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The case against amateurism in college athletics

KELLEN BULGER
NEWS EDITOR

If you go to the NCAA's website, they have a section where they outline the term "amateurism". The webpage starts by stating "Amateur competition is a bedrock principle of college athletics and the NCAA".

Why is a word that you're more likely to find as the difficulty level in a video game, then used in everyday life, or let alone a multi-billion-dollar company's mission statement, the "bedrock" of an organization? That's because, plain and simple, the concept of amateurism is what keeps the money rolling in.

I have participated in collegiate athletics for two-years now and I love it. I love that I have the chance to run in races with sub-four minute milers from the University of Oregon. I love that I get to represent a little liberal-arts school in Salem at places ranging from rural Wisconsin, all the way to southern California. I feel a part of something bigger than myself. In spite of all the things that a singular sport has brought me, from my best friends in life to a college education—this is not always the reality for myself and hundreds of thousands of other young-adults across the country.

"No I don't think college athletes are given enough time to really take advantage of the free education that they're given. I would love for a regular student to have a student-athlete's schedule during the season for just one quarter or one semester and show me how you balance that. Show me how you would schedule your classes when you can't schedule classes from 2-to-6 o'clock on any given day"

The All-Pro Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman opened up at the Super Bowl media day and went on to describe his struggles as a student-athlete while at Stanford, "....those aren't the things that people focus on when talking about student-athletes. They are upset when a student-athlete says they need a little cash. Well, I can tell you from my experience, I had negative 40 bucks in my account. Usually my account was in the negative more than it was in the positive. You've got to make decisions on whether you get gas for your car or whether you get a meal for the day. You've got one of two choices."

Sherman is right. No, it's not enough to just be thankful to colleges for funneling down a halfway decent scholarship to many previously impoverished, disenfranchised young athletes. Like much of our country at the current moment, college athletics is one of the grossest examples of income-inequality there is. In thirty-nine out of the fifty states in the U.S. the highest paid public-employee is either a college football or basketball head coach. Meanwhile, even the slightest suggestion that there is an imbalance of power drives the most powerful reservations from the wrinkly, white, middle-aged executives at the top of the NCAA. Maybe it's the Nike carbon fiber helmets sported on Saturdays, maybe it's the million-dollar locker rooms that the beaten bodies of these super-human "amateurs" retreat into. Whatever it is, much of the general public and executives at the top alike, think that NCAA athletes should be "unbelievably grateful" for the opportunities that are presented to them.

When I came to Willamette from high-school I felt as though I earned something when I became an athlete on the cross-country and track teams. Up to the moment in which I first put the directions to 900 State Street on my phone and ventured down to Willamette, I had run over 3,500 miles in my high-school running career. I battled severe injuries ranging from a stress fracture to becoming manically depressed, largely as a result of struggling to being able to maintain this perfect balance between the athletics that would hopefully propel me to the schools of my dreams and the academics that would be the foundation for the rest of my life. I missed out on parties, I missed out on school dances, I woke up at 5:30 am for parts of the year to train in utter blackness and 10 degree temperatures. I did all of this, and I am still only a Division III athlete.

THE BROKEN, 8

Empath emphasizes emotional wellbeing

AMARIT UBHI

MADELYN JONES
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Do feel particularly in tune to people's motives and usually find it easy to tell when someone is lying? Do you take on other people's emotions like they are your own? Do people often reach out to you when in need of emotional support?

If your answers to these questions is a strong yes, then you might be an empath. Judith Orloff M.D., expert on the subject and an empath herself, has described this identity in a sentence: "We can sense subtle energy… and actually absorb it from other people and different environments into our own bodies," in Psychology Today's article "The Differences Between Highly Sensitive People and Empaths."

It wasn't until last semester that I learned the word "empath," and many still do not believe it exists outside of science fiction. The most discussion around it that I have seen is in spiritual communities, and it does not yet have a large presence in mainstream conversation.

When I started research on the term, everything I saw lined up with my experiences and feelings and explained parts of my personality that I failed to understand beforehand.

Throughout college, as I have gotten more emotionally aware, I started to realize I would sacrifice spending time with many of my close friends because there would be a person or two invited to the same event that I did not feel comfortable around. I couldn't be in a room with someone who I thought problematic and be happy. I was so confused as to why this affected me so much and not the people around me until I started looking into what it means to have high levels of empathy.

EMPATHIZE , 4

Burn This ignites discussion

RACHEL KINSMAN STECK

Students Ilia Forkin and Jarod Todeschi engage in dialogue in rehearsal. See p.6-7

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Bishop discussion at ASWU meeting

BENJAMIN LOVE
ASWU SENATOR

The Veg Society presented their club, which promotes a community with similar interests revolving around veganism and the negative effects of meat eating. Following the presentation, ASWU Senate approved the club.

The election commission will be gathering soon to prepare for this year's Exec and senate elections. An email from Vice President Landoni will be sent out to students soon outlining how and when elections will take place.

President Wellman will be meeting with the Board of Trustees on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Chief Justice Manfull is working on a referendum to change the ASWU Constitution to make its language gender neutral.

The meeting on Thursday went on to discuss Ed Whipple's decision to raise the wellness fee $310 to fund physical health services and add an additional mental health counselor at Bishop ASWU also discussed how to continue to improve communication and transparency with the student body. Senator Gautereaux suggested forming a Public relations committee.

Associated Students of Willamette University (ASWU) meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. on the first floor of Ford Hall. Students are welcome to attend and participate in discussion.

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Trans student federal protections ending

HEATHER PEARSON
STAFF WRITER

The Education Department says it will no longer investigate or take action on discrimination cases filed by transgender students who are barred from using bathrooms which correspond to their gender identity.

Last February, the Education and Justice Departments withdrew Obama-era bathroom guidances for trans individuals. These previous guidances affirmed that Title IX regulations allow transgender students to use school facilities that match their gender identity. After withdrawing this, the Trump administration maintained that they would still "consider the legal issues involved" in these restroom cases, thus not yet putting forth a solidified position on the issue.

However, in June they stated it was "permissible" for transgender students' cases to be rejected. Then in October, the Justice Department released a statement saying that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act — a ban on sex discrimination at work — does not serve as a protection for trans folks. This statement marks the first time they have stated outright their intention to dismiss all cases about bathroom access brought forth by trans students.

According to Catherine Lhamon, lead of the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights under former President Obama, the new position is unlawful.

"This new categorical bar of civil rights protection for transgender children required to attend schools every day ignores the text of the law, courts' interpretation of the law, the stated position of the Department to date and human decency," she states.

> "Most recently, this statement is the first time they have stated outright that they intend to dismiss all cases about bathroom access brought forth by trans students."

Two federal appeals courts have previously upheld the right for trans students to access bathrooms matching their gender identity. Last May, in Whitaker v. Kenosha Unified School District, judges ruled that a policy which "requires an individual to use a bathroom that does not conform with his or her gender identity punishes that individual for his or her gender non-conformance, which in turn violates Title IX."

Activists and advocates state that while Hill contends that "the law says" transgender students are not protected, the law actually has been in favor of these youth previously and that the administration's position is not a reflection of legal understandings, but instead a reflection of LGBT discrimination.

"The facts now on the table are devastating, though by now unsurprising," summed up Eliza Byard, director of an organization for LGBTQ students, to NPR. The "cruel new policy flies in the face of the highest court rulings on this issue, which found unequivocally that denying transgender students appropriate bathroom access is a violation of Title IX," she continued.

Changes in the application of Title IX affect all schools, public and private. Previously Willamette's position towards trans students has led to the installation of single-user and gender neutral bathrooms around campus. Recently, VP of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Jade Aguilar hosted a trans and non-binary workshop on campus for faculty and staff "to deepen their understanding of trans and non-binary identities and learn best practices for working with students who hold those identities." Workshop presenter Cath Busha covered topics such as understanding trans identities both binary and non-binary, inclusive language and pronouns and strategies to use in the classroom to be more inclusive.

In an invitation sent to staff and faculty for the event, Aguilar concluded, "Let's hold ourselves accountable for learning and growing together as we challenge our inequities and work in partnership to make change happen."

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ELGL puts focus on local government

MATTHEW TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

On Friday afternoon, a group of civic leaders who hold positions in local governments across the country came to Willamette for the first ever to host an event called "Inspiring Local Government Careers", hosted by the advocacy group Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL). The event, which ran for nearly five hours, was attended by approximately 50 students and 20 speakers.

The speakers, all local government officials, represented cities from Salem to Durham, North Carolina and worked in fields ranging from finance, to fire and rescue, to parks and recreation. All, however, stressed the importance and fulfillment of careers in local governments.

"These are high paying jobs," said ELGL's Director of Government Affairs Randy Ealy, "and they're making a difference in lives."

According to their website, ELGL is "a big tent professional association full of innovative local government leaders with a passion for connecting, communicating and educating." By promoting public service on a local level, the organization aims to strengthen these institutions, improving their stature and effectiveness.

Part of this attempt is outreach programs such as the one held on Friday, focused on recruiting talent and inspiring students to pursue jobs in these traditionally undervalued careers. This was the organization's first outreach attempt on a university level, though it plans to continue efforts on other campuses with similar events.

Throughout the U.S., there is a perception that careers in the private sector are more lucrative, fulfilling, and generally better paying than careers in the public sector, especially those on a local level. This is a issue that many ELGL speakers acknowledged, and countered with personal experience.

One common theme expressed by speakers was the fulfillment and they have experienced in their careers in local government, especially when compared to their previous jobs in the private sector.

One reason for this is that the smaller scale of work done in local government allows for greater personal impact. "I have pride in saying I work for the city, making lives better," said one speaker.

"The little actors make a large impact," said another, "every day matters."

Another notion commonly expressed by the speakers was their love for the dynamic nature of their jobs. Because local government is usually small and responsible for providing such a wide breadth of services, workers in these institutions are not limited to a single job. Rather, they often find themselves responsible for a wide variety of tasks.

"Our jobs change hour by hour, day by day" said Madison Thesing, a Management Fellow from Hillsboro and Willamette alumni.

In an era when federal and state governments seem increasingly inept and riddled with issues, careers in local government provide a unique opportunity for young people to gain employment while having their voices heard. The ability of local government to provide meaningful, fulfilling jobs could make careers on this level a growing reality for many young Americans.

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PARKER DREW

A panel representing ELGL speaks to student attendees before turning the floor over to a panel of local government leaders.

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Hundreds demonstrate at Capitol for passing of emissions cap

KELLEN BULGER
NEWS EDITOR

Last week, hundreds of people flooded the Capitol grounds with signs in hand. They were advocating for the passing of a bill which is currently moving through the Oregon Senate. The bill aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their current levels to eighty percent of what the state of Oregon's 1990 greenhouse gas levels were. While this may seem ambitious, Oregon lawmakers, like much of the Pacific Northwest, are continuing a trend of intensified climate policy.

Giving a speech from a podium in Sacramento, California in mid-June of last year, Governor Kate Brown definitively reinforced Oregon's commitment to the Paris Climate Accords, in spite of the decision passed down from the White House to leave the agreement. While the event hosted by California Governor Jerry Brown was seemingly just as much for optics as it was substantive policy, the movement of Senate Bill 44 through Oregon's legislature shows tangible action beginning.

The bill works by establishing a limit in which carbon emissions can't surpass. That limit will be at 25,000 tons of carbon per year and the companies who surpass this will have to pay a sizable fine. This fine they pay will then in turn be used to fund climate change mitigations throughout the state.

Many see the decision to enforce new, dramatic measures that aim to curtail the effects of climate change as a "cascadia phenomenon" or something invented from the politically left leaning states bordering the Pacific Ocean. These same states that have openly defied President Trump's far-reaching policy decisions virtually since inauguration. While the optics of an anti-Trump agenda have always looked nice for Democrats within those states and nationally, one has to wonder, just how effective are these states in actually creating pragmatic policy changes? The answer lies in these bills.

"The issue has been talked about in the legislature for 10 years. As we sit back and debate these things, climate change marches on. It's critical for us to take action," representative Paul Holvey, a Democrat from Eugene, stressed following the protest last week.

So, while it may be tempting to write off these ambitious and eye-catching headlines, they are the sole bastions of hope when it comes to sound climate policy domestically. The EPA recently came under fire for removing content from their website relating to climate change, as well as the White-House's nomination of Kathleen Hartnett-White to the Council on Environmental Quality having to be revoked after 300 scientists co-signed a letter to the Senate urging them to recognize the nominee's "scientific integrity." Our federal government has violently shifted to become firmly in denial of the growing beast that is climate change.

A draft of the United Nation's latest report on climate science concluded that the planet will more than likely rise 1.5 degrees celsius within the 2040's, which could have devastating effects in terms of sea-level rise, habitat fragmentation etc. With that being said, the Oregon Senate Bill 44 becomes much more than a headline. Every day of inaction that passes is movement towards a future fully consisting of catastrophic effects as a result of warmer temperatures. Therefore, it's hard to blame local lawmakers for setting their sights on lofty policy goals moving forward. And it's becoming increasingly more difficult to blame lawmakers when the federal government continually pedals, what's proven to be, climate pseudoscience which effectively marches Americans and the global community alike towards what many see as a dystopian society in terms of fact vs. fiction.

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WU Unplugged starts up on campus

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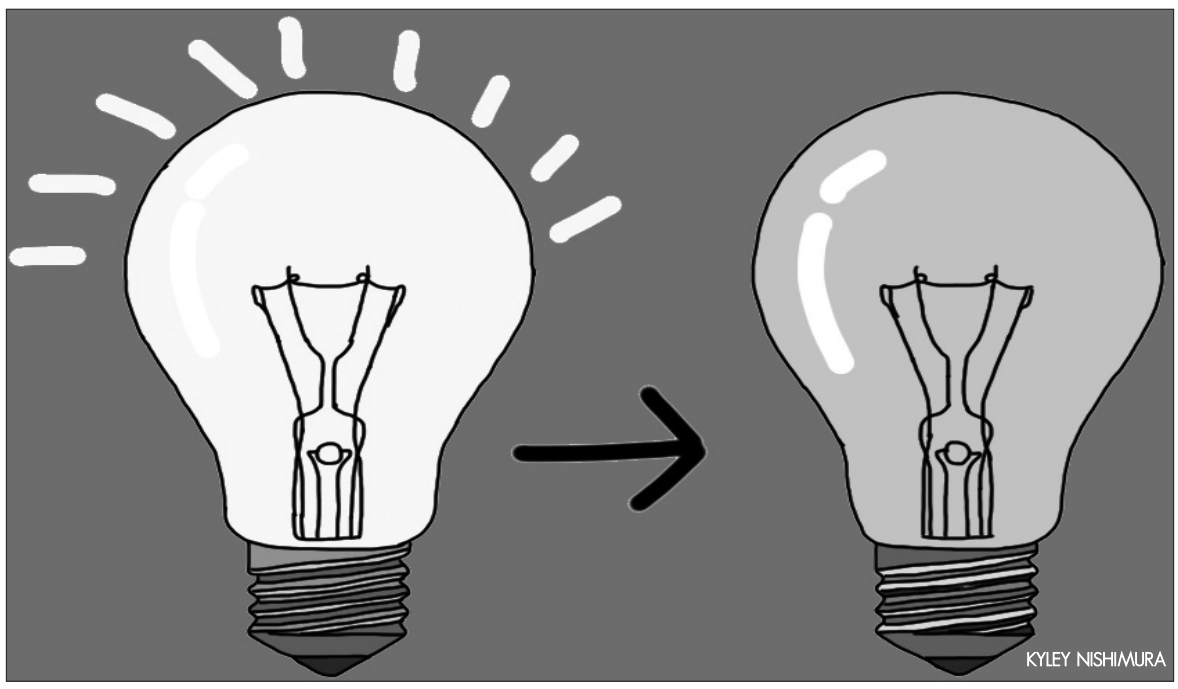
STAFF WRITER

Energy usage in the dorm halls is something every student who has lived on campus has experienced, but likely not put much thought into. How much electricity is wasted by leaving power cords on when they're not in use? What about leaving on the lights in a room when nobody is there?

Junior Ilana Mass had these same questions, and decided to do something about it. Her curiosity and intrigue lead to the creation of Willamette Unplugged, an energy competition between residence halls that began on Feb. 15 and will run until March 15.

This event came into fruition last year when Mass held the role of Sustainable Learning and Living Community Resident Advisor and was enrolled in Chem 110. During a project related to the solar panels at Ford, Ilana realized there was no measure of how much energy students on campus were using, and in turn no accountability for students in trying to reduce their energy usage.

"With the support of the East Side Area Coordinator, Kelly Donaldson, the head of the Sustainability institute, Joe Abraham and energy data from facilities, I wrote a small green fund grant to do research on the feasibility and implementation of an Energy Competition on campus. I got tips from universities all across the country and decided to try to make it happen in the Spring semester after I returned from study abroad. I reached out to students on campus who I thought would be interested in my project. I am currently working with Rachel Fischer, Isabella Mejia, Lauren Collar, and Johannes Griesser without whom I would not have been able to make this happen."


KYLEY NISHIMURA

To ensure data is collected, all residence halls on campus have been metered to collect electricity data. Multiple dorm halls are being grouped together into "teams" which will then compete against each other. To account for size differences of buildings, baseline data was created specifically for each residence hall. The buildings will compete for the largest percent of energy reduction, which will be calculated through the comparison of the amount of energy used and the calculated baseline.

For students looking to reduce their electricity usage and propel their residence hall forward in the challenge, Mass has helped highlight every day actions that will reduce energy usage.

"Be mindful. Unplug chargers or other electronics when they are not in use. Hang out with your friends! Turn off all the stuff in your room and share the electricity by hanging out in common areas. Or better yet, turn off all the electricity using items in your room and your friends room and head outside."

Other ways that students can take initiative over their energy usage is by turning off power cords when they are not in use, choosing to utilize sweaters or blankets for keeping warm instead of turning on the heater, and taking the stairs instead of the elevator.

To get involved in Willamette Unplugged, sign up for their Facebook event and take their Sustainable Living Pledge, which enters you into a raffle that will occur every Friday of the competition. Lastly, while lessening energy usage is a great way to improve environmental footprints, keep in mind that there are still fire codes that must be followed, and some lights in the residence halls cannot be turned off.

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J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations being performed on Friday

SOPHIE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, Feb. 23, internationally-acclaimed pianist Jeffrey Kahane will perform J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations in Willamette's Smith Auditorium.

This concert is part of the 2017-18 Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series, a program that hosts performances by distinguished musical guests. This semester's featured artist is Jeffrey Kahane, a celebrated musician living in Oregon.

Kahane's credentials are extensive. After studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, he went on to perform with the New York Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, among other symphonies. He has also worked as the director and conductor of music groups, notably the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. During his career he has performed in places like Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl, won the grand prize at an international piano competition and has collaborated with other outstanding musicians, including Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Hilary Hahn and more.

The piece Kahane will perform at Willamette, the Goldberg Variations, is a historic composition. In the words of Susan Halpern, who is associated with the Stanford-based St. Lawrence String Quartet, the composition is "one of the great monuments of musical architecture." Originally composed for the harpsichord, Bach's piece includes an aria — an expressive melody — which bookends thirty variations of itself.

The story of the piece's history, while perhaps a bit factually baseless, is compelling. According to legend, Bach was commissioned by a Russian Ambassador living in Dresden, Germany to compose a lyrical piece to help with his insomnia. The resulting nighttime variations were performed by the ambassador's personal keyboard player, Johann Gottlieb Goldberg — hence the name, 'The Goldberg Variations.'

Before his performance of the variations, Kahane will be conducting a master class for Willamette students.

"From the beginning of the Series it's been extremely important to make sure that the people that we invite as artists have interactions with our students," said Professor Jean-David Coen. Dr. Coen is an Artist-in-Residence at Willamette, teaching piano and music history. He is also the artistic director of the Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series. "The musicians that we bring can also give marvelous instruction and enlightening, often inspirational thoughts about the work that they're doing," he said.

Most musicians featured in the series are also excellent teachers. Most, in addition to performing concerts, lead educational events when they visit campus, such as master classes and classroom lectures.

Only select students will receive lessons in Mr. Kahane's master class, but the event is open and free to the public. However, many believe even watching a renowned musician teach can be a valuable experience. Observers can still learn about the interpretation and technical or artistic elements of the music without being the pupil of the lesson. The master class will be held on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 2 — 4 p.m. in Hudson Hall.

Kahane's visit to Willamette will be a rare experience that all students are being encouraged to take advantage of. His Goldberg Variations concert is at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, in Smith Auditorium. Tickets for WU students cost $5, the faculty and staff price is $18, and the regular price is $23. They may be purchased at boxofficetickets.com. For more information on the concert and Kahane, visit willamette.edu/go/goudy.

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Empathize with your local empath

CONTINUED from Page 1

The defining feature of an empath, which was briefly discussed in Orloff's explanation, is how they absorb energy, from people and their environments. This fact comes with many advantages and disadvantages that are not often talked about. Lately, there has been a movement to make classrooms more accessible for introverts and people with different learning styles, but there has yet to be conversations open to how to exist as an empath on campus. I will speak to my experience in hopes to get the conversation started.

It's no secret that the average Willamette student is often stressed from academic work or their personal lives. As an empath by the end of the day, I have not only dealt with my deep well of emotion, but also the people that I have talked to, the people that walk past me on their way to class.

For any one, it is important to release emotions, decompress and participate in self-care. For an empath, it is constantly necessary. However, on a college campus the amount and type of self-care that is needed can be hard to come by.

Empaths cannot turn off their tendency to absorb emotions from people and environments, so living in a dorm setting can be difficult since you are never too far away from other people. With a roommate, someone could enter your space and alter the energy at any time, or you can hear people's voices from the room over or footsteps down the hall. Even with a wall seperating an empath from other people, their energy can still be affected. This makes it hard for empaths to truly have a break from people in order to stop taking on excess emotions.

With schedules full of classes, homework and extracurriculars, it starts to seem like campus is not a place that allows for emotion. Self-care for empaths often consists of letting themselves feel emotions so they do not build up, but it can be hard for students to find that time, especially since this can lead to exhaustion. I often find that I have to choose either emotional self-care or getting a good grade on an assignment.

However, the amount of natural beauty on Willamette's campus gives empaths healthy and comforting energy. Many empaths feels a strong kinship to nature and find solace in being in beautiful places. With the Millstream, Botanical Garden, Zen Garden and Star Trees, there are many places to go on campus to spend sometime feeling revitalized by nature. Even seeing the green of the quad or flowers growing next to sidewalks has been helpful to me on my way to class.

With all of the aspects that make being an empath hard, it has enhanced my life in beautiful ways. It has given me more of a connection to my creative self, helped me establish strong, intimate bonds with people and has given me an appreciation for the small things. Hopefully, in years to come, conversation about empaths and their needs will create a more comofrtable campus for anyone to feel and cope with emotion.

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Help grant inmates peace by Healing Garden

JULIA DI SIMONE
STAFF WRITER

"The landscape in here, the environment in here is sterile, stressful. You know, everything is hard," Johnny Cofer shared with The Oregonian, referring to life at Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP). "It kind of makes us feel like we need to be hard too, to survive in here." To bring a natural healing space to Oregon State Penitentiary's grounds, Cofer and OSP's Asian Pacific Family Club proposed building a Japanese Healing Garden in the prison yard.

We may take it for granted that after a long day spent working indoors, we can step out onto the quad or walk to the Riverfront Park to appreciate the peace of mind nature can bring. However, for the hundreds of prisoners at OSP, who live just a mile away from campus down State Street, access to the outdoors is restricted and regulated, not to mention completely inaccessible while in solitary confinement. The prison yard, which constitutes the outdoors while incarcerated, is devoid of natural beauty. Thus, for the past four years, members of Asian Pacific Family Club (APFC), the Veterans Club, the Lifers club and their partners on the outside have navigated bureaucracy, safety, security regulations and funding challenges to make this Healing Garden a reality.

Renowned Japanese garden designer Hoichi Kurisu, who designed the Portland Japanese Garden, is lending his expertise to this project. Kurisu has donated $80,000 worth of work and materials to create a space where prisoners can connect with nature and themselves. When Kurisu spoke in Hudson Hall on Feb. 11, he described his visit to OSP to meet with the project's organizers. Despite the group's worries that the project would hit insurmountable roadblocks along the way, together they envisioned a living garden thriving around the existing Veterans' memorial which has been on OSP's grounds since 2014. Kurisu says the Healing Garden will provide healthy distraction for visitors by immersing them in their senses of touch, taste, hearing, smell and memory. Kurisu's design will include a wooden gate where visitors can leave behind any hatred as they enter, a koi pond and small waterfall to enjoy and a wooden bridge to help visitors step into a new era as they cross the water.

Kurisu remarked that he never imagined his work could end up in a prison, but that this project is connected to a wider history of creating transformative spaces while living in confinement. Japanese Americans incarcerated by the U.S. government in concentration camps in the 1940s built Japanese Healing Gardens to celebrate and uphold their personhood and well-being.

Though OSP is geographically closer to our campus than the I-5, prisoners are kept invisible from the rest of society. Many of us may never meet these people, but we can still recognize our shared need for a dedicated space to decompress from the stress of the day. Johnny Cofer shared with Oregon Public Broadcasting that life in prison "creates a lot of anxiety, a lot of stress. To me, this will be the first place where it's all-inclusive, where everyone can go there, of any culture, of any power structure, staff, inmates. We can all go there and feel some sense of safety, some sense of peace. In this type of place, that's almost unheard of."

Melissa Michaux, project partner and professor of politics and women and gender studies here at Willamette, shared that the Healing Garden is close to reaching its funding goal. Members of the APFC have been collecting donations through grants, donations from outside partners and inside prison from fellow prisoners who make extremely limited, if any, incomes while incarcerated. Additionally, artists within APFC are selling their incredible artwork to raise funds. If the project's funding needs are met in the coming weeks, construction of the Healing Garden will begin this spring, becoming the first restorative Japanese garden ever built inside a U.S. prison.

As a community, we know how valuable it is to walk home from class amongst swaying redwood trees and skittering gray squirrels. When school gets stressful, we can take refuge in a trip to Zena Farm or a hike with the Outdoor Program to escape. Let's help the OSP community break ground on their Healing Garden this Spring. Visit http://nakasec.org/garden to donate.

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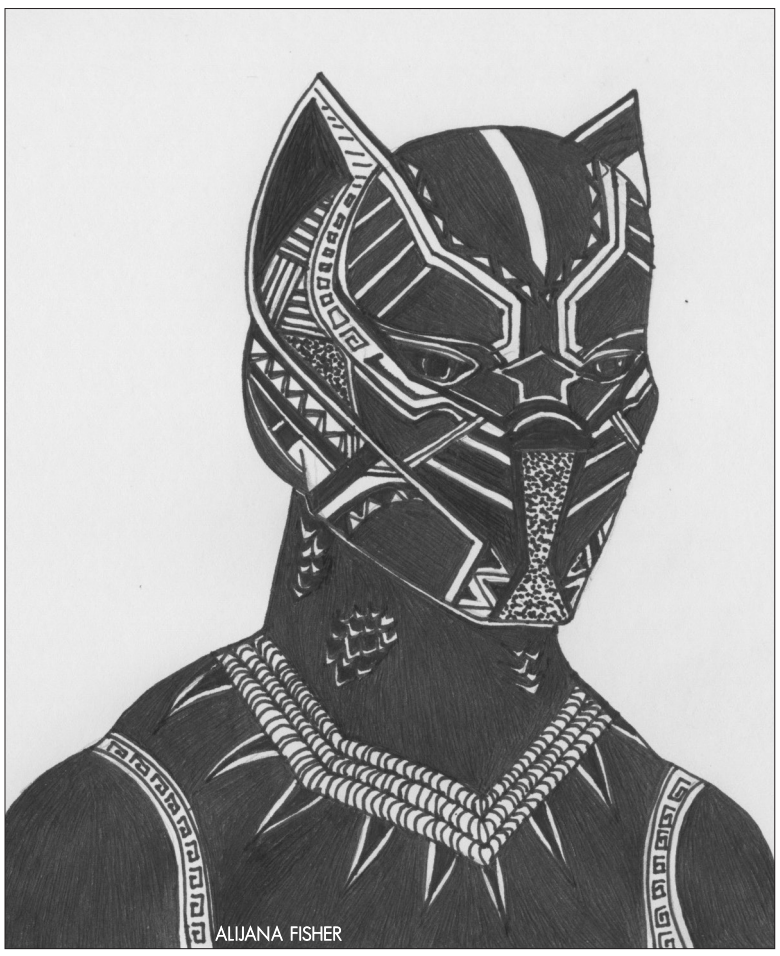
Long awaited "Black Panther" brings the power back

DORIAN GRAYSON
STAFF WRITER

"Black Panther" is a triumph of a film. Ryan Coogler, the director, didn't receive enough critical recognition for "Creed" in 2015, and now, he and Michael B. Jordan, the movie's villain, are back to earn the widespread acclaim that has now taken over the popular zeitgeist. I'm sure I'm not the first to tell you that "Black Panther" is great and I hope I'm not the last.

What's surprising about "Black Panther" is how misleading the title is; "Black Panther" rejects the model of "Iron Man" for the ensemble cast of "Captain America: Civil War," but with refreshingly new solo characters and a detailed setting. The typical Marvel solo movies are usually about fleshing out the main character so people are excited when they show up in the next Avengers movie or cameo in a less-popular hero's film. The Marvel formula dictates the movie must show the title character's journey to become selfless and defeat an evil mirror of themselves, which "Black Panther" fits. However, the typical formula is deviated from, as "Black Panther" doesn't forget to support its setting or side characters.



For as much as I love "Thor," Asgard never felt like a place, only scene dressing. "Black Panther" manages to make Wakanda feel real, alive and magical. Part of this is accomplished by the contrast with other locations in the film. The story's beginning in Oakland, California and act two's digression to Busan, South Korea have very different tones and music, which helps to flesh out Wakanda by contrast.

"Black Panther" also misleads you by being about so much more than the titular T'Challa himself. The movie is truly about an ensemble and act five's big battle is about many more characters than T'Challa. Unlike "Iron Man," where the whole movie is about making one character cool, "Black Panther" has cool to go around. Many side characters in "Black Panther" would be breakout fan favorites in any other film, but here serve as a textured patchwork of excellence.

Chadwick Boseman gives an amazing performance as T'Challa, seeming much more comfortable in the character than in "Captain America: Civil War." Michael B. Jordan does a great job with Killmonger, who is the best Marvel villain since Loki, with much more to say than the trickster god did. Shuri, T'Challa's sister played by Letita Wright, was my personal favourite and expertly balances the comedy and seriousness of her character, which was difficult since they gave her the brunt of the comedy. I'd love to list every person who worked on the movie because there isn't a bad performance in the bunch (with the exception of Andy Serkis's occasional overacting as Klaue), but I don't have space. Everyone turns in great work here.

Despite coming from very different artists, Kendrick Lamar's original songs and Ludwig Goransson's score are expertly handled throughout the movie, never bleeding into the background or standing out too much. A lot of credit has to go to the editors, Debbie Berman and Michael P. Shawver, for how well this movie's sound is handled.

A major aspect of why this movie is excellent is how unapologetic the entire cast and crew are in the film's blackness and political relevance. What in other films would be sanded off by test audiences and left to subtext is explicit text in "Black Panther." The movie begins and ends with scenes of black children being inspired by Wakandan technology and T'Challa, which is clearly its aim. There's a reason churches and other youth groups have been organizing to get kids into the theaters for this movie.

"Black Panther" is such an accomplishment it makes me feel less bad about capitalism. Despite being yet another injection of cash into one of the biggest entertainment monopolies, "Black Panther" is explicitly political and fantastic. It seems Ryan Coogler, like James Gunn, understands how to work within the system and deliver an incredible film at the same time, which is all we can ask for if Disney doesn't lose its status as a monolith.

I have seen "Black Panther" three times already and intend to go a fourth. It is the best solo Marvel movie. I highly recommend seeing it, although box office numbers indicate you probably already have.

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Bashir's performance mixes science and poetry

SARA FULLERTON
STAFF WRITER

Last Monday evening, Samiya Bashir — poet, scholar and creative writing professor at Reed College – shared her poetry in the Hatfield Room through outpourings of sonic, dramatic and multimedia expression.

Those present felt the total body experience that is Bashir's artistry. Her poetry draws bodies together in a common visceral experience that transcends logic with its immediacy and sheer power.

At her master writing class earlier in the day, Bashir guided participants to the page with breathwork, dropping us into our bodies and into our community space as we breathed together to her count.

These experiences gave me a framework to better comprehend Bashir's understanding of poetry as an active agent that both "generates" and "implies" community.

In one poem, Bashir says, "Hey you: Let's toss our tarantellas across the tracks. Let's reveal one another bit by puckered bit. Let's emit this fit of heat before we burn. Or let's burn." There is a thermodynamic quality to Bashir's poetry. She continually draws the listener into an experience, building a sense of place through vivid sensory appeals like heavy breathing and onamonapia.

In her newest collection of poetry, "Field Theories," Bashir writes about race as synthesized through the laws of thermodynamics. Her father was a math and science teacher, and so her creative self was cultivated in scientific worlds. Bashir said science was "the land in which the language was created."

Using scientific vernacular as her foundation, Bashir critiques and complicates dominant narratives of race, gender and power. She suggests multiplicity and complexity in her title "Field Theories," rather than accepting a unifying or singular "theory." She doesn't just operate within a system of scientific language, but rewrites it through creation of new terms like "blackbody radiation" and "blackbody theory" that express the beauty of blackness.

Since Bashir's artistic expression is multidimensional, she calls the book of poetry her "ink on tree" manifestation. She needed to also "get it off the page" before it was ever "solidified there," and capture her poetry in modes that could not be confined to print.

To do this, she collaborated with other artists to produce six videos, one per month for the six months preceding "Field Theories'" publication. The videos remix her poems, with words from different poems intersecting so that the work is "in conversation with itself," as she said. Phrases layer over each other and repeat.

In her performance, Bashir also interrupted her videos with her own poetry reading. She would speed ahead when I wanted her to slow down, and linger where it was uncomfortable, so that silence too became an active agent.

As he introduced Bashir on Monday night, Willamette English and American ethnic studies professor Omari Weekes described her work as a "careful and dense articulation of the multiple temporalities and spaces that we all inhabit."

To acknowledge these multiple temporalities, Bashir seemingly disorients her audiences by refusing to allow a linear experience of time. Her performance art does not offer many guideposts or vocal cues to suggest beginnings or ends.

The effect was like a haunting fever dream I wanted to stay in. Striking deliberations from that night still penetrate my consciousness now. Phrases like "I bear the long silence of my own extinction," "Light speed = need = constancy," "We are our own shadow. We are want of touch. We are biting. We are hungry. We are a stopped carousel" and "Did anyone ever ask?"

Through repetition and renewing contexts, these phrases get absorbed into the listener's subconscious, rumbling there. Their constant rearrangement and emergence in seemingly arbitrary contexts led me to experience them as transcending context.

Bashir believes anything can be a poem. The creation process is about "putting the pressure where you want it," whether that be a sonic or visual or tactile appeal, then lingering there in discomfort, "breathing, and letting the work do what it needs to."

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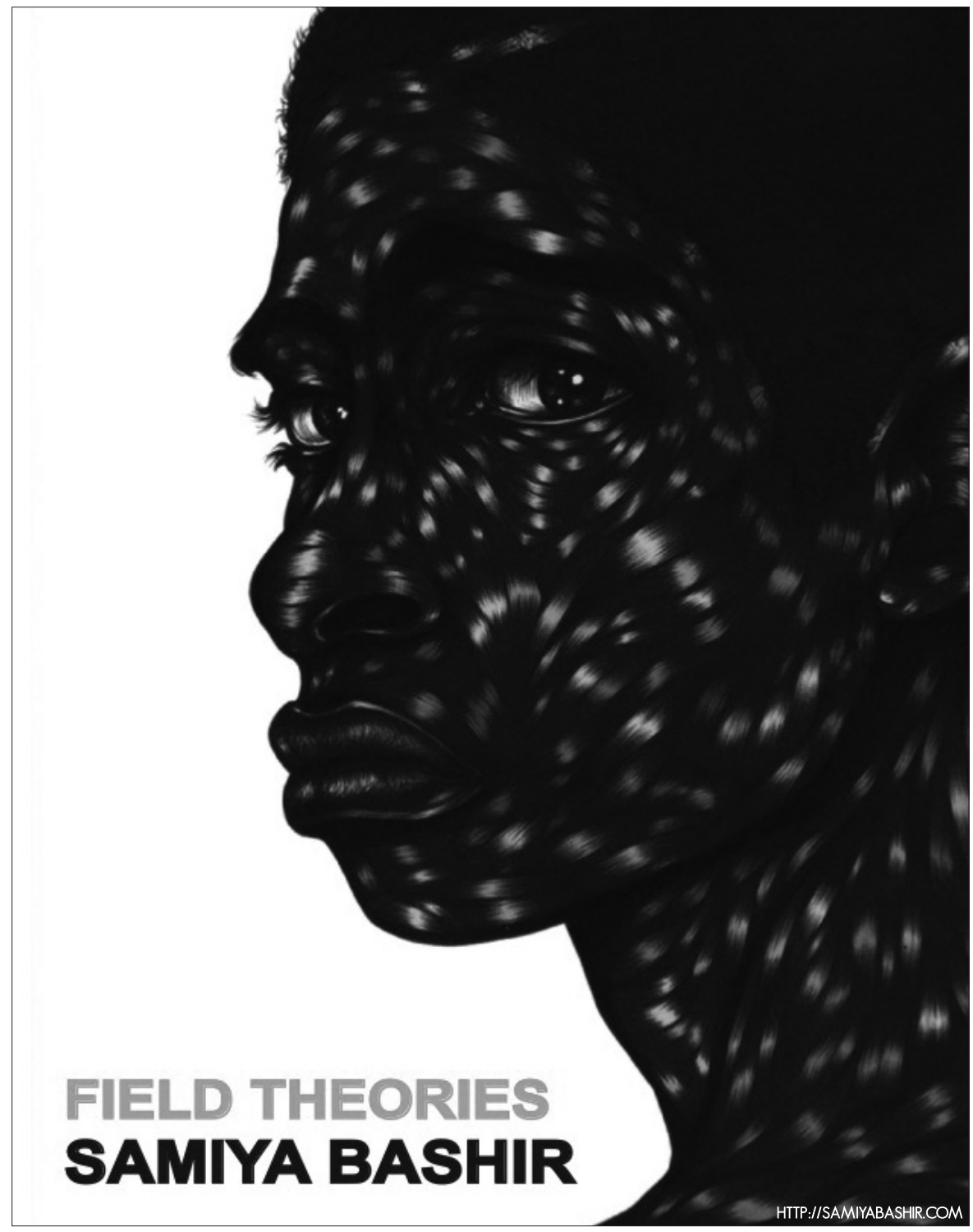

Oscar nominations show diversity improvement

JAROD TODESCHI
STAFF WRITER

On March 4, the red carpet will rollout at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, CA for the 90th annual Academy Awards. Presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the ceremony aims to honor achievement in film this last year. As historic white-washing and lack of intersectional inclusion in film continues to be a major problem in the movie industry, this year's pool of nominees seem the most encompassing in years.

Guillermo Del Toro's "The Shape of Water" leads the list with 13 nominations, including best picture, director and screenplay for Del Toro, as well as leading and supporting actress nominations for Sally Hawkins and Octavia Spencer. With this nomination, Spencer becomes the first black woman to follow up an Oscar win — for 2011's "The Help" — with two more nominations, for "The Shape of Water" and last years "Hidden Figures."

Jordan Peele also celebrates a historic moment with his film "Get Out," as he became the first black person to receive best picture, best director and best original screenplay nominations in the same year. He is also only the fifth black director to be recognized in the category.

Greta Gerwig joins Del Toro and Peele in the directing race, similarly as only the fifth woman to ever be nominated in the category for her ode to Sacramento, "Lady Bird," which also earned nominations for its central mother-daughter duo, in Saoirse Ronan and Laurie Metcalf, respectively.

Rachel Morrison becomes the first female cinematographer ever nominated for Netflix's "Mudbound." For the same movie, Dee Reese is the first black woman nominated in the adapted screenplay category, and Mary J. Blige is the first performer to ever be nominated as an actor and singer for her best supporting actress and best original song contributions.

Further, Yance Ford is the first openly transgender person to be nominated for an Academy Award for his documentary "Strong Island." The documentary category also contains the oldest person ever nominated for an Oscar, Agnes Varda, for their film "Faces Places" at 89.

While Del Toro is favored to win best director for "The Shape of Water," his socially complex sea monster espionage love story, the Oscars can be known for upsets and switch ups from predictor shows like the Critics Choice, British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) and Golden Globe telecasts. If those award shows hinted at anything with near certainty, however, it might be the four acting categories.

Gary Oldman, considered an industry veteran is largely favored to be honored with his first trophy for leading actor after portraying Winston Churchill in "The Darkest Hour." Celebrated and decorated television comedian Allison Janney might also add an Oscar to her cabinet for her supporting take as Tonya Harding's allegedly abusive mother in reputation redemption biopic "I, Tonya." For "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," Frances McDormand, who also won for "Fargo" in 1996, and first time nominee Sam Rockwell are expected to take the leading actress and supporting actor prizes.

"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," and "The Shape of Water" have emerged as the two films likely contesting for the top picture honor, one year after the infamous "Moonlight," "La La Land" envelope mix-up. Many hopefuls won't count "Get Out" or "Lady Bird" out either. The remaining films, "The Darkest Hour, " "Dunkirk," "Phantom Thread," "The Post" and "Call Me By Your Name" complete the years best picture nomination.

Many considered "Call Me By Your Name" snubbed in the supporting actor category for performances by Armie Hammer and Michael Stuhlbarg, though newcomer Timothée Chalamet — who also appeared in "Lady Bird" — was recognized along with the adapted screenplay.

Other public disappointments included no recognition for the mega successful "Wonder Woman," or breakout performer Tiffany Haddish in all female buddy comedy "Girls Trip." James Franco was also absent from the nominations despite early award season wins and predicted successes. In the week leading to the announcement of nominations, Franco was accused of sexual misconduct on multiple accounts. Last year's best actor winner, Casey Affleck, who usually presents the next years actress accolade, allegedly withdrew from the ceremony, perhaps due to misconduct allegations that accompanied him prior to last years win.

Though Hollywood's issues of inclusion are far from fixed, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has had to take the fall for the timeline of institutionalized power politics in the movie industry. While the blame is misplaced, the organization has done their best to influence greater change for the bigger picture. 90 takes in, the Oscars are pushing to give everybody a fair shot.

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Once is no

Speaking "trans

ILIA
GUEST WRITER

Within a week of being cast as Anna in "Burn This," I had received three spontaneous invitations to "talk about the show" from Willamette's communications team. The simple victory of being cast as a cisgender woman in a play became the catalyst for an explosion of unknowns; Who told them? Who told them who I am? Who told them I'm transgender? Who told them I'm playing a woman? Is this public knowledge? I had been rehearsing for maybe a couple of days and suddenly people I'd never heard of before were emailing me to ask me my pronouns and calling me by a name which I had been going by for barely two weeks. More sinister than the question of "who" was the question of "why" which quickly followed — Why did they tell them? Is someone worried about me? Is someone angry with me? Did we do something wrong? My gmail "unread" box was suddenly imbued with the ability to induce an anxiety usually reserved for my most insecure and public moments. The same anxiety that strikes me when someone stutters before they refer to me, or when Ed Whipple glares at me when he sees me in a dress around campus, or when someone who hasn't spoken to me in a while avoids eye-contact when they catch me walking passed them in heels. The anxiety of not knowing what they're thinking, and assuming the worst.

In the theater, my transness was passed around in secret as if it were something fragile — as if it, or maybe I, was delicate enough to break if it was ever spoken aloud. Stranger than anything else, it often felt as if this secret was being protected specifically from me. Under the guise of shielding students from a supposedly ignorant and careless public, the people around me were doing everything they could to avoid contextualizing their behavior by explicitly announcing that I'm transgender, ignorant of the fact that I already practically shout it for everyone to hear every time I walk into a room in a skirt. Despite what felt was like a refusal to speak about my transness aloud, it was somehow the only thing I heard when I walked into the theater. In the time that I've spent out of the closet, I've become at least conversational in the coded language that all cisgender people employ when they talk about me and other transfeminine people.

Here's a quick crash course of what I've picked up so far: when they refer to you exclusively in the third person as a lady or girl (gurl) every other sentence when you're in the room, it means that they're terrified that they're going to forget to not call you a man and they need to remind themselves as often as possible. When they call you "he" to a cashier or waiter, it means that they're so afraid of the prospect of complicating this scripted interaction that they'd rather just pass the buck to you for now. When they tell you that they call everybody "dude" unprompted — actually, you can probably just figure that one out on your own. When they repeat to you that they feel that "we need to do something to get the audience to lean in," and "if we don't say anything about the casting then we're not starting the conversation," what they mean is that they're worried that if we don't put something in the program for this play to explain why we put a transgender person on stage, somebody might ask them, and then they'll have to admit that they still don't really know. Or something like that.

All of this is, of course, is conjecture. But that's part of the problem. Because every instance a conversation about the impact or lack-thereof of my transness on this production was reserved for the moments where I was absent or buried in subtext, I had to have those same conversations with myself, alone, a dozen times. Every time someone spoke to me about the casting of the play in vague terms that insured they wouldn't have to say "transgender," the voice in my own head would yell that same word louder and in a tone that blurred the line between self-declared identity marker and epithet. Queer people, in my experience, can play one hell of a devil's advocate when it comes to solitary conversations about our self-worth. The most frustrating thing about this kind of treatment is that there's nothing you can ever say, because there's nothing that they've really done.

As satisfying as my recurring fantasy of shouting "transphobe" at certain members of the Willamette administration when they shoot me a double-take in the UC may be, I could always be wrong. Maybe that's just the way they look at people, or maybe they're thinking about something else. I doubt it. Nonetheless they can always make excuses, and my paranoia, though far from being unfounded, is often misplaced. For every meeting I had agreed to participate in, I had psyched myself up for a fight, stomping into the room with my nails freshly done and poised to go to toe-to-toe with these administration suits who thought I was a problem that needed to be dealt with. And each time, my thoroughly prepared plan of attack was thrown on its head when I found myself confronted with kind and genuinely curious people who just wanted to check in, or hear my perspective. As this university has begun to acknowledge my queerness and engage with it, rarely have the people themselves been anything but kind. The stifling silence they always wrap my transness in — as a defense, as an escape — has been far less accommodating.

Transgender is an umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, gender expression or behavior does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth.

Gender identity refers to a person's internal sense of being male, female or something else; gender expression refers to the way a person communicates gender identity to others through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, voice or body characteristics.

"Trans" is sometimes used as shorthand for "transgender." While transgender is generally a good term to use, not everyone whose appearance or behavior is gender-nonconforming will identify as a transgender person. The ways that transgender people are talked about in popular culture, academia and science are constantly changing, particularly as individuals' awareness, knowledge and openness about transgender people and their experiences grow.

Every time someone spoke to me about the casting of the play in vague terms that insured they wouldn't have to say "transgender," the voice in my own head would yell that same word louder and in a tone that blurred the line between self-declared identity marker and epithet. Queer people, in my experience, can play one hell of a devil's advocate when it comes to solitary conversations about our self-worth.

ot enough:

s" in the theatre

Sex is assigned at birth, refers to one's biological status as either male or female, and is associated primarily with physical attributes such as chromosomes, hormone prevalence, and external and internal anatomy.

Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for boys and men or girls and women. These influence the ways that people act, interact, and feel about themselves. While aspects of biological sex are similar across different cultures, aspects of gender may differ.

Queer is used as umbrella terminology for sexual and gender minorities who are not heterosexual and or are not cisgender.

Sexual orientation is an enduring pattern of romantic or sexual attraction (or a combination of these) to persons of the opposite sex or gender, the same sex or gender, or to both sexes or more than one gender.

Appropriately, the sting of silence is felt all throughout "Burn This," the play itself. Set in 1987 in Manhattan, Lanford Wilson's heterosexual love triangle narrative is rife with subtext about gay life and suffering in that era. Beginning the play with the death of two young gay men immediately evokes the specter of AIDS, but Wilson, a gay man, chose to make their deaths accidental, and to keep the disease and all its baggage unspoken throughout the story, keeping it apparitional. This curious suspension of reality highlights AIDS' persistence in the mind of the gay community and the media while simultaneously showing a group of people who found a way to maintain joy and meaning in their lives outside of and despite the epidemic. The dynamics of Larry, the only gay character featured on stage in "Burn This," create a second kind of absence.

By indulging in a two-dimensional portrayal of gayness — by showing the audience exactly what they expected and hoped to see —Wilson isolates Larry both from the other characters on stage who repeatedly fail to give him space to grieve, and from the straight audience, who are presented with the option to accept and consume him as a comedy prop instead of a person.

I like to think that this portrayal came from an attempt to paint queer isolation in its entirety, rather than from a place of cynicism and mistrust for the audience. From the inside of this play, Larry has felt to me like a way in for queer people to grieve for what we have lost from being tokenized, taken for granted and spoken for instead of to. But there is also an unfettered joy in these silences. There is a heavy respite embroidered into this play about gay men in New York in the 1980s that becomes palpable when its two and a half hours of story are played out without ever mentioning AIDS.

This relief is revived and made anew, for me, in the two and a half hours I get to spend without the possibility that someone might ask me who I am or why I express myself in the way I do. There is no preamble to declare the presence of a transfeminine person, no announcements to warn people not to offend me. There is nothing to insinuate anything about who I am except for my chosen name next to a female character in the program. Nobody asks me about my pronouns because they're already there, in the script. Temporary and somewhat imperfect as it may be, it is nonetheless unarguably one of those brief moments where I can inhabit and relish my identity without talking about it, without analyzing it, and without being reminded that people sometimes fear it. In turn, the play and its rehearsal have become spaces for that moment to erupt into strings of occasions for laughter, comfort, discovery, sympathy and queerness.

Despite the frustration, there is a genuine joy in having created some space that wasn't there before. Casting queer people in a play in the way we wanted to be cast is, without a doubt, a victory of sorts. As we celebrate that, we have to confront everyone who is still waiting in the wings. As voices erupt in Willamette and online, advocating the positive impacts of greater visibility, we have to acknowledge that the space that has been reclaimed sometimes obfuscates those who we're still leaving behind as much as it centers us. When is the last time a playwright of color was featured in our theatre? How many people have been turned off or turned away from our art spaces because they're too white, too straight, too expensive or too inaccessible? Let's not pretend that we can check off "transgender" on a list of identities we need to accommodate. Let's not pretend that the work has already been done.

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If you or someone you know would like to support this community or would like more information, call Willamette's Center for Equity and Empowerment at (503) 370-6112. Resources can also be found at Bishop Wellness Center, The Office of the Chaplins as well as online.

Bearcats Sweep

JARIN KOBASHIGAWA
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, the Bearcats traveled to Sherwood Athletic Center and beat Whitman University, giving them their third loss of the season, 62-55. Junior Britany Kochenderfer led the way for Willamette, scoring a career-high 24 points, she was 3-for-3 from the three-point line and 9-for-12 shooting field goals. Additionally, Kochenderfer had four rebounds, three steals, one assist and one blocked shot. The Bearcats scored the first four points of the game, and held a steady lead throughout the quarter.

Heading into the second quarter the Bearcats led 19-14. Beginning the 2nd quarter, the Bearcats went on a 5-0 run and increased their lead by the end of the quarter, 34-22. Later in the third quarter, the Blues reduced the lead by going on an 11-3 run, making the score 46-41.

The Bearcats bounced back to increase their lead once more, ending the third quarter at 51-41. Similarly, in the fourth quarter, the Blues cut the margin by going on an 11-1 run, bringing them within five points of Willamette. A Blues player swished a three-pointer with 33 seconds remaining, and the score was 60-55. Kochenderfer made the last points of the game with two free throws to seal the win. Besides Kochenderfer, senior Kylie Towry had a great game, scoring 17 points along with eight rebounds and two steals. Senior Ashley Evans also contributed with eight points and five assists while First year Jada Leonard finished with seven points and seven boards.

On Saturday, the Bearcats played their last NWC regular season game against Whitworth University and toppled them 67-56, with the help of Evans who scored 18 points on six three-pointers. Kochenderfer contributed to the win with 14 points and 14 rebounds. Towry also had 14 points which consisted of three 3-pointers.

In the first quarter the Bearcats struggled to make a basket but sunk three three-pointers and a made free throw by senior Mary Eckenrode to hold a marginal lead. They fell behind by a three pointer seconds before the first quarter ended, but came back to take the lead by four in the first minute of the second quarter. Throughout the second and third quarters Whitworth and Willamette exchanged leads multiple times. It was the Bearcats who came out on top at the end of the third quarter and holding a four-point lead, 49-45. With 4:22 left in the game the Pirates closed in within six points of the Bearcats, 59-53, but it would be the closest they would get for the remainder of the game. The Bearcats improved to 16-9 overall and 12-4 in the NWC. Whitworth ended at 10-5 overall and 5-11 in the NWC. The NWC conference tournament will begin on February 22, George Fox University, the number one seed and NWC regular season champion, will face Lewis & Clark College. This will be Willamette's first NWC Tournament appearance since 2000-01. The Bearcats will face number two seed Whitman in Walla Walla, Washington on Feb. 22. The game is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m (PST).

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Women's Basketball team raises money to fight cancer

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SPORTS EDITOR

The Willamette women's Basketball team as been excelling on the court as of late. They completed their first winning season since 2000-2001 and they finished in third place during the regular season in the Northwest Conference.

However, their feats off the court may be more impressive. They are currently participating in the Coaches vs. Cancer 3-point Challenge, and they need our help. Fans can go to this link: https://pledgeit.org/cvc18-willamette-women, and pledge a certain amount of money for every three pointer the Bearcats make. This will surely make a lot of money for the American Cancer Society, because the Bearcats make it rain from downtown, averaging just under eight threes per game.

Assistant coach Katelyn Gruys said the team got involved with the fundraiser because, "We only had one home game in the month of February and we thought the 3 point challenge would be a great way to bring awareness and help raise money to The American Cancer Society on the road."

As of Feb. 14 the Bearcats had raised the fourth largest amount of money, behind schools like Florida, Villanova and North Carolina. Coach Gruys added, "it has been really fun for the Bearcats to be recognized nationally and competing against these big time universities."

This upcoming week is a huge one for the Bearcats to raise money. Feb. 18-25 is Rally Week for the challenge, where the team with the most NEW pledges will be give $15,000 to their funds and the second place team will be given $5,000.

Please take some time and donate just a few dollars for each three pointer the Bearcats make in their Northwest Conference Tournament game tomorrow night against Whitman.

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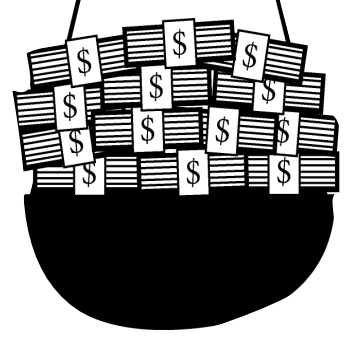
The broken system that is the NCAA

CONTINUED from Page 1

So, here's my call to those who question why we'd ever pay athletes: Imagine what it must be like for a young-athlete whose entire family depends on his/her collective ability to put a ball in a basket or run a lap on a track quickly, in order to effectively mobilize in our deeply flawed



American society. And yet, you still scoff at the absolute audacity of athletes like Shabazz Napier and their want to not have "hungry nights" over the course of their collegiate seasons.

This is not a fun, alternative way of me saying that I'm too busy because of college athletics. I find no pleasure in having to qualify my critiques of a multi-billion-dollar institution in the NCAA through my own personal struggles. The chance that I have to continue doing something I love, while pursuing a quality education is something that I am very grateful for. However, when we see current and former NBA players like Emmanuel Mudiay and Brandon Jennings, who were both highly recruited by the best college programs, signing European basketball contracts out of high school just because of the sheer impracticality of having to spend one year in the NCAA—there's a flaw in the system.

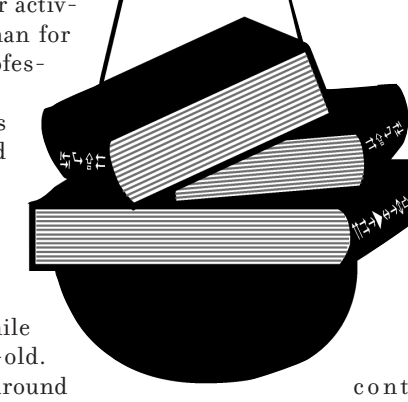
The idea of college athletes being "amateurs" needs to die.

Just in 2017, nearly twenty NCAA athletes broke the four-minute barrier in the mile. This is a feat that was thought to be literally humanly impossible a half-century ago and now you have kids in college breaking four minutes in the mile on Saturday and taking an engineering midterm on Monday. With nutrition and athletic ability progressing to where it is presently, to call our current collection of NCAA competitors "amateurs" is not only demeaning, but patently false.

Dictionary.com defines amateur as "a person who engages in a study, sport, or other activity for pleasure rather than for financial benefit or professional reasons"

Pleasure you say? Let's look at NBA All-Star and recent retiree Caron Butler. Butler, was placed in solitary confinement for selling crack-cocaine and was responsible for a newborn child all while being only 15-years-old. After turning his life around and being released from jail, Butler became the first person in his family to attend a four-year university after receiving a scholarship offer from the University of Connecticut. I bet if you ask him if he was playing basketball at the time simply for the "pleasure" of it, he'd have a very different answer for you.

The NCAA calls amateurism the "bedrock" in which everything relies upon. Maybe so, but this bedrock is one that is riddled with the broken down bodies of high school athletes that could have been as well as the former and active bodies of college athletes who continue to carry the $10.8-billion-dollar organization on its back while living below the poverty line and getting yelled at by coaches whose hair gel costs more than their athlete's monthly grocery budget.



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Baseball opens Northwest Conference

JARED SPOHR
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend, Bearcat baseball took on the Linfield Wildcats to open conference play. After an excellent performance by junior starting pitcher Matt Steindorf and some hot bats, the men held on to win the first game with a score of 5-3. In the second game, Linfield held an 18-1 lead into the top of the eighth inning until the game was eventually postponed because of darkness. After going 1-2 on the weekend, their overall record fell to 5-6 overall, 1-2 in the NWC.

The first game featured some excellent offense on both ends. In the second inning, senior Jack Brett scored the game's first run after junior Tyler Janitz poked a single into right center, putting Willamette on the board. Steindorf then tossed two more shutout innings, stranding several Linfield runners on base in the process. In the top of the fourth, Linfield tied the score after a weak hit resulting in a throwing error that scored their runner from second base.

The Bearcats executed well in the fifth inning. Janitz got on base first with a single, and then senior Troy Conway layed down a nice sacrifice bunt to get him into scoring position. Janitz then advanced to third when Cameron Igarashi got a hit. Willamette senior Eric Del Prado then smacked a single up the middle that scored Janitz and gave the Bearcats the lead back.

To start the sixth, senior Jack Brett crushed the first pitch he saw over the fence in right for a solo homer, killing the mood for every Linfield fan at the John.

With a 3-1 lead in the seventh, senior Perry Van Eckhardt layed down a sac bunt to move Igarashi to second. Junior Connor Bailey came to the plate.

After falling into a quick 0-2 hole, Bailey went oppo-taco to give the Bearcats a 5-1 lead going into the eighth.

After Linfield started a minor comeback, Steindorf was removed in the top of the ninth after throwing over 148 pitches. Freshman Brandon Murillo sealed the deal with a strikeout to end the game and earned his second save of the season.

The second game of the day was not completed on Saturday due to darkness, as Willamette couldn't mitigate the damage after a 12 run eighth inning.

The Bearcats and junior starting pitcher Ben Whitten held the Wildcats to 1 run going into the top of the fifth. They went on to score five runs in the sixth and had that big inning in the eighth.

Willamette's lone run came when sophomore Joey Faudskar poked a single in the fifth, and was knocked in by a Del Prado double.

The third game of the series is fairly simple when it comes to reporting. Linfield starter Carter Buck threw a one hitter complete game against the Bearcats, with a final score of 3-0.

Willamette starter Brandon Nelson, despite giving up nine hits and walking three, limited the damage. He only surrendered three earned runs in the contest. Relief pitchers Harbour Harrison and Jett Gallagher kept Linfield off the board over the final three innings.

Del Prado recorded the boys' only hit of the day.

Their next series kicks off against Pacific University this coming Saturday.

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Junior pitcher Brandon Nelson prepares to deliver a pitch on Sunday.

Intramurals weekly

DRU DRAPER
STAFF WRITER

Winter Olympic Update!

The US is standing in 5th place in the medal count with 10 medals, as of Sunday. Norway leads the way with 26 medals! Nick Goepper won the silver-medal spot in ski slopestyle and John-Henry Krueger also won a surprise silver in the men's 1000-meter ice skate. Make sure to swing by Montag throughout the day to keep up with the best athletes in the world. Lindsey Vonn (aka the world's best female skier) didn't medal in her first event, but has another chance to on Wednesday in the downhill race.

Anyways, back to IMs!

It's the last week of basketball season. To make sure your team has the best chance to make it into the playoffs, make sure to come out this week and give it a team effort! Also, we do take into account sportsmanship scores, so make sure your having a great attitude out there and competing fairly! The competition has been great this year and we are all looking forward to the best of it with playoffs right around the corner. Come out and battle for the coveted t-shirt!

Make sure to sign up for badminton this week! Grab a friend and make a doubles team. Or, if you want to fly solo, make a singles team and get ready for a competitive season! Go to IMleagues.com and make a profile and team! This is one of our more popular sports so make sure to sign up soon!

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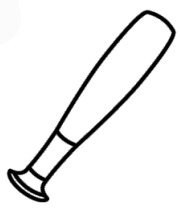
this week in sports

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

AARON ODA
STAFF WRITER

This week in sports was all about new beginnings. For the NBA it's the beginning of the second half of the season and the push for the playoffs. Meanwhile, baseball is back. Let's take a look at this week in sports.

NBA

This week was the NBA all-star weekend. This means the players finally get a week or so break from competition to relax and possibly showcase more of their skills across different competitions. Starting off was the celebrity all-star game that featured stars like Jamie Foxx, Justin Bieber and Nick Cannon, to name a few of the more notable celebrities that showed off their athletic abilities. The game was won by Team Clippers, beating Team Lakers by a score of 75-66 with rap artist Quavo winning the MVP of the game scoring 19 points on 7-10 shooting for team Clippers.

This weekend also includes a skills competition, a dunk contest and a three point contest highlighting some of the special players around the league. The skills competition was won by Brooklyn Nets guard Spencer Dinwiddie who is currently averaging career highs in all major statistics. Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker won the three point shooting competition by defeating splash bro Klay Thompson with a record score of 28 out of 34 points. The dunk contest winner was Donovan Mitchell from the Utah Jazz who showcased a throwback Vince Carter windmill dunk to win the competition. As for the all-star game itself, team Lebron beat team Curry 148-145 in what was described as much more entertaining and exciting for both fans and players. Lebron James won the MVP of the game scoring 28 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists in the game.

MLB

OMG baseball is back! After a long winter with no baseball, spring training has officially begun with all players reporting to camp. We are still about five more weeks removed until the regular season but nothing is more exciting than when players start reporting for spring training to begin the season. This offseason was not as exciting in comparison to basketball's but there still has been a number of trades and signings that will surely make an impact on team's postseason chances. One of the biggest offseason moves was made by the New York Yankees acquiring Giancarlo Stanton from the Miami Marlins, adding his 6 foot 6 inch 245 pound frame to a lineup that already has one of the largest players in history, Aaron Judge. With Yankee Stadium playing relatively "small" you would not be wrong to guess that both Stanton and Judge will be hitting baseballs out of that park in the masses. In one of the biggest signings in recent memory, the Los Angeles Angels signed Shohei Ohtani from Japan who is considered to be the Babe Ruth of Japanese baseball. What makes him special is he pitches and hits well enough for the Angles to use him in both areas but we are going to learn quickly how well his skills compare to the best in the world competing in the MLB.

Olympics

It has been another fun filled week in for the U.S. in the olympics this week. The United States was able to add six more medals and bring their total to 12 with five of them being golds. But this has actually been one of the lowest medal counts for the United States in recent memory and will continue their "losing" streak in the winter games by not having the most medals in the games.

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Hockey won't prevent nuclear war

SOPHIE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The 21st century's Miracle on Ice: North and South Korea have joined forces to assemble a joint women's hockey team for the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang. Appearances of unification like this have been the buzz of the 2018 games, with talk swirling around the world about the possibility of peace in the peninsula. Delegations from North and South Korea marched together under the Korean Unification flag, the military hotline along the border between the countries reopened in January, and Kim Yo-jong, the younger sister of Kim Jong-un, is attending the games. Kim Yo-jong's presence in itself seems to be a gamechanger. She is the first of her family to visit South Korea, where she has met with the country's first lady and invited the president to a summit in Pyongyang.

These are our long-awaited signals that tensions in the region are finally deescalating. No more need to worry about the threat of a nuclear winter, everyone. (How much do you think I could get for an unused fallout meter on eBay?)

But, I would advise caution. While these developments are certainly strides in the right direction, their significance should not be overestimated. The tense relationship between North Korea and the rest of the world is tangled with nuance and duplicity. By now, we are familiar with North Korea's reputation for vicious propaganda, so we would be forgiven to assume these supposed attempts at unification are just more ways to make the country look powerful and reasonable.

When Kim Yo-jong told South Korea's first lady, "Always stay healthy. Make sure you visit Pyongyang with President Moon," how much authenticity did her words carry? Kim Yo-jong's details about this summit were nonexistent while the pleasantries she exchanged with the president and his wife sounded rehearsed and contrived. Is she really interested in a unified Korea, or is she trying to paint her brother's authoritarian regime as an amenable one?

Then there's the bizarre 137-person cheer squad that accompanied the North Korean athletes. Theatrical patriotism like this is a hallmark of the Kim dynasty, one that can easily be written off as a national oddity and one that it's probably best ignored by the rest of us. But spectacles like this are usually reserved for North Koreans — it's rare to see them on a global platform. The country's ambitions are growing. No longer satisfied with only brainwashing its own citizens, now North Korea wants to convince the rest of the world of its unfaltering national pride.

Maybe I'm just being cynical. Perhaps North Korea really is opening itself to the possibility of peace. If this is the case, though, now the ball is in South Korea's court.

South Korean president Moon Jae-in has been a longtime advocate for engagement and unification with North Korea, but he faces challenges from his constituents, particularly those from younger generations. Protesters in Seoul say they are angry their government, in its attempt to instigate genteel peace talks, is overlooking what a cruel and authoritarian regime North Korea is. Unifying the countries would also be financially damaging to South Korea, considering how far behind the economy of its northern neighbor is. In fact, according to The New York Times, 50 percent of South Koreans did not support the use of the Korean Unification Flag at the opening ceremony. Of course most South Koreans want peace in the region — they just don't want to get there the way President Moon is suggesting.

As usual, the greatest barrier on the road to global peace is the United States. Mike Pence, the head of the US Olympic delegation, personified the country's current stance on North Korea during the opening ceremony, refusing to stand for the Korean entrance and ignoring Kim Yo-jung, despite sitting next to her.

It is unlikely the US will soften its hardline approach to relations with North Korea. Attending the games with Mike Pence is Fred Warmbier. Warmbier is the father of Otto Warmbier, the American college student who died immediately following his release from North Korean prison. Critics, including representatives from North Korea, say this is a veiled attempt to justify continued aggression against the country — reminiscent of Donald Trump's parade of the Warmbier parents at his State of the Union Address last month.

The US will leave no room for niceties in future peace talks with North Korea. Pence told the Washington Post, when discussing the US's future with the country, "The maximum pressure campaign is going to continue and intensify." Although the Trump administration is now open to negotiations for a potential nuclear arms deal, the US remains resolute in its opinion that North Korea should not be regarded with anything less than contempt.

Developments from the Winter Olympics are promising, but total peace with North Korea is still far away, if it's coming at all. Before the problem can be solved, world leaders still have a messy knot to untangle — constituents to please, peace talks to be negotiated and egotism to maintain. So for now, doomsday predictors should probably hold onto their fallout meters. Just in case.

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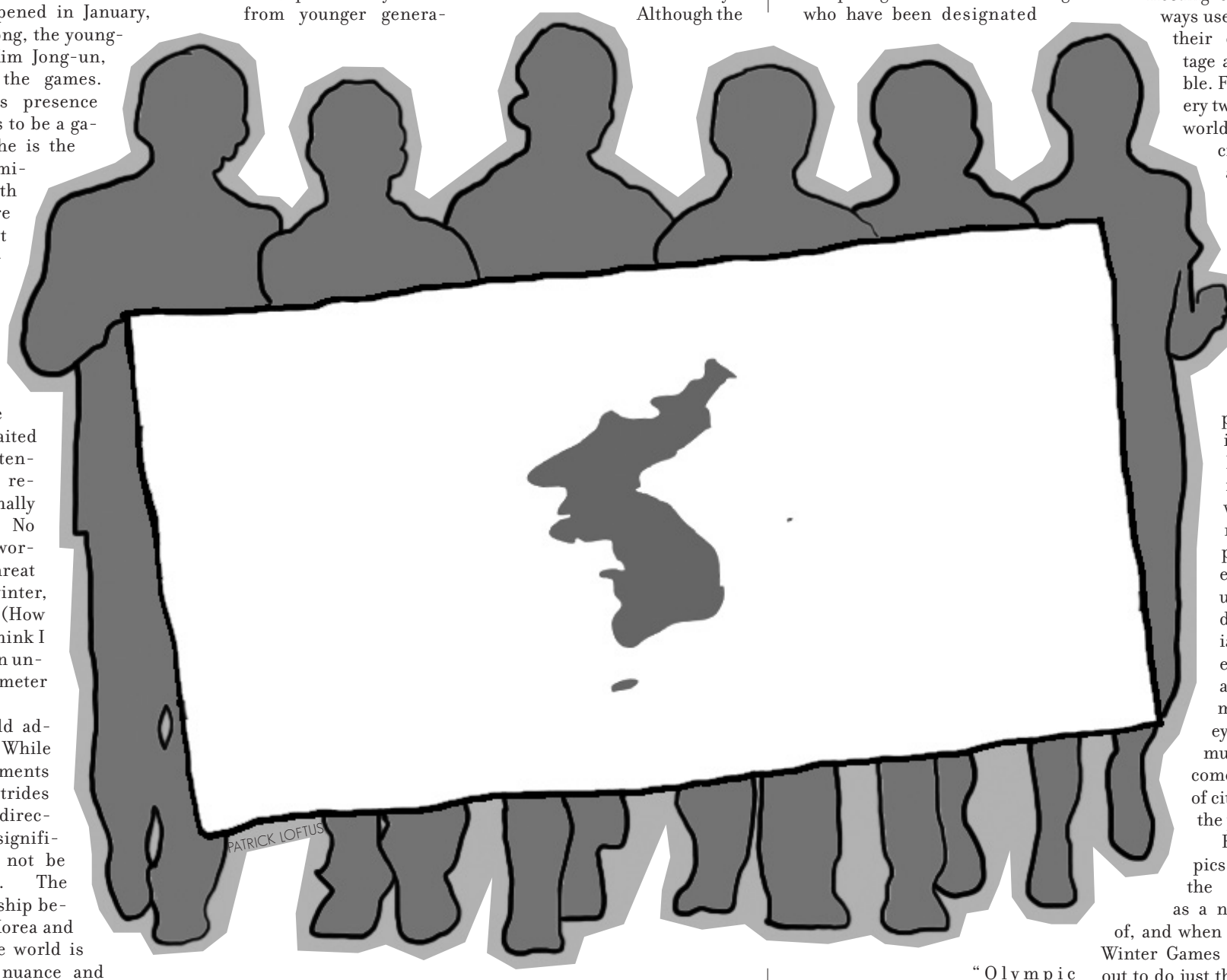

Russia at the Olympics

SOPHIA GOODWIN-RICE
STAFF WRITER

If you've been keeping up with the 2018 Winter Olympics over the last few weeks, you might have noticed several athletes competing under the name "OAR", a team that sports the Olympic flag rather than the flag of any nationality and wears neutral gray colors rather than patriotic hues. It isn't that another country sprouted up out of nowhere and suddenly become an important competitor at the games: these athletes are Russian citizens barred from competing under their own flag, who have been designated "Olympic Athletes from Russia," and can only compete for individual rather than national team medals.

This new category of athletes is a direct result of Russia's expulsion from this year's games, following an investigation that uncovered a state-run doping scheme utilized in the past two Olympics. In 2016, it was discovered that the nation had employed doping experts to tamper with athletes' urine samples, all the while supplying athletes with a cocktail of banned substances to enhance their performances. This discovery was met with shock and outrage from international sports community, as well as regular citizens and viewers, especially since none of the athletes had been caught at the time, and Russia's medal count had soared. The International Olympic Committee decided to ban the nation from the Pyeongchang Olympics altogether — except for, of course, Russian athletes who had no evidence of doping against them, hence the OARs.

There's no doubt that Russia's actions are unacceptable at any level. To use illegal, performancing-enhancing substances to compete in the most important sporting event in the world, against athletes who have spent their whole lives building up natural strength and skill is inexcusable; and it makes sense for the country to have been banned for the time being. In my opinion, however, it doesn't end there. The question still remains as to why Russia felt it necessary to nationally endorse a doping scheme in the first place — perhaps on a global scale, the Olympics is much more than just bragging rights and shiny medals. It's a competition of strength, power and money that goes far beyond ski runs and ice skating routines.

Hosting countries have always used the Olympics to their economic advantage as much as possible. For a few weeks every two years, the whole world's eyes are on one city in one nation, and it's up to that nation to make themselves seem as interesting, beautiful and exciting as possible, even if it means showing only the most attractive parts and leaving out the truth. In Rio de Janeiro, for example, where more than 1,500,000 people live in slums, enormous stadiums and flashy displays of Brazilian culture smothered the realities of a corrupt government whose money would have been much more welcomed by the millions of citizens living below the poverty line.

Hosting the Olympics means showing the world what you as a nation are capable of, and when Russia hosted the Winter Games in 2014, they set out to do just that. Given Russia's history with nations like the United States (a competitive tendency dating back to the Cold War), it almost isn't surprising that the government would try to match its rivals on the playing field, to assert international dominance and pride.

Yet why must the Olympics be this way, a corrupt and crazed competition to show national strength rather than individual achievement in a sport? All over the word, young athletes train obsessively, prioritizing their sport above everything else in hopes that they can one day be competing at the most elite competition in the world. It's true that many of them want to stand on the podium looking up at their flag, listening to the national anthem play, and thinking about how they've represented their home country. Yet that shouldn't be all of it. When nationalism starts to take over everything that the Games stand for, it makes one wonder whose interests are really taking into consideration: the people and the athletes, or the governments?

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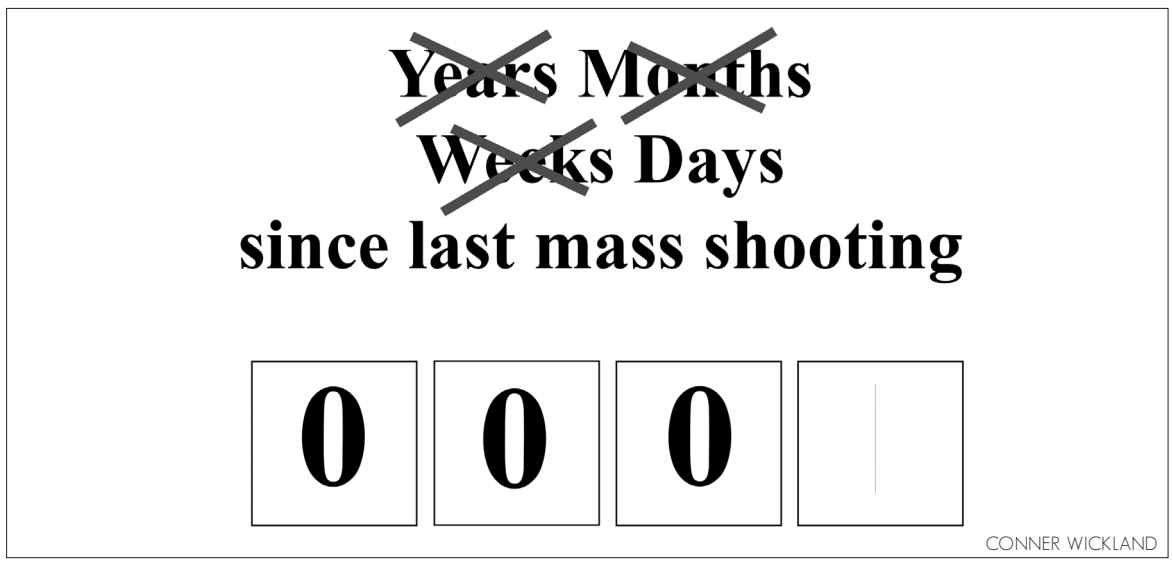
Let this be America's last school shooting



CONNER WICKLAND

CLAIRE ALONGI
CONTRIBUTOR

On Feb 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, 17 people were killed and 14 were seriously injured when 19 year-old Nikolas Cruz opened fire with an AR-15 rifle.

Another school shooting come and gone.

I'm tired. I'm tired of writing and reading about mass shootings and school shootings, and I'm tired of the fact that we've gotten to a point where such thing as a shooting can be a well trodden topic. I'm tired of lawmakers doing the same gig and dance, sending out prayers to the victims, wondering at the inhumanity of it all while taking money from the NRA and failing to impose any kind of gun control laws.

In one of his tweets after the Parkland shooting, Donald Trump said "No child, teacher or anyone else should feel unsafe in an American school."

Honestly it's a wonder that anyone does feel safe in a school, with 290 shootings occurring in schools since 2013 according to Everytown Research. Not all of them had the death toll of Parkland, but the fact that 290 guns have gone off in schools since 2013 should speak for itself.

But apparently it doesn't.

Apparently we have to bring up the statistics every few months, more people dead but the firearms that killed them still walking the earth.

What arguments exist for the continued proliferation of guns in America, when countries like Japan have considerable firearm control and in 2014 had 6 gun deaths as opposed to a whopping 33,599 in the US, as reported by the BBC?

When did guns become more important than human lives, than the lives of children?

The students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the surrounding community mean to make it so that these questions don't have to be asked anymore.

On Saturday students spoke to news networks like CNN and declared that they would be leading the charge to make their school the last school shooting in the US, as well as naming March 24 a day of a nationwide student protest to enact gun control laws.

At a gun control rally on Saturday, senior Emma Gonzalez told the crowd, "We are going to be the kids you read about in textbooks. Not because we're going to be another statistic about mass shooting in America, but because [...] we are going to be the last mass shooting. Just like Tinker v. Des Moines, we are going to change the law. That's going to be Marjory Stoneman Douglas in that textbook and it's going to be due to the tireless effort of the school board, the faculty members, the family members and most of all the students."

She ended her speech with, "That us kids don't know what we're talking about, that we're too young to understand how the government works. We call BS."

It seemed impossible that nothing would be done after Sandy Hook, when 20 children no older than seven, along with six adults, the shooter and the shooter's mother were killed. And yet here we are, locked in the same deadly push and pull with the deadliest mass shooting in US history only a few months behind us in Las Vegas and Parkland a raw wound in the present.

But I also like to think Gonzalez is right. This is a battle for the younger generations. After years of expecting the work to get done for us now it's the time to step up and do it ourselves. Scream so loud, protest until feet hurt, research until eyes burn, write letters to Congress until hands are stained with ink. This isn't a fight just for those at Marjory Stoneman Douglas. This is a call to action to students and young people everywhere.

Unlike other shootings in the past, there's a certain feeling of ultimatum presented by the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas. On Monday, Feb 19 there were already student protests outside the White House. And the call to action on March 24 is the next big step. If this march is as successful as other recent nationwide protests big change could be just around the corner.

It's time to make Gonzalez's dream, and the dream of all those students from Parkland whether they survived or were taken far before their time, a reality.

Let this be America's last school shooting.

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Check and check again

AKERAH MACKEY
CONTRIBUTOR

Last week an article which was ran in *The Collegian* about the Associated Students of Willamette University (ASWU) saw the same unfactual and inaccurate writing people expect from the Trump Administration. It seems as though the world around us has forgotten the difference between opinions and facts, and what is more problematic is the desire to continue this trend. I am writing this article to correct the negligence and inaccuracy of last week's article. ASWU is nothing like the Trump administration, as the previous article may have tried to use as a comparison, because we are fighting everyday for the student body we serve regardless of race, class or creed.

As students or as members of society we must be willing to check the facts before allowing opinions to dominate political, social and environmental circles. As the University moves into another year of crushing budget cuts in search of a more sustainable and financially feasible university, student services have been cut or defunded by administrators. ASWU over the last year has worked tirelessly to save and create more services for students in light of this.

It is no secret that ASWU worked on Bishop Wellness Center; but did you know we also help fund services like the Willamette Emergency Medical System (WEMS) and Sexual Assault Response Allies (SARA)? Last year department budgets shrank in size leaving services on Willamette's campus cut or underfunded. But, ASWU senators and its executive members did not complain or raise students fees to continue these services, we simply made room in our budget to secure these services. When ASWU got news that WEMS and SARA did not have secured funding at the beginning of the year we stepped up and stepped in. The same way our Outdoor Program, WEB and The Collegian have secured funding year to year, ASWU believes WEMS and SARA's life-saving services should as well. ASWU works to ensure that each student regardless of the universities financial difficulties has access to clubs, events and services that make a difference in their time at Willamette.

And therefore, when the email notifying students Bishop had been cut, we stepped in. Tirelessly sitting in meetings with administrators, reading hundreds of pages in reports and statistics on Bishop, mobilizing and creating petitions to regain the services our constituents desperately needed. We understood the severity of this issue and who it would hurt most from the moment we heard the news.

The head of the Task Force for Bishop was me, a bisexual woman of color and activist. So when I say my first priority was underrepresented, low-income and LGBTQ students I meant it because I work with these students day in and day out. But, since I am also one of them, none of these identities slipped my mind or was left out every time I spoke on the topic or handled the issue in any capacity.

So, to make a claim that ASWU is somehow not acting in the best interest of the student body's underrepresented students is false. ASWU and the task force insured every meeting on Bishop was highly publicized. Not to include that all out meeting minutes are posted each week on our website and a student outreach form is at the bottom of the page for student concerns. And when we started the petitions to save bishop we not only emailed the petition to the entire student body, but we tabled for three days in Goudy to get it as many students from all backgrounds to voice their concerns. Even during our meeting with Dean Whipple and Don Thomas they stressed the fact that students tuition discount rates and FAFSA funding would be applied to this fee increase, due to the concerns raised by ASWU and students at large.

The point I am trying to make is that ASWU, no matter your opinion on us, has done something. That is a fact, not hearsay. This may be an opinion piece on the things that ASWU has done for the student body but I will stress that these are not strictly my opinions, they are also facts. And though I may have been present at most of these meetings, discussions and events I checked my facts and then checked them again. Because what makes the Trump Administration nothing like ASWU is the fact that ASWU is diverse and does not function off of hearsay; we check and check again.

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Letter to the Editor

To the student body,

In response to last week's article, "Reckless spending is silencing," I would like to take the opportunity to address the article's critique of the recent Bishop recommendation and the role students had in that recommendation.

First, contrary to what the author suggests, arriving at this recommendation was student driven. Yes, the decision was made by the administration, but it was student input that shaped the outcome. Students were heard through public forums, a petition, social media, feedback forms and at weekly ASWU meetings. Students consistently showed up and made their priorities known. I am certain that physical health services would not be returning to Bishop had students not made their voices heard. That is something all students should be proud of.

Second, the decision to restore physical health services and add an additional mental health counselor is a clear and important win for students. Not only does this decision make progress towards matching mental health services to the needs of students, it means affordable, accessible and private physical health care for all students, irrespective of insurance plan or immigration status. At Bishop, students can access care more affordably and more conveniently than in the Salem community. The cost to students without Bishop far outweighs the cost of an increase to the wellness fee.

The wellness fee increase is also a realistic solution in light of Willamette's current budget situation. With budget cuts in the millions of dollars last year, and more to come this year, there are simply no easy solutions. The wellness fee is low compared to other schools, factored into students' financial aid calculations. It ensures that Bishop will be protected from budget cuts in the future, adds a much needed mental health counselor and restores physical health services. Whether or not you agree with the fee increase, I encourage you to engage with upcoming community-wide budget discussions as Willamette gets closer to passing next year's budget in May. Show up, listen, ask questions and advocate.

Jack Wellman,
ASWU President

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed here are the author's own, and do not reflect the prospectives of the Opinions Editor or the *Collegian* staff.

We invite you to submit Letters to the Editor. Letters are limited to 350 words, must include your name and must be submitted by Monday at noon on the week of intended publication. The *Collegian* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. Please email letters to Gianni Marabella <gjmarabella>.

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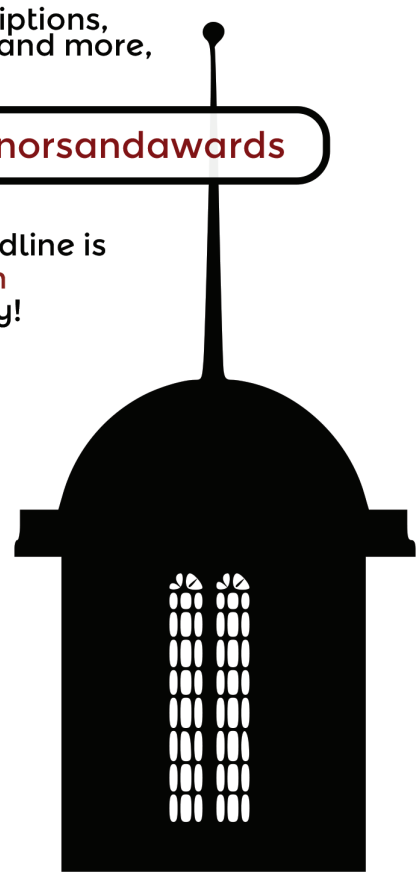

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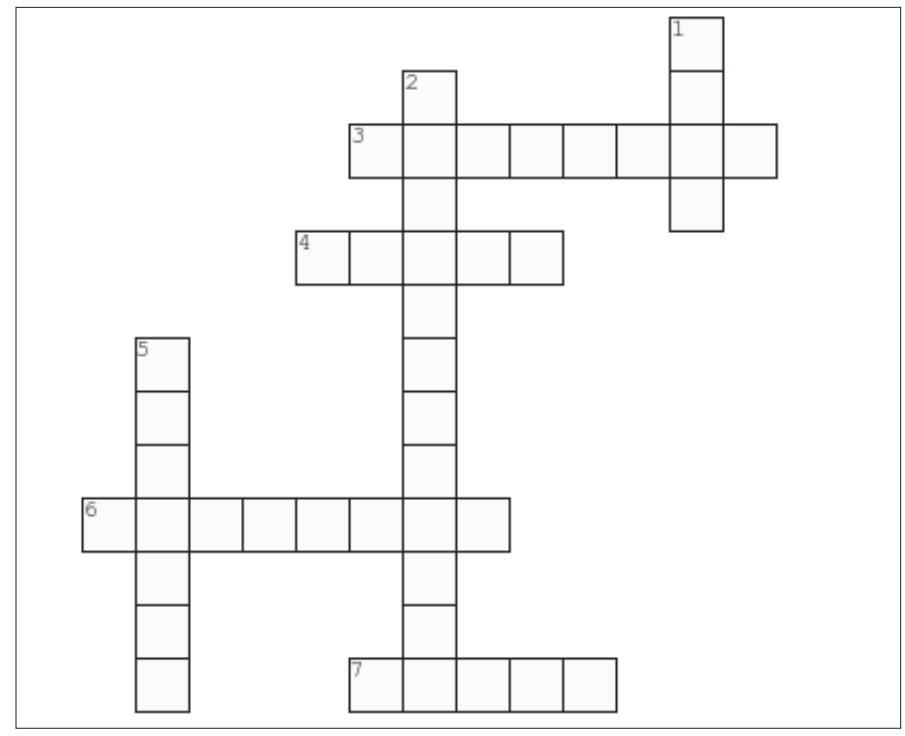

Horizontal

3. An American female abstract expressionist painter who lived a majority of her life in France.
4. A Mexican female painter inspired by the nature and artifacts of her country; Unibrow enthusiast.
6. A Dutch post-impressionist painter; This guy had difficulty hearing.
7. His paintings documented the French countryside; A big fan of waterlilies.

Vertical

1. A mustached Spanish surrealist painter; A fan of clocks.
2. A famous name of the Italian Renaissance; Painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.
5. A Spanish painter who co-founded the Cubist movement; Went through a blue period.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Criminal Mischief

February 14, 11:50 a.m. (Sparks Parking Lot): A student reported that their vehicle was damaged while they were parked in the lot. They noticed the damage when they returned to their vehicle. An officer responded and a report was filed.

Emergency Medical Aid

February 13, 9:55 a.m. (Collins Science): Campus Safety received a call stating a student had passed out in class. An officer responded and assessed the student. It was determined the student did not require further medical attention, and was transported back to their room.

February 17, 12:04 a.m. (In a Campus Residence): A Resident Assistance encountered an intoxicated student while doing rounds and contacted Campus Safety. An officer and WEMS responded and assessed the student. It was determined that additional medical assistance was not needed and a report was filed.

Policy Violation

February 15, 12:30 p.m. (Goudy Commons): A student called from Goudy to report they had a restricted contact order against the another student, and that person was in the area. An officer responded but the other student had left before they arrive. The Associate Dean of Students was contacted. The officer offered to escort her to her class and reminded her they would be happy to assist with an escort at any time.

January 28, 1:30 p.m. (In a Campus Residence): An employee came in to the Campus Safety Office to report an injury that she sustained while working. She had lifted some chairs and felt a sharp pain in her shoulder. An officer took a report and the employee reported the injury to their supervisor.

Posession of a conrolled Substance

February 12, 10:28 a.m. (Sparks Center): An employee called to report the odor of marijuana at Sparks. An officer responded but could not locate the source of the odor.

February 12, 11:50 a.m. (Doney Hall): An employee called to report the odor of marijuana coming from a restroom on the third floor of the residence. An officer responded, located the source, and made contact with the occupant of the room. The student was reminded of the University's marijuana and no smoking policies, and the paraphernalia was confiscated. A report was filed.

Suspicous Activity

February 13, 8:07 a.m. (Sparks Parking Lot): Campus Safety received a call from an employee stating that there was a homeless individual sleeping near the soccer field. An officer responded and made sure the person left campus.

February 13, 8:18 a.m. (Theatre Building): Campus Safety received a call stating that there was a homeless individual urinating on the Theatre building. An officer responded and encountered the individual. The officer escorted the individual off campus.

February 13, 10:38 a.m. (Guest Parking Lot): While on patrol, an officer observed a suspicious individual walking through campus carrying a club and plastic bag. The officer maintained visual contact until the individual was off campus.

February 13, 2:17 p.m. (Smith Fine Arts): While on patrol, an officer observed two individuals on bicycles "doing tricks" on the steps at Smith. The were advised they were on private property and needed to leave campus. They were compliant.

February 14, 12:45 p.m. (University Apartments): Campus Safety received a call stating that there is an individual sitting on the lawn by the University Apartments and was hitting themselves in the head. An officer responded, checked on the individual and asked them to leave campus.

Theft

February 12, 4:00 p.m. (Sparks Fitness Center): A student came in to the Campus Safety office to file report, stating that their wedding ring was stolen from a cupboard in Sparks weeks prior. Officers reviewed video footage but could not find a suspect. The student was advised to also make a report with the Salem Police Department.

February 16, 9:15 p.m. (Lausanne Hall): A Resident Assistant to report that three bikes had been stolen from the Lausanne bike rack. A report was filed. There are no suspects at this time.

February 17, 1:55 p.m. (Ford Hall): A student filed a report to an officer stating that their bicycle wheel had been stolen from the bike rack near Ford Hall. An officer reviewed camera footage and identified the suspect.

Welfare Check

February 15, 6:39 p.m. (Matthews Hall): Campus Safety received a call from a parent who was concerned for the welfare on their child. The on-call area coordinator was contacted and the student was given the message to contact their parents.

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