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The star on top of the Tree: WU's 175th lighting



PARKER DREW

On Saturday, Dec. 2, for the first time in years, the University held a lighting ceremony to decorate the Star Trees. See page 2.

Return of Net Neutrality debate

SOPHIA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Don't let cranky Baby Boomers fool you: the Internet is the greatest tool of the 21st century. It gives everyone, regardless of wealth or social standing, equal access to information, offering platforms for people to communicate, create, work or incite social change.

The Internet was designed to be a free space. "Net neutrality" is the key aspect that ensures the Internet stays this way. This federal regulation prevents Internet Service Providers (ISPs) such as Verizon or Comcast from favoring certain sites and companies. Without net neutrality, ISPs could pick and choose which sites get fast or slow coverage, forcing consumers to pay extra for consistent and reliable service. It's a no-brainer - of course ISPs shouldn't have this power.

But in November, while we were doing our best to avoid political conflict over turkey dinners and trying to forget about upcoming finals, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the agency meant to protect American consumers, quietly created a proposal to kill net neutrality. The proposed "Restoring Internet Freedom" order would allow providers to create fast lanes and slow lanes for websites and apps, favoring sites that pay the providers fees. At their December 14 meeting, while America is in the throes of holiday festivities, the FCC will be conducting a final vote on the proposal.

The FCC argues that the end of net neutrality would increase competition among ISPs, thereby not affecting consumers. But ISPs have an incredible amount of power. Due to recent mergers, a few major corporations control nearly all of the country's internet, phone and cable services. Verizon, Comcast and Time Warner Cable are among the country's largest ISPs and these few corporations have created a oligopoly of Internet service and intense competition among them seems unlikely. They exist only to make money and have little interest in the wellbeing of the American public.

It is fitting, then, that they connected with the Trump administration. Ajit Pai, Trump's appointment for Chairman of the FCC, is a former associate lawyer for Verizon. It seems he was appointed for the sole purpose of killing net neutrality. The end of net neutrality would strip freedom and power from the masses, funneling it to the top: namely, corporations and their cohorts in Washington.

Willamette Basketball opens Northwest Conference Play

JARIN KOBASHIGAWA
CONTRIBUTOR

On Friday, the Men's Basketball team restricted Lewis & Clark College to 24.6% shooting to win their third straight game, and first NWC game, 64-47. The Bearcats began the game with an impressive 14-0 run. Efforts by the defense kept the score to a minimal in the first few minutes of the game and also played a vital role in the rest of the game.

Before the half, the Pioneers managed to bring themselves within eight points, 31-23. In the second half, the Bearcat's defense started to take control, simultaneously their offense started to heat up. With nine minutes remaining in the half, the Pioneers pulled within 11 points of the Bearcats, 50-39, but that would be the smallest difference for the rest of the game.

Jenkins ended the game with 19 points on 8-14 shooting, and also had nine rebounds. Troplent had a double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Trent Callan and Brendon McCullough both added nine points. Willamette finished with a 50% shooting; the starting five players shot 57.1% from the field and also recorded 31 rebounds compared to L&C's 32 total rebounds.



KENDRICK ARAKAKI

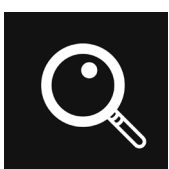
Junior Jameson Willems looks to grab a rebound against George Fox.

On Saturday, the Bearcats nearly rallied back from a 12-point deficit in the remaining two minutes of the game, before falling to George Fox University, 78-75. The Bruins took an early 12-4 lead to start the game

and held a substantial lead throughout the first half. Late in the first half, a three-pointer by a Bruins player put them ahead before Jenkins scored on a layup to end the half at 42-28. It took the Bearcats about eight minutes in the second half to pull within single digits of George Fox. The Bruin's lead fluctuated between 11-13 points as both teams exchanged baskets. With under ten minutes remaining, the Bearcats went on an 8-1 run to get within six points of the Bruins. The single digit margin was maintained until the final three minutes of the game. Efforts by McCullough and Thornton helped the Bearcats to decrease the Bruin's lead to three points with 40 seconds remaining. With nine seconds left, McCullough scored a layup to make the score 75-76. On a foul, a Bruins player hit both free throws to score the final points of the game. Despite the outcome, five Bearcat players, which included Troplent, Jenkins, Thornton, Callan and McCullough, managed to score double digits. On Friday, Dec. 8 the Bearcats will take on Corban University at the Cone Field House at 8 p.m. (PST)

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FEATURE

Where does your money go? See Features.

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NEWS

Travel ban resurfaces again.

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LIFESTYLES

Jump in your camper and explore the reviews of "Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp"

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Re-lighting of Star Trees begins holiday season

NATALIE ROADARMEL
STAFF WRITER

If you were to ask any student on campus, it is a given that they would be able to explain what the Star Trees are and where they are planted. The Star Trees have a commanding and important presence on campus, representing the history of the University as well as all that is to come. Although the Star Trees are mainly known for their urban legend and as a peaceful escape from campus bustle, they have also played an important role in holiday celebrations at Willamette for many years.

The Star Trees were originally planted in 1942 north of Collins Science Hall, coinciding with the Willamette centennial, or the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the University. They were planted by President Knopf to celebrate the centennial and to begin a "Temple of the Centuries." They are now said to be the largest trees planted on any U.S. college or university campus.

The first lighting of the Star Trees occurred in 1997 and began the yearly holiday tradition on Willamette's campus. However, in 2014 the trees started to show signs of stress, and it was decided that the lighting of them would have to be put on hold in order to ensure that the heavy cables used to light the trees would not cause damage to them during winter storms. During this three year hiatus, the annual lighting ceremony took place in Jackson plaza with lights strung along the millstream, lamp posts and surrounding trees.

Luckily, this year the Star Trees were assessed to once again be in well enough health to hold the annual tree lighting. Students and members from the Salem community gathered together on Saturday to view the spectacle. The event began with Chaplain Karen Wood explaining to the crowd the story of the Star Trees, followed by musical performances by the Holiday



PARKER DREW

The Holiday Choir, directed by Dr. Wallace Long, performs in front of Waller Hall for the holiday celebration as Blitz roams off camera.

Choir directed by Wallace Long, and a brass fanfare to being the countdown for the lighting. Cookies, hot chocolate and s'mores were provided for attendees, and bubbles and fake snow filled the air. Coat and clothing donations were also collected to be donated to the Union Gospel Mission. The whole event gave off an air of holiday cheer, and

felt like a real coming-together of Willamette students, faculty and Salem community members.

The event was followed by a band concert in Smith Auditorium, with performances by the University Wind Ensemble, University Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Collective. The groups all played holiday tunes and ended in a final piece arranged

by Peter Lawson for the three groups to play together as one.

The Star Tree lighting was a wonderful way to begin the holiday season at Willamette. This event brought many people together and gave students a well deserved break before finals start. A multitude of families from Salem attended the Star Tree lighting

as well as the following concert, showing their support for Willamette and its student groups. The re-lighting of the Star Trees was a highlight event of the year and one that will not easily be forgotten by students and community members alike.

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CAMPUS SAFETY

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

December 2, 12:52 p.m. (Matthews Parking Lot): Campus Safety received a call regarding a vehicle that had been broken into. An officer responded spoke with the owner of the vehicle. The officer documented the damage and helped secure the shattered window.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

November 30, 8:34 p.m. (On Campus): Campus Safety received a call regarding an individual who was having a seizure. Officers responded and located the individual. Campus Safety transported the individual to Salem Hospital.

December 2, 10:27 a.m. (Lausanne Hall): Campus

Safety received a call stating that an individual had been cut on their arm. An officer responded and transported the individual to Salem Hospital.

POLICY VIOLATION

December 2, 3:30 p.m. (Lausanne Hall): While on a call an officer noticed the smell of marijuana. After locating the source of the smell the officer confronted the occupant of the room. The individual stated that there was no paraphernalia in the room and that their roommate had just smoked and then taken everything with them. The officer reminded the individual about the University's no smoking policy.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

December 3, 2:50 a.m. (Delta Gamma): While on

patrol an officer noticed an individual loitering outside of the sorority house. The officer watched the individual who urinated in the bushes and then sat down on a bench. The officer made contact with the individual who stated that they were going to wait there until morning so that they could speak to their girlfriend. The officer informed the individual that they could not be hanging around outside a sorority house all night and recommended that they return home. Though reluctant at first, the individual left the area.

THEFT

November 30, 8:12 a.m. (Delta Gamma): An individual contacted Campus Safety stating that their car window had been shattered. An offi-

cer responded and searched the area. While searching, the officer found a purse on the ground that belonged to the owner of the vehicle. The owner of the vehicle spoke with the officer and the damage was documented. A report was filed.

November 30, 3:00 p.m. (Collins Science Center): Campus Safety received a report that the men's and women's restroom had been stolen off the wall.

December 1, 3:47 p.m. (Kaneko Commons): An individual reported that some of their belongings had been stolen from the laundry room.

TRESPASS

December 2, 5:14 p.m. (Hatfield Library): Cam-

pus Safety received a call regarding an individual who had entered the library. They were told that the library was closing and went into the fish-bowl and laid down. Officers responded and contacted the individual who they recognized as being someone who had been previously trespassed from campus. The individual was placed under arrest and Salem Police was contacted and took custody of the individual.

*PLEASE CONTACT CAMPUS SAFETY IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THESE INCIDENTS.

President Trump's controversial travel ban resurfaces

GIANNI MARABELLA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Monday, Dec. 2, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of President Donald Trump's latest rendition of the travel ban restricting individuals from the countries of Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen from coming to the United States.

The ban, which is the third iteration that Trump has proposed, bans individuals from the aforementioned countries from emigrating to the United States. This does not apply with individuals who are classified as having a bona fide relationship with the U.S., including those traveling on diplomatic visas, North Atlantic Treaty Organization visas, C-2 visas for travel to the United Nations and G-1, G-2, G-3 and G-4 visas.

This decision has been seen as a victory for the Trump administration.

"The Constitution gives the president the responsibility and power to protect this country from all threats foreign and domestic, and this order remains vital to accomplishing those goals," Attorney General Jeff Sessions said. Sessions also called it "a substantial victory for the safety and security of the American people."

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor were the only two to vote against the travel ban

out of the nine judges. This is a big change from the vote held on the previous version of the ban, which was supported only by Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch.

The policy is being pushed forward despite two notable challenges against it which have not yet made their way through the legal system. U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson

identifies," Watson said in his 40 page ruling.

Watson and Chuang's cases are set to go before appeals courts this week. It isn't known why the lower court orders were put on hold, however it was said by the administration that blocking the ban in its entirety was causing "irreparable harm" due to foreign policy concerns.

the merits of our claims. We continue to stand for freedom, equality, and for those who are unfairly being separated from their loved ones. We will be arguing Friday in the Fourth Circuit that the ban should ultimately be struck down."

The justices offered no explanation for their order, but the administration had said that blocking the full ban was causing "irreparable harm" because the policy is based on legitimate national security and foreign policy concerns.

The order also calls for a review into suspending the Visa Interview Waiver Program, which allows travelers from 38 countries -- including close allies -- to renew travel authorizations without an in-person interview.

"President Trump's anti-Muslim prejudice is no secret -- he has repeatedly confirmed it, including just last week on Twitter. It's unfortunate that the full ban can move forward for now, but this order does not address the merits of our claims. We continue to stand for freedom, equality, and for those who are unfairly being separated from their loved ones. We will be arguing Friday in the Fourth Circuit that the ban should ultimately be struck down," Omar Jadwat, the director of the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project, said.

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"Organizations across the nation have spoken out against the decision, and made clear their plans to fight it moving forward."

of Honolulu issued a decision in October against the ban, and Maryland U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang issued a similar order just hours later.

"The categorical restrictions on entire populations of men, women, and children, based upon nationality, are a poor fit for the issues regarding the sharing of 'public-safety and terrorism-related information' that the Pres-

Organizations across the nation have spoken out against the decision, and made clear their plans to fight it moving forward.

"President Trump's anti-Muslim prejudice is no secret -- he has repeatedly confirmed it, including just last week on Twitter," said American Civil Liberties Union President Omar Jadwat. "It's unfortunate that the full ban can move forward for now, but this order does not address

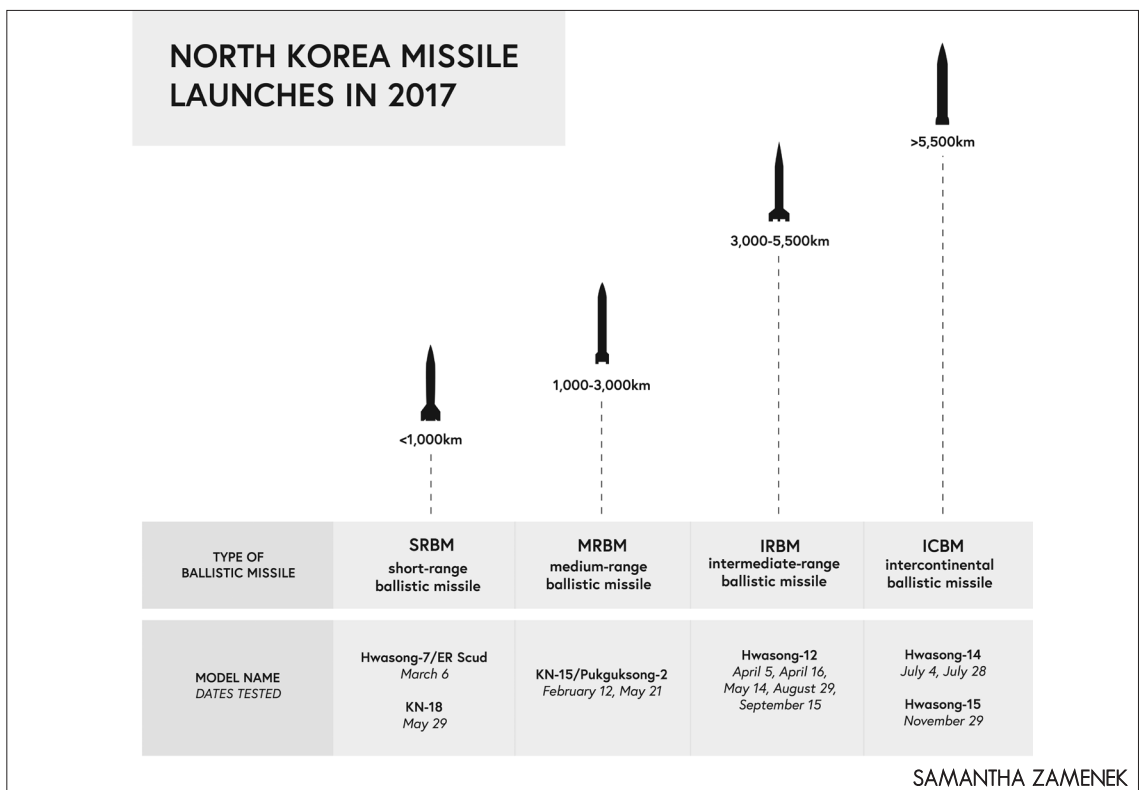
North Korea continues nuclear testing

WILLIAM GUPTON
OPINIONS EDITOR

North Korea, under the direction of Kim Jong Un, successfully conducted another nuclear missile test on Nov. 29, launching a more advanced missile over Japan for the second time this year. This test occurred amongst rising tensions between the North Korean leader and President Trump, where many in the international community are growing concerned as a result of the bombastic styles of the respective leaders.

This is the 23rd test North Korea has conducted since Feb. 16, and many analysts note that there has been significant technological development in their capabilities to construct and successfully launch missiles within this timespan. The Nov. 29 missile test featured a Hwasong-15 missile, which is considerably more advanced than previous projectiles. The Hwasong-15 meets the classification of Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), theoretically making it able to strike the mainland of the United States. In response to this, the state of Hawaii is reviving its Cold War era nuclear warning alarm system in order to further prepare the state for potential threats.

While the new missile tests demonstrate a significant growth in North Korean nuclear abilities, many experts are skeptical about the consistency and quality of their nuclear technology. Although North Korea has successfully tested an ICBM, their technology is unable to consistently launch successful missiles, and their standards fall short international levels. In



contrast with the world's other nuclear powers (the United States, United Kingdom, Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan and Israel), North Korea does not have the capability to employ nuclear weapons quickly or effectively, meaning they cannot be used for retaliatory strikes. The only circumstances by which North Korea could successfully deploy a nuclear missile is as a preemptive strike, and there is very little reason for them to do this.

Public fear of a North Korean missile strike is high, but many foreign policy experts argue the isolated nation has no reason to use the missiles aggressively. Instead, it is likely that Kim Jong Un wants nuclear capabilities as a way to gain a more significant

recognition as a figure on the international stage. If North Korea gains comparable nuclear abilities to other nuclear nations, then they could demand more authority and respect from other nations. Furthermore, gaining nuclear power provides strength to Kim Jong Un's domestic rule and helps reinforce Pyongyang's power in the region, both over its own people and over its neighbor, South Korea. Kim Jong Un has conducted more missile tests than both of his predecessors combined, suggesting a level of desperation to gain additional authority in his regime, a trend that has been consistent since he took office.

Despite harsh language from President Trump, the United States is still seeking a diplomat-

ic solution to the crisis. "I am not willing to say diplomacy has not worked," said Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. "We will continue to work diplomatically." In the President's visit to China last month, one of his priorities was to pressure Chinese President Xi Jinping to curb North Korea's testing. However, it does not seem that China is likely to take any additional measures to do so, and many believe the nation's influence over North Korea to be dwindling. As a result, the United States remains the most major figure working to prevent Kim Jong Un and his nation from achieving status as a fully nuclear power.

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ASWU report

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Ed Whipple and Carol Long came to the ASWU meeting on Nov. 30 to offer insight into the Bishop/Salem Health conversation as well as answer to students' concerns. The two hour long discussion was well attended, it opened by discussing the 4.7 million dollar budget deficit that WU is facing. Carol Long predicted "this year will be the last year of these serious cuts." (at least three million dollars must be cut this year).

In the coming years Willamette will not just be cutting, but also looking to reinvest and build income. Early in the meeting Carol Long admitted to the issues with how Bishop was cut stating "It's not good policy or practice to take something away without a replacement." Whipple opened by saying, "We want to know what is important to students." Students have already voiced that healthcare is what is important. In the budget conversation administrators are concerned with retention.

A student pointed out that people go on medical leave and end up withdrawing from WU, healthcare helps retention and enrollment. A student from the Budget Advisory committee said there were other cuts to make within Student Affairs that would not have hurt the entire student body. Why was Bishop cut over these other options?

"Bishop was the option with an alternative." Whipple shared citing Salem Health as the alternative. Senator Gupton asked, "Did you look anywhere besides Salem health for partnerships?" Whipple said, "No."

Senator Mackey pointed to the Bishop assessment conducted last year, which detailed the direct importance of Bishop determined health services being on campus, how physical and mental health are deeply linked, and the ways in which healthcare touches every aspect of student life. This decision goes directly against the warnings of this report. "If you are not well you cannot engage in activities or academics," Whipple said as another senator's statement sunk in. Whipple said, "We cannot compromise on sexual health, DACA students, international students, women's health, different insurance needs, if the model Salem Health comes back with is missing some aspect of these I will not compromise on them."

By the end of the meeting apologies had been delivered by both Long and Whipple. Whipple said that students will be involved in the conversation from the start in the next round of cuts, we as students must hold the administration to that.

Whipple left on the promise that, "We will come back anytime."

ASWU Senate meetings are weekly every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Ford 102. All students are welcome to attend.

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Has Pocket Camp crossed into all our hearts?

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As I sat down and downloaded the new "Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp" game to my cell phone, I was not sure what to expect. Nintendo recently released this as its third mobile app game. Like its predecessors, "Super Mario Run" and "Fire Emblem Heroes," "Pocket Camp" is based on one of the company's successful console games from the early 2000's.

Animal Crossing was originally celebrated as an imaginative, open-ended game upon its initial release. It featured a real time 24-hour clock aligning the gamer's real and imaginary worlds. In 2002, it was noted by some critics to be aimed predominantly towards youth demographics.

The new version begins with a hefty data download onto the user's device. After customizing a character, they are dropped onto a campsite with a creature named Isabelle. The game is based on various interactive options that navigate you through your personalized experience by completing tasks and building relationships. The goal is to meet creatures and trade goods or services in working towards building the best campsite possible.

Completed missions are rewarded with materials and advancements unlocking access to more expansive game play opportunities. Having no emotional ties or nostalgic connection with the game, I found it fun working through tasks and seeing where the plot would take me. As the original game was released during formative childhood years for many

similar aged people, the mobile release struck a chord with those who experienced it in their childhood.

Willamette MBA student Antoine Longour noticed that the

"Catching fish to sell them later, shaking the trees for fruits to sell them, completing missions and requests

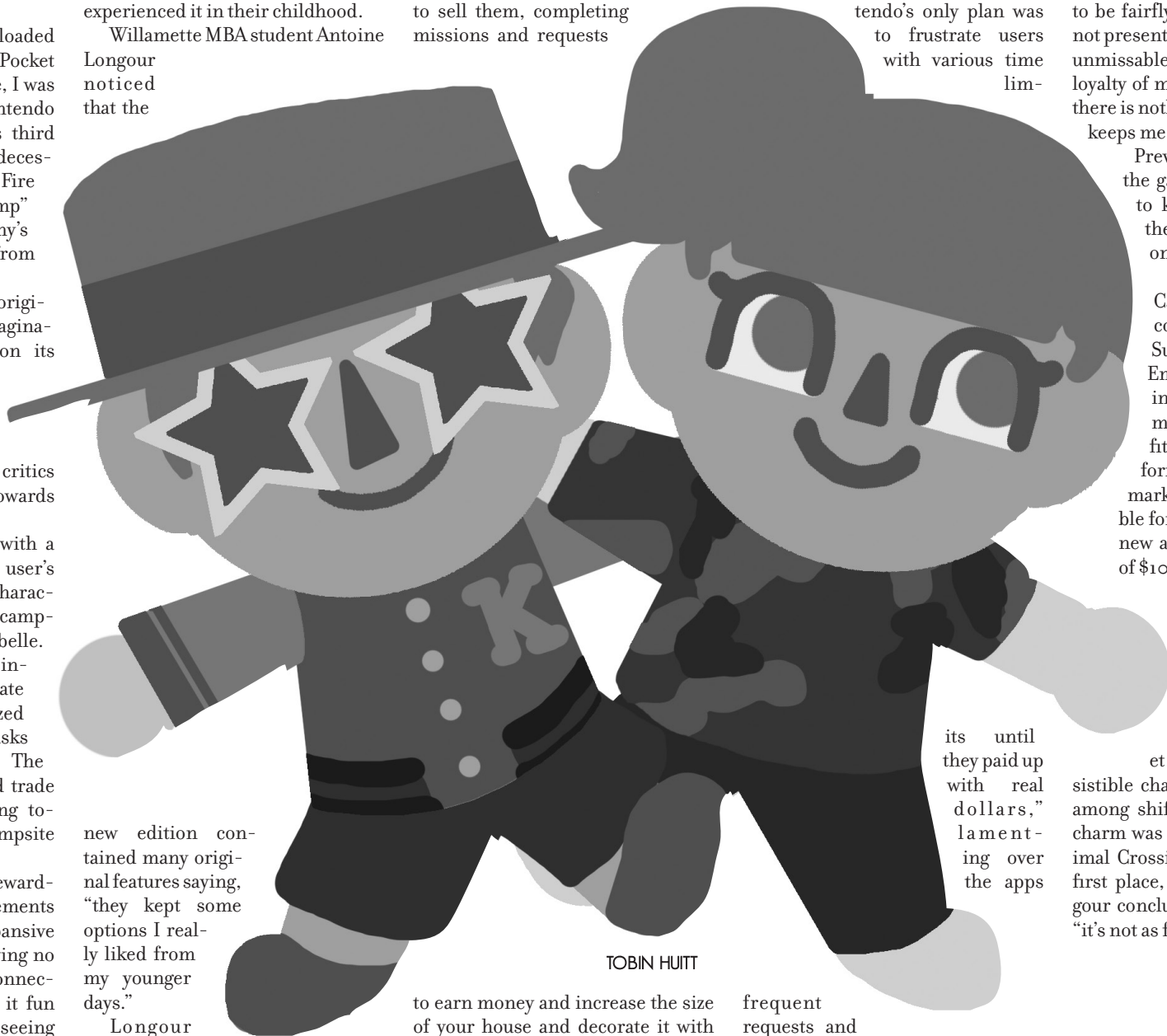
review for Gizimbo, Harrison Weber wrote, "it felt like Nintendo's only plan was to frustrate users with various time lim-

While the game kept me entertained and intrigued long enough to be fairly labelled as fun, it does not present any stand out features or unmissable moments. Without the loyalty of my childhood experience, there is nothing about this game that keeps me going back for more.

Previous experience with the game may not be enough to keep users engaged, either. "I uninstalled the new one," Longour admitted.

For Nintendo, Pocket Camp profitably pales in comparison to the those of Super Mario Run and Fire Emblem Heroes. According to Forbes, the game is most successful in Japan, fittingly the franchise's formative 2001 release market. Japan was responsible for nearly 85 percent of the new app's revenue, a shy total of \$10,000,000 in nine days.

While the game is enough to satisfy a study break or periodic procrastination, the overall consensus by cult fans and new users alike is that Pocket Camp lacks the irresistible charm crucial for longevity among shifting fads. That missing charm was perhaps what made Animal Crossing a fan favorite in the first place, but ultimately, as Longour concludes of the new version, "it's not as fun."



TOBIN HUITT

new edition contained many original features saying, "they kept some options I really liked from my younger days."

Longour recalled the profit building tasks as a key factor in making it so special.

to earn money and increase the size of your house and decorate it with fancier stuff," he said.

Further, the game has been criticized by critics and users alike. In a

frequent requests and reminders of the tempting advancements offered by in app purchases.

its until they paid up with real dollars," lamenting over the apps

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Cards of cultural divide currently dealt in Magic

DORIAN GRAYSON
STAFF WRITER

"Magic: the Gathering" is a competitive trading card game. To be accurate, though, Magic is the competitive trading card game, at least on paper. Magic reaches surprisingly far with an international network of local game stores organizing weekly tournaments, a coverage team that streams hours of footage of a major competition each weekend and tournaments with prize pools in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Dungeons and Dragons gets a lot of publicity for being the nerd game, but Magic is secretly close behind.

Recently, the Magic community went through what it seems every community is going through: revelations about harassment. One of the many creative aspects of the Magic community is cosplay, and Christine Sprankle was the most well-known Magic cosplayer. She has done work in the past with Wizards of the Coast, the company that makes the game. On Nov. 24, she tweeted that she was going to be leaving the Magic community due to harassment by Jeremy Hambly.

Hambly is a Magic YouTuber, running the channels "Unsleeved Media" and "The Quartering," and is divisive among the community. Unlike more popular Magic YouTubers, Hambly considers himself a "critic" and makes videos about other members of the Magic community.

"This person happens to be a content creator for Magic: the Gathering, production and graphic design behind Vintage Super League and the Magic Online Championship. And she's married to a Magic pro. So sometimes it's not who you know but who you blow," Hambly said in a video he made in response to a tweet. "I wouldn't even rape you," he said in another tweet in response to criticism.

If you're recognizing those speech patterns and toxic responses, you're not alone. It probably won't surprise you that Hambly is very publicly a Trump supporter. This is a continuation of the culture divide we see at large. Hambly even uses the same fascist, alt-right dog whistles on his Twitter, such as Pepe memes and fascist underdog/silent majority rhetoric.

"Here is the thing about my fellow Shitlords. We have real numbers. Some would like to believe everyone who plays MTG is a Snowflake. Nope," Hambly wrote in a tweet.

"A war is coming. I am by far the underdog but what they don't know is kek is on my side," he said in another, inferring that his internet troll brethren will help him 'fight' fascist scapegoats like the 'deep state.'

This is also representative of Hambly's fans, who rabidly attack the targets of his videos after he posts them. A common tweet on his Twitter is a screenshot of

a message that a notable Magic celebrity has blocked him with a one word insult, like "sexist" or "fascist."

Major Magic content creators took this news and spread it, creating response articles and videos to hammer home that there needs to be a change in how the Magic community deals with harassment. Yet, in the comments of these responses, there is a clear divide between those who agree and those who don't.

"Let me get this straight. A female player is slighted by some guy on the internet and the whole community rallies behind her. Yet in your mind, the community is unwelcoming of women? And people of color? Really? I don't get it, I honestly don't," wrote Magic community member Kneip in a comment responding to an open letter from many professional Magic players on the issue.

The framing of minorities as over privileged whiners while using the backlash against intolerable behavior to excuse the behavior. As if people don't need to be punished for crimes if everyone knows it's a crime. As if the harassment was due to individuals instead of structures.

In this community, we've found the same thing everyone is facing right now: a cultural divide. If only it came with answers as to how to deal with it.

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Jeremy Hambly

Creature - Goblin

Bullying, sexism, hatred

"I wouldn't even rape you."

-Jeremy Hambly

0/1

SAMANTHA ZEMANEK



Treat yourself to good sleep this finals season

SARA FULLERTON
STAFF WRITER

Until Thomas Edison's invention of the lightbulb in 1897, people's activities were largely dictated by the natural world, which offered them light or dark at no choice of their own. In his review of Matthew Walker's book "Why We Sleep," New York Times writer David Kamp reflected that the light bulb was, "As much a profound upending of the natural order as it was a huge technological advance." Where pre-lightbulb rhetoric about sleep described it as something sacred, like "nature's soft nurse," Edison rewrote it as mere "heritage from our cave days" and a "criminal waste of time."

Modern thinking is riddled with ill thoughts about sleep. Inadequate sleep has become a status symbol, indicating one's intellectual capacity, productivity and strength. The capitalist world is driven by the sentiment "Money never sleeps." Since there is nothing externally quantifiable happening while we sleep, it is deemed valueless.

TEDx speaker Jessa Gamble has explained that our species originated near the equator, so we evolved to be most optimally suited to conditions of about 12 hours of light followed by 12 hours of darkness. Sleep, though, is far from being something to fill the gap that darkness creates.

Russell Foster is a circadian neuroscientist, which means he studies the internal clocks that exist in almost all living beings, and guide our cycles of wakefulness and sleep. These "body clocks" evolved to be responsive to predictable outside conditions, but they also transcend them. They do not rely on external cues to function.

A series of bunker studies were conducted from 1964-1989 on 447 human volunteers, each of whom would live in the bunkers for spans of about two months. These bunkers are deemed timeless environments, in that they isolated subjects from any external cues of temporality, and participants were able to self-select when they wanted lights on or off.

Results showed that humans did follow activity patterns that

closely matched a 24-hour day even without external cues. It seems clear that any evolutionary function that takes up an average of about a third of each of our lifetimes must be more than a waste of time. A look into the brain during sleep reveals that many cognitive structures are activated more during sleep than wakefulness.

Neurological studies have demonstrated that sleep enhances problem-solving capacities, creativity, and sorts and makes meaning of memories. Sleep is a multifaceted physical process. It is not initiated by any single brain structure, but is the product of many interactions. The optimal night's rest contains about five cycles of sleep, switching between REM and non-REM states.

REM sleep is characterized by rapid eye movement and a less deep state of sleep. Non-REM sleep is a deeper state that generally precedes REM sleep. During non-REM sleep, the brain dumps out all the superfluous memories that are not necessary to store and retain. The REM state then creates a hospitable environment

for functions of problem-solving and creativity because it hones in on the memories that remain, and strengthens the neural connections associated with them.

Both of these processes working in union are necessary to achieve the process of "synaptic remodeling," which is essential for functions of learning, memory, problem-solving and creativity. This "synaptic remodeling" results in better emotional intelligence, better mood and more clarity of mind.

This all makes intuitive sense. We know by experience how incompetent we feel when we're sleep deprived. We have all faced a problem that feels massive and impassible at night, and is somehow less daunting the next morning. Many of the world's languages have a phrase for "sleep on it," indicating just how universal this phenomenon is. It makes perfect sense in light of foundational structures like Maslow's hierarchy of needs, too. When our most basic needs are not taken care of, we cannot be attentive to much else.

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Coping with abusive friends

MADELYN JONES
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Change is coming with the uprising of sexual assault allegations in Hollywood but, as many people have been recently expressing, change isn't easy. It is heartbreaking to learn that a person you look up to or are inspired by is actually an abuser. There has been a discussion about how to go about appreciating these creators' art, but what about when the abuser is even closer to home?

Discovering or realizing that a friend is an abuser is an incredibly difficult experience, but one that needs to be taken seriously and dealt with. Even if that person is not abusive to you, staying in that relationship is damaging. This goes for if a friend is sexually abusive or in other ways. It lets the person know that they can get away with despicable acts while still having friends and lets the receiver of the abuse feel unsupported and unheard, like their experiences don't matter.

For someone experiencing their first abusive friend, I have noticed it can be harder for them to understand the seriousness of the topic or their actions. This makes sense because people, in general, do not want to believe that others are bad, especially someone they allowed so close, but it is important to not let your relationship cloud your judgement.

To this group of people, I urge you to listen to your trusted friends that have dealt with abuse before and seriously consider their words. Abusive people often have similar traits, so someone who has seen abuse before is probably more likely to recognize it.

Abusers are often incredibly skilled in manipulation and lying so it can be difficult to notice what they are doing, especially in the moment. It is important to listen to other's observations and not disregard them because you think you know the person. Many abusers seem like lovely, interesting and exciting people because they have learned manipulation tactics to keep you distracted from the bad they are doing. I, also urge people to learn more about signs of abuse and manipulation.

Losing a friendship is hard and emotionally taxing, so reach out for support, but don't let this stop you from cutting ties. If you find out your friend is an abuser, remember that they are not who you think they are. Often they lie in all of their relationships, even the ones that are not abusive, to make their actions not seem suspicious.

I truly hope no one reading this article has or will go through this situation since it is difficult and heartbreaking, but stay aware and ready to listen intently if someone has reason to think one of your friends is abusive.

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Does Bo & Vine Burger "beef" the rest?



JAMES HOODECHECK

A view from the outside of Bo & Vine Burger Bar.

EMMA GIRON
STAFF WRITER

If you are looking for an upscale burger joint that has a similar vibe to Archive Coffee and Bar, then Bo & Vine is the place to go. This new local restaurant, located in downtown Salem near the corner of Liberty and Court Street, opened this past summer on June 2, 2017.

Owners Mike Adams, Matt Adams and Brian Kaufman created this restaurant to "spotlight historic downtown Salem's growing foodie scene."

Their menu offers a variety of salads, chicken entrees, grass-fed burgers and special sides. Burgers, such as the "Capital," with a balsamic-glazed Portobello mushroom cap, sun-dried tomato, spring mix lettuce and house made hummus on a vegan bun attempt to create an upscale comfort of home. You can

even have a "Willamette" burger, made with goat cheese crumbles, smoked bacon, house made sweet chili sauce, caramelized onion, balsamic reduction and spring mix lettuce.

If you are 21 or older, Bo & Vine offers a number of beers on tap, wine and even a Stout & Cream handcrafted shake with stout, Irish cream, chocolate drizzle, whipped cream and dark chocolate shavings. The restaurant prides itself on locality for carrying local and seasonal selections of taps and wines. You can pair your beverage with one of their signature "piles," fries topped with creative flavors such as "Dante's Inferno," a Cajun blend of house made pepper jack beer cheese, fresh jalapeños, ranch and sriracha drizzle.

So far the restaurant has been rated by 149 Google reviewers who aggregately rate the hamburger restaurant 4.2 stars out of 5.

One of the top raters commented, "We love this place. The hamburgers are amazing. They are a little pricey for the area, but well worth it. The meat is delicious." The reviewer recommended the Mad Hawaiian burger with grilled pineapple, grilled spam and fresh jalapeño-cilantro slaw.

Some negative reviews complained the restaurant was overcrowded and overpriced. Unfortunately for those customers, a new restaurant is bound to leave its guests on a pretty long wait list. However, this sign of popularity most likely means it's worth checking out. Bo & Vine also has an online ordering option available in case you prefer that to calling in.

The place is more expensive compared to other burger joints such as Five Guys. At Bo & Vine you can expect to spend \$8-12 on a burger with your side of fries

or other potato options running from \$3-7. They do offer a number of vegan and vegetarian protein options such as black bean and sweet potato patties.

You can follow Bo & Vine on Facebook, Bo & Vine Burger Bar and Instagram, @boandvine, where they regularly post seasonally themed specials, meet the staff videos and upcoming discounts. On their website you can subscribe to their listserv to view their secret menu, an update of their latest creations and food announcements. Open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. -10 p.m. and closed Sunday's. Bring friends for their "Social Hours," 3-5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to closing time for a number of discounted options on food and alcoholic beverages.

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ON THE MONEY: BU

An understanding of the interw

CAITLIN FORBES
MANAGING EDITOR

INTRODUCTION

The spirit of Willamette's campus is undeniably tense. There is a gap between students and the administration that looms with the absence of transparent communication. Students are fearful that we have been reduced to numbers on a spreadsheet, and feel like the administration seems to want to encourage blind trust within the student body. Both groups are on the same team and working towards the same goal, but operating almost completely separately.

The financial strains that have been present on this campus since 2007 have been felt more recently, as the University watches every last dollar.

Attempting to bridge the abyss between students and the administration, the budget will be outlined, explained and accompanied by further elaborated on from various administrative departments around campus. The budget is something that should be the discussion (as much as possible) campus wide, and students should be informed and educated about the process that funds or designs their living and learning experiences at WU.

WHAT IS THE BUDGET?

Dan Valles, the Associate Vice President for Financial Operations, helped clarify the process of the budget formation as well as outlining what the budget is. The budget is an outlining estimate for how much the University gains and spends during the fiscal year. It is approved by the Board of Trustees, and is hopefully close to the actual expenses and gains that occur during the year. The budget operates on the fiscal year, which is not aligned with the student or calendar year, taking place June 1 - May 31. Currently we are in the fiscal year 2018 and in the process of planning for fiscal year 2019.

The planning starts the August of the prior year, however extra precautions can sometimes back up the timeline. This timeline can be broken up into two chunked steps.

The first step includes setting tuition. The University abides by Federal Financial Aid Requirements, meaning that for students applying for FAFSA they need to know the final tuition before applications go out. That being said, tuition is set by the Board of Trustees and released in December for all students, including incoming and current students.

The second step involves gathering information throughout the spring and continuously updating it. All of this then comes together to create a balanced budget for the May meeting, which takes place before graduation. Usually the Board will at that time approve the budget for that fiscal year.

THE DEFICIT

The University has been adhering to a \$9.1 million dollar structural deficit, and has addressed about \$4.7 million of it so far. Starting in 2007, when the recession hit, we had a significant impact on our endowments. At the time we were also spending about 6% of the endowment per year, which was higher than other universities, which was made worse by negative returns on the endowments during the recession we should have. About two years ago the President and the Vice President of Finance accelerated a plan to reduce spending of the endowment to about 4 1/2 % by 2022 as directed by the Board of Trustees.

During that time period, a plan was put in place to grow the CLA to 2,000 students. This would ultimately

reduce the discount rate, which can be defined as the amount of financial aid provided to students by discounting tuition in the form of unfunded scholarships, or foregone revenue to the University. However, that plan wasn't effective due to low enrollment as a result of the recession and the amount of college-ready 18 year olds. This number has leveled off, yielding fewer out of high school students who are ready to pursue college-level learning, especially that of Willamette rigor.

In addition the budget was not consistently displaying infrastructure costs, which involves upkeep for the buildings on campus. After being appointed president, Thorsett started working towards reflecting true costs of the University by displaying infrastructure and contingency budgets consistently.

The fiscal 2018 budget predicts in the Year End Forecast that we will to reduce that further to \$1,493,000. After the planned reductions in the fiscal year 2019, additional reductions or increases in revenue (either through the annual fund or other sources) have the potential of eliminating the remainder of the deficit.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Multiple members of the administration were asked questions about the current state of Willamette, its future and clarifying questions as a response to budget cuts. Their responses are recorded below.

RUSSELL YOST - CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Q: With the apparent disconnect between students and faculty, how do you perceive upper administration achieving more transparency via ways of contacting the students?

"My impressions are that our faculty work very closely with students — in the classroom, as academic advisors and through individual projects and research. In the past couple of years, the development of our shared governance structure has created new ways for members of our community to connect with each other through student representation on the University Council, administrators visiting ASWU meetings when invited and special student-driven committees, like the Student Budget Advisory Committee, to gather feedback and provide input.

The Student Budget Advisory Committee, spearheaded by ASWU President Jack Wellman, has recently concluded a series of focus groups, and will be a great help to adding the student voice, or making student priorities known during discussions.

Looking at improving modes of communication at Willamette, Yost elaborated, "Willamette is a small, closely knit community, and some of our best ideas and conversations happen through in-person discussions.

"We continue to look for ways to create opportunities for our community members to connect with one another and share their ideas and express concerns face to face. Administrators, including President Thorsett and the deans, all have regularly scheduled office hours...Informal opportunities for discussion also exist, such as the "cookies and conversation" events at the Bistro, which we hope to host regularly and expand to over lunch or as part of other special events or activities.

"To reach a wide audience quickly, we need to rely on the tools we have on hand. Email is the easiest and quickest way to share essential information with our entire community, while using the Bearcat Bulletin for announcements and news and the university event calendar to post events ensures that everything is collected in a single place and can be easily accessed.

The Institutional Marketing Committee, which includes student, faculty and staff representation, has a special subcommittee dedicated to updating and improving our internal communications plan."

JEREMY BOGAN- VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN OF ADMISSION

Q: A big part of the budget is counting on a certain number of students to come to Willamette each year, as the VP of admissions, how are you and your team changing your strategies to get more people to become a Bearcat? What do you think the number one obstacle is that discourages students from coming to WU?

"We have changed a lot of our strategies to recruit students. Demographics are changing and there is a decline in the number of high school graduates across the country. Also, this generation of high school student is entirely different than students in the past. It's a matter of being creative with our messaging and telling the Willamette story. We have tweaked some things and entirely changed others.

We have tweaked our visit experience to make it more personal and cater to the needs of each individual student. The visit allows students to learn about Willamette through narrative from admission representatives, students, faculty and staff. Our electronic and print communication plan focus on more meaningful messages, but fewer times throughout the year. We've used more predictive analytics to search for students which is different from the past and implemented a Customer Relationship Management system called Slate that has completely modernized our office.

The ability to review all applications electronically has saved us thousands of dollars in printing costs. The biggest change is that we have explored different markets to recruit students who will add to and benefit from the Willamette experience. Working on new territories in the South and Midwest has been a priority.

In terms of why students don't come to WU, it really varies. I would say the top reasons we see from the admitted student questionnaire are financial aid, major or program of study, proximity to home or it just wasn't the right fit. I think students enjoy the admission process and how they are treated throughout the college search, but it can come down to reasons that are out of our control."

CAROL LONG- SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Q: What would you like to say to students and faculty to assure them that things are going to be ok? There is quite an issue of transparency and many students are feelings discouraged and not prioritized by the university.

"First and foremost, Willamette University is going to be fine and, even in a time of budget reductions, the University is financially stable and will continue to prioritize the needs of students.

We have work to do to bring our budgets in line with the size of our current student body in a time of national enrollment volatility; and this process is challenging for everyone in all parts of campus. Dealing with a structural deficit brings decisions that are difficult, especially in a small community like Willamette, where we want to be able to support and fund all great ideas. Because our resources are limited, we do need the input of our community in helping us shape what we want to be as an institution so we can prioritize and plan for the future.

Once we get through this next year or two, we will emerge as a stronger, more financially sustainable in-



GET IN A NUTSHELL

Workings of Willamette's Budget

stitution, which will enable us to begin investing in the kinds of programs and experiences that will continue to meet the needs of students in the years to come. I am confident that students, faculty and staff, working together, can plan creatively to support current and future needs and goals.”

SHELBY RADCLIFFE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

Q: How much money goes towards alumni events and where does it come from? Do we end up getting more money by the end from donations, or do we lose money?

“We spend different amounts of money on each alumni event depending on the audience and the event objective. We are always trying to provide the best alumni experience at a very responsible cost. We charge alumni to participate in a majority of alumni events (including Alumni Reunion Weekend).

These fees cover a portion of the programs we provide. The investment Willamette makes in alumni programming is part of a long-term objective to keep alumni engaged in the life of the university in hopes that they will support Willamette by serving as ambassadors on behalf of the university, by encouraging prospective students to consider attending, by providing students with mentorship and career networking, and by supporting current and future Willamette students through their philanthropy.

Substantial research shows that alumni who are meaningfully engaged with their alma mater give back far more as donors and volunteers. For example, lifetime giving by those alumni who attended Alumni Reunion Weekend in 2017 was nearly \$10 million, which will continue to grow over the life of their engagement with Willamette...

Graduates of Willamette are extraordinarily service-minded. Willamette alumni help us in our admissions program by interviewing and recruiting new students. They help current students in numerous ways, from speaking in classes, to offering job shadows and internships, to mentoring students on graduate school selection and careers, to hosting events for students on and off campus, and more. They often help recent graduates and fellow alumni by providing reference letters and career endorsements for open positions in their organizations and businesses.

Last fiscal year 2,974 alumni made gifts and pledges to Willamette exceeding \$14M. Some of these were restricted for specific purposes, including many for scholarship/financial aid, and others were designated to the Willamette Annual Fund. Some of these pledges will be paid over the next few years, while others will be given as part of an estate gift when someone passes away.

Advancement programs exist because of a demonstrated return on investment. Our current plan is to increase the Annual Fund from \$1.5M to \$3.0M over the next several years, providing that much more unrestricted support for current programs at Willamette. Simultaneously, we have just begun a comprehensive fundraising campaign with a goal of securing \$150M in commitments (including to the Annual Fund) from alumni, parents, and friends of Willamette by 2024. Our single highest priority for this campaign is financial aid for students in all three Colleges.”

RUTH FEINGOLD—DEAN OF THE CLA

Q: As Willamette tries to pare down our expenses, it has been apparent that a large expense for the school is faculty salaries. However, after registration many students felt as though there were not enough classes offered. Is there going to be a downsizing in each department faculty-wise, and

if so, how will that impact the amount of courses offered at WU? Would a solution be to combine some of the VPs duties to offer a good amount of classes?

“Creating a course schedule is always a delicate balancing act. Willamette has an unusual number of majors for a school of its size, which requires offering classes in many areas—even though some of these will end up being very low enrollment—while also having sufficient seats in popular majors.

We also have to ensure that enough seats are offered across the different MOIs that students can complete their general education requirements and graduate in four years. In any given semester, we can't always predict precisely what student demand will be—and although we sometimes can cancel unexpectedly small classes and replace them with offerings that will attract more students, that isn't always possible, given the expertise of the faculty.

The faculty is shrinking because the student body is shrinking: the last two entering classes were significantly smaller than those in years past, and—given the shrinking pool of high school graduates—it's likely that future classes will continue to be small. This means we don't have the money to hire lots of new professors, but also that we don't have the need for as many as we did in the past. We're still between a 10:1 and 11:1 student:faculty ratio, which is considered excellent, and we intend to stay there. Cuts in the permanent faculty aren't being made across the board: they're the result of retirements, which means they aren't necessarily happening in the areas of lowest curricular need. We're attempting to compensate for this by strategic use of visiting faculty in areas of high demand; for example, we were able to add a second section of Biochem this spring when it became clear how many students wanted to take the class. What we've lost, by becoming more fiscally responsible, is the ability to simply offer extra classes in every area regardless of how many students sign up to take them.

It's popular to suggest that senior administrators be fired in order to reallocate their salaries elsewhere. Unfortunately, Willamette is actually pretty thinly staffed at all administrative levels, compared to our peers. While it's true that our primary function as a university is to offer classes, and this front-line work is done by professors, there's a huge amount of behind-the-scenes support that goes into this endeavor. In offices across the university, at every level of employment, people are already working overtime to keep up with what needs to be done to keep the university running. We've had several vice-presidents leave without being replaced, same as is happening with a number of other positions.”

Q: It is no secret that students, and some faculty are becoming agitated with the amount of confusion and perceived secrecy of upper administrators. Are administrators aware of this frustration? If so, what do they plan on doing to put students and faculty at ease?

“In the spring of 2016, a great deal of unrest on campus led to a joint working agreement that laid out principles and structures for shared governance and transparent communication across campus. Many features now in place—such as University Council, the student budget committee, and several CLA faculty councils—are the result of this agreement, and CLA faculty have been regularly monitoring progress on the agreement. Are the results perfect? No. Are things much better than they were in the past? From everything I've been told, yes. Are we continuing to work on this? Yes, again.

I do think it's important to draw a distinction between “secrecy” (or, as you aptly put it, “perceived secrecy”) and the inevitable gaps in knowledge that emerge in a community whose many members lead very different lives. I spend, on average, about 6–10 hours a week discussing budgetary matters with members of my faculty, and I'll happily answer further questions from students, faculty, or staff when asked. Unless someone's standing over my shoulder 24 hours a day, though, they won't know exactly what I know—nor will I know what they know in their own areas of expertise.”

Q: What can CLA students expect to see in the upcoming years as a result of trying to get out of the deficit? How can students prepare?

“Primarily, I think it's important not to panic. Willamette is going on a diet, but we're not starving. I came here from another small liberal arts college—an excellent school, but one with far fewer resources than Willamette has. When I look at the things Willamette has, and the things we offer, I'm continually amazed and impressed.

Our music and theatre facilities are first class. We have one of the finest small college art museums in the nation, and students are given the opportunity to exhibit there. We offer a wide range of summer grants that allow students to do independent work with close faculty mentorship in all disciplines, and get paid for it. We send students to do archaeological field work at one of the most important Neolithic digs in Europe—and other students to study all over the world, at little to no extra cost. Our faculty are passionate and dedicated teachers, as well as being highly respected scholars and artists.

Universities are dynamic entities, and some things are always going to change. The Willamette of today has a lot in common with the Willamette of a quarter century ago, but is also different in profound ways. The Willamette of 2042 will be the same, and different, once again. It's easy to be concerned about the unknown, but I don't think students will have to prepare for a Willamette that's dramatically different from the one they already know.”

CONCLUSION

From the words of the administration, the general message is that Willamette will be fine in the future. The discomfort of budget cuts is making everyone uneasy, and what I perceive the problem to be is that students are being asked to by the officials of the university to trust that they have a working plan, when majority of the students aren't aware of what this plan is.

Students feel as though we aren't being represented, and although the administration is going to great lengths to accommodate this problem, it is not being well communicated.

The goal of this article is to help close the gap between these two “side”so that hopefully we can start acting as a unified front as students learn how to trust the administration again.



Willamette Basketball Tops Lewis & Clark College

CONTINUED from Page 1

On Saturday, the Bearcats nearly rallied back from a 12-point deficit in the remaining two minutes of their game against George Fox, before falling 78-75. The Bruins took an early 12-4 lead to start the game and held a substantial lead throughout the first half. Late in the first half, a three-pointer by a Bruins player put them ahead before Jenkins scored on a layup to end the half at 42-28. It took the Bearcats about eight minutes in the second half to pull within single digits of George Fox. The Bruin's lead fluctuated between 11-13 points as both teams exchanged baskets. With under 10 minutes remaining, the Bearcats went on an 8-1 run to get within 6 points of the Bruins. The single digit margin was maintained until the final three minutes of the game. Efforts by McCullough and Thornton helped the Bearcats to decrease the Bruin's lead to three points with 40 seconds remaining. With nine seconds left, McCullough scored a layup to make the score 75-76. On a foul, a Bruins player hit both free throws to score the final points of the game. Despite the outcome, five Bearcat players, which included Troplent, Jenkins, Thornton, Callan and McCullough, managed to score double digits. On Friday, Dec. 8 the Bearcats will take on Corban University at the Cone Field House at 8 p.m. (PST)

On Friday, the women's team scored 12 three-pointers to win against Lewis & Clark College. Kylie Towry went off and proved to be a key player in this game, scoring seven 3-pointers and totaling 25

points. In the first quarter a 10-0 run helped the Pioneers to own a 13-5 advantage before the Bearcats came back to take the lead 16-15. The game was kept close in the second quarter, but the Bearcats entered the third quarter trailing by three points 32-29. With less than two minutes left in the third, the Bearcats went on a 13-0 run, which was led by Elizabeth Logsdon, 52-39. The Pioneers trailed by 14 points with two minutes left in the game and were able to get within six points before falling to the Bearcats 74-65. Ashley Evans contributed 14 points and Drew Farmer had 13 points. Jada Leonard snatched eight rebounds and scored seven points.

On Saturday, Towry again had a huge game, this time scoring a career-high 29 points. Despite this the Bearcats fell short of two points and lost against the Northwest Conference power, George Fox University 76-79. In the first quarter the Bearcats led the Bruins 26-16 on a 20-6 offensive strike. The roles were reversed in the second quarter as the Bruins came back to pull within one point of the Bearcats. Towry scored all 16 points for Willamette in the second quarter. In the third quarter the game was kept close and Willamette was able to increase their lead to three points. Early in the fourth quarter, the Bruins went on a 9-0 run to take the lead 62-66. The Bearcats fought back to stay within three points in the final two minutes of the game. On a three-pointer by Towry with seven seconds left in the game, the margin was reduced to two points. A free throw by the Bruins

was the final point of the game, as the Bearcats were unable to score the 3-pointer before time expired. George Fox improved to 4-2 overall, and 2-0 in the NWC while the Bearcats fell to 4-3 overall and 1-1 in the NWC. Towry, who was tied with the seventh all-time scorer

last week, now moved past Natalie Marth (1983-1987) who had 1,057 points, to become the sixth all-time scorer. Mary Eckenrode provided the Bearcats with 13 points, Kochenderfer had 10 points and nine rebounds, Farmer had nine points. Next, Willamette will host

Corban University on Friday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. (PST)

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Seniors Casey Thornton (left) and Nico Troplent (right) go up for layups against George Fox.

When trolls collide: Trump vs. LaVar Ball

ALEXANDER GORDON
STAFF WRITER

2017 was in many ways a year of lightning rod personalities and LaVar Ball is certainly on that list. Like our president, Ball has captivated the internet time and time again with intentionally inflammatory statements that lack any realistic backing. His "I could beat Michael Jordan 1-on-1" and Trump's border wall bravado are eerily similar. The absurdity was to their advantage. Like it or hate it, you tuned in, and in the age of the retweet, they both gathered more and more momentum. Ball was able to ride

that into creating his own athletic apparel company and booked a reality TV show produced by Facebook. Trump, needless to say, is the President of the United States, in no small part thanks to our perceived ridicule. The more you attacked them the more they were seen, and the more they were seen, the more normalized and harmless they appeared.

The major difference being Ball is ultimately harmless; abrasive sure but his Luke Walton comments are not going to start a thermonuclear war. LaVar Ball, at the end of the day, is a father that used his platform to better himself and en-

sure his children and their children would be set financially for life. He understood that he could leverage his personality in a way that would allow him and his athlete sons a unique autonomy that is lacking professional athletics, especially in the world of competitive basketball. He is a bizarre 21st-century embodiment of the American Dream, and though many of us resent him, a piece of that resentment certainly comes from envy.

In early November, LiAngelo Ball along with two UCLA basketball players, were caught shoplifting in China while there on a team trip. The three were placed then placed

on house arrest in their luxurious hotel and later were released and allowed to come back to the United States. Which is what sparked the Ball Trump feud.

Trump's eccentricity carries an unholy amount of weight now, however, and there are no shortage of angles that you can take when evaluating his decision to @LaVar. There have been articles written about his pettiness: why even give this a passing thought when you are at the controls of the free world? There has been discussion of the racial bias and the poorly veiled disdain that Trump displays when confronted with black "advisory" on twitter.

But what strikes me when reviewing the timeline is his well documented need for validation. Trump actually initiated this somehow by asking totally unprompted if the three players would thank him? And they actually did. So one would assume that the story would end there, as he got what he wanted.

He couldn't lay down for LaVar though. In an interview about the shoplifting incident with ESPN LaVar, in one hell of a power play, responded with "Who?" when asked about whether he thought Trump played a key role in their release. It takes one to know one, and LaVar hit the right button. Trump responded as only he could, with juvenile name calling and inflation of his own influence. He goes so far by the end of the tweets to say that LiAngelo was facing 5-10 years in prison, while at maximum he could have gotten three weeks.

LaVar fired back by sending him a pair of his brand's signature shoe in order to "chill him out." This is where the beef sits now. While the arrest was a noteworthy international incident, it was, of no major political significance. Trump saw a way that he could insert himself into a hot story in a positive light, and maybe if he had approached it a different way we would have given him credit. He is unable to faint humility though, and as a result, LaVar Ball of all people got to be our anti-hero.



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Aqua-Bearcats compete in Oregon Senior Open

ERIC DEL PRADO
SPORTS EDITOR

This past weekend the men's and women's swim teams competed in the Oregon Senior Open at the Osborn Aquatic Center. This event was hosted by the Corvallis Aquatic Team. The team performed well, with many qualifying events taking place on Friday and Saturday morning, and the final events taking place on Saturday night.

Sophomore Ben Hedman came in third place in the 200-yard butterfly on Friday, and senior Cassie Tallman came in seventh place in the 100-yard breaststroke. Because of their performance they both qualified for the "A" final in their events. Senior Mark Yuvienco also raced in the "A" final, coming in fifth place. Tallman's performance in the breaststroke put her in the record books, as she now has the second best time in Willamette history.

Hedman and sophomore Derek Ludwig competed in the men's 200-yard individual medley. Hedman came in 10th place, and this performance put him at 6th place in the Willamette record books. Ludwig also had a solid performance, coming in 13th place. There was also the 1,000-yard freestyle, in which sophomore Colin Hakemen competed for the men, finishing with a time of 10:24 and junior Anna Burdine competed for the women, finishing in 11:14. Both of these times were personal bests for these two swimmers. The men's 400-yard medley relay team also swam well, as they

came in sixth place, with a time 3:42. The women's 400-yard medley relay was able to come in 12th place with a time of 4:11.

Saturday saw many of the Bearcats continue to improve on their times and swim well in the finals of their respective events. Hedman led the way with a fourth place finish in the "A" final of the 400-yard individual medley. Hedman swam a personal best 4:12. Also swimming in an "A" final, Ludwig came in seventh place in the 100-yard

butterfly. Tallman cemented her name in the history books with a time of 2:26 in the preliminary races for the 200-yard breaststroke, coming in eighth place of the "A" final, with a time of 2:28.

Many more Bearcats swam well at this event, as 87% of the races had a season best time from a Bearcat swimmer. This event ended their fall season, but the Bearcats will look to continue to improve on their successes going into the spring season. They will start their training for

the spring season with a trip to San Diego. This trip provides for great bonding and great training opportunities, as they can only focus on swimming for the week. The team will have the Northwest Conference meet circled in February, as that is the event they are looking towards to show how much they have improved.

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KENDRICK ARAKAKI

Junior Anna Burdine swims in the 1,000-yard freestyle.

Intramurals weekly

DRU DRAPER
RACHEL FISCHER
STAFF WRITERS

Congratulations to you all! You all completed another semester of intramurals here at Willamette University. Thank you all for participating! It was definitely one of the best semesters yet.

Last week we concluded our flag football leagues and we want to recognize the champions of each of those leagues.

On Thursday we had two action packed games at McCulloch stadium. The first of which was a high scoring affair for the CoEd championship between the AGSM Pace Survivors and Finesse&Fuego. This back and forth game ended in a score of 62 - 39 as AGSM clinched the coveted t-shirt. Our next Thursday night match-up was a little different. A lot of defense was played between the 4th and 9ers and Yomova's Favorite. The 4th and 9ers proved they were up to the challenge and took the contest 28 - 24 in this nail biter.

If you were on these championship teams, make sure to come by to get your t-shirts from the Intramural Department in Montag!

Next semester we'll be back with more action like badminton, 5v5 basketball, volleyball and more! In the meantime, kill you finals and have a great break! We'll see you all out there on the courts and fields soon!

Happy Holidays and New Year from everyone at the Intramural Department!

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this week in sports

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 	7 

AARON ODA
STAFF WRITER

NBA

The Oklahoma City Thunder super team that was created this summer is not doing so well, with a record of 10-12 and the 9th seed in the West. The team has lost 5 of the last eight games they have played but have won back to back games against the Spurs and Timberwolves.

With so many playmakers and scores on the floor, it is hard to find each of their star players opportunities to score. Triple double machine Russell Westbrook is still putting up some amazing numbers this season averaging 22 points per game as well as 9.1 rebounds and 9.7 assists. Lok

for the Thunder to find their way this season because they have too much talent on their team to not make a playoff run.

NFL

With four weeks left in the season we find the local Seattle Seahawks behind the Los Angeles Rams by a game for first place in the division. But they do hold the 1st wild card seed with a record of 8-4 and are in control of their destiny. The Seahawks had a big win on Sunday night over the NFC leading 10-2 Philadelphia Eagles. Quarterback Russell Wilson once again played the one man show for the Seahawks amassing 258 yards in total while also throwing three touchdowns in the 24-10 win. He has been creating all of

the offense for the Seahawks of late while the defense is still creating its magic in December. The Eagles on the other hand have been the surprise team of the year with 2nd year quarterback Carson Wentz playing out of his mind and putting himself into the MVP candidate talks. Wentz leads one of the most potent offenses in the NFL averaging 31.9 points per game, which is 1st in the NFL. So look for this weeks loss to the Seahawks be a blip on the radar going forward for the Eagles who look to make a Super Bowl run.

NCAAF

This weekends conference championship games wrapped up the college football regular season and who will be the final

four teams playing for the National Championship. In the ACC championship game the Clemson Tigers took care of business by beating the Miami Hurricanes by a score of 38-3. This win and a 12-1 record earned the Tigers the number one seed and a rematch against the SEC and national power Alabama who scored the 4th seed.

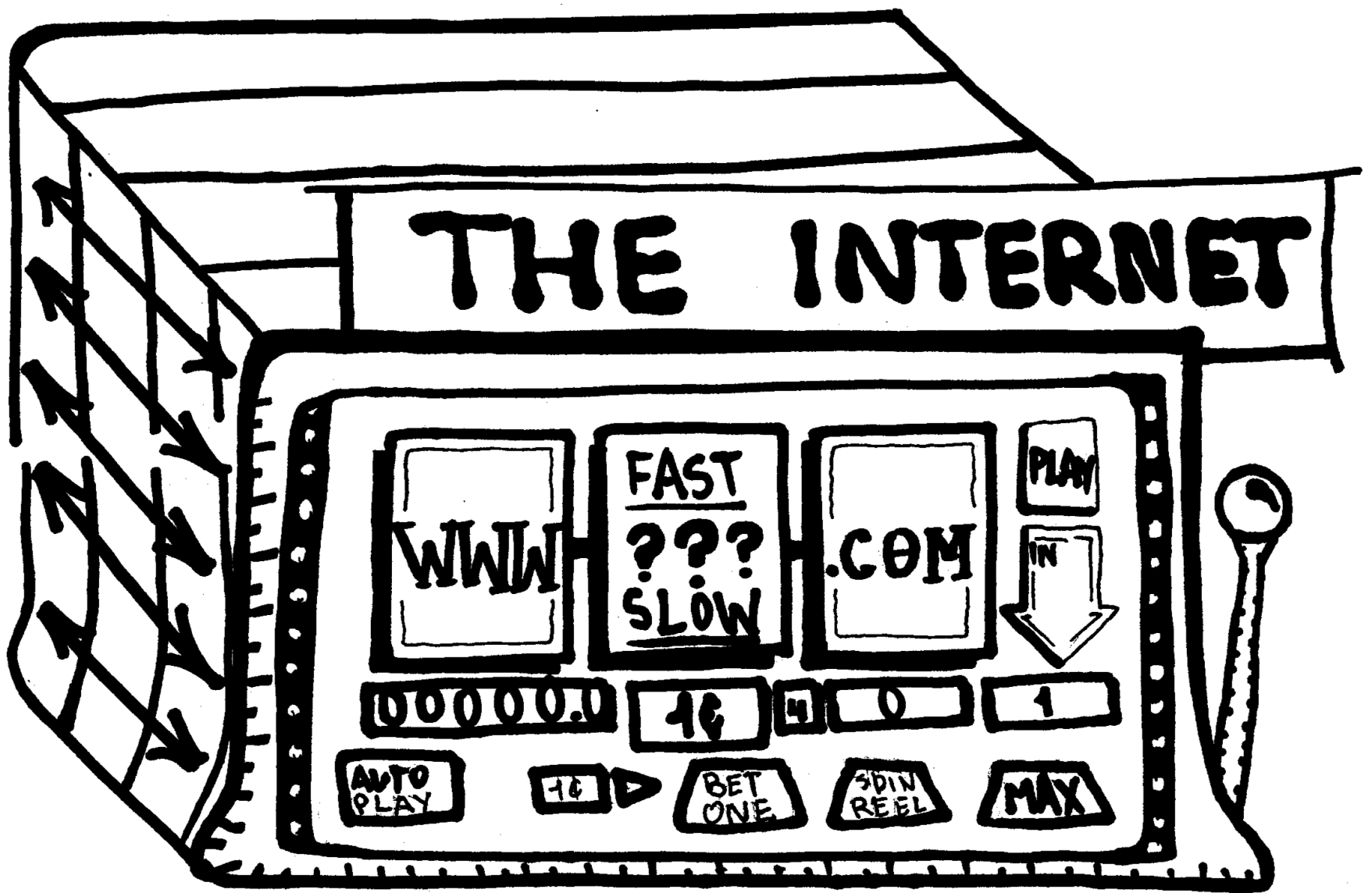
In the SEC championship game between the Georgia Bulldogs and Auburn Tigers, the Bulldogs were able to avenge an earlier season loss by winning with a score of 28-7. From this win the Bulldogs were awarded the 2nd seed in the playoffs and will play the 3rd seed Oklahoma Sooners. The Sooners won their conference championship beating the TCU Horned Frogs by a score of 41-17.

GOLF

December golf is rarely talked about but this week is different because of one person, Tiger Woods. Woods has made his long return to the golf course this weekend playing in the Hero World challenge and finishing tied for 9th place with a -8 score. This was a major step for Woods who has not played in a professional tournament since February. He was not only able to complete this tournament, but do well in it so everyone needs to be on Woods watch for the upcoming season of golf. Till next week, K DEN.

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Net Neutrality: what it is and what you can do to save it



PATRICK LOFTUS

CONTINUED from Page 1

There is also fear that ISPs would abuse their power to pick and choose which sites will be in the fast lane. Potentially, publications whose opinions conflict with those of the corporations with power could be censored. Censoring the media is a slippery slope toward authoritarianism and fascism — the likes of which have been seen in North Korea, Russia and Nazi Germa-

ny. It's easy to disregard this as a melodramatic comparison, but remember that the Nazis burned books to ensure the powerful controlled the flow of information to the German people. Is that much different than corporations and the politicians in their pockets choosing which online voices can be silenced?

Americans across the country are already fighting against the FCC's imminent vote. Although the FCC has proposed to end net

neutrality, Congress still has the power to create legislation to override the FCC's decision. A more effective means of protest would be contacting individual representatives, instead of or in addition to contacting the FCC.

While social media posts and emails to representatives are better than nothing, politicians are consistently more responsive to phone calls. Online communications can easily be ignored, but when a politician's phone lines

are constantly ringing the operations of his or her entire office are interrupted.

For your benefit, here is a list of helpful resources to help your voice be heard: [BattleForTheNet.com](#) is a state-by-state guide of representatives' stances on net neutrality, [CallYourRep.com](#) is a search engine for representatives by district and contact information for local offices, and [5Calls.org](#) offers scripts for phone calls to politicians, though it is advised

to make phone calls as personal as possible as opposed to a script.

And furthermore, on Thursday, December 7 at 3:00 pm, a protest will be held at the Salem Verizon store (4415 Commercial St. SE). If you choose to attend, remember to be courteous. None of this is at the fault of store employees!

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Finding nuance in today's partisan political climate

KELLEN BULGER
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In spite of my repeated warnings, a close friend of mine recently made a Twitter account. They then proceeded to ask me "Who should I follow?"

I wanted to respond to this question as a nice friend should—with a list of perfectly curated musical artists whom they enjoy, political talking-heads who they would find thought-provoking and a myriad of other close acquaintances to polish it off. I didn't do this though. Instead, I linked to them a list of conservative political figures who are self-determined "never Trumper's".

The reason I did this is that I believe our generation is in need of a vital treatment of listening to dissenting ideas from their own. Now let me prelude this with, I am in no way saying that you have to approach people who hold rather heinous opinions. However, tribalism has infected our political

climate and this is nowhere better seen than on a college campus like ours. When I walk out the doors after the conclusion of another politics class at Willamette, it appears as though over the course of the semester we were lucky if we found more than a handful of issues in which we truly disagreed on. We all become begrudgingly stunted over the course of the semester from being able to have genuinely thought-provoking conversations and this is largely due to the fact that homogeneity in ideas and tribalism has touched every part of, not only our campus, but much of this younger-generation as a whole.

The University of Exeter published a neurological study in 2013 which studied different regions of the brain and found that by simply performing a risk-taking exercise with the individual, like gambling, that they could predict someone's political affiliation with 83 percent accuracy. This shouldn't be so. Gambling and party affiliation

have absolutely zero relatability to each other and never have. The fact that this can be done presents a problem. Before I proceed though, I will concede that many individuals can simply have similar outlets on the world which leads them to align themselves with one side politically, but this cannot simply account for the level of tribalism we see today. Finding someone on the political left or right who has a myriad of positions spanning the political spectrum is akin to a week without rain in western Oregon—that is, it simply quite rare indeed.

This is in no way an argument or testimonial attempting to move young people closer to established parties and/or moderating your stances on a variety of policies for the sake of nuance. I actually think there are a lot of distinct advantages to this age of political polarization in bringing otherwise uninterested individuals to realizing that politics does actually matter. It's becoming growingly less-acceptable to merely determine

yourself as a "non-political" person. However, this is an absolute call for our generation to approach each idea with a clear-conscience, free of outside influences or preconceived judgements.

I yearn for dissenting opinions in today's political climate and for people to find issues that we disagree on. I believe that it is not in discussions where two-people are sharing their passion over a similarly viewed issue in which this country will bridge our ideological divide that exists, but it is in having those sometimes tense, uncomfortable and nuanced conversations where we grow as individuals.

One example that I love to point to is the purging of elected officials on both sides. I regularly see graphics posted from sources that are rather lacking in their objectivity, exclaiming things like "Flood Cory Booker's office with calls and emails! He voted against the importation of cheap drugs from Canada!" While if the goal

of a provocative infographic is to mobilize a side towards a certain issue, that's fine. However, what I don't condone is an attacking someone because they do not perfectly align with your viewpoints. In the words of our former President Barack Obama "Don't boo! Vote!"

One thing that accepting people who are on our side might have slightly different ideas on specific policies than us will most certainly do is make these aforementioned classes at colleges and universities further ripe for debate and create an environment where we don't absolutely demonize dissenting ideas from our own.

Instead of blindly following in the light of someone who you generally agree on issues, let's make this generation one of free-thinkers. A generation that can effectively begin to bridge the ever growing ideological gap that exists today.

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Social brinkmanship breaking orbit: *How those pushing acceptable boundaries get away with it*

SEAN WEEKS
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Our collective memory is preternaturally short. The aptly named Dick Fuld, one of the masterminds behind Lehman Brothers' and 2008's financial armageddon, gave a keynote speech on how to run a business without going bankrupt. The Israeli "paranormal" Uri Geller, who was sued and proven to be a fraud in the eighties, practices his parlor tricks to the tune of thousands of C-notes. Crimes repeated near the warm corpse.

Yet they see results over the course of their lifetime. Save for a few paltry exceptions, they pay no price beyond the occasional scathing article. Why aren't they the class misfit who's shunned and relegated to a dark corner?

There's a dark side to social life that we don't care to admit. In terms of human warmth or acceptance, ethical behavior means nothing, or at least it's subordinate to seamliness. The bizarre and unseemly is ejected into outer space. Insensitivity toward subgroups, omission of truth, coy raconteurs, deflection of responsibility and profiteering have never barred anyone from dinner parties. In fact, dinner parties are the stomping grounds of social predators. We systematically give in to the halo effect. We could limit this phenomenon to white-collar vs. blue-collar crime, but it goes much deeper.

The thug gains power when he breaks orbit. When decency reclamation efforts — the raised eyebrow, the sigh, the sideways glance — become inadequate, then they cease full stop. The thug achieves escape velocity and he's beyond the pull of any social sphere. How else can society tell off a child for a dirty word and simultaneously produce Brock Turners and Steubenvilles? How else can we castigate a lack of hygiene and approve of the negligent sod who manipulates others into doing their homework? I have seen and heard others chided for the tenor of their voice or how boring they are. I have watched in silence as a fellow student, a very popular student, offered to pay someone to write their essay. We are draconian when the stakes are small and increasingly sheepish when they climb. Not to excuse minor offenses, but shouldn't the punishment fit the crime? The Law understands this, so why don't we?

Because we are frail. Because it's easier and less hazardous to push and upbraid the weak. Because we aren't conflict-averse as much as conflict-terrified. We confuse charisma with bluffs and braggadocio.

Our cowardice in this matter causes damage. The 2016 election was a showdown between the disagreeable and the despicable, and the despicable won. And there was nothing resembling

charisma to be seen, only a certain fearlessness and the temerity to raise beyond the public's ability to call. In his triumph, he has razed our most sacred institutions, poisoned the highest court of the land, dirtied the nobility of his office and grown fat off the wealth of the nation, off literally the welfare of its people.

Above the chatter and maneuvering, what even his detractors mistakenly identify as "charisma" feathered the gilded nest of our Terror in Chief.

After witnessing far too many sociopaths, psychopaths and narcissists, I believe that they are not so much unseen as unchallenged. I believe that we pick on those capable of reform as a kind of consolation. I believe that the more social and interconnected we become, the more powerful this rule becomes.

We caught Roman Polanski, Weinstein, Roy Moore and Al Franken, and I hope this becomes a trend. They profited from the silence and shaming of women. They also profited from our disbelief, the rule of propriety and "what shant be spoken of." American culture built this monument brick by brick. Tear it down.

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Republican resistance

QUINLYN MANFULL
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Growing up as a Democrat in Alaska, I am used to feeling disillusioned by my elected officials. That's why earlier this year it was somewhat relieving to see Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski stand up for the needs of Alaskans with her vote against the Republican health care bill.

My Facebook blew up — everyone ecstatic that Murkowski was finally sticking to her values that she was elected on. I was less hopeful.

The upcoming Republican Tax Bill is further proof that Murkowski and McCain alike are not representative of the resistance we need and are not actually doing their part to be a beneficial force in the face of Trump.

This tax bill, if passed, would have major impacts on universities, would hit families and the middle class incredibly hard while sneaking in some revisions that would bolster businesses.

Senators like McCain (R-AZ), Murkowski (R-AK) and Collins (R-ME) have been opposing Trump and his policies based on "principles," whether that be health care, the value of democracy and good governance or representing your constituents.

But this bill is the epitome of bad governing — it is a 515 page bill that will be voted on within two weeks from its introduction to the Senate. It taxes university endowments, it strips the middle class and it threatens access to basic health care for millions of Americans.

McCain has come out in favor of the bill, even before the bill's eco-

nomics impact from the Joint Committee on Taxation was released. Which, by the way, found that the bill would do nothing to aid in economic growth but would instead directly hurt tens of millions of middle-class Americans, blow up the deficit and provide new horizons for the wealthy and those who want to seek tax avoidance.

Murkowski's decision is a prime example of her ability to flip flop and throw Alaskans under the bus in a heartbeat — showing her commitment to her "values" only work insofar as they also help her politically. It's honestly hard to keep up with her contortion acts sometimes.

This Senate body is a terrifying one — we haven't seen a bill be rushed to vote so quickly in a few sessions, especially one this substantial and terrible.

But, the tough thing to get across, is this is not a new Republican party under Trump, this is just what Republicans in government look like. McCain is being considered a moderate Republican. As we continue to push further to the Right while not occupying any space pushing more to the Left, I am left with little hope for bills to come. I am left discontent at what my student loans may look like, what my health care coverage could possibly be.

After my 20 years as a disillusioned Democrat from Alaska, I am continually reminded that those in office will never stand for "values." At the end of the day, political arenas exist for them and their own benefit — they have never and will never be for us.

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The business of politics



CONNER WICKLAND

RYLEIGH NORRGROVE
FEATURE EDITOR

Using politics to sell is nothing new, advertising by nature taps into the desires of a captive marketplace. As we enter the holiday season, politics continue to be at the forefront of mainstream media. We are becoming systemically partisan, to the point at which we vilify the opposing team and revere our own. This deepening divide has unintended social and economic consequences. Not only does this manifest itself in petty facebook disagreements, but in the advertising industry.

In our current, image-laden society, it is nearly impossible to escape political divisiveness. Based on our society's needs, goods are produced to fulfill these vacancies. It is the very nature of our capitalist system. But what happens when the aforementioned society thrives

on political bloodshed? Is this a need inherently filled by the market, the media or a combination of the two?

Currently, it seems our society is hungry for divisiveness and an inflammatory rhetoric. This "need" is therefore met by the advertising industry. As companies draft new "socially conscious ads," they capitalise on the negative rhetoric prevalent in our current political climate. While good-intentioned, these advertisements commodify real issues. To be deemed "socially conscious" a consumer is pressured into purchasing a product. This distracts the consumer from the severity of the issues in order to "join the conversation." Thus, the company makes a profit.

This past year, Pepsi released an advertisement in the hopes of "starting a conversation." It starred Kendall Jenner, and images of a nondescript protest remi-

niscient of the black lives matter movement. In order to appease the line of police confronting protesters, Jenner offered them a Pepsi. The advertisement received a great deal of backlash because it blatantly claims that the solution to racism is Pepsi. The ad itself placed social value upon its product. It claimed, "in order to be socially aware and participate in change, you must drink pepsi." This claim completely undermined the struggle of african-americans in this country, all in the name of Pepsi's profit margin. Thus, the true severity of the issue was lost.

In an economic system where virtually everything is fair game, this isn't uncommon. Though divisive and in my opinion, unethical, "socially conscious" marketing doesn't directly violate any laws. It does however, commodify real, tangible issues. It normalizes oppression and weakens the impact

of social activism. By commodifying systemic issues, a company establishes ethos as being socially aware, and therefore can capitalise on the "socially conscious consumer." Though it may seem like a stretch, media impacts us fundamentally: what we value, who we value and which struggles we deem most important. It is a means to commodification and reductionism.

In a world where image is everything, the desire to be seen as socially conscious has become a symbol of status. Thus the influx of inflammatory facebook posts, and an expansion of the "conversation." People are involved because yes, to some extent they care about systemic issues plaguing society. It is apparent however, they equally care about the social capital gained from being apart of the "conversation." It is again the commodification of issues rather than an active

solution. I mean, did it really happen if you didn't post about it?

So-called socially conscious advertising illustrates a larger shift in our society's perception of social standing and relationships. With the advent of social media, we have become more conscious about the value of social interactions. With every like, retweet and forward, we maximise our ability to commodify social interactions. This is a reductionist trend in our society. It has become standard practice to take something strictly beautiful and weaken its value.

In the end, the only real loser is the American public. Systemically, we are losing sight of real issues. Something as small as advertising has largely impacted our society, to the point at which we commodify both social interactions and experiences.

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Ho-Ho-Holidays

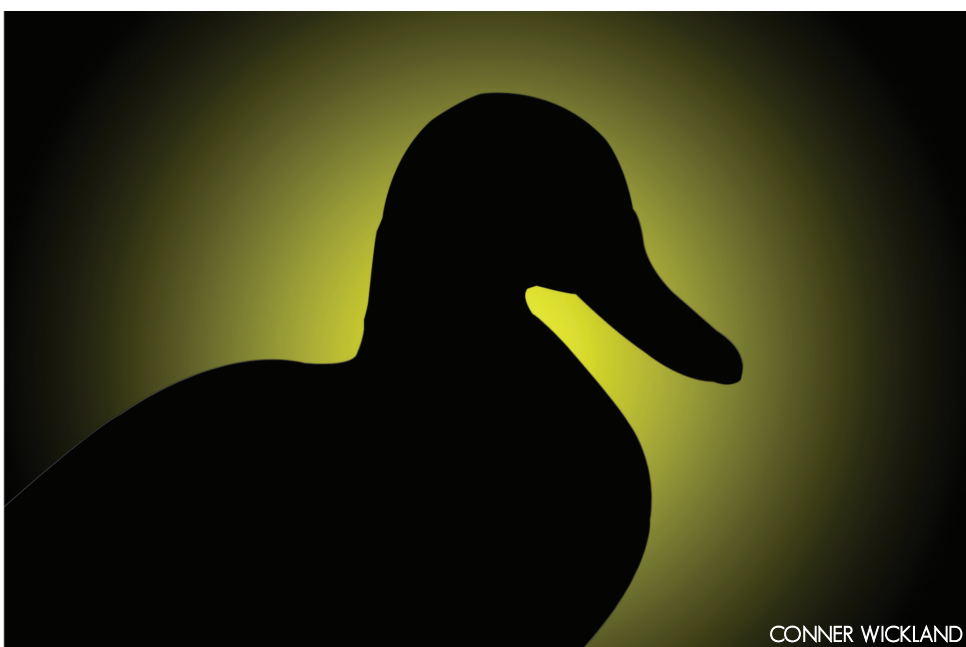
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CAROLING
CHRISTMAS TREE
COOKIES
DREIDEL
EGGNOG

GINGERBREAD HOUSE
HOT COCOA
MENORAH
REINDEER
PRESENT

SANTA
SLEIGH
SNOW
STOCKING
(ANOTHER HOT COCOA)

CATLIN FORBES



CONNOR WICKLAND

Duck Seeking Duck Lost Connection

Me: A male duck, green head and yellow beak.
 You: A female duck, beautiful brown feathers

There I was, sitting on my rock and admiring the rising sun when your shadow flew over me. I have never seen a duck so beautiful and graceful. Stunned by the overwhelming presence of your perfect feathers and flight control, I became as still as the rock

underneath me and as unmovable as the stones in the current.

In that daze, I lost track of your landing, and amidst the feeding time I could not lay eyes on you. Please, meet me at dusk at the large rock near the bench.

-A Duck Seeking Love

Duck looking for favorite lost rock

Hello,
 Recently I have lost my favorite rock. It is a small whitish stone that is completely smooth. I lost it in the Mill Stream around Lausanne one night, and I suspect that some raccoons stole it. Please, if you find it, let me know. I rely on this lucky rock to survive the winter, and I am unsure if I can cope without it. If you stole my rock, I will find you and take all of your favorite things.

-A Concerned Bird

Duck seeking party bros

Yo homies,
 I'm looking for some rad birds to come party with me. Friday night. Be there. There will be splashing, quacking and all the rocks you can stand on. The party is byob-bring your own bread (don't eat too much though, it's terrible for the stomach).

Keep this on the down-low from the incoming migrating geese, they totes ruined the last party with their territorial stuff.

So if you like a good time, come to this partayyyy. No humans allowed.

-A Wild Party Duck

Duck looking for friends.

Hello All,
 I am a rather shy duck, and I was looking for some pals to maybe get lunch with tomorrow. I have been really lonely, and I want to try to get out more. I promise once you get to know me I am a really cool duck. I like to swim, fly and prefer to eat on the grass, not in the water.

So if you are looking for a new friend, look no further. I am a quiet male, but am loyal, kind and like to laugh.

- A Lonely Duck