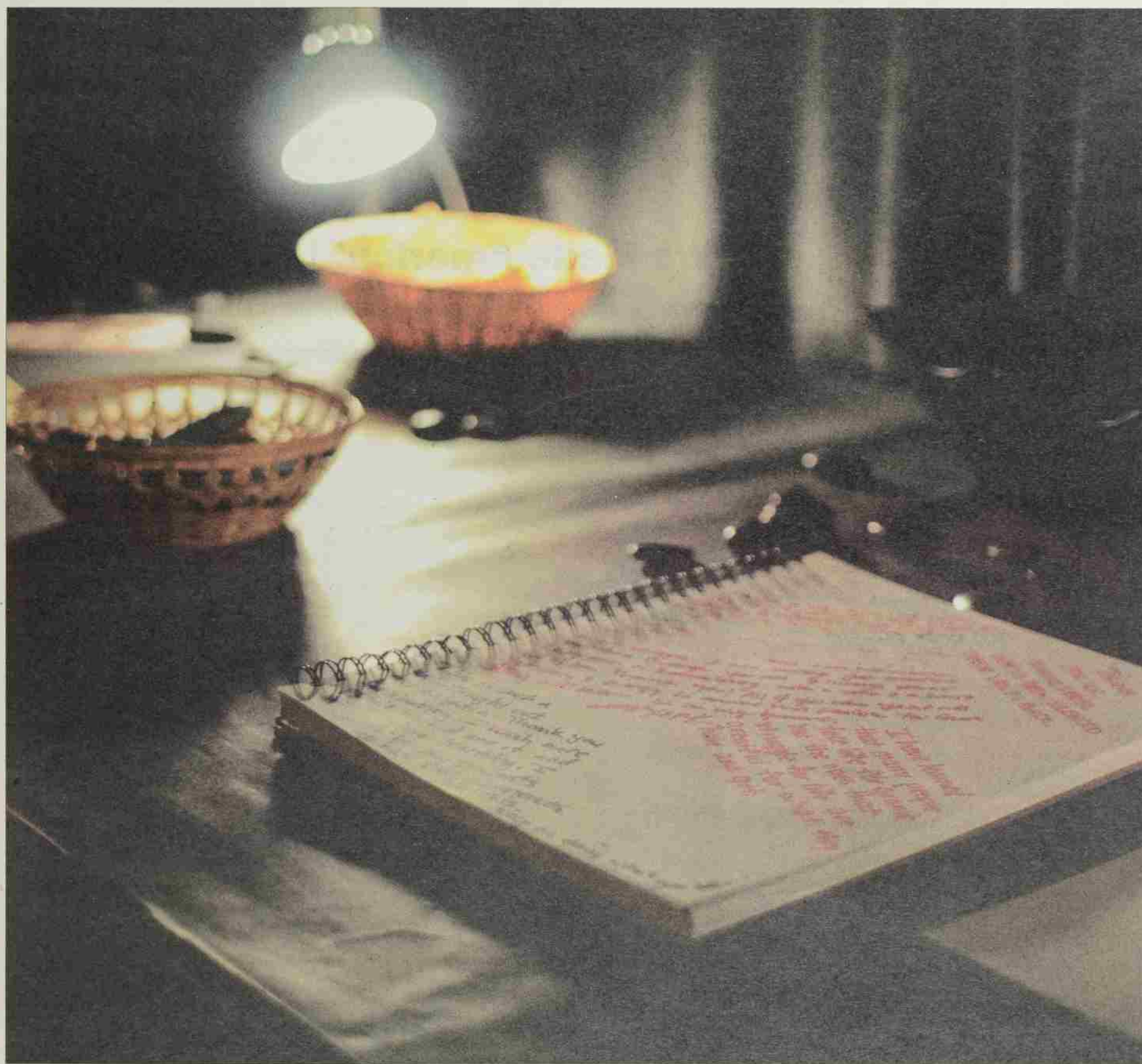


# COLLEGIAN

2008-2009 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE WINNER • VOICE OF THE WILLAMETTE CAMPUS SINCE 1889 • VOL. CXXI • ISSUE 15 • JANUARY 27, 2010



## TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION

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# Campus organizations collaborate to aid Haiti

ANNA MENCARELLI  
CONTRIBUTOR

As the dust settles on Haiti, hope has not yet fled from the ruins created by the monumental earthquake that struck on Jan. 12, 2010. The United States Geological Survey measured the earthquake as magnitude seven on the Richter scale. The New York Times reported that it was the "worst earthquake in 200 years," with an estimated "50,000-200,000 feared dead." The search still continues for lost friends, family and other survivors as nations rush to deliver aid to the devastated country. The same spirit of hope surrounds the efforts of many student organizations on campus.

On Sunday, Jan. 24 representatives from a multitude of clubs and student-run organizations met to discuss the situation in Haiti. The discussion was led by sophomores Karina Hoogstede and Violet Martin, creators of the Facebook group Willamette University Students for Haiti. The

two started the Facebook group in hopes of uniting the student organizations that were already in the process of fundraising for Haiti and raising awareness of these groups. Since its creation, the Facebook group has already accumulated 258 members.

"The point of the Facebook group is so that students can see who to get in contact with to get involved in a relief group," Hoogstede said. The group is also helping to coordinate a convocation with the Lilly Project staff in order to educate students about the conditions in Haiti before and after the earthquake and its aftershock. Topics discussed could include Haitian history, culture and development. In addition to awareness and education, fundraising is the most important goal of the group.

The group members discussed fundraising ideas to increase Willamette's Haiti relief fund. The fund will be used to help organizations like The Red Cross and Doc-

tors Without Borders bring much needed resources, both supplies and medical care, to Haiti. The discussion yielded many ideas, including a possible cappella Bistro night featuring Up Top and Headband, where a small suggested donation of five dollars would go directly to the fund.

Along with the group's combined efforts, many of the representatives told of their own organizations' efforts for fundraising. Currently, Baxter Hall Council is hoping to combine efforts with Kaneko and raise a total of \$10,000 by the end of this semester for the fund. Other organizations will be putting donation boxes for the fund at each of their upcoming events.

Though all of these are helpful efforts, the group recognizes that stabilizing and rebuilding Haiti will be a long-term effort requiring much fundraising and continued community collaboration. There are future plans to incorporate local businesses in

sponsored events where students will have the opportunity to partake in fundraising for Haiti.

Martin said other goals of the group are to "meet the needs abroad, to set the foundation of community and to promote community service." Thus, the Willamette Students for Haiti group can narrow its mission to three words: awareness, education and fundraising.

However, the group will continue to expand its goals and mission throughout the semester and the coming years to promote not only rebuilding in Haiti, but the building of community as well. The group will reconvene on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. in Smullin 222 to discuss the Haiti effort, and they invite all students and organizations to join them. "Everyone can make a difference, whether by word of mouth or by involving their organizations," Hoogstede said.

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## Students raise funds for St. Jude's Hospital

TOM EHRLMANN  
CONTRIBUTOR

Graduate student of education May Ohara is holding a fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Hospital for Cancer Research on Jan. 27 from 8:30 to 11 p.m. in the Kaneko Atrium. The letter-writing fundraiser will consist of participants addressing envelopes containing prewritten letters to anyone who they think might be willing to donate to St. Jude's.

"Just bring in addresses of friends, family - even if it's just one or two letters, send those letters out and learn about the hospital," Ohara said.

According to an article from [www.southside.edu](http://www.southside.edu), all patients accepted at St. Jude Children's Hospital are treated regardless of their family's ability to pay. "The patients' families get to go there for free because the hospital pays for airfare, they pay for lodging, they pay for food, treatments, everything," Ohara said. "And there is no maximum number of years that a patient can stay at St. Jude's."

More than 5,700 patients are treated at St. Jude's yearly, according to [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org). Due to the number of patients and the high costs of maintaining them, over \$1.3 million is needed to run St. Jude's for a single day. Much of this money is spent on St. Jude's groundbreaking research on pediatric cancer and other catastrophic diseases in children, the article from [www.southside.edu](http://www.southside.edu) said. It also reports that St. Jude's research has increased cancer survival rates from 20 percent when they opened in 1962 to over 80 percent today.

This fundraiser is Ohara's third for St. Jude's at Willamette. "We haven't had much success because spring semester is really busy for Willamette. But we're doing an event like this more for awareness, and that's really what's important," Ohara said. Many fundraisers have been held for St. Jude's in the past, but the letter writing campaigns such as this one have been the most successful.

Ohara has been arranging this fundraiser with very little outside help. She is hoping to pick up some support from the dorms and Greek life, but she could also use the help of individual students. "I don't have a committee," Ohara said. "Because this was just something a friend of mine and I picked up, we haven't been passing along a binder from year to year. But if anyone's interested in helping out, give me your e-mail or meet with me."

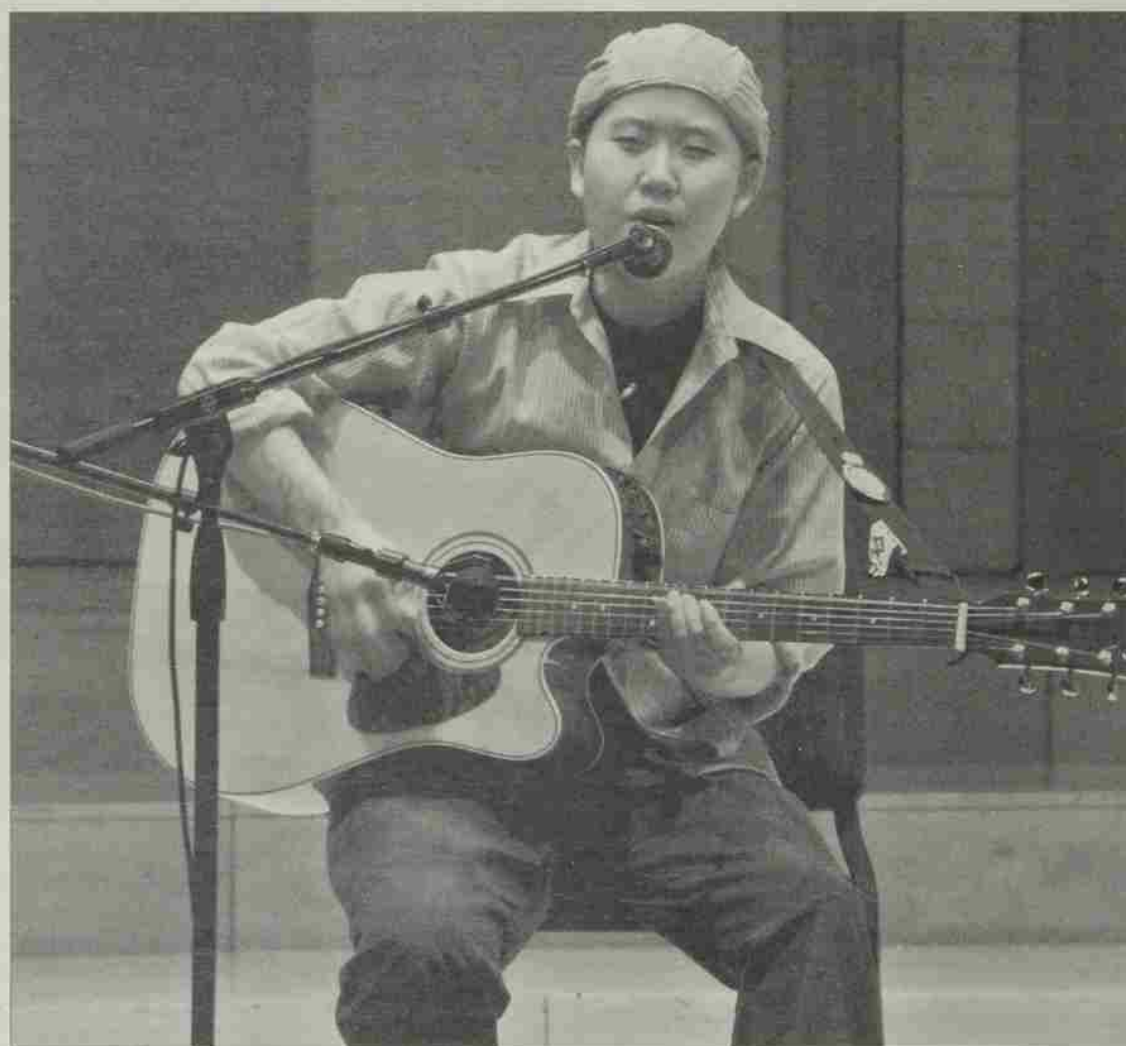
Ohara encourages anyone and everyone to stop by, even if they don't write a letter. Snacks will be provided, and everyone who sends more than 30 letters will be entered in a raffle for a Nintendo Wii.

"If people could come on Wednesday and send a letter home, or even just hang out and learn, it would help," Ohara said. "Educating the campus is a huge way to raise awareness and help out the hospital."

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## 'We Made America' |

Unique performance inspires thoughts on difference



KENDRA VANEK

As part of the MLK week celebration, on Monday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m., Hudson Hall hosted a performance by Def poet Mark Gonzales and hip-hop artist SKIM called "We Made America." Using a combination of spoken words, beats, rhymes and music, the interactive performance focused on indigenous, immigrant, Chicano and Korean experiences and their primarily untold role in shaping American history.

Also an educator and organizer, Gonzales has made appearances on Fox News, Mun2, HBO's Def Poetry and NPR. His part of the performance was intended to spark dialogue and provoke thought about differences. SKIM's performance provided the audience with a unique experience in the sense that it featured guitar, vocals and cultural drums, in addition to spoken words.

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## Stride toward freedom | Students fundraise in celebration of MLK week



EMILY SCHLIEMAN

On Saturday, Jan. 23 at 9 a.m. on Brown Field, students participated in the Stride toward Freedom walk. The annual fundraiser was held in celebration of MLK week and involved a 1 mile run or a 5 k walk. All proceeds raised were donated to the Salem Multicultural Institute.

According to its mission statement, the goal of the Salem Multicultural Institute is "to collaborate with public and private organizations to promote harmony and understanding through innovative and educational cultural programs and activities."

In addition to fundraising, the event also helped to raise awareness of social justice issues such as those that the Salem Multicultural Institute represents. Thus, the fundraiser was a celebration of the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Other events during MLK week included a film screening of "The Klu Klux Klan in Oregon 1920-1923," a university convocation and a performance by the Blind Boys of Alabama.

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## Important changes in this year's Tunnel of Oppression

AARON WIDENOR  
CONTRIBUTOR

As part of the celebration of MLK, on Tuesday, Jan. 26 the Montag Den became host to a unique event that has been almost four months in the making: the Tunnel of Oppression. This project is the result of many volunteers' dedicated efforts towards shedding light on some of the injustices that society faces. With each section of the tunnel devoted to a particular topic such as U.S. imperialism, race and terrorism, the tunnel is a comprehensive reminder of the different ways in which oppression is present in contemporary society.

The primary coordinator for this event, Debbie Southorn, said that this year's tunnel is "completely different from previous years." Last year's tunnel featured a collection of subjects chosen by various organizations on campus. Each organization worked on a separate room individually. In contrast, the entire group has selected the issues for this year's tunnel. It then worked in smaller sub-committees on each room so that the project as a whole is the result of everyone's participation.

The group that created the tunnel this year consists entirely of volunteers, all of whom are excited to be working on the project. "What makes it so powerful," volunteer Anthony Kim, said, "is that it's not just an exhibit - it's an interactive experience."

Kim was referring to the physical structure of the event, which consists of a twisting tunnel formed by hanging curtains upon which the different instances of oppression are brought to light. These usually include a brief history of the issue and sometimes audio clips. They are all tailored so that people do not simply browse about like they might at an art exhibit, Southorn explained. Rather, the layout enables them to get a more complete look at everything that is being displayed.

One new addition that particularly stands out this year is a subset of the "imperialism" section that is devoted to the history of Haiti. Given the recent tragedy of the island nation, the inclusion of this is an essential step in recognizing how U.S. involvement in dispensing aid is rooted deep in the history of its own political and military intervention there, volunteer Robin Wright explained. Haiti's struggle for independence is vital to understanding why the earthquake's devastation is so severe, and

why the obstacles standing in the way of recovery are so dire.

Perhaps the most important room in the tunnel is the final one: the reflection room. Here, with markers for drawing and paper for making origami peace cranes, travelers are encouraged to sit and meditate on what they have learned. It is Southorn and the other volunteers' hope that the viewers will leave the tunnel with a better understanding of what oppression means, and with a desire to take informed action.

Edmund Burke once said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that the good do nothing." The Tunnel of Oppression, according to the volunteers, is an answer to that statement. It is more than an event - it is a message that good will not stand by, indifferent to the inequalities in the world.

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For further reading about the Tunnel of Oppression see feature, page 6



BEHZOD SIRJANI

The 2010 Tunnel of Oppression opened on Jan. 26.

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## OSCARs OVERVIEW: Highlights of winter

# Prestige films light up the big screen

SAM MENEFFEE-LIBEY  
CONTRIBUTOR

December and early January is "prestige" season at the movies; the time of year when production companies release their Oscar-hopefuls and place "for your consideration" ads all over Los Angeles. There are always a few films that have "Oscar-bait" written all over them that seem to exist for no other reason than to collect award nominations. These less than compelling, though impeccably photographed films, have many in their ranks this season: "The Lovely Bones," "Invictus," "Nine," "Brothers," "The Young Victoria" and probably several others you could fill in.

These movies were boring. They were predictable. They excel technically, with beautiful cinematography, competent acting, adept direction and often the highest production values to be found in theaters. They just are thematically dead. As beautiful as "Avatar" was to look at, it had very little to recommend it as a piece of art so much as a fantastical diversion.

Unlike the voters for the Golden Globe awards, I prefer my movies to be more engaging than flashy. The movies that stick with me, that still have me thinking a week after I saw them, are the ones I think of as awards season comes around. This year, there have been a veritable flood of thought provoking films.

It will be a hot year for the "Best Foreign Language Film" Category. Michael Haneke's "White Ribbon" took the Palm D'Or at Cannes and after winning Best Foreign Film at the Globes, it will probably sweep the awards this season. It's a haunting film about the rise of violence in a pre-WWI small town in Germany - probably the finest presentation of Haneke's exacting formalism and keen eye for human behavior, and it deserves all the praise it's had lavished on it.

There are also several other films in competition with it that deserve notice, too. "Un Prophete," The Grand Prize winner at Cannes, is a brutal tale of the rise of a criminal in a French prison. Its attention to casual detail, music, acting and expressionistic direction make it an absolute standout, the kind of crime film that Martin Scorsese would have made were he born in Nice rather than New York. "Los Abrazos Rotos," the latest from Pedro Almodovar about



Golden Globe-winning Jeff Bridges and Maggie Gyllenhaal star in the indie hit "Crazy Heart."

FOX SEARCHLIGHT

the story of a blind screenwriter, is another one worth recommending, as well as "Politist, adjectiv," the latest Romanian deconstructionist film.

There have been several English language independent releases that have been quite satisfying this season, too. The Coen brothers' "A Serious Man" provided a blithely absurdist religious allegory, while "An Education" provided a formal critique of rigid formality and empty tradition. "A Single Man" showed off Tom Ford's artistic chops outside the fashion world and demonstrated that Colin Firth can really act. "Crazy Heart" showcases what we've always known Jeff Bridges was capable of, set against the backdrop

of some great music by T-Bone Burnett. "Big Fan" showed off the depths behind the comedic genius of Patton Oswalt and "Up In The Air" showed off Jason Reitman's flashy direction. I'll write about these more next month as the Oscars approach, but all of these are certainly worth seeing while they're around.

It has been a pretty good season for film, though the big studio releases have been a bit of a disappointment. I recommend watching the Salem Cinema closely in the coming weeks.

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## BUILDING REVIEW: Ford Hall

## Get to know your buildings



MICHAEL  
CAULEY

REVIEWS EDITOR

On this page we have reviewed things from movies, CDs and books to restaurants, theaters and other local venues. However, have we ever given up our valuable space to celebrate buildings, some of the most important things in our lives? I don't think so: I mean to rectify this immediately, as it is the massive brick and steel structures dotting this campus that tell Willamette's history (plus this seemed as decent a topic to write about as any).

The newest addition to our campus is Ford Hall, located near Smullin, which opened last semester. Previously known (to me) as Giant Construction Site, this slick piece of architecture houses math, rhetoric and film studies classes, along with offices and a lot of technical stuff like a movie theater and a computer lab with the most iMacs you've seen outside of an Apple store. It's really quite something.

I think the best way to describe the interior of Ford Hall is as a cross between a fancy law firm and the Starship Enterprise. I mean this in the best way possible; it's like one of those sleek and shiny buildings that they use in movies to portray colleges, except this one's actually in real life (perhaps our school is being filmed for an elaborate reality show and nobody's telling me).

Other than the pretty aesthetics there really isn't much located in the first floor lobby, other than the alcove to the side where the occasional art project pops

up (including one cool one that showed footage from "Mario Party" on a small TV, exactly my kind of art). Connected to the lobby there is the fairly decked-out movie theater that I feel doesn't get used enough. How about all-night "30 Rock" marathons, Willamette? Or maybe something else, we can discuss this later.

As mentioned earlier, the second floor has the new computer lab, complete with Apple's finest. One interesting thing is that all the computers have both MacOS and Windows installed: Me in my ignorance didn't know this was possible. It's so nice of them to shake hands and make up! Justin Long and the guy from "The Daily Show" would be proud.

I'm a particular fan of the second floor because of the awesome writable walls everywhere that make it look like the set from "House" (seriously, one expects Hugh Laurie to just burst out of a door and start scribbling dozens of symptoms). Now every math student has the chance to write complicated theories all over the wall and become the next "Good Will Hunting," and I just think that's nice.

There's also a third floor but I've been there so few times that I forget what's there. I like to think that there are dragons and magical gnomes wandering about, but I'm unable to verify that.

So there's my little tour of Ford Hall, a bright shining beacon in the architectural buffet that is our college. Next time you see it, give it a hearty hello, just to show that you care.

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## CD REVIEW: She &amp; Him | 'Volume One'

## Indie star's retro album

SARAH LIBERATORE  
CONTRIBUTOR

I'm going to let you all in on a little secret: I have a huge girl-crush on Zooey Deschanel. From her appearances in such Oscar-worthy films like "The New Guy," (Remember that? Anyone?) "Elf" and "Yes Man," I knew that she sang, but until recently I was unaware that she had released any original material.

Over the recent break, I saw her film "(500) Days of Summer," and upon investigating the wonderful soundtrack, I discovered She & Him. "She" and "Him" happen to be Deschanel and Portland-based musician M. Ward, respectively. Fortunately, unlike many actors and actresses who make feeble attempts to cross over into music (I'm looking at you, Lohan), Deschanel is quite good.

The 2008 album "Volume One" features 10 originals written by Deschanel as well as covers of Smokey Robinson and The Miracles' "You Really Got a Hold on Me," The Beatles' "I Should Have Known Better" and the traditional "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

While none of the covers are superb, the subtle vocals and accompaniment do enough justice to the originals to keep me from introducing my eardrums to a pair of finely sharpened pencils (I am particularly persnickety when it comes to Beatles covers). Ward supplies guitars, bass, keys and occasional backing vocals. Deschanel herself proves to be multi-talented as she lends keys/piano, percussion and xylophone to various tracks.

Most of Deschanel's lyrics are about love, whether new ("Got Me"), old ("Sentimental Heart") or revisited ("I Thought I Saw Your Face Today"). Deschanel and Ward experiment with different sounds

throughout the album; highlights include the quirky "Why Do You Let Me Stay Here," the folksy "This Is Not a Test," and the deliciously fifties-esque "I Was Made For You." Jason Schwartzman (currently of Coconut Records, formerly of Phantom Planet, and forever the star of both my dreams and my favorite movie of all time, "Rushmore") shares co-writing credits on the endearingly longing "Sweet Darlin'." The heartbroken pleas of "Take it Back" allow Deschanel to expose a bit of vulnerability with touchingly tender vocals.

Overall, Deschanel's voice is pleasant and surprisingly versatile. The album is characterized throughout by a vintage quality that feels authentic rather than forced. The combination of Deschanel's writing, vocals, skilled harmonization and instrumental collaboration with M. Ward and other contributing artists results in a delightful album full of ear candy.

Also worth checking out is their cover of The Smiths' "Please, Please, Please Let Me Get What I Want" from the "(500) Days of Summer" soundtrack (a much better cover, in my opinion, than those included in "Volume One"). Additionally, "Volume Two" is scheduled for release on March 23, and I for one am interested to see whether Deschanel has collaborated at all with husband Ben Gibbard (of both Death Cab for Cutie and The Postal Service). If you are a fan of Jenny Lewis (with or without the rest of Rilo Kiley or the Watson Twins), Coconut Records, Feist or good quirky singer-songwriters in general, give She & Him a shot.

★★★★★

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# Native American artist Echo-Hawk to create live painting

NATHAN COMBS  
CONTRIBUTOR

If you're at all like the typical college student, eternally low on cash and spending way too many Sunday afternoons at Safeway redeeming recycling deposits, then you probably don't often get a chance to enjoy the creation of art. In our modern world art has become somewhat of a luxury and frequently out of the price range of the average academic.

To encourage the appreciation of visual art on campus, Native American artist Bunky Echo-Hawk will be performing a free live art painting from 7-8 p.m. in Ford Hall on Monday evening as part of the Indian Country Conversations, an annual series inviting discussion on Native American issues and celebrating Founder's Day.

"I don't paint to exclude everyone, I paint for the advancement for our people. I want people to be able to have my work," Echo-Hawk said in a recent YouTube interview. "I just feel like making art affordable and accessible to [members of the community] lets that reciprocating relationship continue."

Echo-Hawk will use suggestions from the audience to create a live painting. He will also perform selections of his hip-hop compositions and share images of his artwork during the performance.

A graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts, Echo-Hawk uses his art to empower youth and address culturally relevant issues through teaching and performance art. He refers to himself as a "Proactive Artist" and his pieces tend to be brightly colored portraits of American icons, ranging from Larry King to Po the Teletubbie, all with a distinct American Indian flavor.

"I get inspired and motivated to do my art from injustice in Indian country. It is my goal to truly exemplify the current state of Native America," Echo-Hawk said. "Through art, that can be achieved. It can set sparks off in people's minds, in people's hearts, and inspire them to

want to look at these issues and do something about it."

Echo-Hawk's artwork has been featured at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in the 2009 group exhibition "Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America." The exhibition celebrated the vibrancy, creativity and controversy of American Indian skate culture. During the 2008 Democratic National Convention, Echo-Hawk painted "He Who," a depiction of Barack Obama as an American Indian Chief, a response to the President's honorary adoption into the Black Eagle family of the Crow Nation.

The Indian Country Conversations Series was established in 2005 by President M. Lee Pelton to bring Native American guests to campus for dialogue, teaching and learning. Professor of Anthropology Rebecca Dobkins coordinates the event in consultation with the President's Office and the Native American Advisory Council.

All too frequently, visual art is something that is only appreciated (or not) as an object. Having a piece created before your eyes is an opportunity to experience a new depth of a common element. It can be tempting to spend your Monday evening relaxing in preparation of another long week, or if you're among the motivated elite, studying. But for anyone who wants to expand their education in a new direction, discuss issues infrequently addressed, or just branch out from drinking Coors Light and watching movies, Echo-Hawk's live art performance should be an experience, at the very least.

Indian Country Conversations will take place in the Film Studies room of Ford Hall, Monday, February 1 at 7 p.m. Keeping with the ideals of the artist, no admission will be charged, and a free reception with Echo-Hawk will be held after the show in the board room of Ford.

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COURTESY OF BUNKY ECHO-HAWK

Echo-Hawk painted "In Pursuit of Justice," above, live for an auction last year.

## ART UNDRESSED:

# Arts in abundance



KRISTEN  
SVENSON

ARTS EDITOR

Art - the term is broad and generic, encompassing everything from the finger-paintings of my two-year-old niece to the swift movements of Anna Pavlova, one of the most famous and popular classical ballerinas in U.S. history. Yet art encompasses so much more than these common associations with the word.

Even in our humble community art is blossoming in the most unusual places. From the cramped practice rooms in Fine Arts East, to the variety of languages pursued in Walton, to the slow movements of the Olin scientist in the middle of a difficult lab, our small university generates art in the broadest and most beautiful of forms. I would like to dedicate this issue's column, my first as the new Arts editor, to you, the art aficionados of Willamette.

Previously this section has been devoted to the exploration of artistic events and venues around campus and the greater Salem area. While this tradition will not be ousted or under-appreciated, I would like to use my time as editor to introduce another focus of artistic news - the achievements of the Willamette student.

For example, let's celebrate the accomplishments of music education major Katie Martin. On Jan. 30 she will present her senior vocal recital, a culmination of nearly four years of determination and practice. While the concert cannot possibly convey all the work that music students exert in preparation for such an event, it is a time for her to revel in the successes

of her time at college, and also to show off artistic mastery of the world's greatest composers: Handel, Mozart, Poulenc and Verdi, just to name a few. In addition, the concert will include the piano accompaniment of a very talented music professor, Elise Yun.

From an even more displaced point of view, let's celebrate the aptitude of foreign exchange students, whose artistic abilities have enabled them to travel far from their homelands in order to experience our culture here in America and share their own customs as well. They assist in language centers, host mealtime conversations and even organize cultural awareness days. What is the appreciation of foreign language, literature and cuisine if not another version of artistic recognition?

My point is that art is available all around campus, not just in the usual places you'd go to find it. I feel it is the responsibility of this section, as a representation for the arts at Willamette, to acknowledge and spotlight the artistic news of our community. This encompasses the awareness of events as well as the celebration and inclusion of those who make our university such an artistic place to live and learn.

I hope you are excited about this new pathway. Consider me a voice for those artists who have previously been overlooked and this column a device to convey the many talents and art forms that are created while we move from class to class. There is no better place for the world to start appreciating your many talents than in the printed pages of your alma mater.

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## WEB invites comedic magician

NATHAN COMBS  
CONTRIBUTOR

Comedy is an art form dating back to the ancient Greeks, who held it as a principal aspect of their culture, and its longevity is not surprising - everybody loves to laugh. Sometimes, however, it seems that the professionals of this art, career comedians, love to laugh the least.

Almost everyone has been to a comedy show where the comic is tired, boring, lifeless and just plain un-funny. Derek Hughes, however, who will be performing an act combining magic and comedy Thursday night in Smith Auditorium, promises to be genuinely funny.

Hughes' act has been described as "thoroughly entertaining" by the New York Times and "like beautiful crazy quilts sewing together sleight of hand, humor, philosophy, storytelling and straight acting," by Minneapolis City Pages.

Hughes' act weaves wonderment with humor to create an art form all his own. The comic, who has been performing professionally for over 10 years in films, television shows and live performances, combines comedy with a bit of magic in his

stand-up act, earning the Critics Choice award from the Chicago Reader in 2008.

After studying acting at the University of Minnesota, his home state, Hughes won First Place in Stage Magic at a contest hosted by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1997. He has gone on to undertake roles in both film and TV, ranging from an appearance in "Mr. Deeds" alongside Adam Sandler to a guest-starring role in "CSI: NY."

Hughes' performance on Thursday is one of a series in his latest nationwide college tour, which began last week on Jan. 21 in Everett, Washington. From Willamette he will continue on to perform at University of the Pacific in Stockton, California and will finish up at Westminster College in Salt Lake City on Feb. 17. The tour will also include an appearance at the NACA Nationals Showcase in Boston on Feb. 13.

WEB is sponsoring this event which will take place on Thursday, Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. in Smith Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

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# Tunnel of Oppression

BEHZOD SIRJANI  
FEATURE EDITOR

While Willamette prides itself on diversity, inclusivity and education, it is because of events like the Tunnel of Oppression that students, faculty and staff are able to engage in addressing issues from an honest perspective outside of the classroom. The Tunnel of Oppression is currently standing in Montag Den, and it is recommended that you put down the *Collegian* and go visit the Tunnel before you continue reading.

The Tunnel of Oppression is a series of rooms that link together, each addressing a specific topic as chosen by a committee. These rooms are all multimedia installations that present information in more than just text, creating a unique experience for the participants of the Tunnel. The walk concludes in a reflection space where participants are able to engage in a number of different forms of reflection, ranging from simply sitting to writing on a wall with paint.

"The whole project is just incredible to me," said freshman Leandra Stanley said. Stanley is one of the student volunteers who put together this year's Tunnel.

The Tunnel of Oppression began in the 2004-2005 school year as a collaborative effort between Residence Life and the Office of Community Service Learning, but since then it has existed solely under the advising of a Residence Life staff member. Over the years the topics have varied substantially, and have included homelessness, Native American Racism, female genital mutilation, White privilege, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and higher education. However, each one includes information presented in a number of formats in order to allow the audience to engage with the rooms in many ways.

This year's student coordinator, senior Debbie Southorn, attributes the inclusivity of interaction with each room to her involvement with the project. "I went through it my [freshman] year and it was very impacting," Southorn said. "You really get to be immersed in the more difficult side of an issue. I felt very strongly about spreading awareness about Palestine a couple of years ago and Tunnel seemed like a good way to do that, because it is so multimedia and reaches a wide audience. ... It is engaging in a way that doesn't resemble the classroom."

Senior Robin Wright was first introduced to the Tunnel of Oppression two years ago, when she helped Southorn with the Palestine room. The Tunnel represented a creative medium for her that empowered students to think and speak critically about issues that mattered to them and their community. "For me, Tunnel does two really important things, the first being the process of making the tunnel," Wright said. "I think it is such an important and incredible experience for students to have complete control over and decide what is happening, how it is happening and what it looks like, as well as the really intensive process of doing the research and sorting through all of this information. ... Then the second part is the ability to communicate that to other people in the Willamette community and hopefully the Salem community as well. To me, that two-part process of being able to empower yourself by finding this information and deciding how to share this powerful information that we've found in a way that may not be life-changing, but will change your perspective, is extremely powerful."

“

Going through the Tunnel of Oppression ties into what MLK said about injustice anywhere being a threat to justice everywhere. It helps to connect the dots.”

ROSIE GLADE  
SOPHOMORE

It is not only the topics of the rooms that change each year; the content also depends on the committees and the information they want to present. The goal of Tunnel is to help people see the truth of the matter, according to Stanley, but this proves to be a challenge because groups often have more to share than they have space for. "When we drew out our room on the map, it looked huge and we thought we could fit everything. But now we realize that isn't the case, so we're working hard to cut it down but keep what's most important," Stanley said.

The student volunteers are very conscious of their autonomy with the Tunnel and work to focus their efforts on communicating messages that they feel are relevant and pertinent for each year. "There are a lot more issues that we could focus on, but we don't want to bombard people with a ton of information and then have them be overwhelmed," sophomore Margarita Gutierrez said.

Groups begin work at the beginning of the academic year or earlier, spending most of the first semester workshopping and gathering information about their topics for presentation in the spring. In the end, it is passion more than anything else that drives the Tunnel crew.

"I wouldn't say I'm passionate about imperialism," Wright said in regard to working on this year's "U.S. imperialism" room, "but I am passionate about learning more and helping others learn more about what U.S. imperialism looks like and how that happens, and hoping that in understanding what is happening we can change the future."

This passion and energy that the committee puts into the Tunnel of Oppression often spreads to the community that surrounds them, with friends and roommates finding that they want to contribute to the project as well. "What is so great about it is that there are so many different levels of involvement," Wright said. "You can be there from [the] beginning and from day one as a room leader, a room member, and are there every week, or join later. ... I think I and all of my group mates have gotten all of our roommates and our close friends somehow promised into helping, being here or hanging stuff up."

The construction of the Tunnel each year takes a significant amount of effort from everyone involved, as a large number of walls, displays and visuals have to be constructed in order to create the experience for which the Tunnel of Oppression is known. After the groups have established their mission and collected sufficient information, the organization of their space always proves to be another challenge. This is especially true for the reflection space. "I feel that [the reflection space] is really important because you can walk through [the Tunnel] and see all of the rooms, but if you don't get a chance to hold it all in, reflect, sit, etc., you could just leave without taking anything with you," Stanley said.

This year, the Tunnel of Oppression was constructed as a part of Willamette's two-week long celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The motto of the MLK week celebration - "Remember. Reflect. Realize." - can be seen throughout the posters for Tunnel. "Going through the Tunnel of Oppression ties into what MLK said about injustice anywhere being a threat to justice everywhere. It helps to connect the dots." Sophomore Rosie Glade said. "We may not see it at first, but all four rooms have relevance in our daily lives."

While the Tunnel of Oppression will elicit a

act

Learn  
Listen

## ▶ running time

Jan. 26 - 28

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Located in the Montag Den



**STOP!** Visit the Tunnel before you continue reading ...

reflect  
realize

different response from each participant, the experience is one that will likely have an awakening effect on many who walk through it. "It is going to be an experience in which your eyes are going to be opened a little more," Stanley said. "There are a lot of issues that we already know about, but we don't know the details about, presented [in the Tunnel]. ... It won't take all of your day to walk through, but it will be a good experience, and it is a moment just to learn more."

Those words ring true for many who have contributed to the Tunnel, and all believe it to be a valuable experience for the community, as exhibited by their dedication to the project. "You don't walk through the Tunnel once, and now that's

all the education you'll ever need about injustice and oppression," Glade said. "The Tunnel can be one step in a process of learning how different parts of your life have been constructed and the ways you can work towards change. It's a chance to reflect within yourself on where you are at the moment, and on the change you want to see in your life and the world. From there you can decide the next step."

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

For further reading about Tunnel of Oppression see news, page 3



“

[Tunnel of Oppression] is so multimedia and reaches a wide audience. ... It is engaging in a way that doesn't resemble the classroom.”

DEBBIE SOUTHRN  
TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION  
STUDENT COORDINATOR

PHOTOS BY BEHZOD SIRJANI, GRAPHIC BY RHIANON MCCracken



## AWARD-WINNING\* INSIGHT

## Basketball in a snowstorm

T. I. M.  
WALSH

SPORTS EDITOR

When Willamette released its men's basketball schedule last fall, one game made me very excited: Dec. 29 at Portland State.

It's always a big deal to play a Division I school, especially a really talented one like the Vikings, so I made plans to cheer on the 'Cats at 5:15 p.m. in Portland. PSU's women would play Oregon State later, at 7:30.

Now, for those of you not from Oregon, let me just say we don't handle snow well. At all. So when a couple of harmless flakes turned into a legit storm between 2:15 and 2:30, the city went into a general panic. Still, I stayed at work until 4:45. After all, PSU was only five minutes away.

It took me 40 minutes to get 15 blocks. When I did finally arrive at PSU, Thomas Raines, my best friend and a grade school friend of Willamette's Cam Mitchell, filled me in: the Bearcats were stuck on I-5. The new tipoff time was 9 p.m.

To kill the time, Thomas, his girlfriend Annie and I joined Willamette soccer's Casey Dineen and his brother Brendan for dinner. After three hours, a couple of beers, and another mile of snow trekking, we got back to PSU at 8:45 p.m. The women's game was still going on.

The score was 11-7 with 10 minutes left in the first half.

One of the benefits of being the Collegian's sports editor is that I can ask Willamette athletic director Mark Majeski insightful questions like, "Uh Mark, what's going on?" Here's the gist of his answer:

The Bearcats left Salem at 2:30. After getting stuck for two hours behind a snow-related multi-car pileup, Willamette called PSU to ask if the women's game could start at 5:15, with the men following at 7:30. Oregon State, staying at a downtown hotel half a mile from PSU's campus, replied that they couldn't find transportation.

"Well, can't they walk?!" a visibly frustrated Majeski asked.

Of course, the Beavers are Division I. They play in the Pac-10. No, they don't walk.

After more than three hours, the Bearcats' bus finally got around the pileup, bringing the team within a mile of PSU before traffic snarled again. But OSU still hadn't arrived, and whoever got there first would play first. So the Bearcats got off the bus and walked. On the freeway, in a snowstorm.

Faced now with a potential delay of their game, walking in the snow suddenly didn't seem so bad to Oregon State. They high-tailed it to PSU - beating Willamette by ten minutes. By the time I got there, I think Majeski was fuming, and rightfully so.

In the meantime, the women's game dragged on and on ... and on, forcing Willamette and the PSU men to start at 10:45 p.m. Thomas and Annie had already left. I had to leave at 11, so after waiting for more than five hours, I saw five total minutes of Bearcat Hoop. Casey and Brendan stayed until the end - at 12:30 a.m. - watching the Bearcats nearly pull off an incredible upset before falling 97-90.

I don't want to bash the Oregon State women, but I do want to say one thing. Pulling that kind of a stunt takes a special level of arrogance. The Beavers made it painfully clear that they weren't interested in anything besides looking out for themselves, even at others' expense. Head Coach LaVonda Wagner and her staff should be ashamed.

Kip Ioane's Bearcats, on the other hand, slogged through the snow for over a mile just for the privilege of playing a game nobody thought they could win. Then they almost won.

Moments like these make me proud to be a Bearcat.

\*2009 ONPA award for best feature

Contact: twalsh@willamette.edu

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Bearcats snap losing streak

Mitchell passes 1,000 points in Willamette career

JOHN LIND  
STAFF WRITER

Whether or not bearcats hibernate, it certainly seemed that Willamette men's basketball entered a deep sleep over Winter Break. Coming off an impressive win over cross-town rival Corban on December 11, the team returned to the court after a shortened break to face Division I Portland State.

The Bearcats exceeded expectations against the Vikings, losing just 97-90, but the team lost its next six games to close out a miserable 0-7 break. Even worse, Willamette's long losing streak coincided directly with the start of their Northwest Conference schedule.

"We definitely started off on the wrong foot, but I think we'll be ok," Head Coach Kip Ioane said. "I see us as a very dangerous team. We had some hard losses over break, but we were in every game we played."

Friday's game at Cone Field House, the Bearcats' first at home since the start of classes, followed a familiar pattern: a lot of competitive effort, but ultimately a 96-90 defeat, as visiting Pacific Lutheran (7-8, 5-3 NWC) stayed off a late Willamette rally to extend the Bearcats' losing streak to seven games.

An evenly fought game early on broke open when a 12-2 Lute run midway through first period pushed a 23-22 Lute lead to 35-24. PLU more or less maintained that comfortable

margin until the Bearcats' final push of the game.

Trailing 77-66 with just under eight minutes left, Willamette suddenly got hot, trimming an 11-point deficit down to just three on back-to-back lay-ups from Taylor Mounts and baskets by both Cameron Mitchell and Ryan Meehan. The Bearcats kept the pressure on for the next few minutes, but as time wound down, a key three-pointer by Tony Polis of PLU pushed the Lute lead back to seven, squashing any further hopes of a comeback.

Mitchell was a bright spot on the night, achieving his 1,000th career point at Willamette while leading the 'Cats with 24 points on 10-12 shooting and 16 rebounds.

Saturday night, though, marked the end of the Bearcats' hibernation as Willamette traveled to Forest Grove to face the NWC's only other winless team: Pacific University.

"After a losing streak like we had, it's easy to just give up, but that's not in this team's character," freshman guard Terrell Malley said. "We really needed to prove to ourselves this losing streak wasn't going to get the best of us, and that we can come out and take it to whoever and win as many games as we can."

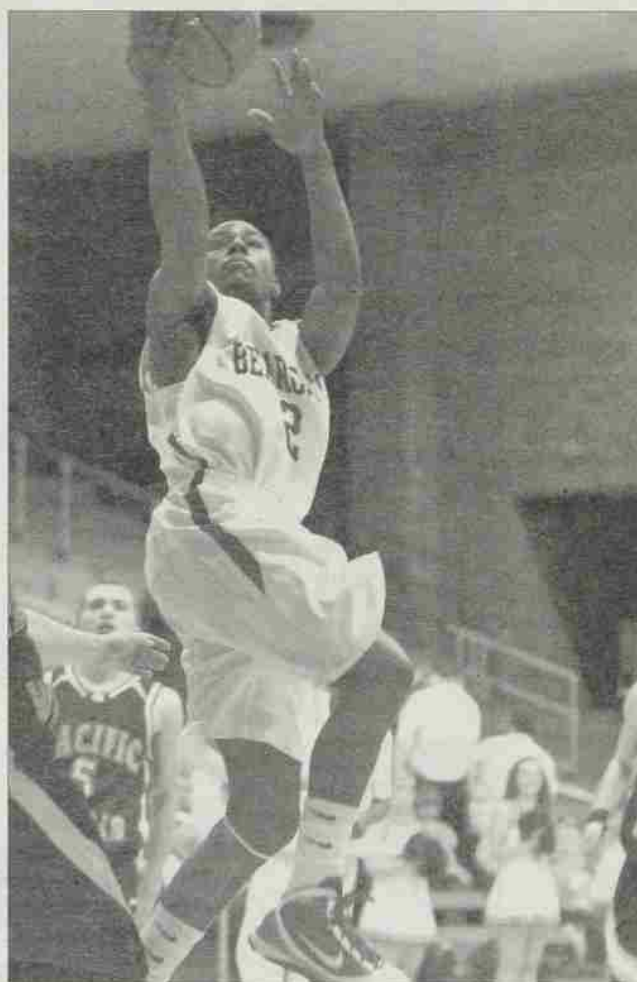
Willamette (4-13, 1-7 NWC) got its fair share of competition in a contest that saw eight ties and several Bearcat leads erased by the feisty Boxers. In fact, with the teams knotted at 63, Pacific (4-13, 0-8 NWC) took a surprising late lead on an Adam McElwe lay-up. But guard Robbie Kunke drained a critical three-pointer in response, giving Willamette a lead they would not relinquish.

From that point on, it was all Bearcats: Malley, who led the charge with 17 points and five assists nailed another three and a layup, and solid free throw shooting down the stretch sealed Willamette's 80-72 win - their first in over a month. The Bearcats as a team shot 22-26 from the stripe.

"We had been working on free throws all week in practice, and it really paid off down the stretch," Malley said. "In recent games, that area hasn't been as strong, and so we were really determined as a team to make sure we didn't leave any doubt there."

Besides Malley, five other 'Cats ended the game in double figures: Mitchell, Kunke, Meehan and guard Marcus Holmes all notched 13 points, while Mounts finished with 11.

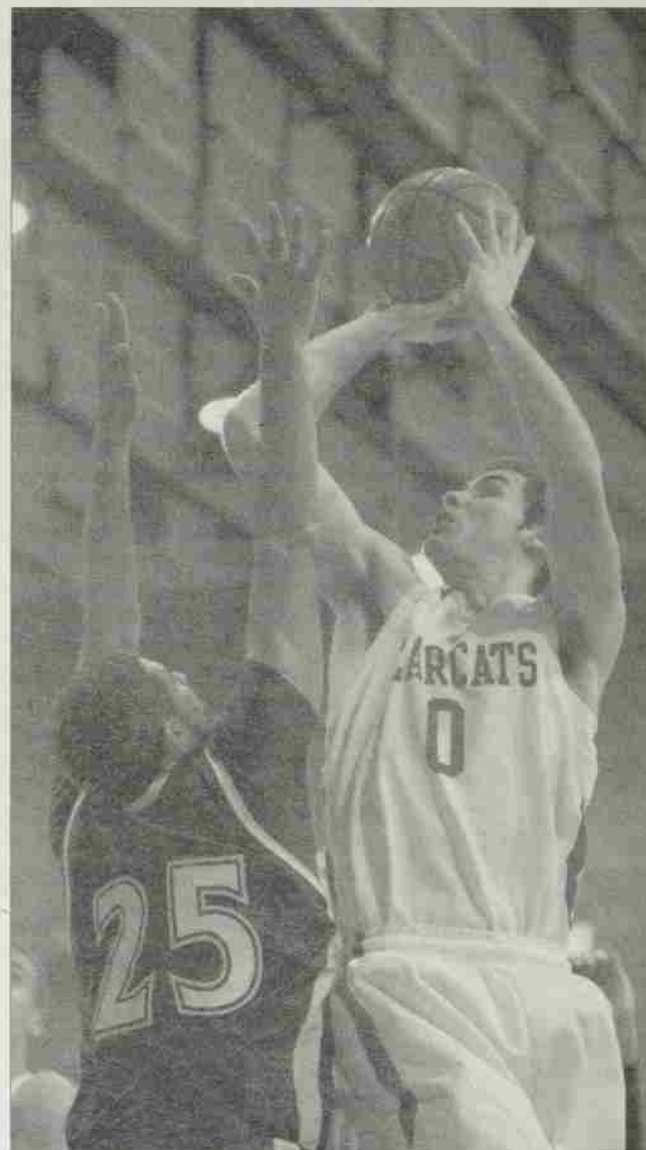
Contact: jlind@willamette.edu



Terrell Malley tallied 32 points in two games over the weekend.



Freshman guard Cody Pastorino looks to pass in Friday's loss to Pacific Lutheran as Robert Wood looks on.



Cameron Mitchell continued his stellar play with 37 points and 32 rebounds against PLU and Pacific.



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## 'Cats notch first conference win



Alex Zennan drives to the hoop in Willamette's 64-49 win over PLU.



Junior Erin Barclay is averaging 3.67 assists per game, third in the NWC.

CAMERON MITCHELL  
STAFF WRITER

Over Winter Break Willamette women's basketball has been hard at work, battling a brutal Northwest Conference schedule that includes defending NCAA national champions George Fox as well as nationally ranked Puget Sound.

Unfortunately the Bearcats (3-14, 1-7 NWC), who began their NWC matchups at home against Whitworth and Whitman on January 2-3, faltered in their first six conference games, dropping match ups with Puget Sound, Linfield, Lewis & Clark and George Fox before breaking through and defeating PLU 64-49 on Friday night in front of their home fans.

Up six at halftime, Willamette gradually pulled away from the Lutes (5-12, 3-5 NWC) to secure the team's first conference victory. The Bearcats' defense was dominant, holding the Lutes to 15-67 shooting (22.4 percent), including just 4-15 from beyond the three point arc. On the other hand, Willamette shot 50 percent from the floor (25-50), led by junior guard

Alex Zennan's 18 points, four assists, and three steals. Junior post Keilyn Fujioka hauled down 14 boards to go with 11 points and three blocks.

"We all played together and we played to our strengths, which was a key to winning the game," Zennan said.

But Saturday night was not as successful for the Bearcats, who lost 62-47 to the Pacific Boxers. Fujioka led the team with 18 points and five blocks, but the Bearcats shot just 35 percent from the field (22-62) and were an abysmal 0-5 from the free-throw line.

Tied at 24 with 2:44 remaining in the first half, Pacific went on a quick 7-0 run to end the period up 31-24. Willamette cut the lead to four early in the second half, but that was as close as the Bearcats would get as the Boxers cruised to a 15-point win.

"We really struggled shooting the ball [on Saturday]," Zennan said. "There were spurts where we played really well and our team chemistry was amazing. We need to keep moving the ball around and playing our game."

Midway through the conference season, Zennan ranks fifth in the NWC in points per game at 15.1 and leads the league in three-pointers made with 46. Fellow junior Erin Barclay is tied for third place in assists at 3.67 per game and Fujioka leads the conference in rebounds.

Still, a lack of offensive production has hurt Willamette, which ranks last in scoring offense, putting up only 53 points per game. The Bearcats also rank last in free throw percentage (59.3 percent) and field goal percentage at (34.5 percent). The team's lone strong point has been on the glass, as Willamette leads the NWC in defensive rebounds at 28 per game.

Next up the Bearcats travel to eastern Washington to take on Whitworth and Whitman. Willamette plays Whitworth on Friday in Spokane, then travels to Walla Walla to take on the Whitman Missionaries. Both games begin at 6:00 p.m.

Contact: cmitchel@willamette.edu

## ▼ next up

Friday, Jan. 29

Women's Basketball @  
Whitworth, 6 p.m.

Swimming @ Pacific, 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball @ Whitworth,  
8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 30

Swimming @ Pacific Lutheran, 1  
p.m.

Women's Basketball @  
Whitman, 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball @ Whitworth,  
8 p.m.

## ADVERTISEMENT



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## SWIMMING

## Schulze leads sweep of 200 fly

LUKE RUSSELL  
STAFF WRITER

This past Saturday saw Willamette swimming swept by Linfield College in a Northwest Conference meet at the Willamette Natatorium. The Wildcats defeated the Bearcat women 127-77 and won the men's competition 135-10.

Linfield's women improved to 3-4 overall, 2-4 in the NWC, while the Wildcat men upped their record to 4-3 overall, 3-3 in the conference. Willamette continues to struggle as the women's team dropped to 1-4 overall, 1-4 in the NWC. The Bearcat men fell to 0-5 overall and 0-5 in the NWC.

Despite the disappointing overall results, Willamette did provide several individual victories for the home crowd. Freshman Lauren Ballinger placed first in two events, winning the women's 50-yard freestyle with a time of 26.45 seconds. Ballinger followed this performance with a win in the 100-yard freestyle, completing the race in 57.75 seconds.

Senior Gwen Schulze led a 1-2-3 Bearcat sweep in the women's 200-yard butterfly. Schulze recorded a time of 2:27.85 to win the event. Freshman Kayla Kosaki followed closely and placed second with a time of 2:29.00. Sophomore Kara Koetje completed the sweep, finishing in 2:30.57.

Linfield and Willamette opened the meet with a very close race in the women's 400-yard

freestyle relay. The Wildcats won by just 0.22 seconds, clocking in at 4:25.22, while WU finished second with a time of 4:25.46.

Two swimmers from both the Linfield women's and men's teams were double individual event winners. For the Linfield men, Miles Phillips won the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:55.31, and the 200-yard backstroke, finishing in just 2:13.15. Yusuke Kobayashi placed first in the 50-yard freestyle (23.08 seconds) and the 500-yard freestyle (4:56.00).

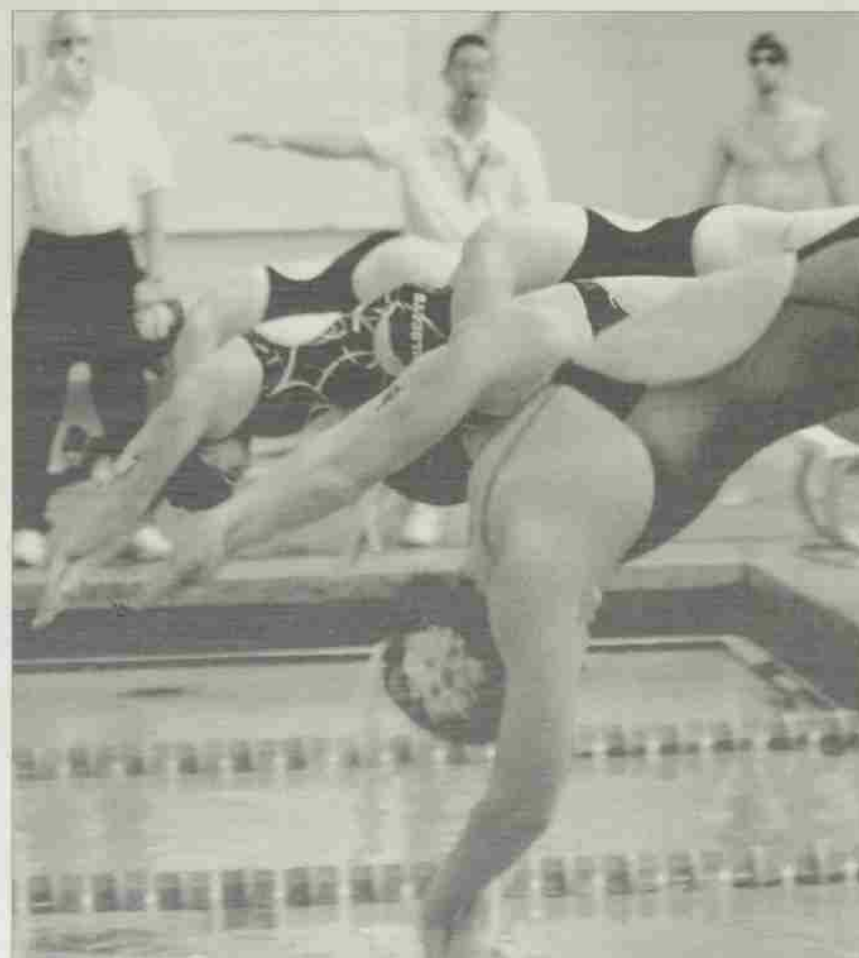
The Wildcat women also received wins from Stephanie Longmate in the 1,000-yard freestyle (11:18.00) and the 500-yard freestyle (5:33.42). Catherine Nakamura of Linfield won the 200-yard individual medley (2:25.62) and the 200-yard backstroke (2:20.82).

At the conclusion of the meet, Willamette's last home meet of the season, the Bearcats honored their four women seniors: Gwen Schulze, Jenna Larrow, Lauren Gard and Coral Sorensen.

"I think these past few months, especially with winter training ... we have become a very close-knit group," Schulze said. "It's truly been an inspiring and unforgettable experience."

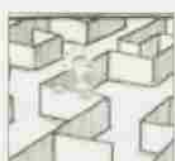
The Bearcats next swim is this Friday, Jan. 29 against Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. The start time is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Contact: lrussell@willamette.edu



The Bearcats completed their home schedule last weekend against Linfield. The NWC Championships will be held February 12-14.





## Colleen, Cornered

### Dropping my (news) anchor



**Colleen  
Martin**

OPINIONS EDITOR

During the month of winter break, I saw more evening news than I had the rest of the school year. While my mother has turned on the 5 and 5:30 evening news for as long as I can remember, I have gone down the route of remaining in denial, or occasionally checking the news on my iGoogle.

Call me a coward, but I have to be in control of my news intake, and the evening news always seems to be a bum rush of "Ahhh! Look how much the world sucks today! It's quite possibly worse than yesterday!" However, after discussing it with my parents, perhaps my dislike of the evening news goes deeper than the dismal stories they present every night.

In short, I blame the anchors. Don't get me wrong — I think Katie Couric is just plumb adorable, but I don't foresee myself ever taking her seriously. Diane Sawyer is new in the anchor biz, and to be fair, I haven't given her much of a chance, but maybe I just can't forgive her for working for Nixon. The only one I mildly approve of is Brian Williams, but it's more for the sense of humor that he displays outside the arena of the evening news than it is for an innate sense of trust that I have in him.

While my mom and dad watch Couric and Williams, they are also partially responsible for my tendency to scoff at the modern network news. They have me longing for news anchors that are no longer on the air for me to see. The trustworthy Cronkite retired in 1980, so I never had the chance to be comforted by his presence telling me "and that's the way it is" every evening.

Edward R. Murrow is before my time as well, but listening to his WWII London broadcasts I found myself on the edge of my seat, despite knowing the outcome of the Blitz. Murrow's criticism of McCarthyism still sets the bar for me on how to handle such a scary situation, not to mention the still relevant catchphrase, "good night, and good luck."

In my disappointment with the main evening news anchors, I've had to look elsewhere for my most trustworthy voice on television. While not objective like Cronkite, or as smooth voiced and eloquent as Edward R. Murrow, I find myself comforted by "The Daily Show" anchor, Jon Stewart.

Though I suppose this gives away my political leaning, which I prefer to keep private, I can't help but admire his ability to find humor where I can only see despair. His genuine frustration is an antidote to the apathy that sometimes arises as a defense mechanism in troubled times. While his sympathies are transparent, he censures both left and right where they deserve criticism. Fair and funny, if not always balanced.

While I know many might not share my respect for Jon Stewart and his fake news team, I think it's important for everyone to find a news outlet, be it official or satire, in which they can believe. It's a wild storm of "news" out there, and we all need an anchor of some kind to hold on to.

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

### EDITORIAL

## Tabula Rasa: Starting the semester right

As the new semester begins, students get a chance at something they will rarely get in real life: a fresh start. With last year's work behind us, we now get to start over with a blank slate. It's also the most important time of the semester, as it will set the precedent for how the rest of the semester can go. We at the editorial board wanted to give some advice to our fellow students on how to approach the start of the new semester.

► **Start your work early.** Sure, the first assignment might not be due for another week. Do it now. A late start on the first week's work will lead to a late start on the second week's work, and it will only snowball from there. An eight-hour day this week will prevent those 12-hour days during midterms. It's easier to start out ahead and stay that way than it is to work your way back up.

► **Make sure you understand the subject.** If you don't understand the concepts in class now, speak up! Those concepts are going to be used again and again throughout the semester, so if you don't know them, classes will be difficult at best. Right now classes are building the foundation of what you'll be learning for the rest of the

semester. It behooves you to make sure the foundation is solid.

► **Don't procrastinate.** Let's be honest, we all do it. However, it might be nice to have it be a new semester's resolution to stop procrastinating. Now is a good time to start building up new study habits. For example, do your homework the day it is assigned, as soon as you get back to the room. Don't wait until the night before. You'll absorb more if you aren't feeling rushed.

► **Be wary of the Internet.** While the Internet is a great resource, it can also be an incredible waste of time. Facebook, YouTube, Wikipedia and online forums can burn off hours if you aren't careful. Try to regulate your use. The worst thing you can do while writing is reload Facebook after every paragraph you write. It disrupts your train of thought, and will make the assignment seem much, much longer.

► **Get a routine.** With new classes, new club meeting times, new hours at work and whatever else is in flux, it can be hard to establish a routine. However, getting a solid routine for everything important you need to do — especially classes and homework — can relieve a lot of stress. Figure out

what times you can do homework, or go to the gym, or see friends, and start getting in the habit of using those times now.

► **Get your friends to check on you.** A lot of these suggestions are hard to force yourself to do. After a few weeks, or even days, it's easy to let yourself slip. This is where your friends come in. Make them hold you to your new routine of getting work done early, and hold them to it as well. By checking up on each other everyone is held more accountable.

It's easy to let yourself slip during the start of a new semester, when assignments are still easy (or, easier), and people are less busy. This is a mistake, though, and following these tips will set you up to be in a good position for the rest of the year.

### COLLEGIAN EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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### ORDERED ORDURE:



**MICHELLE  
K I M**

COLUMNIST

Comrades, I am writing to you now on the first weekend of what I hope will be my last semester at this institution. It is, then, a last first, and really the first of such lasts for which I have felt any genuine sense of nostalgia or anxiety. The otherwise stale air of my room stirs occasionally with the ponderous dripping of rain on the window, ringing my ears with subtle vibrations in a steady, all-too-familiar rhythm.

It is no different in that from any other weekend I've spent here — the dirty laundry in the corner has the same damp reek that it always did, and I am vaguely aware of an entire building full of complex, diverse individuals right outside my door whom I have no interest whatsoever in meeting. And here I am, spouting the same, cynical truisms that I have for my entire undergraduate career, whether in half-baked essays or in a newspaper column with an embarrassingly pretentious title that I cooked up in a fit of delirium last summer.

When I began here my freshman year, I had the unshakable conviction that these four years would transform

me from raw, scintillating potential into a well-adjusted, ambitious and educated young citizen. Well, I fudge a little. I may not have thought so, but I believe I wrote something of the sort in my application essay. I would be following in the tradition of unhappy thousands if I were to denounce this sentiment as hopelessly misguided, offering the reader a bleak and dissatisfying picture of how ill-equipped I still am for the responsibilities and rituals of adulthood. None of you need me to tell you that — if you can't identify with it personally, you have personally tutored over the misadventures of a peer who can.

Rather, it strikes me with strange clarity on this afternoon that the matter of realizing potential fell by the wayside a long time ago, to be lost forever sometime after I replaced my student ID card for the third (or fourth) time. The changes that have developed in its place remind me of something a friend used to say: that "middle age" is a misnomer, given our irremediable ignorance of how much time we have left at any moment. "I knew at 20 that I could be dead by the age of 40," he mused, "and that was the beginning of my mid-life crisis."

After four demoralizing years of feeling vaguely compelled to study (disrupted by bouts of half-hearted debauchery), I can see where he was coming from. My nails

are the consistency of stale string cheese, my hair has thinned considerably from stress, and in the faces around me I see the diminished glow of youth, hiding the inkling of a threat to sag, fold and crack. Childish pouts degrade into coarse, puckered pillows under their veneer of lip gloss, eyebrows strain visibly against the tortured ministrations of a zealous pair of tweezers, and what was once that same co-ed's charming, dimpled elbow is lost under a ripple of worldly cellulite.

The boys fall, one by one, into that indistinct twilight where a tired young face could reflect anywhere from 23 to 37 years of quiet disappointment. I can finally begin to believe that in another time or culture, most of us would be nursing our fourth child or plying our father's trade in a dusty marketplace.

To be sure, these observations will fade along with the accompanying feelings of dread and hopelessness when my latest birthday is as far behind me as the next one is incoming. By next week I will have a column with a moral and a note of optimism that I squeezed drop by drop from yet another self-inflicted gash in my dignity. Until then, have a fantastic week, and enjoy your remaining years of elastic skin, glossy hair and urinary continence.

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WITH GOOD PENMANSHIP:

## Reflections on re- turning to that which we call 'home'

*Matt explores the concept of belonging*

M A T T  
PITCHFORD

COLUMNIST

Sometimes things are cliché because they are consistently and constantly true. They might very well be over said, but that alone does not disprove their truthfulness, it simply means the sentiment can be expressed in different words. With that caveat in mind, I'd like to present you with a cliché statement that speaks to the core of this collegiate experience: "Home is where the heart is."

There is a shifting that occurs here. Amidst the academic halls, the confusing classes, the loud hall-mates and the separation (however welcomed) from life before, we start to become attached to this singular and strange way of life. College is a place for creating family out of the admittedly rag-tag pieces that become something greater than the constituent parts. Belonging is a strange concept. Just because one feels a level of comfort in a place does not mean one *ought* to be in that place. In the same way, one can belong in a place that makes you relatively uncomfortable.

It is a state of being that is not conditional upon the state of feelings. With this in mind, I can't help but feel that college is a

*Belonging is a strange concept. Just because one feels a level of comfort in a place does not mean one ought to be in that place. In the same way, one can belong in a place that makes you relatively uncomfortable.*

place predicated on the idea of belonging ... or learning how to belong. In a place where academics, friendships, relationships, work and play intertwine in complicated and twisting patterns, it is helpful to think of it all as a place where, ultimately, you are supposed to be.

It is in the midst of this strange alchemy that we play out ideas of purpose, direction and motivation. College is a place of understanding where you've been and where you (as a unique individual) are going. If you put your heart into it, it *becomes* home. How you fit into this place, as with any home environment, is something that can be difficult to describe or implement.

Good day or bad, you still have to go to class or, barring that, interact with some person on campus. You can have some control over your level of involvement, but you can never quite choose who you will see. You can plan out your major, but you can't quite eliminate general education requirements. College is a place of remarkable freedom and opportunity, but it is not something over which you have complete control. It is a place where opportunity and obedience meet.

Because of this, it is something much stronger than a fantastical place where everything you want becomes true – but it is also greater than a place that simply railroads a person into some predestined mold. It gives an individual enough power to make something, but not so much that it dissipates.

College is a concentrated form of home life. All of this – heart, home, belonging and the potentially strange mixture that makes up our day-to-day life – is exciting. It is a place that is wonderfully rich and surprisingly short. It is something special, and ought to be treated as such. Let me, therefore, proclaim to anyone and everyone who is vacillating between excitement and resignation: welcome home.

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TOM'S THOUGHTS:

## Seeking the elusive capstone: A rite of passage

*Tom informs the campus about history's senior experience*

T O M  
ACKERMAN

COLUMNIST

"Hello, I hope everyone had an eventful winter break. Welcome to Senior Seminar for history majors. If you're here, it means that you have senior standing and are preparing to write your thesis to finish off your major. Now, your thesis will play two key roles in your college career. It is meant to be a capstone to your undergraduate education: a project that you can be proud of even if you do not continue on to graduate school.

"The second and most important purpose of the senior thesis is to humble you in every way yet imagined by the keen minds of professors from the dawn of education up to the innovators of the present day. Quite simply, we ask the impossible of you seniors. You will have 15 weeks to write 40 pages of raw insightfulness. Now those tiny, naive little sacks of cells that you call brains are thinking, 'Fifteen weeks? That's plenty of time! I've got this thesis thing in the bag!' Your feeble perceptions could not be farther from the truth. Real historians sometimes spend decades of research on works that are far shorter in length than the project you are about to undertake.

"Your benevolent thesis advisor will attempt to assist you in your task, but they can only do so much. Invariably, some of you will choose not to heed the sage suggestions of your chosen mentor and give in to laziness or the flippant whims of your youth. Your thesis will suffer accordingly.

"Unlike all other assignments that you have completed at this university, which have been graded by a professor which you know and on some level have come to trust, your thesis will be graded by The Council of Eleven. It is unlikely that you have heard of The Council previously, but this Senior Seminar is also where many of the secrets of the History discipline are revealed to you. The Council of Eleven consists of 11 of the oldest and most-respected historians. Nobody knows the identity of all of the Eleven, but their will is beyond question as it is

*Twice a year, at the end of semesters, The Council reunites in one of the world's 10 oldest remaining cities to feast upon and evaluate the world's senior history theses. Each of The Council has written footnotes that are longer and more influential than your paltry thesis could ever hope to be.*

generally known that several of them knew Abraham Lincoln personally. It is believed that all of The Council of Eleven has foregone food and sleep and now subsists only by consuming information about the past. My personal research into the subject has led me to believe that at least one of the Council resides in some dark basement of the Library of Congress, basking in the archival data stored there.

"Twice a year, at the end of semesters, The Council reunites in one of the world's 10 oldest remaining cities to feast upon and evaluate the world's senior history theses. Each of The Council has written footnotes that are longer and more influential than your paltry thesis could ever hope to be. Inevitably they will find your work lacking. If you do receive a passing grade, have no doubt that it is only out of unadulterated pity.

"As always, you will use twelve point font, Times New Roman. All History theses will be in Chicago style, which, as far as I am concerned is Chicago's only contribution to human culture. Also, .docx files displease The Council of Eleven greatly. So don't even try.

"Finally, it's best if you pick a topic that interests you and that you will enjoy writing about; otherwise the thesis experience might become somewhat unpleasant."

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## OPINION

## IACUC, you ACUC, we all ACUC for ethical research

JEFFREY COLLINS  
DESIGNER

As a biologist-in-training, I have a deep hatred of PETA and like-minded organizations or individuals that view scientific research using animals as inherently inhumane, unethical and unnecessary. There is little doubt that many students at Willamette would not be alive today without treatments that were tested on mice, dogs or pigs. Moreover, the majority of scientists that work with animals are deeply concerned with the welfare, safety and comfort of the animals with which they work.

Sometimes, however, we make it too easy for so-called "animal rights" activists to decry us as monsters. Researchers are usually required to ensure that their experiments are humane by having them approved by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), a five-member committee consisting of (at a minimum) one research scientist, one veterinarian, one person outside the sciences and one person with no relationship to the institution except as an IACUC member. Sometimes, however, researchers flout this requirement, and at times institutions make it easy by not having an effective IACUC.

When I started taking upper-division biology courses I heard one of the department's horror stories for the first time. Several years ago, a now-retired professor (let's call him Dr. N) was supervising a group of students performing research for Physiological Dynamics of Animals and Plants (PDAP). This group was interested in studying the urban myth that, if you were bitten by a venomous snake, Taserling the wound would denature the poison, saving your life. They thought they would inject mice with snake venom and then Taser them to see if the mice would survive the bite. Dr. N approved the experiment, and needless to say did not submit it to Willamette's IACUC for approval.

There are many things wrongs with this experiment, not the least of which is (and I feel pedantic saying this) Taserling mice. Aside from the extreme pain the mice would endure, first from the venom injection and then the Taser, the shock would almost certainly kill them on its own. There's also the fact that testing urban myths is hardly the kind of scientific endeavor one has in mind when talking about the need for animal research. Thankfully, the newly hired Professor Craig found out and put the kibosh on the "project."

I had assumed (or hoped) that this story was an exaggeration until this summer when I was cleaning out Dr. N's old freezer and discovered cobra and black mamba venom. It honestly shouldn't have surprised me, given that, when I took PDAP, Dr. N approved an experiment that resulted in the death of several mice by methanol poisoning (think deadly hangover), again, without submitting it to the IACUC.

It is the university's responsibility to make sure that this doesn't happen. Our IACUC consists of a single biology professor with a myriad of other responsibilities. This is hardly the five-person independent committee normally required. Willamette needs an IACUC that is fully staffed, independent and has all the powers of committees at larger institutions. If we are going to have students involved in research, they need to learn their ethical responsibilities, and if we are going to use animals, they need to be treated with care.

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## THIS WEEK IN ASWU SENATE

- » ASWU passed a proposal to establish ASWU Sports. Through this service, CLA students will be able to check out sports equipment (basketballs, etc.) for free.
- » Senators also passed a resolution encouraging the Willamette community to donate to the Haiti Relief Fund.

Compiled by Sen. Tej Reddy  
Contact: [treddy@willamette.edu](mailto:treddy@willamette.edu)

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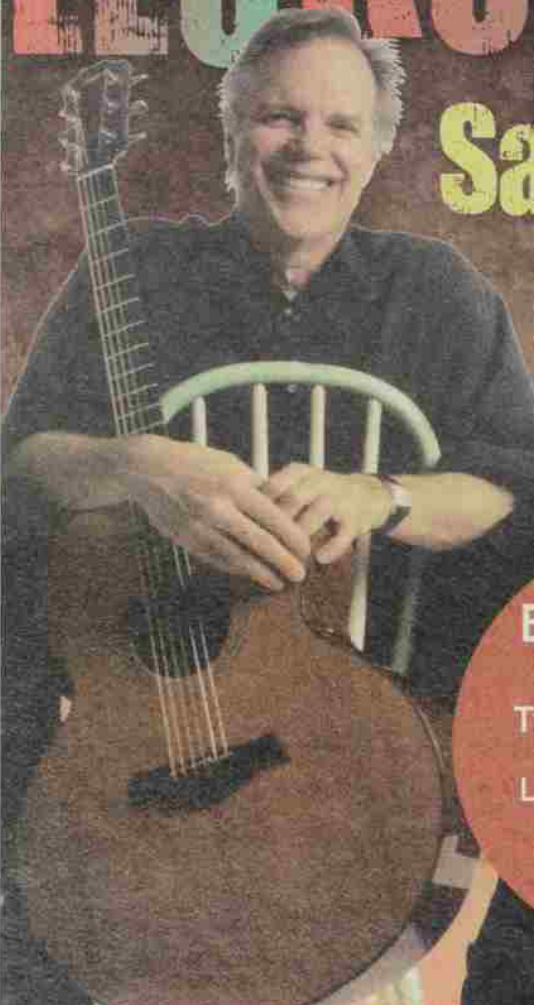
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