it silently reflects the story of the shirt's artist. The Clothesline Project shirts will be hung up on April 18, and will remain in front of Eaton for one week.

Take Back The Night will held in Cone Chapel on April 23 this year at 8 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend the event. Survivors of sexual and domestic assault and those affected by it are here given a chance to tell their stories in a safe space.

What happens at Take Back The Night is simple. A microphone is placed at the front of

Cone Chapel and anyone is allowed to come up and speak. One by one, individuals of all different backgrounds and identities step up and speak. Storytelling is as ancient an art as any other, and this is expressed most poignantly in the stories of these survivors. After everyone who wants to speak has been given a chance to do so, and the group stands up and "takes back the night." Taking a candle in hand, they will march down around the quad, pausing in Jackson Plaza where anyone who wants to can take a piece of chalk and draw their story on the plaza surface. Afterwards, they return to the chapel, for one final congregation.

If you are curious about the kind of stories that are told or you are looking for more information in general on the topic, you can visit www.takebackthenight.org to find out more about Take Back The Night.

S.H.E. meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Women's Resource Center. S.H.E. meets to function as a support and social group for individuals interested in feminism, and throughout the year plans social action events like the Vagina Monologues and Take Back The Night to raise awareness on the issues of feminism and domestic and sexual assault.

Monk is a co-director of S.H.E.

Contact: jmonk@willamette.edu

► performance times

April 16, 18, 23, 24, 30 and May 1, at 7:30 p.m.

April 19, 26 and May 2 at 2:00 p.m.

► a few highlights



COURTESY OF MAGGIE BRADNEY

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Maggie Bradney:

In Vino Veritas: Horace's Odes Revealed Through Wine
Eaton 211

Matt Romein:
Sensory Digestion
Acting Lab Theatre Playhouse



COURTESY OF TYLER THOMPSON

Tyler Thompson and
Matt Houser:
The Great Space Race: Collins
408

This animated short film, complete with a soundtrack produced by Willamette students, was Thompson's and Houser's final project for last semester's 3D animation course.

Kaeley Pruitt-Hamm:
"Rebuilding Rwanda: Turning the Tide Against Genocide?"
Collins 408

Pruitt-Hamm received funding for this independent film project with a Colloquium grant as well as a partial Lilly grant.



COURTESY OF KAELEY PRUITT-HAMM

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.



WWW.CREATIVECOMMOMS.ORG

Kelsey Tulare:
Kanye West "Jesus Walks:" Building Common Ground by Extending Metaphors
Collins 205

Tulare completed this project for a rhetoric course titled *Metaphor and Communication*.

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Will Nevius:
The Epidemic of Gay Homeless Youth: A Tale of Conflicting Needs
Collins 201

SSRD:

HANNAH WALLER
CONTRIBUTOR

"Why Willamette?" The answer to this question for most students is probably something along the lines of "small class sizes," "excellent academic record" or "exceptional opportunities for working closely with professors." However, with the constant pressure and rigorous workload most students feel every day in their classes, it can become easy to lose focus of Willamette's positive facets and the opportunities they impart.

As a result, students often switch to autopilot mode, simply going through the actions without gaining as much as possible from their courses. One way to combat the effects of turning on autopilot is Student Scholarship Recognition Day (SSRD). SSRD reminds students of the tremendous possibilities that lay before them by means of showcasing some of the most brilliant and accomplished students and the fruits of their labor.

SSRD, happening today, April 15 in various buildings across campus, is a day of oral presentations and performances showcasing student scholarship and creativity. It is based entirely on the work of each student presenter, whether it is demonstrated through a description of research projects, art or dance performances, or panel discussions, to name just a few. Today marks the ninth anniversary of SSRD, an event that has been dynamic in its goals and format alike.

Before the creation of SSRD, no program enabled students to present their hard work to the university community and receive feedback from peers and faculty outside their own department. "There are all kinds of academic conferences for undergraduates that we could send students to, but there wasn't anything at Willamette," English Professor Ken Nolley said. "The idea was we would set aside a day in the spring to feature good undergraduate work, partly to celebrate that work and the students who are doing it, and also hopefully ... to provide some modeling for freshmen and sophomores." Nolley was on the original committee that worked with the Dean's office when SSRD began.

Willamette's SSRD was formulated based on similar programs at other universities in the region. It has become increasingly common for smaller schools to conduct full days of student presentations for peers, faculty and families. "We looked at some models of what other people were doing and then took what we liked and changed it to fit how we wanted it. It's arranged kind of like a professional conference," Nolley said.

The format of SSRD is not the only thing that has evolved and been refined over the years. The overall goals of the program have also slightly shifted, and will continue to change as some of them are met and expanded upon. "It used to be focused on seniors," Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the SSRD Planning Committee Joyce Millen said. "But over the years we've seen how extraordinarily helpful it can be to undergrads as well."

While the event's participants and audiences have changed over time, the range of content in presentations has also expanded. "It's much more inclusive. Every branch of the College of Liberal Arts is participating, [including] all of the arts, theater, music, etc.," Millen said.

The broader inclusion of all subject matter has allowed for more feedback and has made more obvious the positive effects the event has on attendees as well as student participants. "For both the audience and the presenters, so much is gained. We realize from the alumni how ... it can in fact change people's lives," Millen said. "Participation in SSRD can alter students' research trajectories, and it provides new ways for our students to think about the meaning and importance of research."

Though a lot of hard work goes into SSRD every year from presenters and coordinators alike, the event would not be possible without the participation and interest of students who serve as audience members. One of the main goals of SSRD every year has been to increase student participation. "My own hope for SSRD is that it continues to expand and to involve more students and more kinds of research - though senior theses are wonderful pieces in SSRD, I hope for inquiry, performance, and research engagement from all levels of students and from all fields. This is a celebration of disciplined inquiry, investigation and expression across the campus," Dean Carol Long said.

Much more than student scholarship recognition

“

My own hope for SSRD is that it continues to expand and to involve more students and more kinds of research – though senior theses are wonderful pieces in SSRD, I hope for inquiry, performance, and research engagement from all levels of students and from all fields.”

CAROL LONG
DEAN

When students witness this extraordinary learning experience and support their peers, they can look forward to presentations on such compelling topics as the gay and homeless youth, wine in art history and a very unique theater production – including nudity – to name just a few.

Will Nevius is a politics major whose project is about the homeless youth demographic trend. Various surveys have shown that up to 40 percent of the nation's homeless youth identify as gay, lesbian or transgender. “It's not a problem of building more shelters or services that address that specific demographic trend, it's more of a political problem,” Nevius said. “When it gets to be that large, we ask ‘well why isn't there a political response, and why is there not space for this kind of conversation?’”

Nevius decided to present at SSRD because he had never done any kind of presentation for the general public before and thought that this issue was an important one that deserved recognition and dedication. “This issue was ... exciting to me and something that wasn't really being done,” Nevius said. “There is some really intriguing research being presented and if you're interested in gay issues or LGBTQ issues, our panel has some fresh perspectives on central issues,” Nevius said.

Another presentation will come from senior Maggie Bradney, who is presenting her thesis about wine in art history in a thought-provoking display. She chose to present at SSRD because of the personal passion that drives her research. Bradney spent all of last semester and the majority of this semester researching wine and its virtues alone. “I think my thesis is really cool, and honestly I love to talk about it. In my thesis I hope that I am able to show how fascinating this stuff is. This thesis combines some of my favorite things: biology, poetry and wine, and I would love to share these interests with anyone willing to sit down and listen for a few minutes,” Bradney said.

One presentation that promises to be “unlike anything else you'll see at SSRD” is from senior Matthew Romein, who will be presenting a performance art piece that he created for the Theater Department's thesis class. The reasons behind his decision to present at SSRD revolve around the lack of time he found, due to studies and other work, to continue working on something that he was truly passionate about. “SSRD gives me a chance to come back to the work and keep it fresh in my head for when I get the time to expand it. Also, the opportunity to perform it again and with a new audience is always enjoyable because it allows me to get feedback from new perspectives,” Romein said.

The process of creating and perfecting a smooth final product involved a lot of experimentation, and working and reworking

ideas for Romein. “Because my piece is performance art, it allowed me to take a lot of my performing/theater background and incorporate other genres and influences into a medium of expression that felt completely refreshing and open,” Romein said. “In developing the piece I would often spend two or three hours a night at the theater studio jamming and riffing on different ideas as they came along. I was always adding and removing stuff and I wouldn't realize until a week later that every idea I had originally started with was gone. It was a constant battle of feeling and listening to the piece and being willing to abandon ideas if I felt the piece had moved beyond that.”

SSRD is a unique opportunity through which students can experience the effects that hard work and scholarly efforts can produce in a truly fresh and creative way.

Attending exhibits, panels, performances, posters, recitals and readings allows students to gain extremely valuable insight into the possibilities of research and study at Willamette. So don't let all of your peers' hard work go to waste! Pick up a program and experience Willamette's academic culture today.

Contact: hwaller@willamette.edu

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SOFTBALL

Bearcats continue to dominate conference schedule

KIRK STRUBLE
CONTRIBUTOR

The softball team continued its winning streak at home over the weekend by taking a pair of games from the University of Puget Sound on Friday and sweeping a doubleheader with Pacific Lutheran University on Saturday.

Led by senior pitcher Nikki Franchi, who struck out 12 batters in the first of two games on Friday, the Bearcats defeated UPS 3-1 and 3-2. In game two, Franchi and senior Marissa Richards hit back-to-back sacrifice fly balls to rally Willamette from a 2-1 deficit in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Bearcats carried that momentum into Saturday, beating PLU 2-0 in the first game of a doubleheader. Franchi allowed just three hits and struck out five in the opener. With the help of Richards and freshman Sierra Lessel, who were each 3-4 at the plate, Willamette smacked 13 hits in the second game to help the Bearcats to an 8-3 victory.

Willamette, now 25-2 overall and 18-2 in the Northwest Conference, is currently ranked No. 11 nationally. Despite going 6-0 this past week, including Franchi's two no-hitters and four games that ended early due to the mercy rule, the Bearcats moved down from their previous No. 10 ranking.

"The awesome thing for me about the rankings is that our players are unphased by them," Head Coach Damian Williams said. "They are focused on their goals and not what the voting committee thinks."

Regardless of the rankings, chances are good that the Bearcats will move on to the playoffs after the regular season is finished. Willamette is currently sitting at No. 2 in the Northwest Conference behind the defending champion Linfield Wildcats, who are currently 19-0 in the conference.

After heading to Spokane this weekend to face Whitworth University, the Bearcats will take on Linfield in the final games of the regular season on April 25 and 26. The conference title could very likely come down to that four game series.

The Northwest Conference champion receives an automatic bid to regionals while teams that do not win their conference have a chance to make it to regionals on an at-large bid. Because the Bearcats have a good win-loss record, even



Freshman Sierra Lessel went 6-7 with a triple and four RBIs in Willamette's Saturday doubleheader against Pacific Lutheran University.

COLBY TAKEDA

if they aren't conference champions, the team has a good shot at receiving an at-large bid. Either way, the final series versus Linfield will likely prove to be an important one.

When asked about the weight of their final games, Williams said, "I don't think that playing Linfield is the big deal that last weekend. For us, the big deal is finishing what we started in September. Our goal is to get better every game so that we will be at our best on the last weekend ... We play Linfield the last weekend, so we are trying to get at our best for that series."

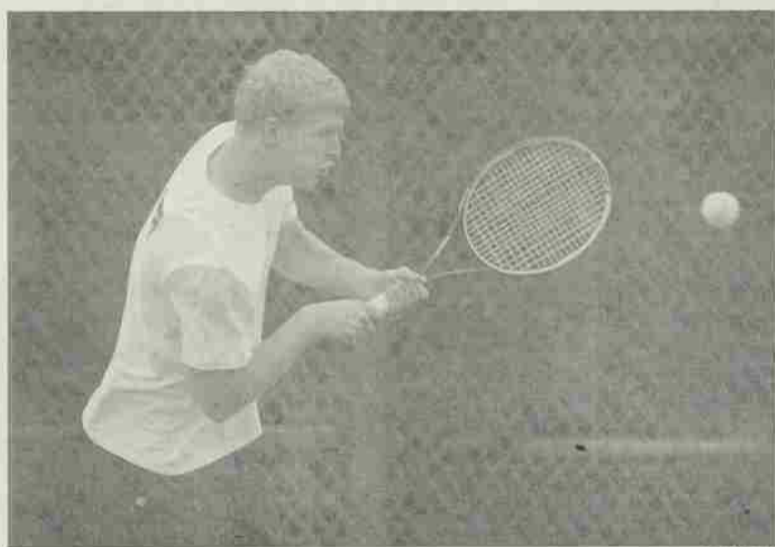
Regardless of how the regular season ends, it has been a memorable one for the Bearcats. Don't miss the team's final home games of the season Saturday, April 25 as WU takes on the Linfield College Wildcats.

Contact: kstruble@willamette.edu

▼ next up

Bearcats v. Whitworth @ Spokane, WA Saturday, April 18 at 12:00 p.m.

SPORTS WRAP | Quick Shots



COLBY TAKEDA

Around Willamette Sports:

- Sophomore Matt Houser (pictured above) has won 11 singles matches over the course of the men's tennis season, leading the team.
- The women's tennis team finished regular season play with an 8-1 victory over UPS. The team will enter the NWC Tournament as the No. 6 seed. The women will take on Whitman in the first round.
- Senior Brooke Smith finished second in the heptathlon during the NWC Multi-Event Championships. Senior Grant Piro also took fifth in the decathlon over the weekend. Both finished with NCAA provisional marks.
- On April 10, Willamette won both the men's pole vault relay and the men's shot put relay at the Pacific Northwest Relays in Oregon City, Ore.
- Three Bearcats were awarded NWC Student-Athlete of the Week Awards on Monday. Thrower Jake Monroe, tennis player Andrew Murakami and first baseman Kyle Stalker, all seniors, took home awards for Willamette.

Contact: thompso@willamette.edu

CREW: AN ATHLETE'S PERSPECTIVE

Training pays off for crew teams

HILARY ANDRUS
CONTRIBUTOR

Willamette Crew has gotten off to a great start this season and now has just two regattas left.

The team trained hard all season, waking up two mornings a week at 5:00 and spending two afternoons a week on the cold Willamette River. The team was only hindered by snow once, though even that didn't stop them from training indoors.

The team has been committed to pulling hard all season and was ready for its first regatta on March 14, however due to bad weather the team was unable to travel to Vancouver to compete in the regatta and instead held a mock regatta on its home course in Salem.

Time quickly sped up and the rowing team made a decision to spend spring break in Sacramento, California. The trip truly paid off and the team was able to scrimmage DII school Sacramento State, before heading north to Tacoma, WA for the team's first real regatta of the year.

Competing in freezing weather, sleet and light wind, Willamette was victorious in their women's novice 4+ and came in second in the women's varsity 4+. Battling tough teams including rival University of Puget Sound, the team pulled through with many third place finishes including the men's second varsity 4+ and novice 4+, as well as all of the women's eights that rowed that day.

Willamette Crew learned a lot from that regatta and trained hard all week long for the next regatta in Vancouver, WA. This time, both of Willamette's men's fours placed in their heats and competed against each other in finals. Finishing out the day, the team raced in the men's eight and came in fourth overall. On the women's side, the women's

lightweight 4+ team won gold medals in its race after beating the other competitors by over 30 seconds.

The varsity women's eight finished second in its first race and fifth in its second. The second varsity women's eight won gold in its first race of the day and placed sixth in the second. Also racing that day were the men's novice 4+ along with the women's novice and second novice 8+.

It was a great race day for the entire team. The women's team raced well in the last few weekends and raised itself to seventh place in the nation. This past weekend, the women's varsity and second varsity 8+ boats traveled to Eugene, Ore. for the Covered Bridge Regatta. The boats raced late in the afternoon, bringing in two gold medals, and finishing two great races.

Currently the team holds 43 women and 12 men. The men's team has become much stronger this season, competing against each other to build the strongest boats. The team is putting out some of the fastest boats in years.

On the women's team, the squad has been able to draw from a large number of talented and athletic women. Many have quickly learned the art of rowing.

The entire team will travel to Lake Stevens, Wash. to compete in the NCRC Championships this weekend, and then will have one weekend off before heading south to Sacramento for the WIRA (Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association) Championships.

Contact: handrus@willamette.edu

▼ next up

Bearcats @ NCRC Championships Regatta Saturday, April 18 at 8:00 a.m.



Colleen, Cornered

The greenest grass around



Colleen
Martin

OPINIONS EDITOR

I have a friend, whom I will simply call "Jane," just in case any of her professors are reading this. Jane is not just a procrastinator, she is a procrastinating champion. She pulls numerous 10-page papers out of thin air in a matter of hours, plans presentations moments before she makes them, and studies for exams the night before she takes them. She has told me heart-pounding suspense stories about squeaking in to meet the deadline within seconds. The way she pulls it off every time, I have to admit, is pretty awe-inspiring.

I am quite different from Jane. Though I am easy-going when school is not in session, the opposite happens during the semester. My life is full of notes to myself, to-do-lists are written and checked off, papers are scheduled in advance. I can't sleep unless the next day is pretty well planned out. Routine, organization, deadlines — they tend to rule my life.

Jane has often told me that she envies my ability to schedule work to make it manageable, as opposed to leaving it to the last minute. She wants to be better organized, but other things always seem to distract her, and she never manages to stay on track.

However, I have to say, I often find myself a victim of the "grass is greener" complex and envy Jane. Though I don't desire the panic and stress of a last minute project, her flexibility and ability to roll with the punches are both valuable skill sets that I would kill to improve.

Just last week, I was stricken with a lovely sinus infection that threw off my routine entirely. Though I tried to do what I normally do (refuse to acknowledge the sickness, continue on as usual), I eventually had to admit defeat and go to the doctor. She told me to take it easy, and I begrudgingly complied. I had to sleep more, I couldn't go on my morning runs, and the sinus headaches prevented me from reading for long periods of time. Needless to say, I was not a happy camper. Sickness was not planned, and it sure as hell didn't fit into my schedule. The disruption in my routine was far more distressing to me than the sickness itself.

By the end of it though, getting more sleep and taking a break from it all became quite nice, despite the worry that I tried to shove to the back of my mind. I did what I could, and left the rest to another day. A small step in flexibility, but a step nonetheless. Though I was glad when I was healthy once more, it was good to see that life doesn't, in fact, implode when you get off track for a few days.

Jane and I have always said that if we just could give each other a little bit of the other person's personalities, we would be set. She would be able to write a paper two days before it's due, instead of two hours. I would be able to drop whatever I'm doing every now and then and do something spontaneous, instead of scheduling fun in. We're both working on it, small steps at a time.

Maybe the grass isn't always greener on the other side. Maybe the grass is greenest underneath the fence, where the two fields converge.

Contact: cmartin@willamette.edu

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

EDITORIAL

Opinions and objectives: Reasons for newspapers

It is inevitable that any medium of expression eventually comes under scrutiny by its audience, and when members of the audience feel as though their views are being misheard or going unrepresented, they may take matters into their own hands.

The *Collegian*, especially the opinions section, is a vehicle for the expression and discussion of ideas by members of the Willamette community. Its contributors and staff members are, virtually without exception, friends and classmates of its readers — something that goes overlooked in what might otherwise be valid criticisms of the paper.

One of the hallmarks of a free society is that its members are free to express themselves in any way that does not directly infringe on the rights of their peers. Granted, a liberal arts university deviates significantly from the greater society to which it belongs: as students, we dwell in a sort of civil twilight where we are freed from many responsibilities of adult life but abide by petty restrictions on conduct and usage of our time that the public need not observe.

In this environment, one of the greatest freedoms we enjoy is the freedom to say virtually anything, barring

the obscene or libelous, without losing our social or professional standing. Even instances of the profane or pornographic can ride unquestioned on the coattails of artistic expression.

For this reason we would like to assert our collective opinion that a college newspaper, while modest in means and mode of production, is indisputably vital to the intellectual health of the on-campus community. Unfortunately, we cannot promise to always accurately represent the views and feelings of every individual, although we agree that it is a worthy fantasy.

Sometimes an opinion expressed will directly oppose yours, but such is the nature of an opinion. For that reason, for the anger and offense and violent resentment that exposure to a dissenting opinion can cause, we find it all the more vital to continue expressing them.

Growth as individuals and as a community hinges largely on learning to live with and respond appropriately to our differences. Ideological differences, while less apparent from a glance, run just as deep as differences of race, gender or nationality and should be viewed through the same kind of lenses: critical but accepting, discerning but open-minded, and with a

heavy dose of kind-spirited humor.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the efforts and feelings of the individual(s) who felt compelled to express their dissent by throwing copies of our publication into the trash. Our exasperation is nevertheless tempered with a measure of understanding and we ask that you grant us the same. The board remains committed to raising issues that deserve attention; the goal is to provoke the student body to think about such issues, not to shock them into tirades. When readers are seething, the doors of discussion quickly close. In the coming weeks of editorials, controversial or not, we hope to keep those doors wide open.

COLLEGIAN EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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TOM'S THOUGHTS: Tom gets philosophical and answers big questions



T O M
ACKERMAN

COLUMNIST

Hello again readers. I'm here today to talk to you about a topic that divides our campus. Yes, I'm referring of course to the "ponderisms" in the latest issue of the Toilet Paper (astute readers will remember that I always turn to the Toilet Paper for ideas when I have nothing better to write about). These "ponderisms," seemingly benign questions for students to ponder while they take a dump, have sparked literally hundreds of heated arguments on the Willamette campus. Well, I'm here to set the record straight and halt all of these conflicts. I have thought long and hard about all of these questions and I feel that I can answer them definitively.

First up: 1. *Can you cry under water?* Well sure, I don't see why you couldn't cry under water, provided you could breathe under water. But why would you want to cry under water? The sea is such a beautiful and peaceful place, as are pools and bathtubs to a lesser extent.

2. *How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated*

instead of just murdered? I have to admit, this one stumped me. The only way we'll get an answer is through empirical study. We'll start killing people low on the social ladder and work our way up until we get results. Who's with me?

3. *Why does a round pizza come in a square box?* Have you ever tried to mold cardboard to form a proper curve? It's almost impossible. Cardboard is angular by nature. For that matter, very few boxes are shaped just like the thing they contain, mostly because that would be silly. So just let this one go.

4. *Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?* The term "slept like a baby" is actually quite old. It comes from a time when babies were not the spoiled, needy jerks they are today.

5. *Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?* Let's just blame patriarchy for that.

6. *Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?* If companies only made products for decent human beings there would be no sex shops, no Hot Topic, no Spencer's Gifts and no Sharper Image (O.K. Sharper Image actually went bankrupt, but that's only because their products were too useless and expensive for

even the most indecent of people). Toaster companies know that not only "decent human beings" eat toast.

7. *If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about it?* God, pay attention to the lyrics people. Only the singer of the song doesn't care. The "master" would care, but he's "gone away."

8. *If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?* Babies. Duh. (Also I see a strange recurring theme with corn and babies in these ponderisms. What does it mean?)

9. *Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?* Oh my gosh, it's true. Vanilla Ice strikes again! (songs are apparently another recurring theme).

10. *Why is it that when you blow in a dog's face, the dog gets mad at you, but when you go for a car ride, it sticks its head out the window?* Probably because you're ugly and the dog doesn't want your face right next to his or her face. Either that or you have a cold or something. In which case, nothing with a face would be very happy about you blowing on it.

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Question of the week

If you could add any course to the list for next semester, what would it be and why?



Problems in Academia because I think it's important for an institution who promotes learning to understand its flaws.

BRIN MANOOJIAN-O'DELL
FRESHMAN



Music therapy because it would be interesting to examine music from a different perspective.

SURYA NAGARAJAR
FRESHMAN



PHOTOS BY RUTH HEAD

OPINION

What's so great about Willamette, anyway?

LAUREN GOLD
MANAGING EDITOR

As we go through our day-to-day lives at college and become more comfortable with the WU atmosphere, it becomes easy to lose sight of what's really important. No matter where you go to college, you're going to have complaints — it's only natural. However, the great thing about college is that you get to choose it. If you feel like you made a mistake in coming to Willamette, that maybe you wanted a big-school atmosphere with 30 cheerleaders instead of six, or out-of-control on-campus keggers all weekend, you are free to find those things somewhere else. However, as much as we might complain about it from time to time, most of us chose Willamette for a reason, and it's important to remember what we love about this place. Here are 10 reasons (in no particular order) why I love WU.

10. Bon Appétit

So maybe all-you-can-eat dinners at Goudy aren't your grandmother's home-cooked comfort food, but it seems like student complaints are a little bit out of proportion with the actual quality of the food. Bon Appétit treats us pretty well, with great breakfast and lunch (capitol-worker worthy, in fact), weekend brunch, gourmet options every Thursday, spring brunch and the gourmet holiday dinner, as well as a variety of different options at dinner (including vegan and vegetarian). Do I have to pull the starving kids in China card?

9. The students

The student body at WU is one of the main reasons why I chose this school. I am continually amazed by the students I meet every day. Every student here seems to be involved in at least two different extra-curricular activities: from sports, to clubs, to ASWU to WEB. As much as we complain about the Willamette bubble, our students appear to be extremely aware of a world outside WU and are constantly trying to improve it, through research grants and awards, abroad experiences, summer internships and trips like TaB. At WU, I feel I am surrounded by motivated, talented and globally and socially conscious students that challenge me to be a better person.

8. Small classes, attentive professors

The professors at Willamette are the kind of teachers I dreamed about while in high school. Every paper I've writ-



HEIDI ANDERSEN

ten, test I've taken and assignment I've completed has not merely been stamped with a letter grade, but extensively commented on and carefully considered. On top of that, our professors are so invested in our education that they are willing to meet with us outside of class whenever they are available to help us with papers, chat with us about the course subject or just get to know us as individuals. With small class sizes, we're challenged even more and professors take a much more active role in our education than at a university with classes of 500.

7. A community of 1800

Walking across campus, I normally see at least five people I know, and even a quick trip to the Bistro for coffee becomes a conversation with a friend. Though many may complain about such a small group of students, our small, close-knit community is one of the things I love most about WU — we're just one big family. With this atmosphere comes our collaborative attitude toward education. Students here aren't competing to see who gets the most A's, we're working together to learn.

6. Financial aid

Yes, tuition is expensive, but so is tuition at every other top-notch liberal arts institution in the nation. However,

the difference is that Willamette makes it a bit easier to avoid going broke by generously providing financial aid to over 90 percent of students. There are various scholarships, grants and loans available to help us get through the pains of \$35,400 tuition. Plus, the Scholar Achievement Loan is now available to help students going through tough times because of the economy.

5. The Capitol

Yep, it's right across the street. I'll bet most other liberal arts schools of 1800 students can't claim to have such an amazing resource. We get amazing speakers, a great politics department and fabulous internships, all just because of our location. Any place that can attract Ruth Bader Ginsburg with her snazzy top hat has to be great.

4. Our campus

Our campus is undeniably aesthetically pleasing, especially in the spring. Every time I see those cherry blossoms snowing petals into the Millstream I fall in love with this place all over again.

3. Chalk, music, slack lining

It's so fun to walk around campus and see students creating exquisite sidewalk chalk artwork, playing the guitar, having impromptu cappella performances, playing Frisbee, or defying death by slack lining across the Millstream. Students at WU know how to appreciate the small things in life and have fun without needing to be constantly entertained.

2. The Bistro

How great is it that we have our very own student-run coffee shop right on campus? It's a great place to do homework, hang out with friends and, of course, drink coffee and eat bars bars.

1. Traditions

Where else could you guarantee happiness by kissing beneath a grove of trees shaped like a star or throw your best friends in a river to commemorate another year of life? WU's traditions give us a quirky personality and, of course, an excuse to dunk your friends in the Millstream.

One of the reasons I became a tour guide was because since the moment I sent in my deposit I felt a strong connection to the university. As we become more comfortable with our Willamette home, we often need to be reminded of those attributes that make this university a desirable place to receive a college education.

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OPINION

How to change faculty policy

DAVID REICHERT
GUEST WRITER

Today is the first day of a more religious-friendly Willamette campus. Yesterday faculty voted and approved the Religious Diversity Initiative which I, with the help of others, developed.

The policy confronts a problem of mostly non-Christian students having to take days off of class for important religious holidays. In America, many Christian holidays coincide with school holidays, so this dilemma is not presented as frequently to them.

This policy outlines that the student will discuss with a professor in the first two weeks of the semester about the day to be taken off. Any questions will be directed to the Office of the Chaplains. An excused absence is not automatic, unlike athletics, but is likely through student and faculty agreement.

This new policy benefits Willamette in its pursuit of creating a diverse social fabric by outlining a protocol for students to take important days off for spiritual fulfillment without receiving negative ramifications. If a student has grown up in a particular denomination, but at college is unable to take a religious day off, their spirituality and cultural upbringing are being compromised. I believe religion should not be imposed, and not allowing students to observe their religious holidays, imposes a tradition on them.

However, this op-ed now will serve the function of more broadly educating you, the activist-oriented student body, by offering suggestions about what steps may be taken to change policy.

First: It is very imperative that you use as many resources as possible. Willamette has very accessible administrators who are knowledgeable about the ins and outs of campus. They will be able to guide you, answer questions, and foresee obstacles that you may encounter. Obviously, the administrators that you seek for help

should be relevant and appropriate for the goals you wish to achieve. Administrators will be able to know who else you should talk to. For example, I sought out Charlie Wallace and Karen Wood, who, at our first discussion, invited David Douglass and Dan Herman. Each of these constituencies helped me immensely throughout the process.

Second: Realize that Willamette, in essence, is a bureaucracy and all policy must go through particular processes. My policy, affecting faculty protocol, had to go through appropriate faculty channels. The process of getting my policy to a vote seemed simple: 1) get policy approved by faculty council and 2) get the piece voted on by faculty at the next faculty meeting. However, it took many revisions to even get to the first step. Faculty policy is voted on democratically in their meeting. Thus, they will pass policy which is in their best interest. To achieve a document that both represents student interests and does not sacrifice faculty wishes, it takes time.

Third: Get support from other constituencies. Many committees or organizations on campus support policy change. Organizations and people become formal supporters while people start talking about the change that is happening on campus. I was surprised by how many different constituencies ended up supporting me: Black Student Union, Dean Hawkinson, Office of Residential Life, Council of Diversity and Social Justice and ASWU Senate, to name a few.

I hope that I have been able to offer some points of suggestion for student activists on campus while explaining my process and motivations. Willamette is a place where we have the agency to make change whether in a policy, a fraternity or some other medium. We just have to take the appropriate steps to achieve our goals.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to Feminist Theory class:

The Feminist Theory class's response to the Biweekly Beaker's column on the science of sex completely missed the point. First of all, they claim that the "old science" of sexual attraction isn't applicable because our culture has changed. Science doesn't change because culture does: the fact of evolution is not invalidated because we now save the lives of people who would die "in the wild."

Similarly, even if culture changes the same chemicals and genetic components to attraction will not change when culture does. For example, when gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people are fully accepted into society with no stigmatization, it will be the same genes and developmental triggers making someone gay, bisexual or straight, or cis- or transgendered.

Second, of course, we have sex because it's fun. Very few people, now or in our evolutionary past, have looked at an attractive person and thought "I would like to use that person to pass along my genes." They think, and have always thought, "jeez, what a hottie!" However, the reason sex is fun and the reason most people find a particular hip/waist ratio attractive is that evolution has selected for it.

We cannot sense the levels of serotonin, dopamine or oxytocin in our brains, but instead recognize the emotions that they cause; we do not recognize Major Histocompatibility Complex in someone's sweat, we regard them as nice or foul smelling. This is also the case for food: we do not think "I need energy; sugar and starch would be appropriate," we

think "I want some cake." We find sweet and savory things tasty because evolution selected for it, just as it selected for having fun during sex.

Along the same vein, their criticism of Vice and Taylor's alleged heterosexism misses the mark. While they probably could have used less heterocentric language, the fact is that when a gay man looks at an attractive man, makes out with his partner, or has sex, the same thing is happening in his brain as any other human being. In fact, recent research suggests that the genes that make gay men attracted to other men are identical to the ones that make straight women attracted to men. Straight or gay, sex and relationships are the same thing.

Finally, and most egregiously, they misrepresent or misunderstand how science works. No scientist who has worked on this subject, from Kinsley to modern researchers, would argue that their work is the answer. Nor would they argue that culture and individual experience plays an enormous role in what individuals find attractive, e.g. weight, skin color or hairstyles.

However, science is the most open-minded and comprehensive way of approaching the world — including the world of human sexuality. The examples given by Vice and Taylor have been confirmed repeatedly by lab-based research and cross-cultural studies. Until they can show that these are false or that culture can change biology, the Feminist Theory class should not criticize what they clearly do not understand.

Jeffrey Collins
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