

Science collaborative research program

Students take part in a summer of specialized study

RUTH HEALD
CONTRIBUTOR

The Science Collaborative Research Program held a reception for student researchers Friday, Sept. 19, commemorating a summer of interesting experiments, extensive study and valuable field experience for 19 students.

All students conducted their research under the supervision of one of 11 professors in the science department, though projects differed greatly from group to group. Research was funded primarily by contributions from the Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation, the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust Fund and a few other grant sources.

Students in the program were selected by the instructors overseeing the projects. "All students had to write a proposal and submit it to their proposed research advisor. Advisors selected from the student proposals that they received," Professor of Chemistry Todd Silverstein said in an e-mail. Silverstein is the co-coordinator of the Science Collaborative Research Program along with Exercise Science Professor Stas Stavrianeas.

The reception featured 12 presentations given by the participating students, varying in length from 10 to 25 minutes. Groups differed in size, ranging from one to four students per project. In multiple-student groups, students

either worked together on one common goal or studied separate yet related queries. Professors from throughout the science department and even some non-presenting students attended the reception.

Students prepared PowerPoint presentations featuring background information, purpose of study, methods used in research, graphs and tables, final results and what conclusions could be inferred. Presenters then accepted questions from the audience, giving professors and students the opportunity to clarify information or inquire about the conclusions that were drawn. In the case of some presenters, however, data sets remained incomplete due to the lengthy time frame of the experiment or various unforeseen problems in the researching process.

Junior and physics major Elyse McEntee was one such student whose findings could not yet be reported because of technical difficulties. McEntee is working on setting up a quantum light laboratory to "prove that photons do exist." She was guided by Associate Professor of Physics Roberta Bigelow, who chose McEntee for the study after reading an essay she wrote about her plans for the photon experiment, given the opportunity to work on the project.

McEntee first ran into problems when a malfunctioning piece of equipment required her to switch from Mac computers to a PC, causing a conflict with the version of the software program she had been using. The software then had to be rewritten from scratch and reformatted, a process that McEntee is still working on after nine weeks of research during the summer.

"I was humbled a bit," McEntee said of her first experience in student and faculty research. However, she identified this project as a valuable experience in the field, and the next step towards her goal of graduate school. McEntee was also paid through the Science Collaborative Research Program for her work this summer.

Junior and chemistry major Michael Harris worked on a project concerning asymmetric synthesis and was also a first time researcher in this program. Harris worked for eight weeks under the supervision of Assistant Professor of Chemistry Drew Duncan, who also oversaw two other research projects. He emphasized that though the faculty advisor gave input

participating students

David J. Anderson
Robert Beard
Kelsey Nakata
Doug Rice
Greg Dixon
Adam Kotaich
Hannah Vietmeier
Elyse McEntee
Kaeli Swift
Jena Winger

Kristen Murphy
Colin Harthcock
Hannah Wells
Eric Autry
Maria Savoca
Arley Oddo
Nick Babij
Corey Constantino
Michael Harris

participating professors

Gary Tallman, Biology
Susan Kephart, Biology
Dave Craig, Biology
Chuck Williamson, Chemistry
Drew Duncan, Chemistry
Joe Bowersox, Earth Science
Karen Arabas, Environmental Science
Michael Lockard, Exercise Science
Julianne Abendroth-Smith, Exercise Science
Stasinos Stavrianeas, Exercise Science
Roberta Bigelow, Physics

“

All students had to write a proposal and submit it to their proposed research advisor. Advisors selected from the student proposals that they received.”

TODD SILVERSTEIN
PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

and a general guideline of the purpose of study, the course of research was largely determined by the student.

Feedback from student participants in the Science Collaborative Research Program seemed upbeat. "I would definitely do it again. It was a lot of fun," McEntee said, though she did admit to missing those extra few weeks of summer vacation.

"I would love to do this sort of thing again ... but maybe at a different university," Harris said, explaining that he would not want to take the opportunity away from a Willamette student who was interested in student and faculty research and had not had the experience before.

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New ASWU senators elected, attend retreat

DARREN MACOMBER
CONTRIBUTOR

Newly-elected senators for the freshman, sophomore and junior classes attended a weekend retreat on Friday and Saturday to discuss goals for the current and upcoming semester in student government.

The winning candidates expressed a positive outlook towards the work environment established at the retreat as well as the abilities of the elected representatives involved. Some candidates were students who planned involvement in college student government or further since high school. Others were write-ins who accepted the responsibility and learned during the election and retreat about their roles: to enact positive change on campus, according to the Associated Students of Willamette University (ASWU).

"As a student, a lot of the time it is hard to see things done that you want to be done on campus, but as a senator, I have that opportunity to improve the campus, and the community," sophomore Senator Jesse Riehm said. During the retreat, he

was exposed to and exchanged many ideas including school spirit committees and student academic honor codes.

The aim of his plan is largely to foster a greater sense of unity and responsibility amongst Willamette students. Riehm hopes to encourage more students who wish to be involved with the campus directly to join ASWU. The senators have weekly meetings with the entire senate, and meet separately for their class. During both of these meetings the senators debate ideas brought to them by classmates, friends and others.

Immediate plans for the campus are common. However, the new senators have more ambitious plans in mind for the future, aiming to set the groundwork in preparation for the expanding campus facilities. "We will lay an outline of what we would like to see the University Center be like in the future," sophomore Senator Jordan Helvie said.

Helvie is the younger brother of ASWU Vice President of Administration Elise Helvie.

ASWU hopes to focus on greater student activity in the Putnam University Center in anticipation of the possibility of converting it into a student center, should offices be relocated to new facilities. One benefit of the retreat, according to Helvie, was exposure to more long-term planning

as opposed to the more commonly encountered issues of student life such as food and events.

"I'm very excited that there is such a great relationship between the freshmen senators," freshman Senator Tejaswara Reddy, an experienced participant in student government and extracurricular leadership, said. "Typically politicians always fight, but I'm excited to see that the freshmen are working together."

Thankful to his campaign team, which he largely credits with his success, Reddy

emphasized the correlation between student government and the opportunity for related leadership and political work in Willamette students' future lives.

Reddy aims to foster communication in proposed programs such as a class council and an intramural drama program for non-theater students. Overall, senators were optimistic about the communication between members of ASWU and the synergy of the newly elected representatives.

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Recently elected ASWU senators attended a retreat last weekend to discuss ideas for this year.

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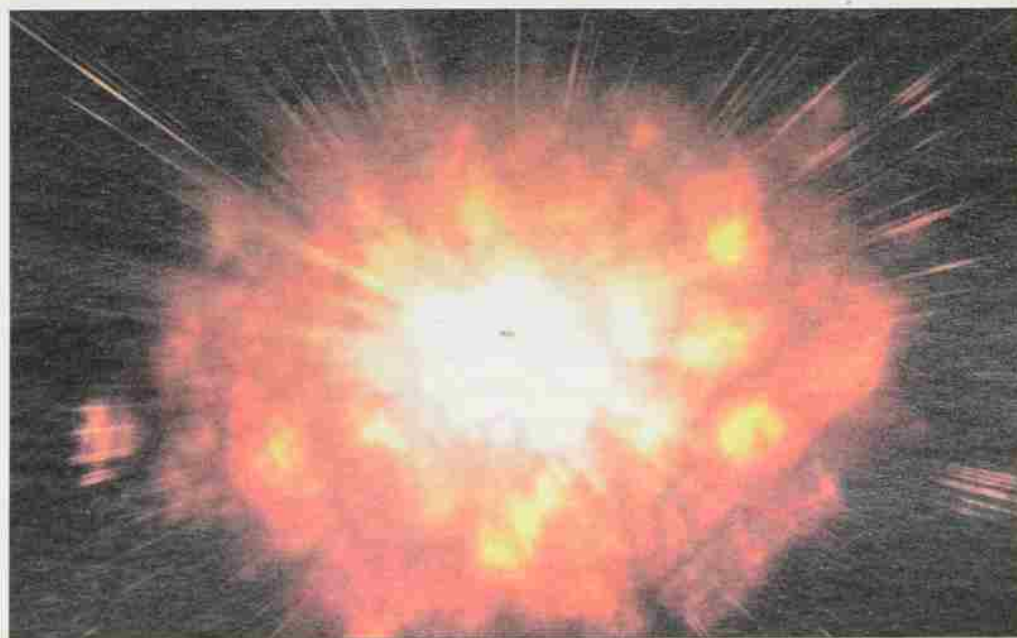


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SMALL PRICES:
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RESTAURANT**



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**SCIENCE IS FUN: THE
BIWEEKLY BEAKER, A
NEW COLUMN**

Hallie Ford Museum opens unprecedented exhibition

MICHELLE BELLUSCI
CONTRIBUTOR

On Saturday, Sept. 27, the Hallie Ford Museum of Art will open "The Art of Ceremony," an exhibition which will showcase various objects selected by the nine federally recognized Native American tribes of Oregon.

From a canoe to ceremonial regalia, around 200 objects will be displayed, all of which represent different aspects of ceremony to the various tribes. "It's a massive exhibition. It certainly is the largest one and most complex one I have worked on here at the Hallie Ford Museum, and I think it's safe to say that it's the most complex one we've worked on as a museum," Associate Professor of Anthropology and curator for the exhibition Rebecca Dobkins said.

According to Dobkins, the exhibition is unprecedented for several reasons. First, Oregon's Native American tribes have never before been brought together to share their art and culture. "No one has attempted to bring the nine tribes together like this for an exhibition at all, and certainly not one that includes contemporary regalia [and] contemporary objects," Dobkins said.

Second, all of the objects have been selected by the tribes themselves. "The tribes have made their own choices about how they wanted to be represented and then we as a museum have worked with them to make those presentations," Dobkins said. Junior Mary Jane Morrow, who is helping with the show along with the rest of the students in the museum studies class, acknowledges the importance of the objects being selected by the tribes themselves. "This is what artwork is to them; this is what they want to show us," Morrow said.

Finally, Dobkins said that the exhibit is unprecedented in the sense that it is the first time for these tribes to present many of these objects to the public. "It's a first for tribes to be willing to put forward some of these things that they hold very, very sacred and that in many ways they consider very private," Dobkins said. "I think they do it out of a desire to be understood and more appreciated."

According to Dobkins, the exhibition is important to the museum and to the university because "it has further deepened [their] relationships with the tribes, and given [them] a chance to collaborate on a project of this significance together."

Senior Aaron McKimmy, who is also in the museum studies class, connects the importance of the exhibition to the university's history. "I think that with Willamette being an Indian charter school back in the day, it's good to show a correlation, and it really shows that Willamette is still one with the Native American community, and

[that] they still care even a hundred years later about the relationship," McKimmy said.

Morrow says that the exhibit is important to the museum and to the Willamette community because the objects that it contains are a vital part of Oregon's history. "A hundred, two hundred years ago, this exhibit was Oregon, and they [the tribes] deserve to have their work shown. They deserve to have their history taught to the world and to our community, and we deserve to learn what Oregon was like, and how it developed, and the artwork that was here," Morrow said.

Prior to the opening of the exhibit on Sept. 27, all of the tribes, some wearing their regalia, will gather in Jackson Plaza under their respective tribal flags. There will then be a welcoming program, after which the tribes will walk in a procession across the campus to the museum, where the exhibition will be opened. "It will be a really spectacular day, and I'm hoping for people from all over Oregon to come," Dobkins said.

According to Dobkins, the exhibition is a unique and special opportunity that Willamette students should take advantage of. "It's a side of Oregon that is in our midst and that a lot of people, even people who have lived here all their lives, may not be familiar with, but should know about and be proud of, and at minimum, have respect for," Dobkins said.

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A drum from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, which will be featured in the Art of Ceremony exhibit at the Hallie Ford Museum. COURTESY OF SARAH EVANS

Building Plans on Campus

JEFF KITTS
CONTRIBUTOR

The Board of Trustees for Willamette University will be discussing future construction projects on Oct. 11 and 12. Although nothing will be definitive until then, several projects that will likely begin in the next few years.

"Two high priority projects are a renovation and expansion of the fitness center and a new admissions building," Dean of Campus Life Bob Hawkinson said.

According to Hawkinson, the construction at the fitness center may include classrooms, offices and laboratories for the exercise science department, as well as different offices for athletic coaching staff. This expansion is planned to occur in stages.

According to Professor of Exercise Science Peter Harmer, the expansion of Sparks was originally just planned for the fitness center, but other project ideas could easily be included in the expansion. "Our major issue is laboratory space," Harmer said. "We've been dealing with inadequate laboratory space for a long time."

Another wish for the exercise science department is more offices for professors and staff. "They need more office space. It's more cramped than it needs to be," exercise science major Jessie Robertson said. More classrooms would also be a welcome addition. "We're a small department as it is, and we only have two classrooms," Robertson said.

The new fitness center is hoped to be a place for anyone on campus to use. "Finding ways to get people engaged in physical activity is an important agenda item for the university," Harmer said. "We would like a facility where everybody feels comfortable coming to and has all the amenities people need to pursue a healthy lifestyle."

The location of the new admissions building is unknown at this time, but it may be built at the edge of Brown Field, or across Winter Street near the University Apartments (UAPs). The commons system, like Kaneko, will be established in place of most dorms in the future. "More development on the Eastside Commons will occur in the next few years," Hawkinson said. Harmer added that the exercise science program is one of the largest science majors, but is lacking in physical space.

Expansion at the library is also planned for the near future. Eventually, a Far Westside commons that will include the UAPs may be built. It would likely run from the UAPs to the Mill Stream. A fourth commons, on the Westside, would be built where Lausanne and Doney are currently situated. This would preserve Lausanne and have a larger structure in place of Doney.

Projects like these would begin after the start of the next school year. "This is a year where we will finish projects currently going on," Hawkinson said. These projects include Ford Hall, and the renovations at the Kresge Theater.

"We will do [these projects] when we know how to pay for them," Hawkinson said. Projects are paid for by the capital budget, or money set aside for long-term projects like construction. "Much depends on gifts and the state of the economy," Hawkinson said. Harmer believes that constructing spaces for the exercise science department in Sparks during its renovation will be economically beneficial. "Having an integrated project would cost more money up front, but would save money in the long run by not having to do these projects in a piecemeal fashion," Harmer said.

Construction projects will begin based on their expense and their priority. "It's such a long program to roll out," Hawkinson said. "It will take at least 15 years to restructure the campus. We've moved forward in bits and pieces."

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For more information about the expansion of the Sparks Center, see page 9.

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MOVIE REVIEW: 'Burn After Reading' | R

'Burn After Reading': Actually, please just burn it

LYDIA BURNETT
STAFF WRITER

When one enters the cinema to see a Coen brothers' movie, there are some expectations. Typically, the audience anticipates the somewhat silly, highly-stylized, unbelievably quirky semi-comedic romp. But despite expecting all the usual traits of a Coen film as I watched their new movie "Burn After Reading," I still couldn't figure out what the hell I was watching.

It all begins when personal files of ex-CIA analyst, Osborne Cox (John Malkovich), fall into the hands of gym employees Chad and Linda (Brad Pitt and Frances McDormand). Since Linda needs money to pay for her much-wanted plastic surgery, the two gym workers decide to take Osborne for all he's got. Blackmail, essen-

tially. While all this is going on, Osborne's wife, Katie (Tilda Swinton), is cheating on him with running enthusiast Harry Pfarrer (George Clooney). Now, things get pretty messy when Osborne refuses to hand over the requested money and Katie decides to leave Osborne to be with Harry who is also cheating on his wife with not only Katie but Linda too, as well as a few nameless others. This may all sound like a hysterically outrageous caper, but don't be fooled. Those Coen brothers are tricky like that.

I suppose Burn After Reading could be called a modern day farce... an extraordinary dark and convoluted farce, but a farce nonetheless. Just like any farce, the storyline is driven by confusion and miscommunication. Of course, the audience is in the know the entire time. This tactic not only drains the film of any kind of suspense but also fails to grasp the audience. All the viewer has to do is wait to see when the slew of eccentric characters figure it out (or not figure it out as the case may be) with many uncanny and unexpected twists.

It was also hard to follow all the action through the muddled and unusual plotline.



COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES

Brad Pitt stars as dumb personal trainer Chad in the new Coen Brothers comedy "Burn After Reading."

However, my issue with the movie was not so much that I didn't understand what was going on but rather why it was going on. And moreover, why should I care? The characters were certainly interesting but most were extraordinarily unappealing. To keep things

positive, I'll admit that Burn After Reading features an outstanding cast in what I can only hope is a social commentary. Please, let it be a social commentary.

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► more info

'Burn After Reading' (102 min.) is playing at:

Regal MovieLand 7
501 Marion St. NE
For show times, call 503.588.2059

RESTAURANT REVIEW: Vietnam Restaurant

Simply-named Asian eatery gives a break from the norm

DANIEL WOZNICKI
GUEST WRITER

Everybody needs a break from Goudy now and then. There's only so many times you can eat Goudy dinners before you lose your will to live and jump out your window in a misguided attempt to end the pain that comes every evening at 5:30. Those of you living on the first floor are covered, but the rest of us are happy when we find a new restaurant to visit once in a while,

“

A cheap place would be nice since we're already losing \$7.50 by skipping our all-you-can-eat meal.”

preferably within walking distance.

So what do we look for when we're taking a break from Goudy? A cheap place would be nice since we're already losing \$7.50 by skipping our all-you-can-eat meal. Good food is always a plus. We would also like to walk away satisfied so we don't have to supplement the meal with snacks from our rooms or, worse, from Goudy, defeating the purpose of going out in the first place.

So, I'm sure you're ready to hear what restaurant I'm talking about. The small, ingeniously named Vietnam Restaurant lies tucked away in a small shopping center on the corner of Liberty and Center, right across the street from Rite Aid. The inside looks like an adapted Mexican restaurant with low brick walls and black iron fencing dividing the space into three sections.

The atmosphere is comfortable and relaxed. It gives off a vibe that you belong. The waitress will often ask if this is your first time eating there and, if she finds out that it isn't, will promptly assume that you are a regular.

But atmosphere is certainly not the first thing on my mind when sampling a new restaurant. It's about the food. In case you couldn't guess from the name, and I truly hope that you could, Vietnam Restaurant serves mostly Vietnamese food, with a bit of Chinese on the back of the menu. Most of the dishes range from \$6 to \$8, with an occasional \$10 dish that your brain will involuntarily start to ignore after eating there once or twice.

The food itself is exactly what you would expect from a Vietnamese restaurant. Everything is based in rice, noodles, and rice noodles. That's not to say that it isn't good, because it's excellent, but don't expect anything surprising or exotic. However, I do have to make a special note about the lemongrass. The lemongrass is incredible. Even if you decide to go there only once in your 4 years at Willamette, make sure you order something with lemongrass.

And one more thing; the helpings are huge. Not pretty huge or "well, if I wasn't so hungry that would have been plenty" huge. I

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Address: 364 Center Street

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mean bowls the size of your head huge. If one thing's for certain, you'll never finish your meal with anything but a full stomach.

So allow me one last image. It's a Sunday evening and you're almost done with your piles of weekend homework which you probably should have started Saturday, but hey, it's Saturday. You're down to one last class, three more pages and you're done. But you're starving and Goudy isn't sounding so hot. So what do you do? Why not grab a friend and head downtown to Vietnam Restaurant before tackling that last assignment. You might leave feeling a bit too full, but never unhappy.

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DVD REVIEW: 'The Monster Squad' | PG-13

Modern goofy horror cult classic leaps onto DVD



COURTESY OF LIONS GATE

SONIA LUPHER
GUEST WRITER

We've all seen The Goonies, right? It's a good kid's movie, a swashbuckling adventure story, and nearly every little boy's fantasy. Now imagine it being about 30 or 45 minutes shorter and with monsters. The Monster Squad is just that: short, cute, and damn funny for everyone.

It's pretty easy to figure out what's going on here: a group of young kids who love monsters and have created their own monster club end up having to fight Dracula, Frankenstein's monster, Swamp Thing, Wolf Man, and the Mummy when all the creatures come to town for an apocalyptic reunion. It's very straightforward and there are no twists on these monsters. They're exactly how you thought they were when you were young. This movie is a perfect way to teach children the basics on monsters and it's a perfect nostalgia movie for the rest of us. Dracula wears a cape, turns into a bat, and hates garlic. With Frankenstein, just treat him how you'd like to be treated and you'll be fine.

And mummies... well, they deteriorate.

This came after The Goonies and its influence is hard to miss; there's even a fat kid in this movie to offer comic relief. Though some might say that it's a blatant rip-off of The Goonies, The Monster Squad is a breath of fresh air that is fun and appealing to those of us who love creature features. There are a few name-calling instances that are a little iffy, which might explain why this took so long to get a proper DVD release. It was, however, recently reissued on DVD and it's available on Netflix and other places. Short, funny, and... well, sort of sweet, this film is simple fun for everyone.

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► more info

"The Monster Squad" is available from online retailers Amazon.com and Borders.com, as well as for rent from Netflix.com.

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Theatre department labors over current remodel

ANYA BALLINGER
GUEST WRITER

Arriving for a new term at the WU Theatre Playhouse this year, I found a wall of naked two-by-fours framing the stairs in the lobby. The door to the basement had "do not enter" signs posted on it and giant trapezoidal holes in the floor of the Kresge theatre were patched with wooden boards.

Of course, I should have been expecting this, after the hours I spent last spring sorting through Styrofoam heads and broken typewriters in preparation for this, the glorious WU theatre remodeling project.

This remodel, which began in May of 2008, was made possible by the dedication of current WU students who hauled several decades' worth of crap out of the basement storage. "I was really excited," said theatre major Geoff Suthers, grinning. "I worked extra hours to get it done." Geoff admits that not all theatre students were so enthusiastic about the remodel at first. "A lot of us were resisting because we weren't in dialogue [with the faculty], we didn't know what was going to happen." After a student-faculty meeting last spring, in which the details were explained, the students were willing to help. Our Theatre department functions as a regular theatrical production company, and we pride ourselves on close student-

faculty communication and the inter-departmental teamwork that enables us to produce shows. The load-out was a tedious, though interesting project. If you think your roommate keeps weird stuff under their bed, you should see the toys I found in props storage! However, those are packed away in a remote warehouse off campus.

The first phase of construction takes place in the basement. What used to be our costume shop is now a "hardhats required" zone. During the workday, the banging of hammers and lord-knows-what rattles the Theatre Playhouse. Geoff says he doesn't mind the banging during class because "it's good; it means they're getting stuff done."

The final plans for the Theatre building are pretty impressive. According to Rachel Kinsman-Steck, instructor of lighting, what will be seen by February 2009 includes a larger design studio, two dressing rooms with showers, a prosthetics room, environmentally-sound laundry facilities, costume shop, and storage for scenery, properties, and costumes.

The second phase of the remodel is scheduled to finish in August 2010. The finished project includes new multimedia classrooms where dance, acting, directing and design students get to explore the latest technology in their fields. Geoff said

that he's really excited about the finished remodel. As a sophomore, he will likely have the opportunity to work on shows in the finished space. I, unfortunately, will not. Unless I win the Pulitzer and return under the guise of "Guest Artist."

In the meantime, the show must go on - so, while we duck between the two-by-fours and shout over the jack-hammers (or

whatever it is that's making that noise) the WU Theatre department welcomes a new batch of freshman and begins rehearsal for "Twelfth Night". (This Shakespearean comedy opens October 17, and runs for three weekends. Don't miss it!)

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ANYA BALLINGER

The first phase of the theatre remodel is currently occurring in the basement.

ART HISTORY FOR COCKTAIL PARTIES: My tainted love for Rembrandt



A L I S A
ALEXANDER

ARTS EDITOR

Let's play a game folks. Say you somehow inherited/came across an infinite amount of money. Would you: a) become a complete jerk who sought after total world domination b) model your life after Mother Theresa's and donate all your money to defenseless starving children, or c) do a few good deeds, but spend the rest of the money buying things you don't need and let it become your identity? I know, it's a tough question, and I think most of us would probably become an amalgamation of all of the above.

Now, I don't know about you, but this is an interesting question to me because I've never had lots of money in my life. Would it totally change who I am? What would I do with all of it? Over the weekend, I did meet someone who was ridiculously rich. Like, so rich he had a Rembrandt hanging over his fireplace.

I was invited to a private showing of an art collection of an old money business mogul. I know its cliché, but connections are everything. I was invited via friend of a friend, and of course I accepted the offer. These are usually the opportunities I lust after. Even more so than that perfect combination of that intellectual yet spontaneous, hot, sexy man who just happens to be a member of all the world's art museums and somehow has fallen in love with me. Anyway, that's another wish entirely.

I saw things in that house that I have never seen in a museum, much less touched. Besides the Rembrandt portrait this man owned a complete, beautifully illuminated book of hours (an illustrated medieval book of psalms and devotions, made for royalty and the really wealthy) a Faberge egg, various ancient rugs, and tons of paintings and etchings by famous artists such as Claude Lorraine, Annabale Caracci, and Jacob van Ruisdael.

Here's where the fantasy ends for me. The rugs (one of which could pay my rent for the next five years) were cut to fit the placement of the heating vents. Giant chunks were ripped out and THROWN AWAY. It seems these people didn't care about restoring these rugs in the future. And the icing on the cake? The first thing I noticed about the Rembrandt was a giant water stain running down the front of it. Turns out it was acquired during an inheritance dispute—some bratty nephew threw the remainder of his Screwdriver on it once he found out that Uncle Ernie wasn't giving it to him (a Screwdriver, for those of you non-drunks and freshman, is Vodka and orange juice—oh the horror! The alcohol! The acidity!). The owner just left it that way, hanging over the fireplace in direct sunlight. You'd better believe that had I witnessed such an event, I probably be serving some time right now. It would be a slow, painful death for that Rembrandt-abuser. I've also heard they have dinner parties in which the painting gets pulled off the mantle and the guests are invited to "play

catch with the Rembrandt." I'm not kidding.

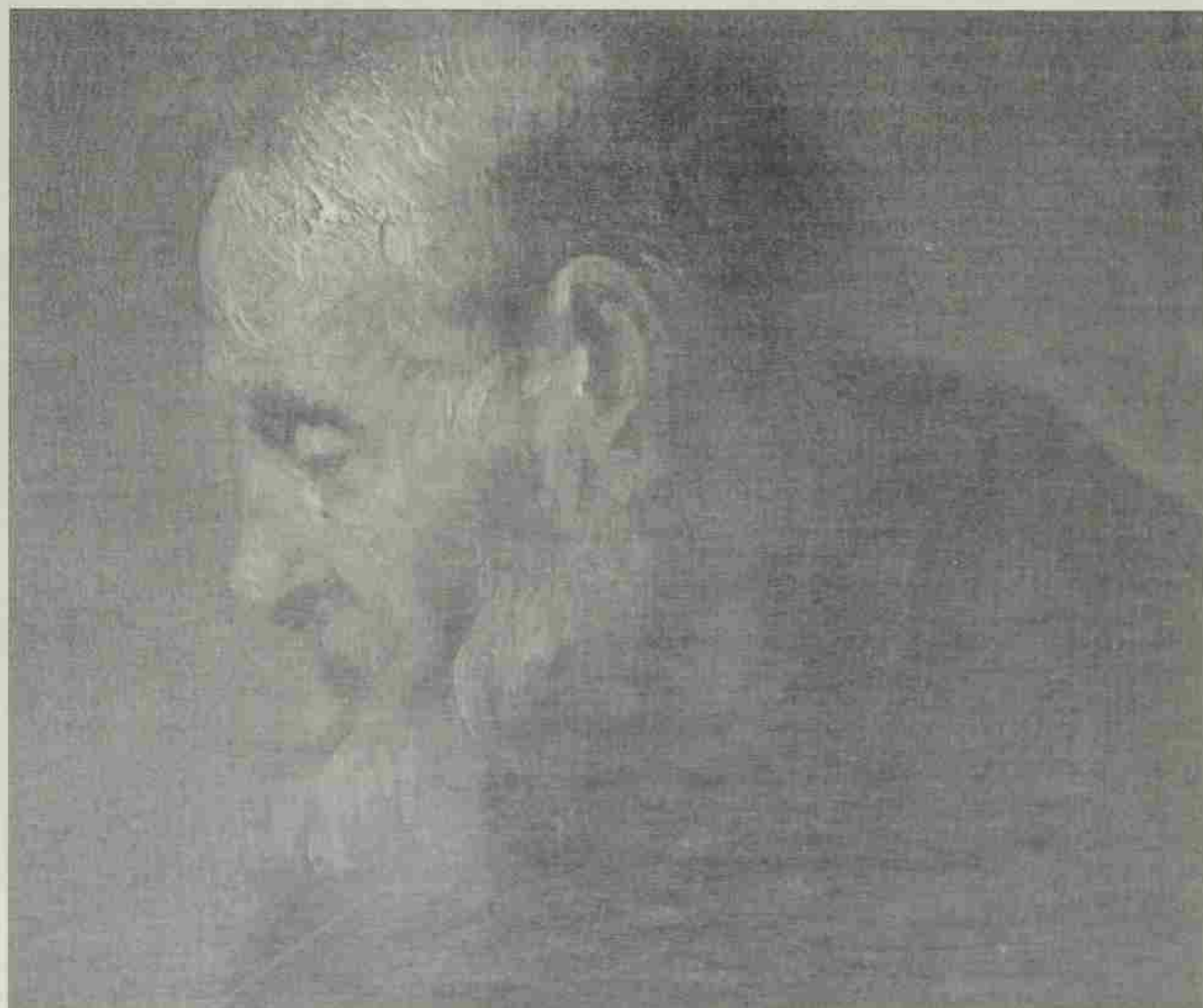
I have the belief that truly precious art, like Rembrandts, belong to all of us. Private owners are nothing but stewards, caretakers for the time being. In fact, I think that this painting belongs in a museum where everyone who wants to see it can pay the same price and do so. Someone donated Matisse's "Lady in a Hat" and Rothko's "No. 14" to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. In ways I can't describe, those paintings changed my life. I would never want to take that experience away from anyone. The owners of this Rembrandt have no reverence for what they own, that \$2 million dollar painting is just a bauble to them, a plaything.

Look, I've heard the claim that our adoration of art objects is nothing but over-glorified idol worship. Its true, some works of art are valued way too high. But does it mean that just because you have more money than God you are

allowed to abuse precious paintings? Art is a key part of our monumental history, our infinite present, and a prophet of the visual future. To you, perhaps Rembrandt paintings and Greek sculptures are no more valuable to you than your lawn furniture or Statistics textbook. But to some people, these pieces of art are life-changing. It is our responsibility to each other to respect these invaluable objects.

I am conflicted. I am still semi-disgusted yet grateful that I had the opportunity to see that collection. If I had that kind of money, of course I'd like to have a private gallery full of Rothkos, Kandinskys, and Bacons. But would I? Would I withhold all of that beauty from the world? I witnessed some serious art history crimes on Saturday. Tell me, who would you become with endless amounts of money?

Contact: alexandra@willamette.edu



COURTESY OF STATENS MUSEUM FOR KUNST

This Rembrandt, unlike the one Alexander saw recently, is not stained with orange juice and vodka.

Underage and un

The Amethyst Initiative fosters debate about the national drinking age, alcohol policies on campus

ELLEN NITCHALS
COPY EDITOR

The Amethyst Initiative, which Willamette University President M. Lee Pelton signed this summer, has been the source of much controversy. The initiative encourages nationwide debate about underage drinking and possible solutions.

"What [President Pelton] is asserting by signing onto this is a recognition that the ideals of the law and its intention do not match up with the realities," Willamette University Vice President Kristen Grainger said. "There needs to be some alignment between policy and practice." This sentiment is echoed by the other 128 college and university presidents who have also signed the initiative.

An important note, however, is that the initiative is in no way a petition to lower the drinking age. This common misconception has been the source of a number of e-mails to President Pelton, some from upset parents and many from community members, and it does nothing other than distract the conversations about underage drinking that the initiative encourages.

Almost everyone has some opinion on the issue of underage drinking as well as possible solutions, but some voices have been louder than others in the debate. Though President Pelton has received many emails of criticism and support, notably absent is any student feedback on the issue.

Have you ever delayed or chosed not to call campus safety for a student who had consumed too much alcohol?

91% no
9% yes

(From a reslife survey of dorm residents taken last year)

Either students haven't been informed of the opportunity to speak up, or they have decided not to.

"[When] any policy across any subject ... affects an individual or group of individuals, they have a right—and a responsibility—to get involved and express their opinions," Grainger said.

It seems that many people who have strong advocacy for any specific policy change do support lowering the drinking age to 18. There are a number of arguments cited why a legal drinking age of 18 would be beneficial, including an increase in safe drinking practices, a decrease in the taboos which many people think makes drinking exciting, and general fairness.

One important note is that most students who want to drink do so regardless of the laws. "If people want to do something, they find a way to make it happen," Willamette senior and president of Beta Theta Pi Blake Piper said.

But where does the desire to drink come from? "Part of it is this taboo that makes [alcohol] irresistible," Grainger said. Many people share this view, suggesting that if alcohol wasn't as restricted most students would already know how to use alcohol safely by the time they came to college or entered the "real world."

There's also a sense of unfairness about the drinking age being 21. "[A common sentiment is] 'Why is it that at 18, I can go to war and kill for my country, but can't buy a glass of wine?'" Grainger said. This sentiment is echoed on the Amethyst Initiative's website, amethystinitiative.org: "Adults under 21 are deemed capable of voting, signing contracts, serving on juries and enlisting in the military, but are told they are not mature enough to have a beer."

"Another contributing factor is that it's a rite of passage," Director of Residential Services Marilyn Derby said. "[Drinking is] what we do when we come together to socialize." All of these different pressures to drink, combined with a lack of experience with alcohol, can make for an unhealthy—and in some cases deadly—situation.

This concern is a primary argument for proponents of lowering the drinking age. "Where it becomes difficult is that minors can't drink around anyone who has reporting

national binge drinking stats

► 17.2 % of college students 18-22 nationwide reported that they had engaged in heavy alcohol use during the previous month.

► 12.9 % of young adults 18-22 not enrolled in college reported the same (From a nationwide 2007 survey by the Dept. of Health and Human Services)

authority. It has to be secretive. ... There's no bartender saying, 'I think you've had too much,'" Derby said.

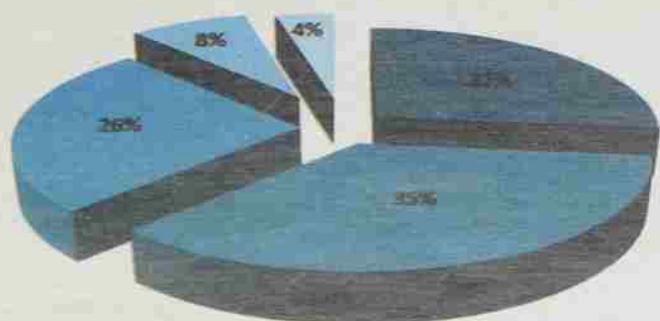
Certainly, no matter what side of the debate you're on, it's clear that underage drinking would be safer with supervision than it has been without. If we lowered the drinking age, "students ... would have places to go where they could drink responsibly," Kaneko Commons President and Standards of Conduct Committee member Behzod Sirjani said. "The issue of alcohol has been pushed underground on campuses ... no one wants their students to be hurt, but students don't feel they can talk about it."

While Willamette supplies students with information about alcohol and with resources to take care of themselves, the fact remains that underage alcohol consumption is still illegal. In a survey taken last year by residence life, 9% of students said they had delayed or chosen not to call campus safety to the aid of someone who had consumed too much alcohol. Additionally, only 63% of students said they would be 'likely' or 'very likely' to call campus safety right away in a case where someone had had too much to drink.

Campus policies regarding alcohol haven't had any major changes in over ten years, but the office of Residence Life has been considering an amnesty policy. The policy is not in place yet, and the implementation has not yet been

Likelihood of calling Campus Safety on behalf of a student who has consumed too much alcohol

■ very likely ■ likely ■ not sure ■ unlikely ■ very unlikely



Under the influence

clearly defined, but it has already created a buzz on campus.

The developers of the policy have been considering sanctions to protect the students involved from having an incident with too much alcohol put on their record. Students who called campus safety, as well as the students who had consumed too much, would likely be given the chance to skip J-Board hearings and go straight to an alcohol counselor. The alcohol policies aren't aimed at getting students in trouble; "we're just going to get anyone who needs to see the counselor to see the counselor for free," Derby said.

"The amnesty policy is a huge step in the right direction. ... It speaks volumes about the university and how much they care for us," Sirjani said.

Regardless of viewpoints on the issue, it's clear that Willamette policy changes such as the amnesty policy will help make sure that students who do drink don't get hurt.

In the Residence Life survey taken last year, those students who had delayed calling campus safety or were unsure if they would call in the future were asked to write a free-response section on why they had delayed (or would delay) calling. Responses such as "because the punishment is not worth the benefit" and "because I got in trouble when I did call" were the norm.

"We are in college and the person made the decision to drink too much and they will learn from it," one Baxter resident said in the response section of the survey. "This is the time to experiment."

For many students, college is the best time to experiment. You're on your own, you have a chance to

redefine yourself, and in the case where you do get in over your head, Campus Safety is here to help make sure you're okay.

The question, then, falls to administrators, legislators and parents: how much experimentation is okay in your eyes, and what are students going to have to continue to do in secret, hoping they won't get caught while trying to learn their limits?

The university will have to continue to tread a thin line between law and practice, making sure that students who use alcohol are safe while still not condoning alcohol use. Meanwhile, the Amethyst Initiative's proposed debate isn't complete without people to debate it. So get involved where you can—talk to legislators, administrators, and each other—because this issue, wherever you stand on it, is certainly too important to go without discussion.

Contact: enitchal@willamette.edu

The Amethyst Initiative started with a meeting of the Annapolis Group, composed of about 120 liberal arts colleges, in June 2008. Its primary aim is to encourage nationwide debate about the drinking age as well as promotion of safe drinking practices among college students.



21

20

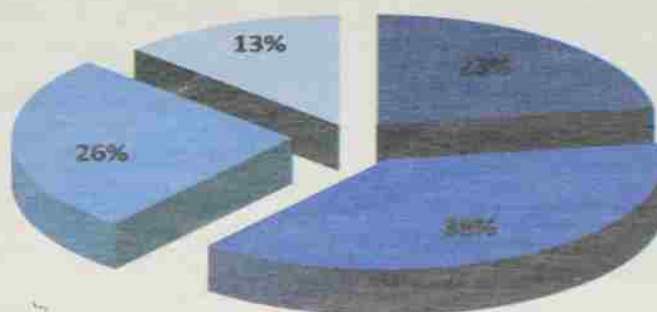
19

18

17

NUMBER OF DRINKS WU STUDENTS REPORTED CONSUMING THE LAST TIME THEY DRANK

■ 0 ■ 1 to 4 ■ 5 to 8 ■ 9 or more



FOOTBALL

Bearcats keep rolling in upset of Southern Oregon

TIM WALSH
CONTRIBUTOR

After falling behind 17-3 to the Southern Oregon Raiders, the Willamette football team used suffocating defense, stellar special teams, and efficient offense to topple the favored Raiders 31-23 on Alumni Weekend at McCulloch Stadium. The win broke the Bearcats into d3football.com's top 25 for the first time since 2004 and gave them their first 3-0 start since 1997.

"If you'd have told me that we'd be where we are right now four weeks ago, I'd have said 'That's pretty far-fetched,'" said Willamette head coach Mark Speckman.

The game did not start auspiciously for the Bearcats, who struggled to adjust to the bigger, faster Raiders. Senior flanker Merben Woo fumbled deep in Willamette territory on the Bearcats' first offensive play, but an outstanding defensive stand forced SOU to settle for a field goal. However, after consecutive three-and-outs by a sluggish Bearcat offense, the Raiders wasted no time marching into the end zone for a 10-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

A Mitchell Rowan field goal cut the lead to 10-3, but disaster struck as Woo lost the ball again, this time inside the 20. Another heroic stand stopped SOU on downs at the two, but just one play later, senior quarterback Grant Leslie was intercepted. Two plays later, SOU scored another touchdown.

"We have a saying that 'Willamette won't beat Willamette,'" said Speckman.

"That just didn't happen in the first half."

The Bearcats did close the period well though, when Leslie fired a 19 yard strike to sophomore wideout Scott Schoettgen to close the gap to 17-9. The touchdown breathed new life into the Bearcats, and for the second week in a row, it was the defense that responded.

Having already returned an interception 100 yards in week one, sophomore defensive back Jeff Kahler found himself in perfect position to scoop up a fumbled Raider snap just a few minutes into the third quarter and raced 52 yards for a touchdown. A beautiful fade pass from Leslie to Schoettgen on the two-point conversion tied the game at 17-17. "That was a huge turning point," Speckman said emphatically.

But two more Raider field goals made it 23-17 to start the fourth quarter, and with Willamette's offense struggling to finish, it would take one more big play to get the Bearcats over the hump.

Enter sophomore return specialist Jose Green. Punting from his own 26 yard line, SOU's Steve Palmer shanked the kick. Green, positioned near the Willamette 40, sprinted up to the SOU 46, caught the ball at full speed, broke a tackle, and was off to the races. After picking up a key block, Green was in the end zone and the Bearcats had their first lead at 24-23.

"That play was electric," said Speckman. "Big players make big plays in big games."

From there on out, it was smooth sailing. Woo, shaking off his fumbles, finished with

120 yards rushing, including the clinching touchdown. Junior Deon Horne added 68 yards, and senior fullback Cody Anthony added a key third down conversion.

"It was the defense that kept us in it, though," Speckman said Monday. "Without the defense playing like they did, we don't win the game." Defensive player of the game Jack Bevins, the entire defensive line, and a secondary that frustrated SOU's passing game all day were all singled out for praise.

The 25th ranked Bearcats can't avoid complacency however, as they face a tough road trip to the University of La Verne. Though not the Willamette's strongest opponent this year by any means, Speckman certainly remembers last year, when the Bearcats followed up an emotional win over Linfield by losing to underdog Puget Sound.

"There was no good excuse for that loss. None. We're not taking this game for granted."

In other football news, quarterback Ryan Whitcomb will undergo season-ending knee surgery. "A medical redshirt is something we'll definitely consider," Speckman said. Around the conference, Puget Sound defeated Claremont-Mudd-Scripps 34-28 in triple overtime, Lewis & Clark fell to Pomona-Pitzer 62-35, Pacific Lutheran lost to Cal Lutheran 16-7, and Menlo was defeated by Occidental 38-28. In Division III, Concordia-Moorhead upset #4 St. John's 9-6.

Contact: twalsh@willamette.edu



Punt returner Jose Green (36) celebrates his game-changing touchdown in the fourth quarter against Southern Oregon University.

next up

#25 Bearcats v. La Verne @ La Verne California Saturday, Sept. 27 at 1:00 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

Men drop to 0-2 in conference

CAMERON MITCHELL
CONTRIBUTOR

While the wins haven't come for the men's soccer team yet, the Bearcats seem to be getting closer to becoming a competitive team in the Northwest Conference. The Bearcats have been playing games much tighter this year compared to last, and the scores are beginning to show.

This past weekend marked the beginning of conference play for Willamette, a team that's now 1-5 so far this year. On Saturday, the team took on highly ranked Whitworth College at home.

It was a tight match throughout, but the Pirates struck first on a goal by John Prugh, who beat Bearcat goalie Mark Bennett early in the first half. The game remained 1-0

with Whitworth in the lead for the rest of the half until the 61st minute when Whitworth struck again. Eddy Prugh scored this time for Whitworth, beating Bennett on a rebound shot that deflected off the goalie.

While the Bearcats had chances to score, they could not penetrate the Whitworth defense and were defeated 2-0. Whitworth remains undefeated on the season.

While the team was disappointed, Junior Casey Dineen had positive things to say about the loss. "We hung with them. Whitworth is a really good team and if we keep playing this way we will start to get some results," he said after the game.

Dineen recorded four of the team's eight shots in the match that, like any other Bearcat game, was a highly physical battle.

A day earlier, Willamette was defeated by the Whitman Missionaries 2-1 in both teams' conference openers. Freshman Erik Kaufman scored his fourth goal of the season in that game. The Bearcats dominated the shot count, with 12 shots, as opposed to Whitman's six, but could not capitalize on the many opportunities the team had.

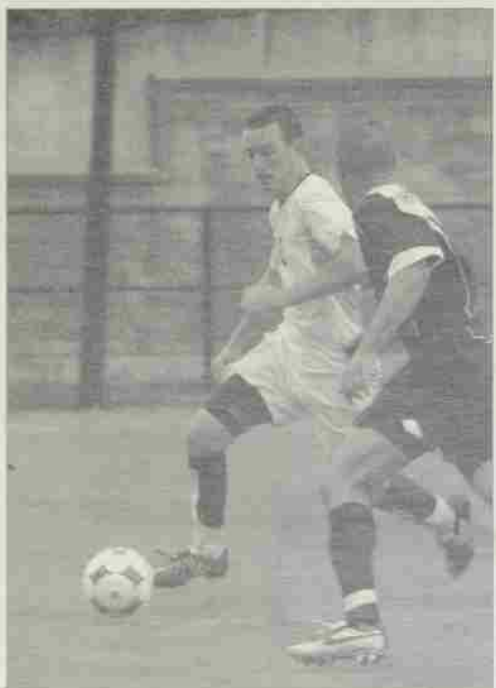
"We made a lot of mental errors and penalties, dumb plays that we wanted to have back," Dineen said. Willamette looks forward to George Fox, as the team heads to Newberg on Saturday, Sept. 27 to take on the Bruins. The game is set to kick off at 2:30 pm.

With 13 freshmen on the squad, the Bearcats know that if they can continue to get more playing experience, wins may be in the near future for the Willamette soccer team.

Contact: cmitchell@willamette.edu

next up

Bearcats v. George Fox University @ Newberg, OR Saturday, Sept. 27 at 2:30 p.m.



Men's soccer lost a close match against Whitman on Saturday, September 20th.

VOLLEYBALL: A PLAYER'S PERSPECTIVE

Bearcats come together in Whitman victory

Ends 44-match
Northwest Conference
losing streak



CHRISTINA
MCGILVRAY

COLLEGIAN

This weekend the Willamette volleyball team traveled to Washington to take on Whitworth and Whitman, opening Northwest Conference play.

Friday night against Whitworth we had moments of greatness, but strong play from their outside hitters led to a loss. Freshman Annika Moffett played well, however, in her first NWC match, adding seven kills and six digs. Jessica Durham also played solidly all around with eight kills and 11 digs.

On Saturday night, with the support of the Willamette rugby team in attendance, we defeated Whitman College in a well-played four-game match. Although we had a rocky start, allowing Whitman to take game one, we came storming back, and with sound play from the whole team won the following three games easily.

For the first time all season, we played well throughout the match and did not allow Whitman to have long scoring runs, a problem which has plagued our team.

Jessica Durham, who contributed four serving aces, said after the game, "It felt amazing to play a full game as a team, we really came together and even when we were un-

der pressure, we didn't fold and that is something we can use through the rest of the season. We've set a standard for ourselves and we're excited to rise to it."

Kelly Lindstrom, who acted as an outside hitter last season but has been moved to middle blocker this season, dominated at the net, adding 11 kills with a .474 hitting percentage.

"For the first time in a long time our team played with confidence and intensity for the whole match. We converted on a lot of things we have been working on in practice and that was great to see. I really believe we deserved this win and now we have to believe that this is only the beginning," Lindstrom said.

Setter Clare Chedester had another very solid game, providing the team with 35 setting aces and 14 digs.

It is very exciting to see our younger players playing so well. Libero Jaela Dinsmore had a great game with a game high of 15 digs. Moffett, who played well both nights, said, "We are starting to play more as a team rather than a group of individuals. This change showed on the court this weekend against Whitman and helped us earn our first conference win of the season."

We play this Saturday, Sept. 27 in Cone Field House at 7 p.m. against the University of Puget Sound.

Contact: cmcgilvr@willamette.edu

next up

Bearcats v. University of Puget Sound @ Sparks Athletic Center Friday, Sept. 26 at 7:00p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

Men win opener at Willamette Grass Course

Coffman takes first in girls second place finish

CHARLOTTE BODDY
CONTRIBUTOR

In the first cross country meet of the season, senior Maddie Coffman finished first in the women's race, and three Bearcat men placed in the top five en route to a team title at the Willamette Grass Course. The men completed a seven-kilometer course, while the women completed a five-kilometer course.

With Coffman taking the individual women's title, and three of the top five runners in the men's race being Bearcats, the season is looking to be a fine one. "The team effort on Saturday was incredible," senior Josh Clough said.

"I was extremely proud of the way we toed up to the line, and from the start took command of the race with a large Bearcat pack. There is not a better feeling than racing and knowing that there is a huge pack of Bearcats working together," Clough said.

"All the ladies and guys had strong opening efforts that we're very proud of," Coffman said. "I'm incredibly happy with the way the meet turned out."

Senior Jena Winger finished third, junior Molly Lewis came in 13th, senior Ali Maki finished 18th, and sophomore Megan Hornung finished 21st to round out the team scoring. Juniors Hannah Vietmeier and Ciara Gonzalez also competed for the Bearcats.

"There were a few good runners from other schools, and Whitworth surprised us with a group finishing all together, but now we're ready to race against them again and win," Coffman said.

In the team standings, Willamette fin-

ished second with a score of 52. Whitworth came in first with a score of 39, and Western Oregon, with a score of 62, finished third.

As for the men, freshman Leo Castillo finished second overall and led the Bearcats to a team title. Clough finished fourth overall by beating out his teammate sophomore Nick Rebol by only four seconds, and senior Alex Jimenez also finished in the top ten for the Bearcats. Five other Bearcats finished within the top twenty.

"I feel [the race] was a big confidence builder for the team because it was a difficult course, and we all competed very well," senior Chris Platano said. "Whitworth, who is in our conference, had a good showing at the meet. Western Oregon also had a few people near the front. Overall, it was a small, but competitive race."

In the team standings, Willamette barely beat Western Oregon to eke out a victory for the men's title. Whitworth finished third with a score of 70.

"This race was a great opportunity for our team to see where we are right now and where we can improve," Winger said.

"We were excited to race and motivated to give our best effort on [Saturday]. I know this excitement and energy will carry us through the season," Clough said.

Contact: cboddy@willamette.edu

▼ next up

Charles Bowles Invitational @ Bush Park Saturday, Oct. 4 at 9:00 a.m.



Senior Maddie Coffman (203) won the women's race in a time of 18:04 with senior Jena Winger (212) in third.



Senior Josh Clough (214) and freshman Leo Castillo (213) pulled away from the pack in the men's team victory.

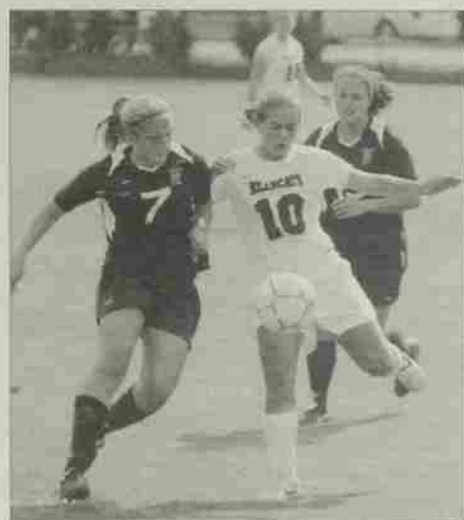
WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women upset number two team in nation, Whitworth

CAMERON MITCHELL
CONTRIBUTOR

At the beginning of the women's soccer season, Bearcats coach Hillary Arthur and her 23 players knew how tough the Northwest Conference was going to be and how hard of a fight it would be to come out on top.

This attitude showed on Sunday as Willamette persevered through an extremely tough match to defeat the Whitworth Pirates 2-1. A perfectly placed goal scored by senior Lauren Miller gave the Bearcats the lead for good with less than five minutes remaining in the game.



Freshman midfielder Kimber Mattox battles Whitman forward Amy Hasson in a loss on Saturday.

“The win feels great and helps the team's morale. We just need to stay strong and keep his momentum going throughout the season.”

LAUREN MILLER
FORWARD

The game did not start out well for the Bearcats, as the Pirates, who were ranked second in the nation, scored in the eighth minute and held the ball in Willamette's end for much of the half.

The Bearcats dodged a bullet in the 11th minute, as Whitworth's Kelly Baker missed her penalty kick, which would have put Whitworth up 2-0. It seemed as though the missed kick revived Willamette's defense, as well as its offense.

In the 21st minute, Freshman Stephanie Skelly scored a beautiful goal from nearly 20 yards out. The goal, which tied the game, was Skelly's second of the year and was assisted by Miller.

The game continued to go up and down, with neither team giving up any ground. Senior defenders Kelsey Rogel and Samantha Post each played all 90 minutes and refused to let Whitworth advance the ball toward the net.

With less than five minutes left, Miller made the shot of her life when she slid into an opponent and beat the goalie with a 20-yard boot that ended up in the top right corner of the net.

"The win feels great and helps the team's morale. We just need to stay strong and keep this momentum going throughout the season," Miller said. "Our goal is to win conference. Beating Whitworth shows that we are a team to watch in the Northwest Conference."

The Bearcat upset came a day after a disappointing loss to Whitman, in which the Bearcats had all kinds of chances, but could not convert on any of them. Whitman scored in the 15th minute, which proved to be the lone goal of the game, as the Bearcats were defeated 1-0 in their first conference game.

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, Willamette continues its quest for a NWC conference title taking on Lewis and Clark at 5:00 pm at Sparks Field.

Contact: cmitchell@willamette.edu

▼ next up

Bearcats v. Lewis and Clark @ Sparks Field Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 7:00p.m.

LETTER FROM THE
ADMINISTRATION

Response to Letter to Administration regarding Fitness Center

Dear Stephan Garrett and Campus Community:

Thank you for your letter published in the Sept. 10th issue of The Collegian raising your concerns about the state of the Sparks fitness center. I hope I can address most of your concerns with positive updates on our progress.

First, as you mentioned, the fitness center's size is one of our major challenges. This specifically, and the importance of such a facility generally, is supported in last fall's survey of the campus community conducted by the Trustee Working Group on Athletics. Discussions about addressing the long-term needs of a fitness center have been ongoing, but we have not yet reached any final plan of action. We have been systematically replacing both cardio machines and strength machines annually. Last summer we added or replaced cardio equipment; this summer we purchased new strength equipment. This will continue each summer.

This past summer we ordered a variety of new equipment for the fitness center, including physio balls, small dumbbells and large "bumper" plates for the power racks. We needed to remove some equipment in order to make room and maximize the limited space we have. The pieces of equipment that were removed were beyond repair, obsolete or under utilized. In most cases it was all three. We ordered new equipment in June and the last of it is scheduled to arrive Sept. 27.

On the maintenance issue, we should be seeing far fewer "down" machines. We have contracted with a new maintenance company that, so far, has been very responsive to our requests. We also have a focused commitment from our fitness center supervisor, Becky Roberts, and our associate athletic director for facilities, Skip Kenitzer, to increase the frequency of our cleaning schedule as well as the effectiveness. There should be marked improvement in this area.

Again, thank you for taking time to write. We always encourage feedback from the campus community. If there are any issues, questions or concerns in the fitness center, we have a suggestion box mounted on the wall. If an attendant is not readily available, the suggestion box should be used.

We look forward to serving you this year.

Mark Majeski
mmajeski@willamette.edu

► more info

For more details about the construction at the Sparks Athletic center please see News, 3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite you to submit letters to the editor. Letters can be sent by postal mail, email (nzaves@willamette.edu), campus mail or fax. Letters are limited to 150 words, must include your name and phone number and must be submitted by noon Monday on the week of intended publication. The Collegian reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.



Colleen, Cornered

Of hope and polar bears



Colleen Martin

OPINIONS EDITOR

Though it may sound strange coming from someone who works for a college newspaper, I often find it monstrously difficult to read the news. I do my best to keep in the know by picking up the New York Times and checking the BBC news online. Usually, I only skim the stories, as I find most of them remind me that the state of the world is not exactly celebratory fireworks and holding hands. I know ignorance isn't bliss, but the temptation to do the crossword puzzle instead of looking at the front page is often too hard to resist.

My tendency is actually to review a lot of news sites in addition to the ones mentioned above. I look for articles that are above the average human-interest story, as these often feel forced, like they were put in at the last minute because someone remembered that death and destruction just might be a little heavy. I try to find reports of truly wonderful things going on in our world for fear that I'll give up otherwise. Unfortunately, the stories that warm my heart or fascinate me often aren't enough to make others smile.

A prime example of this has to do with my favorite animal, the polar bear. My freshman year, a friend sent me an article about a baby polar bear named Knut. His mother didn't want him, so the Berlin Zoo (where he was born) removed him from his mother's quarters and raised him. The pictures alone were enough to lift me out of any bad mood. Last year, two more polar bears, Flokke and Wilbär, were also born in Germany.

In all honesty, I probably talked about my polar bear friends a smidge too often. However, most people agreed with me that they were pretty darn adorable. I was just so excited to have three polar bear cubs that were being written about (and photographed) consistently. When I went to Germany this summer, I even got to visit Flokke and Wilbär, which made me smile for a solid 24 hours.

However, a few people surprised me with their reactions. One person made a point to remind me that polar bears are going extinct whenever I mentioned them or had an article with me about them. Another felt the need to update me about how aggressive Knut was getting. Others told me I was like a seven-year-old and laughed at me.

Though these remarks may have been made in good fun, they still stung. I'm not the most cheerful person to begin with, so when people made a conscious effort to cancel the effect of the only good news that I could find, it just seemed cruel. It also reveals what a news media full of abysmal stories have done to our culture.

Those who discuss the bad news are informed citizens, whereas those who talk about some fortunate event, however unimportant in the grand scheme, are seen as ignorant or naïve and in need of being brought back down to earth.

I haven't given up reading my silly news stories. It's important for us to find the things that make us happy, if only for a moment. It often feels like we are living in what seems like an irreparable time. It soon will be, in the absence of the little things that give us hope.

Contact: cmartin@willamette.edu

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

EDITORIAL

Point/Counterpoint: Too many clubs on campus

Pro

Student clubs at Willamette are one of the most impressive parts of our university. The opportunities they provide for leadership and getting involved, no matter what the purpose of the club, help students grow and learn outside of the classroom. Though some would argue that we don't need nearly the amount of clubs we have, it is important that we keep as many going as possible.

Though we already have an ample number of clubs, there are still people who aren't attracted to any of them. The great thing is that here it's not difficult to create a club tailored to one's passion. A school with a lot of options on campus can be encouraging for students who want to create new clubs. When there are few clubs, it sends a message that says only certain interests are important enough to be represented. The more clubs there are, the less a student might feel intimidated to publicize their ideas and find others who feel the same way.

Having a plethora of clubs, as well as the ability to create new clubs, is vital to making everyone a part of the Willamette community. It's always hard to make new friends, especially when in a new place full of strangers. Having a variety of clubs makes this process a lot easier. You can choose a club that appeals to one of your interests, and meet a group of people who all have that same interest in common. It is only natural that you make friends in a small group and it is much less intimidating. Feeling like you have a place where you fit in makes succeeding a much more feasible goal.

Of course, clubs provide far more than simply a group of friends with similar interests for the people involved. Clubs improve the atmosphere of campus in noticeable and unnoticeable ways, to provide a more holistic education for everyone involved. How many times have you passed a club that's tabling in Goudy and discovered a new culture or



HEIDI ANDERSON

type of activity? How many times have you heard about a new club that was formed and thought "Wow, I had no idea those people existed here." Clubs benefit everyone on campus, not just the ones involved, and provide the kind of "not-from-the-book" education that Willamette is proud of.

Con

When talking about clubs, many people tend to think of large ones or the groups that host high profile events. What they don't look at is the smaller clubs that only have a handful of members at the best of times, and typically can't hold meetings because of too few people attending. While decently-sized clubs have an important place on campus, the abundance of them—many of them struggling to even hold meetings—can negatively impact the campus, and in fact a reduction of clubs would be beneficial to campus.

As the year goes on and students become busier and busier, participation tends to drop and clubs begin to die out. This creates a system where many clubs are starving for members and contribute little to campus. The question shouldn't be if these clubs should exist, but rather why do they continue to exist as fewer and fewer people participate? These smaller groups should realize

that a club does not have to be formally recognized in order to function as one. Willamette has the type of community where people don't need a formal atmosphere to be their eccentric selves. Students can get together as a group without needing to register as a club. Meeting places are always accessible, from Montag Den to the Bistro to any of the lounges in the UC. Clubs aren't just excuses to hang out.

There are many sources for networking without having ASWU recognize a club. Unofficial clubs can put up posters, or make a Facebook group in order to organize events or reach out to like-minded people. Some clubs already exist on Facebook but not in the ASWU records. For many organizations, being a formal club has no benefit.

Perhaps the biggest problem is financial. It seems unfair that students who do not participate in clubs have to pay the same student body fees as the students who join several clubs. If this was how club financing worked, not only would students be more likely to really engage themselves in the clubs they do join, but clubs would be forced to be careful with their spending. You might say that this would take away opportunities for clubs, but if a club is spending more per member than the cost of one year's student body fees, then this only proves that they're taking unfair advantage of the system.

To conclude, students should think twice before welcoming an increasing amount of clubs to campus.

COLLEGIAN EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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A MESSAGE FROM ABROAD

The Palestinian territory: A taste of Revolution

DEBBIE SOUTHERN
GUEST WRITER

On my walk to class last Monday, I was startled to see clouds of smoke rising above campus in the distance. My pace quickened as my mind raced for a logical explanation... had the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) invaded? Had there been an accident? A riot? Along the way, another international student called and told me to go home—classes were cancelled today. Intrigued, I turned to my friend, who smirked back at me in unspoken agreement. We had to see what all the excitement was about.

As we approached Birzeit University from the back entrance, we found our path blocked by boulders in the road and some parked cars. A couple of guys stood guard on the road and courteously informed us in bits of English that we couldn't pass that way; there would be no classes that day. Why? "We have problems with administration," answered the guy sporting a black-and-white Fatah scarf. "Financial issues," added his friend. Still curious, we headed for the main entrance on the other side of the hill.

We rounded the corner to see a massive crowd of students standing at the foot of the hill. Cars, buses and taxis lined the street, disrupting morning traffic. A mound of tires stood ablaze in front of the campus gates—the source of the morning's smoke. Indeed, there would be no classes.

As it turns out, several student organizations on campus (among them leftist Fatah and the more communist PFLP), with the support of the Student Council, had organized a school wide protest demanding equal rights to education. Recent increases in university tuition prices and obstacles in obtaining financial aid had prevented more than 100 students from enrolling.

While I don't know exactly who was in charge, I had to commend the organizers for their ability to mobilize. They had problems with the administration and they took direct action. A relatively small nucleus of committed students was able to effectively shut down a university for a day and demand change on behalf of the entire student body.

(Later that day, I chuckled to myself

a little when I remembered countless critics of Concerned Students for Social Justice accusing us of being "militant" in our approach to institutional change. Willamette campus, look out. I'll be home in a few months' time and I'm not afraid of teargas anymore...)

All in all, students at Birzeit don't take their education lightly—or anything else, for that matter. Living under a military occupation definitely puts things into perspective, as an education here is about more than a degree and a comfy job. Education is the means to liberation, and in the Palestinian territory that is the difference between freedom and oppression, statehood and occupation, and often life and death.

In such a desperate environment, where "to exist is to resist," even partying becomes a pseudo-political act. In Ramallah the other day I saw a billboard for Taybeh, the only beer brewed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It read: "Drink Palestinian...Taste the Revolution..."

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OPINION

Our common interest in a new representation

KRISTOFER SMILEY
GUEST WRITER

I love the United States of America. I know that sounds cheesy, but it's true; there's a lot to be proud of. But at the same time, there is so much that needs work. As we approach this November, I am filled with deep grief and despair as all of our shortcomings and failures are magnified. Supporters of presidential candidate Senator Obama are quite familiar with the word "change," whereas supporters of Senator McCain are surely accustomed to hearing language like "reform" in reference to Washington D.C. Whichever of the two is elected, they will somehow, in some way, be different from President George Bush or even President Bill Clinton. Fundamentally, though, they won't be different enough for me.

Over the past eight years, the Republican Party has caused serious injury to this country, the Democratic Party is complicit with its cooperation (through their silence and opportunistic politics), and both parties have innumerable closets with rotting skeletons. Yet I know that asking you, oh reader, to vote for a third-party presidential candidate, who you might even identify with more, is probably futile. You wouldn't listen to facts: such as how the last twenty-eight presidents have come from

either party A or B; or how our nation is in \$53,000,000,000,000 aggregate debt; or that there are tent cities popping up in Los Angeles; or about the constantly overlooked monstrous military-industrial complex; or how the current system doesn't allow you to really choose who is the best qualified to lead, but rather that you are presented with a set of predetermined options. The list goes on.

You might concede that yes, these are all grave concerns and the two parties are naturally by default responsible, but you'd shrug your shoulders when challenged to take action. In most of you there's a mental block when it comes to supporting and voting for the unpopular and marginalized, even if you agree with them more than the other two candidates. The belief that one has a democratic obligation to change a broken system that allows only two political ideologies to rule has been forgotten.

Do you want real change? Real reform? Overlook the presidents; your vote carries so much more weight in Congressional and local elections. It is in these two arenas that you, my college peers, can make a significant impact—choose brighter futures. The two institutions have failed again and again, stepping into power whenever the other screws up more. That kind of leadership cannot be trusted.

Yes, it will take time to research and find



that new party to support. But by voting for the same guys, you reinforce their perception of immunity to accountability. Go look up the Constitution Party, Green Party, Libertarian Party, Peace and Freedom Party or some other third party. Support and vote for them. Work to change ballot

laws and debate rules. Make noise when the media networks overstep their boundaries. Wake up! I want you to yell, in the words of Howard Beale, "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

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IF I HAD A HAMMER: How do we begin erasing racism?



KAELEY
PRUITT-
HAMM

COLUMNIST

From Tina Fey to Newsweek, "crushing" celebrity endorsements to comedic slams, many Americans and international citizens are participating in a discussion regarding who should govern the country. Questions like, "Is America ready for a black or woman president?" or "How many houses does McCain really have?" are looming as giant elephants (or donkeys) in the national room. States have gone through this process for thousands of years. However, I think one question still remains as the biggest "donkephant" of them all: What

questions should we really be asking?

Sometimes, this question seems to define the line between horror and order. For example, after a devastating genocide of 800,000 people, a result of colonial powers' divisive effect on "ethnic groups" in Africa, Rwanda has been struggling to find a balance between acknowledging and enforcing the proportional divide between the political/ethnic groups of Hutu and Tutsi and pretending that divide is nonexistent.

The other struggle Rwanda faces, then, is in the search for what criteria to base its governance on. If fear of being beaten or imprisoned for speaking out were gone, what lines would Rwandan citizens' vote fall under? Would they vote for someone based on ethnicity,

a category whose lines are incredibly fuzzy anyway, but throughout history has gained unnecessary and unfortunate significance? Or would they vote for the person whom they feel would bolster their economy, address the health crisis, or best solve land ownership disputes?

Though it's difficult to see the relationship between ethnic conflict in Africa and politics in the U.S., Americans are dealing with a similar dilemma. American citizens often subconsciously decide between voting based on identity and voting based on issues. Even college admissions offices are deciding whether or not criteria for admittance should be swayed by a student's placement in a minority class based on race, their geographic location, or gender.

In many ways, the phenomena of voting for female political candidates just to further gender equality in the nation and recruiting minorities to colleges to raise the "diversity rating" in the college handbooks seems quite backwards from the goal of equality. To truly erase racism, it seems that one would have to give up giving out rights based on race and give privilege

based on true qualifications. Positions in U.S. Congress, Rwandan parliament, and the Willamette class of '13 shouldn't be split up into rigid proportions of men and women, Hutu and Tutsi, Asian and Native American, should they?

But there's the thing that's been bothering me. Perhaps in many cases "interest groups" happen to align with "ethnic groups" or vice versa because the teeter totter of power has been heavy on one side for a while, the platform needs to be leveled, and ethnicity happened to once define who was on which side. Political minorities, such as African Americans and women, have been receiving the shaft for many centuries, and perhaps extra efforts are required to make sure that equality prevails.

In order to reach that equality, however, it is still crucial to delve into why we feel tied to a candidate in the first place. Is it due to their approach to foreign policy, or is it due to their lack of an impregnated daughter? If you find that the reasons you support someone are skin deep, you may want to re-think your own admissions process.

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“To truly erase racism, it seems that one would have to give up giving out rights based on race and give privilege based on true qualifications.”

THE BIWEEKLY BEAKER:



LAUREN
VICE DAVID
TAYLOR

COLUMNISTS

Let us start by saying hello from the Olin side of campus. Being chemistry dorks we love, and we mean really love, geeks, nerds and anyone who has multiple pairs of lab goggles. We've noticed though, that there are quite a few people who don't know how cool science is and for that matter how important it is. So we thought we'd bring it to you, welcome to The Biweekly Beaker.

IN THE NEWS Will we cause the end searching for the beginning? It turns out we won't. An experiment outside of Geneva, the Large Hadron Collider is hoping to unlock some fundamental questions about nature itself by recreating the conditions shortly after the big bang. They have been doing this by colliding two beams of particles together at very high speeds and examining the resulting debris. Some have worried that this experiment could

generate a mini black hole capable of swallowing the entire planet. The latest reports on the matter, however, have shown no signs of black holes. Unfortunately the giant physics experiment was turned off this past weekend while problems with a magnet failure were examined. While no end has been approached, we are still far away from determining the beginning.

Source: BBC News

KITCHEN SCIENCE an 18 ft. eruption: Mentos and Diet Coke have become an Internet sensation. This simple experiment is commonly known to create an enormous eruption not regularly seen outside of a science lab. All you need is a roll of Mentos, and a 2-Liter bottle of Diet Coke. Drop the Mentos into the Coke bottle as fast as you can and stand back. Is this chemistry at its finest? Definitely not. No, this phenomenon is a physical reaction. Carbon Dioxide, CO₂, is the gas in soda that provides the bubbly sensation. Surrounded tightly by water molecules that form a mesh like structure in soda, CO₂ has no room to expand. When

Mentos are dropped into Diet Coke the gelatin and gum arabic of dissolving Mentos disrupts the mesh formation allowing the CO₂ to form new bubbles. These bubbles form on the dissolving Mentos in the tiny crevices all over the surface. When all the bubbles form they push the soda out of the bottle forming a huge soda eruption, sometimes as high as 18ft. Montag sells both Mentos and Diet Coke. Now it's your turn, go do some science.

Source: Steve Spangler Science

WHY IS the sky blue?: When light from the Sun reaches the Earth's atmosphere it scatters off of the many molecules in our sky. This is called Rayleigh scattering and is highly efficient with shorter wavelengths of the visible spectrum, such as blue. The majority of light scattered down to the Earth's surface is then predominantly blue. Happy blue skies.

Source: Science Made Simple

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A dose of science

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CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 14-SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

Information provided by Campus Safety

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

► Sept. 16, 9:22 A.M., (Terra House): It was discovered that the doorknob of the housekeeping closet in the kitchen area had been forcefully removed by an unknown individual.

► Sept. 16, 2:00 P.M., (McCulloch Stadium): It was discovered that an unknown individual, using a black marker, wrote/drew illegible graffiti on a bleacher support beam at the stadium.

► Sept. 18, 12:09 A.M., (Belknap Hall): Campus Safety observed a male student climbing out of the second floor south window at Belknap. The student damaged the window screen causing a work order to be initiated.

► Sept. 18, 3:00 A.M., (McCulloch Stadium): An unknown individual cut through a cable lock that was placed to secure the pedestrian gate leading into Bush Park. A new lock was placed on the gate.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

► Sept. 17, 10:23 P.M., (Shepard Hall): A student, suffering from a reaction to an insect sting, was transported to Salem Hospital for treatment due to the pain and discomfort of the injury.

► Sept. 18, 1:45 P.M., (Smullin Hall): An elderly woman collapsed in Smullin B17. Salem Fire and EMS responded and transported her to Salem Hospital to evaluate her.

POLICY VIOLATION

► Sept. 15, 9:00 A.M., (Matthews Lot): An incident report was written and forwarded to Judicial after it was determined that a student had 13 unpaid parking citations.

► Sept. 17, 1:52 A.M., (Smullin/Walton/Montag): Housekeeping reported finding evidence of the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the above locations, in violation of policy. An investigation is in progress to identify the students involved.

HARASSMENT

► Sept. 18, 7:20 P.M., (Kaneko Commons): A student reported that he received several harassing phone calls from the alleged boyfriend of a woman that he met in the

Salem Center. The calls were all in one day and stopped after the victim threatened to contact Salem Police. The suspect's name was never known and the victim erased all of the messages. The victim has not had further contact with the involved woman after learning that she had deceived and misled him.

THEFT

► Sept. 16, 11:45 A.M., (Cat Cavern): A student reported that someone took her I.D. case from her backpack while she was in the Cat Cavern. The case contained her ID and \$100.00 in cash. On Sept. 16 an unknown individual informed her that her ID case was found in the Olin science building. Upon recovering it she found her money to be missing.

► Sept. 16, 8:34 P.M., (Beta Theta Pi): A student reported that he left his laptop and backpack in the foyer area of his residence at 3:00 a.m. He returned to the location at 8:45 a.m. and found the items to be missing. It was later reported that a suspicious individual was seen at the door of the residence at approximately 5:15 a.m. The individual was described as a white male adult, short blonde hair, tall and thin, wearing athletic shorts and a backpack and riding a white mountain-bike.

► Sept. 18, 7:50 A.M., (University Apartments): A student reported that someone had cut the cable lock and stolen his mountain bike from the bike rack at the apartments.

► Sept. 18, 10:18 A.M., (Sparks Lot): An alert witness reported seeing a male white adult, 40 to 50 years old, driving a gray Subaru station wagon, park his car, leaving the motor running. The suspect broke the glass of the right front passenger window and stole a portable GPS unit from the front seat of the victim's vehicle. Salem Police responded and took finger prints from the victim's vehicle.

Please contact Campus Safety if you have any information regarding these incidents.

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