

**Here are the winners  
of the 2026 Collegiate  
Newspaper Contest.**

# Best Section

College Group 2

3rd Place

Vanguard - PSU

Staff

## Every MAX Line In Portland, Ranked

Or: losing and finding myself on Portland's rail network

NICK GATLIN

READER, DON'T YOU JUST LOVE the sound the MAX makes — that grunting, wheezing chunk chunk — as it rolls into the station? Do you lie awake the night before a flight, fantasizing about the train ride to PDX? Do you have difficulty making eye contact? If you answered yes to any of those questions, this list is for you.

Why did I decide to write this article? Huh? Reader, have you ever ridden four MAX lines out to end in one day? Do you have any idea what that does to a person? Sorry. Moving on. Here's every MAX line in Portland, ranked from "Best Scenic View" to "Most Likely To Get You Stabbed by a Guy With a Machete."

### BEST SCENIC VIEW: YELLOW LINE

The Yellow Line, which runs from the SW College station up to the Expo Center, has some of the best views in the entire TriMet light rail system. From the Rose Quarter station, with its primo angle of the Little Prince sculpture, to the windy climb up to Overlook Park with a view of the city skyline over the banks of the Willamette — the Yellow Line has it all. If you're heading out from Portland State University, you're in luck — like the Green Line, you can take this train all the way from campus to the other end and back (as I did, for this article).

I took the FX2 from the SE Division Max Station back to downtown Portland; I just couldn't bear to ride the Green Line any longer. On my walk to the bus stop, I passed many lovely-looking bakeries and cafes; on the bus, there were three people sitting together wearing lucky slip-ons, two in Crocs, one in Birkenstocks (with socks). The world

### BEST LINE ON WHICH TO FALL HALF-ASLEEP LISTENING TO ART BLAKEY AND THE JAZZ MESSENGERS, THEN CHAKA KHAN, THEN PAUL SIMON, THEN THE DEAFENING SILENCE OF NO ONE: GREEN LINE

I started at Case Study Coffee Roasters on SW 10th Avenue. I bought a malted cinnamon maple oat latte for \$7.99; it was warm. The air

was nippy. I walked a few blocks, then sat and waited on the cold, metal bench at the station, staring listlessly at the food carts across the street and wishing I had eaten that morning.

The train finally came. Destination: "Clackamas." So it goes.

Clackamas Town Center is possibly the most boring transit center I've ever seen, and that's saying something (looking at you, Beaverton). It's nothing but concrete and a Residence Inn by Marriott. Everything past Gateway Transit Center feels like despair. The strip malls are

enough to make you want to look for an exit. If you know what I mean (I'm pretty sure the crew switch takes the same tool as a skateboard belt).

### HONORABLE MENTION FOR BEST LINE ON WHICH TO FALL HALF-ASLEEP... FX2-DIVISION

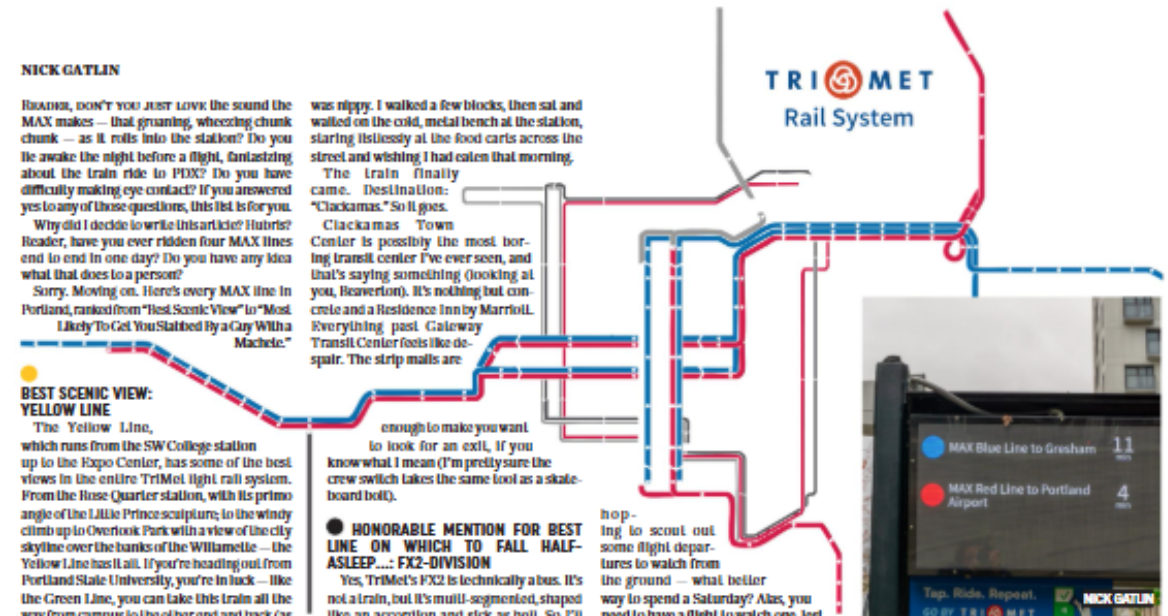
Yes, TriMet's FX2 is technically a bus. It's not a train, but it's multi-segmented, stapled like an accordion and slick as hell. So I'll briefly mention it here.

I took the FX2 from the SE Division Max Station back to downtown Portland; I just couldn't bear to ride the Green Line any longer. On my walk to the bus stop, I passed many lovely-looking bakeries and cafes; on the bus, there were three people sitting together wearing lucky slip-ons, two in Crocs, one in Birkenstocks (with socks). The world

### WORST LINE FOR PLANEWATCHING: RED LINE

You can sit around and watch planes all day if you have a ticket, but if you don't have one, you can't even walk around the airport pre-securely? What a scam. I hitched a ride on the Red Line one morning,

TRIMET  
Rail System



hop- ing to scout out some flight departures to watch from the ground — what better way to spend a Saturday? Alas, you need to have a flight to watch one, lest the Port of Portland frisk you for papers as you amble around the airport. I did, however, get to catch an Alaska flight hitting the ground. So make sure you look out the window as you approach PDX — if you want a glimpse of the real thing on the cheap.

### BEST LINE THAT'S REALLY JUST AN EXTENSION OF AN ALREADY-EXISTING ROUTE: ORANGE LINE

Seriously, explain to me how the Orange Line isn't an extraneously named add-on to the rail system map. They expanded the Red Line out to Hillsboro! Why does Milwaukie get to have its own line? What's even in Milwaukie?



### MOST LIKELY TO GET YOU STABBED BY A GUY WITH A MACHETE: BLUE LINE

One of my friends grew up in Gresham and took the Blue Line into the city all the time; I have heard several stories about men with machetes patrolling the stations late at night, swinging them around like nightsticks. I have also run into not one, but two kalana-wielding MAX riders at Sunset Transit Center and Orenco.

Hide this one during the day. And bring pepper spray.

### HONORABLE MENTION(S) FOR FEAR OF DEATH BY WATER: PORTLAND STREETCAR AND WES

The NS Loop Streetcar and WES Commuter Rail are the only parts of the TriMet rail system that don't cross the Willamette at any point (not including the Portland Aerial Tram, which is on the rail system map but feels like it shouldn't be because it's, you know, in the air). If you have rabies or a fear of bridges, these lines are for you — leave the MAX for the Fast Sliders. ♡

# Best Section

## College Group 2

## 2nd Place

## The Pioneer Log

## Staff

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

# FEATURES

7

## Meridian Journal editors distribute 43rd volume

International and Cross-Cultural student publication celebrates variety of content, promotes involvement

By BRADY VINLOVE

SINCE 1981, THE Meridian Journal of International and Cross-Cultural Perspectives has boasted an entirely Lewis & Clark student-made and published body of work highlighting global issues. This was the first year, however, that the Meridian's editorial board held a launch event with authors presenting their work along with the distribution of the 43rd volume of the journal. Attendees, presenters and editors were excited and grateful for the opportunity to learn and connect at this unique event.

In the past, the Meridian was distributed during the annual International Affairs Symposium. This year, the board wanted to introduce some of the authors and build a greater connection with the student body, so they hosted a launch event on April 1, ahead of the symposium which ran from April 7-9.

Five students presented their work on a variety of topics including the legal rights of animals and reproductive justice in Palestine. This allowed audience members to ask questions, facilitating a lively discussion. The presentations were quite powerful and compelled the audience to think deeply about how global issues impact everyone. For instance, Saeth Sierra '25 and Teresa Frahm '27 explained

how democratic governments can lead to less effective environmental policy from an economic and international affairs lens, directly challenging the common belief that democratic governments lead to environmental policy focused on conservation.

Meridian Editor-in-Chief Vena Uzunova '26 loves how the Meridian expands students' minds. "This is my excuse to learn more, and it's from people my age, that's so impressive," Uzunova said. "I would not have known about this because it's so hard to seek out information away from my own echo chamber. This is my way to do that."

Many presentations and papers came from work students are doing in class, but these projects are from a variety of disciplines. While the Meridian may seem fit for students majoring in international affairs, the editorial board wants the journal to be a place where students of all majors and interests can publish their work.

Managing Editor Anderson Olson '25 spoke to the importance he sees in including a variety of perspectives.

"International and cross-cultural perspectives' is our tagline and I think that really can and should be applied to every single discipline at this school," Olson said. "I think just looking at what people are talking about in this edition, looking at the political world in

the global landscape, we can't afford to just be an international affairs journal anymore, we have to expand."

One of the major goals of the Meridian is to give a platform to students of all class years, which they were especially able to do with their launch event. While the Meridian only accepts work from undergraduate students, one of the presenters at the event was Mithabid George Shanda LLM '25, law student well-known on campus for working as a receptionist at the Bon. His presentation on the philosophy and legal status of the personhood of animals drew lots of discussion from the audience and introduced members to new philosophical ideas.

At the heart of the Meridian is the belief in students' work and ideas. Uzunova explained that she finds every submission that she reads to be meaningful and engaging and wants to encourage more students to have confidence in their work.

"The goal for me is to really judge that impostor syndrome of undergrad students, especially people in their freshman or sophomore year just coming into college, unsure of what they want to do and how they can contribute to stuff outside of class. A lot of that has to do with being unsure of your competence, and everyone can contribute," Uzunova said.

Uzunova knows firsthand some of the challenges of being involved with student media early in college as she joined the editorial board during her first year. She has been the editor-in-chief for the past two years since there have not been any members of the editorial board who have stayed on for multiple years.

During her time, she has worked to create a uniform format to draw more first-year and sophomore students to the editorial team. In her role, she has worked hard on the entire process of putting together the journal, which includes sourcing student papers, editing submissions to fit the Meridian's guidelines and laying out the journal to create an appealing book for students to read. She explained that actually publishing the journal brings her so much joy and pushes her



BRADY VINLOVE/THE MOOSE LOG  
Vena Uzunova '26 and Anderson Olson '25 encourage submissions from all disciplines.

through the process. Along with all of this hard work, she wants to grow the journal by getting more students involved and solidifying the editing process and team.

Part of increasing promotion and involvement was the launch party this year. Olson was a key member in organizing the event through community outreach and graphic design. As a rhetoric and media studies major, Olson has questioned his capabilities at the international affairs focused journal at times, but being in a leadership position has helped him realize that communicating with others is one of his strengths, which transcends academic disciplines. According to him, realizing one's potential and connecting with others is another benefit of being part of the Meridian.

"I think the goal of this journal is connection — that's in forming relationships. Most of the people on the editorial board didn't know each other going in and now we've put this all together and orchestrated everything," Olson said.

Even though the Meridian is made for and by students, Uzunova and Olson feel that many students do not know about it or that they look forward to another similar launch event next spring for the next issue.

good enough, but also not knowing that the Meridian is about more than international affairs. The editorial board believes that students have interesting things to say and wants to read and share them.

"People don't just major in English and philosophy and political science and international affairs just because. A lot of the work that's put in and the papers they write are really meaningful," Uzunova said.

According to Uzunova, the submission guidelines are left intentionally vague to encourage students from all disciplines to submit their work, especially essays from class relating to "global politics, social movements, economics, media studies or political communication." She also explained that next fall, there will likely be a theme for submissions and the board will release more guidelines concerning length and style.

While students will have to wait until next academic year to contribute to the Meridian, they can still read the interesting work in this volume by checking out a copy from the Watzek library reserves or by looking online for a digitized version that should be coming this June. Students should also look forward to another similar launch event next spring for the next issue.



BRADY VINLOVE/THE MOOSE LOG  
At the inaugural presentation, audience members engaged with the five speakers.

## Local boba, coffee shops serve tasty aesthetic beverages

Libation lover imparts knowledge of Portland's finest establishments for well-deserved spring treats

By OLIVIA FENDRICH

I AM AN EXPERT on many things — what your Portland dispensary of choice says about you, classic literature recommendations for a generation idolized by the Internet, how to break your wrist by falling off a bunk bed (purely hypothetical), to name a few. But one of the things I pride myself on the most is my palate for a classy little drink.

Instead of spending money on dinner, going out for coffee or boba with friends is a great way to celebrate the sunrise and overcome the anxiety of end-of-the-year academics. And since I was a barista in high school (I was really bad at my job), you could say I know my stuff about it.

So, without further ado, here are some of my favorite spots around Portland to grab a bitchin' bev.



BRADY VINLOVE/THE MOOSE LOG  
BOBACAT features fun seasonal drinks.

**Fat Straw**

This cute little boba shop on SE Hawthorne is my go-to on a spring evening when the sun is shining down on the city after a day of rain. Their tapoca pearls are consistently the perfect texture — chewy but not too firm — and their milk tea strikes just the right balance between creamy and flavorful. The cozy, airy vibe makes it an ideal spot to sit down with a friend and debrief on the latest hot gossip or existential crisis. My order here is a Thai tea with tapoca pearls, half-sweet with oat milk.

If you are in need of something that will really exhilarate that Portland polysexual vibe, their matcha ice milk tea with boba is also a solid choice — earthy, slightly sweet and a little stronger than the average matcha latte.

**Sisters Coffee Company (SCC)**

Though this Pearl District cafe has a space larger than some other coffee shops, DO NOT BE DECEIVED — every time I have visited, the place has been popping. Although its popularity can make it a little hard to stake out a table for a group homework session, the quality of their espresso and fare make it absolutely worth visiting.

All of the beverages served at SCC use coffee from their roastery in Sisters, Oregon. According to their website, the company's coffee blends tend to lean medium to dark roast, while single-origin beans are roasted to bring out their unique flavors. If you are someone who prefers their coffee on the sweeter side, they also make a variety of syrups by hand that can get you exactly where you need to go.

SCC has it all: the staff are friendly, the vibes are bargin' and they make the

best cortado I have had in the Pacific Northwest. I usually order a black cold brew and a size of toast with their house-made jam — an equally delicious way to start the day. The Iced Daydream vanilla latte is one of Features Editor Paige A. Anderson's favorites, even though the amount of sugar would likely send a Victorian child into cardiac arrest.

**BOBACAT TEA HOUSE**

Situated right across from Portland State University, BOBACAT is a bustling hub of students and downtown Portland residents with the opportunity to enjoy some scrumptious libations. On the side of the building is a mural of two cats against a green and blue background. The top of the store is festooned with lush leaves that glow in the sunlight. There is some seating inside, but I prefer to take a drink to-go and stroll around the city. Lovejoy Fountain Park is only ten minutes away, perfect for sitting on the steps of the pavilion and enjoying a sweet treat.

The variety of drinks BOBACAT offers never fails to astound me. In addition to refreshers, a multitude of milk teas, flavored teas and lattes, they also host a rotating collection of monthly specials. Most recently, they featured a Triple Strawberry drink with strawberry milk tea, strawberry purée and heart-shaped strawberry jellies. If you are like me and prefer something a little more dignified, I recommend a half-sweet Superst Fresh Milk Brown Super drink without whipped cream. They also offer four alternative milk options, a godsend for the unlucky few of us bestowed with a Jewish stomach.

The next time you find yourself in the University District, I recommend

swinging by BOBACAT to try out one of their drinks and gawk at the whimsy of their storefront. It is a positively charming experience that will delight even the most belligerent of dog-lovers.

**Keeper Coffee Co**

Keeper Coffee is just about the most darling little cafe I have ever visited. Located in the Creston-Kenilworth neighborhood near Reed College, this coffee shop is gorgeously decorated with marble tables and vintage furniture. The staff behind the counter are personable and sweet, just like the interior's quirky atmosphere.

As you walk up to order, you will be blessed with a view of a glass case full of house-made pastries like lemon tarts, rose pistachio shortbread, sticky buns, and marionberry paletes. Their coffee is locally sourced, but if java

is not your cuppa, so to speak, they have a variety of tea blends that sound absolutely beautiful. When I visited to crank out some homework before a run to the nearby Trader Joe's, I drank a large Americano that was utter perfection, served in a mug that was grandma-coded in the best way.

Though I did not indulge in a pastry or sandwich, my friend ordered a sticky bun that virtually glistened in the mood lighting. If you find yourself frequenting the Reed Trader Joe's, consider popping into Keeper beforehand to soak in the good vibes and support a woman-owned business.

After all, we have an eccentric city of actions and kind strangers at our disposal. I, for one, am grateful for every opportunity to administrate out, and a slurpable treat will always be well worth it.

## Health Center offers free STI tests in April

April is STI Awareness Month, so take advantage of subsidized testing at the Student Health Center! Sign up through the Student Health Portal. This initiative is funded by ASB Health & Wellness Committee, Student Health Center, Health Promotion & Wellness and Feminist Student Union!



# Best Section

College Group 2

# 1st Place

# Vanguard - PSU

# Vanguard Staff



Entrance to the NASCC at Portland State University

## Staff Say \$38k in Uncollected Revenue Led to Cuts at NASCC

PSU community blames administrative management for reduced services at the NASCC

ISAIAH BURNS

SEVERAL STUDENTS SAT AROUND A table in the Native American Student and Community Center (NASCC) during the middle of the Winter term. Their agenda was fairly straightforward, to discuss their concerns and fears over the facility's handling in recent times.

"I felt catfished because I'm a transfer student. I come from out of state, and I saw on the NASCC website this beautiful building..." a student said, who wished to remain confidential. "So much programming, so many resources, so many clubs. Some of those don't even exist anymore."

"The NASCC used to be open until, like 2 or 3 a.m. They would be here all night... Now we can only enter during business operating hours," a student said, who also wished to remain confidential. "We got locked out. We can't be here. There's no one to manage it. A lot of the time, it's just completely empty."

Like many of the students there, they were particularly concerned about a quiet reduction in the building's operating hours that occurred this year, with multiple days cut out of its weekly schedule for over six months.

Professional staff at the NASCC claim the center was projected to earn approximately \$40 thousand in revenue due to venue rentals last year, though departmental oversights led to only around \$2,000 being collected. Staff and students report this led to staff reductions, long term vacancies of critical positions,

reduced operating hours and heightened responsibilities for student workers. Global Diversity and Inclusion (GDI), the NASCC's supervising department, gave contrasting explanations.

Jay Molnar is the Program Coordinator for the NASCC. Molnar has worked in this position for three years, which is traditionally the most student-facing role in the center. Molnar recalled how the most recent issues at the center had begun to creep in at the beginning of the academic year. Molnar recollects a specific team meeting with GDI around the start of the Fall term.

"They called that at the beginning of the year, and just kind of told us, this is the situation... [the NASCC] is a revenue generating building..." Molnar said, elaborating on the role professional and student staff play in the building's finances. "The center charges outside organizations to rent the building, and they do it for events and stuff like that."

According to Molnar, the only responsibility they have is to send out invoices after events. Once the invoices are out, they have no authority to follow up.

"So all the invoices were sent out, and we know that they were sent out because they have documentation of how much money was made, which was \$40,000 for the year," Molnar said. "Apparently only \$2,000 worth of that was paid."

According to NASCC staff, the exact nature of how this error occurred is unknown.

Molnar spoke on the status of the center during the public comment section at the Board of Trustees' January meeting.

"I know for a fact after I spoke to the Board of Trustees about this particular issue that they not only hadn't heard about it, but they also didn't know about any of the other struggles going on, like for the center or within GDI," Molnar said.

A campus-wide email was sent out by Board of Trustees Chair Benjamin Berry on April 11, following up on the April Board of Trustees meeting, in which there was a Tribal Relations Update. In the email, Berry stated:

"Public comments also addressed concerns about reduced staffing at the Native American Student and Community Center (NASCC)... I have asked for a deeper review of these topics to better understand the issues that were shared, and while I can not provide an update at this time, I am looking into these concerns."

Araceli Cruz is one of the current Associate Vice Presidents of GDI and has held the position since November of 2023. Cruz oversees Student Legal Services, the Veterans Resource Center and the NASCC.

In a previous interview with PSU Vanguard held prior to Molnar's interview, Cruz addressed the long term vacancy of the building manager position, a critical role in facilities management that had been empty since the previous manager resigned at the end of Spring last year.

# Best Section

College Group 3

3rd Place

The Commuter- Linn  
Benton CC

Staff, Civil Discourse Program

CAMPUS · OP-ED

## Classroom Phone **BAN**

words by TRAVIS OVERVIG, LAURA TAYLOR, AND THE LBCC CIVIL DISCOURSE PROGRAM

**YES**

**L**et's stop pretending we don't see the problem. Students are losing focus, falling behind, and checking out, and a big part of the reason is sitting in their pockets.


Gov. Tina Kotek's executive order banning cell phone use during school hours isn't overreach. It's common sense. Phones have slowly turned classrooms into a fight for attention, and our kids are the ones losing. If we're serious about education, we need to be serious about removing the distractions that are eroding it.

In 2022, the Program for International Student Assessment found that two-thirds of students say they're distracted by devices in class. The result is clear: lower scores, less focus, and a system stretched thin. A 2025 National Center for Education Statistics survey shows over 70% of school leaders believe phones hurt mental health and attention spans. More than half say they directly hurt academic performance.

While the ban may have initially surprised students, it's far from a radical idea. Oregon is now the 27th state to implement restrictions on cell phone use in schools, joining a growing nationwide movement. With more than half the country on board, it's clear this approach is gaining traction, and for a good reason.

Some say this goes too far. But the Netherlands just banned phones in schools, and per Reuters, 75% of high schools reported better student focus.

When districts enforce a cell phone ban, they send the message that education is the priority. That's a message the state of Oregon could benefit from reinforcing. Despite being ranked 41st in the nation for overall school performance, Oregon has some of the highest per-student spending. Clearly, money alone isn't the solution. Kotek's policy recognizes



**Civil Discourse Op-Ed**  
Will removing phones from the classroom help students improve, or is it too little, too late?  
[Read More](#)

**Oregon public schools will undergo a significant change by 2026: no more phones.**

On July 2, Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek signed Executive Order No. 25-09, which requires state school districts to ban students' personal electronic devices for the entirety of "regular instructional hours."

Schools must develop a policy by Oct. 31 and implement it by Jan. 1.

Kotek's order cited the need to "protect the mental health and well-being of Oregon students." Is the phone ban the correct way to address this goal?

# Best Section

College Group 3

# 2nd Place

# The Advocate-MHCC

S. Cousins

**A COMMUNITY** ADVOCATE-ONLINE.NET

## ENJOY THE SPIRIT OF GRESHAM

AT THE UPCOMING FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



**Nicholas Edwards**  
The Advocate

Need somewhere to bring the whole family this summer? Maybe you're stuck at home with your in-laws?

Gresham's Festival of Arts, Spirit of Gresham, is back for this summer, promising to be the city's biggest celebration of local creativity and community spirit. And your support could make all the difference.

**A HARMONIOUS EVENING OF LIVE PERFORMANCES TO SET THE TONE FOR THE WEEKEND**

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION**  
Held in the heart of downtown Gresham at the Gresham Arts Plaza (401 NE Second St.), the event spans two days, filled with festivities. It begins with a sound-off at Music under the Stars, which is a harmonious evening of live performances to set the tone for the weekend, on Friday, July 18 from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

It culminates with the main festival on Saturday, July 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the streets of downtown will transform into a bustling arts and farmers market, bringing imagination to life right at the heart of the city.

Live music will be performed throughout the day on multiple stages; past offerings covered a diverse local lineup of jazz performers, rock bands, acoustic sets, and world acts.

There's something for every taste, whether you're enjoying a relaxed stroll, sitting down to take in the atmosphere, or hustling along with friends and/or family. Designated areas will offer interactive arts and crafts, ensuring your young children have plenty to enjoy and tire themselves out with.

This FREE, family-friendly event is a celebration of creativity, featuring over 125 artists from across the Pacific Northwest. Attendees can browse and purchase a wide variety of handcrafted goods, including paintings, pottery, jewelry, fiber arts, and more.

**FOODIES ALERT!**  
Food lovers will find plenty to savor. Local favorites will be serving up delicious eats and sweet treats, and you'll be able to secure a bag of delectable goods from the farmer's market. Finish off with artisan coffee or a cold beverage to keep you fueled while you browse or spectate a performance.

**PARKING**  
Worried about parking? No need. Free parking is available in nearby city lots and on surrounding streets. For those using public transportation, the Gresham Central Transit Center is just a few blocks away. Additionally, free shuttle service will run throughout the day from key locations, including the Gresham City Hall and the Gresham Transit Center.

Gresham's Festival of Arts is the most accessible summer event in the area. It is encouraged to bring along your money (cash and card) to support the artists and food vendors. Limited-edition tote bags will also be available for purchase as souvenirs.

Organized by the Center for the Arts Foundation, the festival is a cornerstone of Gresham's cultural calendar. Be there or hear about it from everybody else! Join the mission to support public art, inspire creativity, and foster community connection through arts engagement. Thousands of visitors are expected to attend, making it not only a highlight for the city but also a regional attraction for artists. It's something you want to see for yourself.

Whether you're an art collector, music fan, foodie, or just looking for a vibrant way to spend a summer day, mark your calendar for July 18-19. Gresham's Festival of Arts is the can't-miss event of the season.

**SCAN TO APPLY FOR ARTIST'S BOOTH**



**SCAN FOR GENERAL FESTIVAL INFORMATION**



Photo sourced from KUWV

# Best Section

College Group 3

# 1st Place

# The Advocate-MHCC

# STAFF

## WORK STUDY CHANGES

MHCC LIMITS WINTER AND SPRING WORK STUDY AWARDS

Leo Fontneau  
The Advocate

On Jan. 15, Christopher Natelborg, the director of Financial Aid at MHCC, informed students participating in Federal Work Study positions that maximum dollar awards for Winter and Spring terms would be reduced, from \$2,400 to \$1,500 per term.

According to Natelborg, the college **STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN FEDERAL WORK STUDY POSITIONS (LEARNED) THAT MAXIMUM DOLLAR AWARDS FOR WINTER AND SPRING TERMS WOULD BE REDUCED, FROM \$2,400 TO \$1,500 PER TERM.**

had so successfully increased student participation in the program that it spent almost half of the college's federally funded Work Study allocation for the entire academic year during the 2024 Fall Term alone.

In a follow-up email to Work Study supervisors, Natelborg said that in previous years the college has found it challenging to spend the amount it was allocated for Work Study because there was less student interest and fewer positions available for them to accept. It followed that the amount of pass-through funding awarded to Mt. Hood had remained static for a number of years: "As far as I know, the annual allotment we have has been the same for over a decade," he said.

Now, Natelborg says that the Student

Employment office's successful efforts to increase the wages of Work Study positions (to improve competition with off-campus employers) and to better connect students to those positions (through the Handshake job search platform) created "a 'perfect storm' wherein we successfully increased student engagement and usage (of FWS funds) but it happened much faster than we had anticipated."

The college, namely through its Work Study supervisors, has a great deal of discretion over how many hours and at what rates students are employed. The hourly pay of work study positions varies but all must meet, at least, the regional minimum hourly wage required by Oregon within the Portland metro area (currently \$15.95).

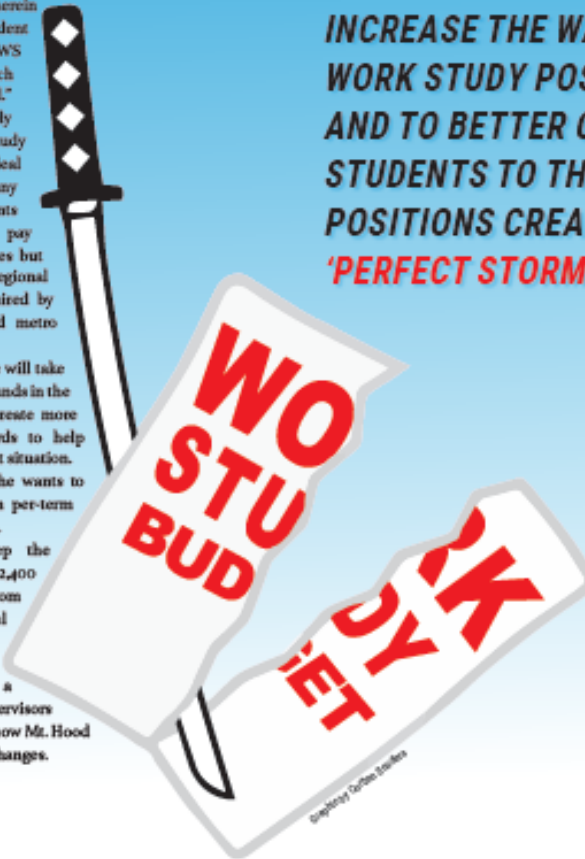
Natelborg said the college will take efforts to better monitor the funds in the future and might move to create more individualized student awards to help prevent a repeat of the current situation.

Going forward, he said he wants to keep the previous maximum per-term dollar award amount in place.

"We do hope to keep the maximum award close to \$2,400 because we have heard from students that it is more helpful to have that higher earning potential," he said.

Natelborg will co-host a briefing for MHCC staff/supervisors on Feb. 19 to update them on how Mt. Hood is handling the Work Study changes.

**THE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OFFICE'S SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE WAGES OF WORK STUDY POSITIONS AND TO BETTER CONNECT STUDENTS TO THOSE POSITIONS CREATED A 'PERFECT STORM.'**



# Best Special Section

College Group 2

## 3rd Place

### Oregon Daily Emerald

Javay Frye-Nekrasova, Abigail Raike



# Best Special Section

College Group 2

## 2nd Place

Oregon Daily Emerald

Stella Fetherston, Ty Tilden, Ryan  
Ehrhart





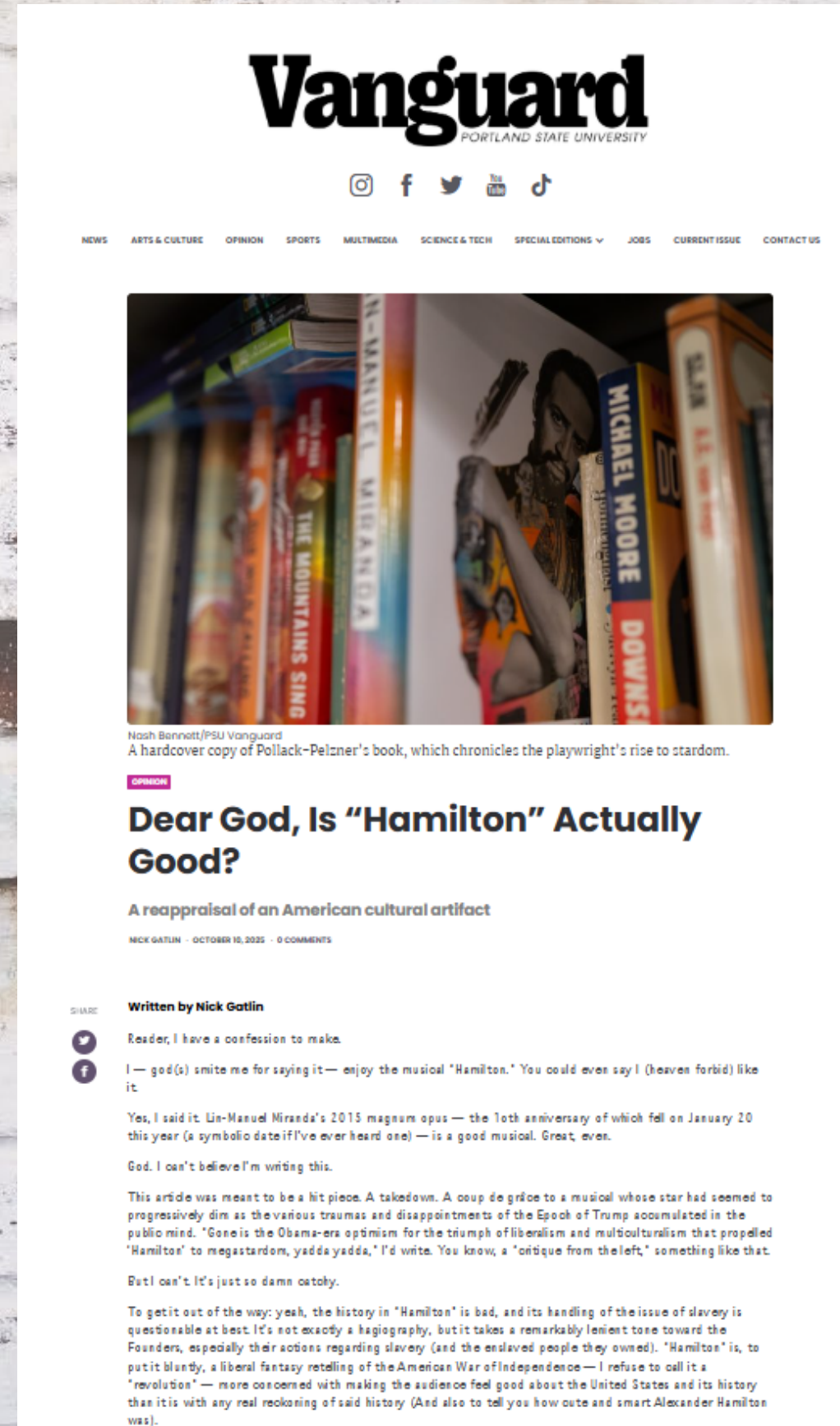
# Best Headline Writing

College Group 2

2nd Place


Vanguard - PSU

Nick Gatlin



**Vanguard**  
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

NEWS ARTS & CULTURE OPINION SPORTS MULTIMEDIA SCIENCE & TECH SPECIAL EDITIONS JOBS CURRENT ISSUE CONTACT US



Nash Bennett/PSU Vanguard  
A hardcover copy of Pollack-Pelzner's book, which chronicles the playwright's rise to stardom.

**Dear God, Is "Hamilton" Actually Good?**

A reappraisal of an American cultural artifact

NICK GATLIN · OCTOBER 10, 2025 · 0 COMMENTS

Written by Nick Gatlin

Reader, I have a confession to make.

I — god(s) smite me for saying it — enjoy the musical "Hamilton." You could even say I (heaven forbid) like it.

Yes, I said it. Lin-Manuel Miranda's 2015 magnum opus — the 10th anniversary of which fell on January 20 this year (a symbolic date if I've ever heard one) — is a good musical. Great, even.

God. I can't believe I'm writing this.

This article was meant to be a hit piece. A takedown. A coup de grâce to a musical whose star had seemed to progressively dim as the various traumas and disappointments of the Epoch of Trump accumulated in the public mind. "Gone is the Obama-era optimism for the triumph of liberalism and multiculturalism that propelled 'Hamilton' to megastardom, yadda yadda," I'd write. You know, a "critique from the left," something like that.

But I can't. It's just so damn catchy.

To get it out of the way: yesh, the history in "Hamilton" is bad, and its handling of the issue of slavery is questionable at best. It's not exactly a hagiography, but it takes a remarkably lenient tone toward the Founders, especially their actions regarding slavery (and the enslaved people they owned). "Hamilton" is, to put it bluntly, a liberal fantasy retelling of the American War of Independence — I refuse to call it a "revolution" — more concerned with making the audience feel good about the United States and its history than it is with any real reckoning of said history (And also to tell you how cute and smart Alexander Hamilton was).

# Best Headline Writing

College Group 2


1st Place

The Collegian-Willamette  
Univ

William Weeks

Next Print  
April 16 >

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William Weeks, Staff Writer · Apr 28, 2025 · 2 min read

## Lacrosse out-Foxed again despite coaches' polling; injuries and staff departure potential factors



The Willamette bench watches as Bearcat lacrosse falls to George Fox on April 12 at Sparks Field. Photo by Keenan Yoshizawa.

Lacrosse suffered another tough loss against rival George Fox (GFU) on April 12 at home (5-13). Despite having never defeated the Bruins, the 'Cats were picked No. 1 in the 2025 NWC [coaches' poll](#). After the match, they returned to their perennial No. 2 spot.

Following their No. 2 coaches' poll placement in February, GFU lacrosse took to [Instagram](#), writing, "The Bruins were picked to finish second in the Northwest Conference preseason poll despite not losing a conference game since 2016. They're

# Best Headline Writing

College Group 3

3rd Place


The Advocate-MHCC

Staff

**A** OPINION ADVOCATE-ONLINE.NE

## THE WEIGHT OF A HANDBAG

SEEMINGLY ENDLESS INFLATION LEADS TO ENDLESS FINANCIAL JUGGLING



**Mary Nashed**  
The Advocate

Since 2023, I've done little things to help my parents. I do the grocery shopping, pick up the small household stuff, buy the personal items they need before they even ask. I do it not because they can't, but because it takes one thing off their plate. It's my way of saying thank you for giving me a home, for letting me stay while I chase something bigger, something that's taking a while.

Over time, I started noticing how much things cost – not just food, but everything. A simple purse I liked used to be \$10, maybe \$12. Then it jumped to \$20, \$25, even \$35. Dresses I used to get for under \$20 now cost \$40, \$50, and still don't feel like they're made to last.

And the fees? Oh, they always sneak in. Shipping, handling, service charges – it's like simply breathing in the world costs money now.

Sometimes I see a bag I love, one that reflects who I am, and I hover over the purchase button. But I feel a pit in my stomach. My mind races: "I shouldn't spend that. What if I need the money later? What if I'm being selfish?" I close the tab. Not because I can't afford it in the moment, but because it feels dangerous to buy joy when the world is this unstable.

It scares me, because I live with my parents. I'm lucky. I have a roof, support, food. I'm studying to go into medical school. But I keep asking: what about the people who don't have that support? What about the ones whose parents told them, "You're on your own at 18"? What about the people who were pushed out, or ran away, or had no choice but to grow up fast?

Rent is nearly \$2,000 in some cities for a tiny apartment. Groceries that used to be \$60 a week now feel like \$120. And people still say, "Just work harder." But people are working. They're working 40, 50, 60 hours a week and still barely surviving.

Some are skipping school because they can't afford tuition or because the fear of incurring debt is too much. Others don't even start college, scared that higher living costs on top of student loans will bury them. It's not just about money. It's about the pressure, the stress, the endless juggling act just to survive. Education, which should be an inviting door to a better life, feels like an extravagant luxury too many can't afford.

I wonder how those people are doing – the ones who pretend they're okay. The ones who carry the weight of the world in silence. The ones who scroll past the dress or the purse or the shoes that could make them feel more like themselves again, because they know better. Because survival always comes first.

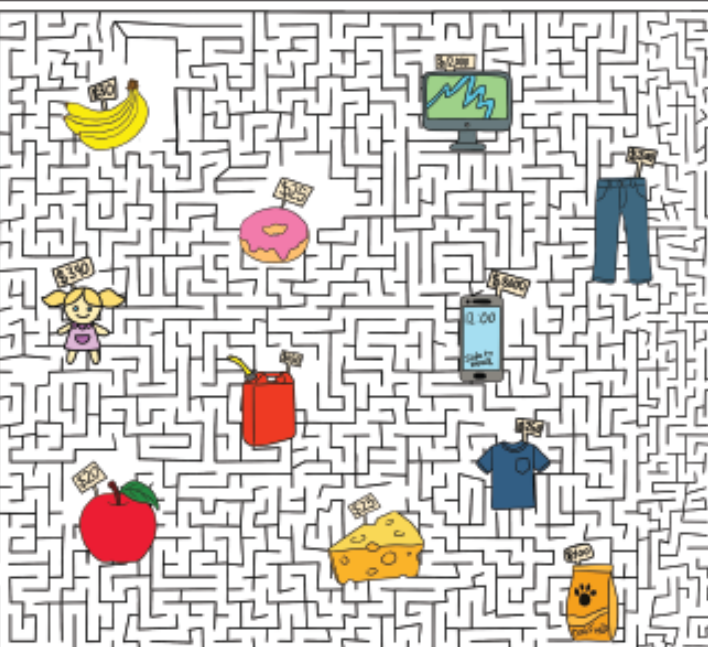
So no, this isn't just a rant about a handbag. It's about what it means to even think about buying one in a world like this. It's about gratitude wrapped in guilt. It's about fear of the future tangled with small moments of hope. It's about being scared but trying anyway. And knowing how lucky you are, even while your chest still feels tight at night.

Some people might say, "Just move out." "Just budget." "Just don't buy the coffee." But it's never just about coffee, or a purse. It's about having the basics – security, stability, a chance to breathe without constant panic. It's about the impossible choices people have to make every day, either to keep chasing dreams or to settle instead, just to survive.

If you have a place to stay and people who tell you, "Stay until you're ready," don't forget how rare that is. Because for most people today, that safety net doesn't exist. Not because they're lazy or don't try, but because the cost of living keeps climbing while wages don't.

The truth is, the system isn't built for everyone to get ahead. And until that changes, all the advice in the world won't fix the real problem.

**BARNEY'S ABSURDLY PRICED TARIFF MAZE**



PAGE 4 Illustrations by Corbin Sanders Maze by Jesse Lund

# Best Headline Writing

College Group 3

2nd Place

The Commuter- Linn  
Benton CC

Sid Mydland



▲ Views of the bridge collapse. Photos via Corvallis PD.

## Corvallis Bridge is Falling Down

words by SID MYDLAND

Trestle Collapse in Avery Park sends Portland & Western Rail Car into River

**O**n Jan. 4, a trestle collapsed at Corvallis' Avery Park, causing a rail car to fall into Marys River and spill 150,000 pounds of urea fertilizer into the water. The trestle, owned by Portland & Western Railroad (PNWR), had previously been damaged by a fire in May 2022 that burned for nine hours.

"A primary concern was just the material [urea fertilizer] entering the water... particularly from ammonia, which can be created when urea combines with water," said Oregon Department of Environmental Quality representative Dylan Darling. The DEQ sampled for ammonia levels in the water, with Darling saying that no "immediate high risk to fish" was found.

While this situation is relatively small, fertilizer spills can be disastrous in rivers. Last year in Red Oak, Iowa, there was a 265,000-gallon fertilizer spill that took place in the East Nishnabotna River. This spill, caused by a clogged line at a plant owned by multimillion-dollar company NEW Cooperative, traveled around 60 miles downstream, killing 750,000 fish. The Iowa Capital Dispatch mentioned outrage from the state's Department of Natural Resources. The Iowa DNR lobbied for higher fines, with their lawyer valuing the ecological damage at \$226,000. So far in Corvallis, there has been no talk of fining PNWR for the incident.

There is also the matter of how or if drinking water has been affected at the water system uptake. "The closest water system was nine miles downstream and did not operate their water treatment plant for three days directly

following the incident," Erica Heartquest, public health communication officer for the Oregon Health Authority, told The Commuter. She also mentioned how high water levels at the time of the collapse likely had lessened the impact of the fertilizer.

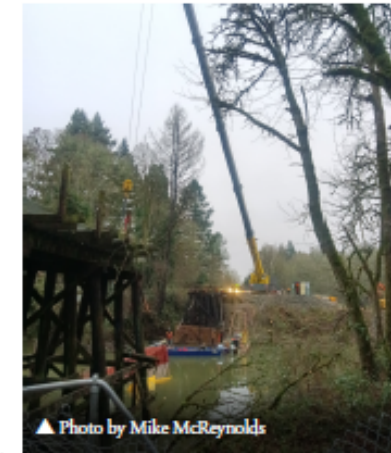
Tom Ciuba, a representative for PNWR, addressed if the 2022 fire played a role in the collapse. When asked if there were repairs to the bridge following the fire, Ciuba told The Commuter that PNWR had the bridge looked at by engineers: "The team identified some rail, crossties, and bridge caps that needed to be replaced around where the fire occurred. Once those repairs were made, the bridge was then inspected again by engineers for structural integrity before traffic resumed."

Residents seemed skeptical about the safety of the bridge pre-collapse; while some were surprised by this event, others found it to be all too predictable.

In a Corvallis Reddit thread titled "Avery Park train bridge finally collapsed," locals shared their opinions on the incident. Many expressed anger, with one user writing, "Ridiculous, it broke exactly where it was burn damaged." In another comment, a user stated, "Who decided to keep using the bridge to carry loaded cars after it burned? There needs to be some accountability."

Many others repeated these sentiments, expressing anger for perceived negligence, but Ciuba said, "There is no indication at this time that the 2022 fire is related to this month's collapse."

However, the Corvallis Police Department



▲ Photo by Mike McReynolds

states that the collapse was due to a structural failure. Whether or not the fire damage is why the trestle collapsed, the event has called into question PNWR's management of the structure.

PNWR, along with its parent company Genesee & Wyoming, are no strangers to controversy. In 2023, G&W settled in a suit filed by the EPA for breaking regulations outlined in the Clean Air Act.

On the hiring website Indeed, former employees of Genesee & Wyoming have mixed reviews about working conditions. Some say they appreciate the benefits and job security, while others lament bad management. Several mention management's lack of care, dangerous working conditions, and lower pay than similar jobs.

Their treatment of employees came to a head in June of 2023 when 31 workers were allegedly unlawfully fired for attempting to unionize and a suit was filed against them by a rail division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters labor union.

Luckily for Portland & Western Railroad, Marys River has come out of this situation relatively unharmed. ✨

# Best Headline Writing

College Group 3

1st Place

The Commuter- Linn  
Benton CC

Ryland Bickley

Band Spotlight

Dancing on a

## MOONBEAR

words by RYLAND BICKLEY  
photos via MOONBEAR

“**W**e’re dancing on a moonbeam,” sings The Strokes’ frontman Julian Casablancas in the legendary New York rock group’s sundrenched 2020 album “The New Abnormal.”

That line was also the inspiration for the band name of Eugene-based alt rockers Moonbear.

“There was a misheard lyric from a Strokes song. ... I heard ‘moonbear,’ and I was like, ‘You know what? That could be a pretty good name,’” said bassist Sebastian Brown. “It was supposed to be a temporary name.”

“Fun fact – none of us like the name, but, you know, we couldn’t think of a better one,” added lead singer and rhythm guitarist Lauden Jones.

“We like it now,” clarified Brown.

Moonbear’s casual nomenclature might come as a surprise considering the band’s sophisticated and distinctive sound. Described by Brown as “liminal alt space shoegaze pop,” adding, “there’s some space rock in there” – the rest of the band is fine with the alt rock title – you’ll know a Moonbear song when you hear it.

The Strokes once again come up as an influence, with Moonbear’s driving beats, repeating guitar hooks, and catchy progressions,

often realized through Brown’s bass grooves and Jones’ vocal melodies, immediately standing out. Jones can also add a Casablancas-esque vibrato flourish to the end of his lines to go along with his soft and often atmospheric vocals.

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Moonbear’s music is tailor-made for driving late at night – close your eyes and you can almost see the streetlights whizzing by to the bittersweet beauty of cuts like “Coma” and “Ugly.”

Moonbear was founded by Jones and Brown in 2022 when the two met in a music theory class at Lane Community College.

“I originally come from a tuba and symphonic or classical background, but I like rock music now, so that’s what I’m doing with the boys,” said Brown.

Lead guitarist George Lerczak and drummer Shun Tsuji also joined the band through the college.



# Best Writing

College Group 2

3rd Place

The Pioneer Log

Megan Ziegele

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025

4

## OPINION

### Marijuana clouds community spirit

By ROSALIE ZUCKERMANN

IN 2023, THE Princeton Review ranked Lewis & Clark the first in the country out of almost 400 colleges — not for academics or campus life, but for “Reefer Madness.” While many LC students were thrilled and amused by our college’s top weed marks, I felt embarrassed. It might be controversial to say such a thing in a school and a city so dominated by an enthusiastic stoner culture, but I do not want the most notable thing about my college to be its student body’s pot usage.

This academic year, LC has dropped to fourth place on the reefer madness list, but that is still in the top 1% of colleges reviewed. It is not that I am anti-weed — I recognize that part of college is exploring new things in new social situations, and that can include substances. I even enjoy a recreational edible now and then (faculty reading this, I am 22). Marijuana can also be a helpful way for people with anxiety or high stress to relax or be able to sleep.

The problem I find is that weed all too often becomes more like a hobby or a personality trait than a drug. Like anything, drug use should be balanced in moderation with meaningful, productive activities. LC prides itself on a rich and varied student life, boasting over 100 student organizations, clubs and affinity groups. When stoner culture supplants participation and engagement in these organizations, our active community becomes less vibrant.

A systematic review by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) finds that regular marijuana users can experience a few decreases in their levels of motivation. An academic environment, in addition to student life here, is more beneficial when every

student contributes to the classroom and gives their all. Asking a peer, “What are you doing for the rest of the day?” at a crisp 1p.m. on a Tuesday and being met with the response, “Getting high,” can be extremely disheartening to hear.

Vaping, too, has become highly normalized as a part of student culture here. Because vaping is believed not to pollute the air like cigarettes do, many students do not think twice about vaping indoors, even in the library. Yet vaping still negatively impacts indoor air quality, and, as an NLM study details, “secondhand exposure to e-cig aerosols has become a serious public health concern.”

Vaping has become so nonchalant that people will drive while hitting THC vapes. Although it might look like a cute, peach-flavored treat, vaping cannabis is driving under the influence. When weed vapes look identical to nicotine vapes, drivers should clarify what substance they are using, and it should not be assumed that passengers are comfortable with the safety risks that come from both intoxicated driving and secondhand aerosol exposure.

It is not my intention for this article to be preachy or judgmental. It is every student’s choice how they spend their time. Still, it is hard not to notice the prevalence of stoner and vaping culture on our campus, and to wonder what LC might be like if our student body’s weed usage were not some of the highest in the country. Our college has an identity outside of its “reefer madness.” The diverse interests and passions here should be elevated over the singular popularity of a consistently pro-marijuana mindset that takes over the school.

*“The diverse interests and passions here should be elevated over the singular popularity of a consistently pro-marijuana mindset.”*



### Trump weaponizes, manipulates Christian religion for political gain

By MEGAN ZIEGELE

SINCE TAKING office in 2016, President Donald Trump has branded himself as a religious figure, inspiring his supporters to go so far as referring to him as “The Chosen One,” a title Biblically bestowed to Jesus. During all three of his candidacies, he has marketed himself as a public proponent of faith and has recently signed an executive order seeking to establish a “Faith Office,” counterintuitively consulting world figures on religious liberty while blurring the ever-thinning lines between church and state. Project 2025 (P25) — the conservative agenda Trump attempted to verbally distance himself from during the 2024 election season despite his intimacy with the platform’s proprietor, The Heritage Foundation — calls for even further religious involvement in the U.S. government.

Among this platform’s plethora of faith-based policy lies “Sunday Law” — what I find to be P25’s most alarming proposal. Sunday laws aim to regulate and restrict activity on the Sabbath — selecting Sunday as that day of rest, drawing out plans for governmental requirement on employers to pay time and a half on the Sabbath. It goes without saying that the enactment of this policy would be an appalling violation of the Constitution, but it also lays the groundwork for the United States to function as a theocracy, hand in hand with Trump’s plan to create a “Faith Office.”

Theocracy poses a dangerous threat to democracy and freedom of religion as it inherently prioritizes one religious interpretation — Protestant Christianity, in this case — over all others, stripping away personal autonomy and replacing it with government-enforced dogma. The irony of Trump’s self-branding as a religious leader is that his personal conduct and policies bear no resemblance to the tenets of Christianity — especially those emphasizing compassion, empathy, humility and care for the marginalized. In fact, Trump has wielded religion not as a means of fostering faith and spirituality, but as a blunt tool to consolidate power, demand loyalty and market himself as the ultimate savior of American conservatism.

Let me be clear: President Trump is not using religion in a “holy” sense. He is perverting and exploiting it purely as a tool of domination — co-opted by

the powerful. His religious branding is entirely performative, serving only as a means to appeal to the conservative Christian voter base that has, in many ways, become a prime demographic of the modern Republican Party.

The most striking evidence of this performance came during his second presidential swearing-in when he notably refused to place his hand on the Bible — the very book he now sells as the “Trump Bible,” complete with the addition of the U.S. Constitution. This hypocrisy encapsulates his entire approach to faith — he markets it, sells it and manipulates it for personal gain, but he does not embody it. His supposed religious convictions do not translate into policy that protects and uplifts the vulnerable — rather, his administration and campaigns have been defined by cruelty to the oppressed. Nowhere is this contradiction more glaring than in his treatment of marginalized groups.

While many Christian teachings emphasize the importance of caring for the poor, welcoming the stranger and aiding the oppressed, Trump has consistently enacted policies that do the exact opposite. He has demonized undocumented immigrants, referring to them as “infestations” and advocating for harsh immigration policies that separate families and subject asylum seekers to inhumane conditions. Women — particularly those seeking reproductive healthcare — have been vilified by his administration, which has sought to roll back abortion rights under the guise of religious morality while simultaneously disregarding the systemic issues that have led to unwanted pregnancies in the first place. LGBTQ+ individuals, too, have faced targeted attacks through policy rollbacks on workplace protections, military service eligibility and healthcare access.

In stark contrast to Trump’s opportunistic use of religion is the philosophy of liberation theology. While liberation theology has many different applications and histories across religions, a universal theme is the preferential option for the poor — the idea that faith, including the Christian faith, calls upon followers to prioritize and uplift the most marginalized in society. The Bible is rich with teachings that emphasize social justice, like Jesus’ call to care for “the least of these,” (Matthew 25:40) This concept does not merely advocate for charity — it calls for active participation in dismantling

systems of oppression and creating a more equitable society.

To truly embody these values, one must advocate for the oppressed, like undocumented immigrants seeking safety, women making life-changing healthcare decisions, people of color fighting for equality and LGBTQ+ individuals pursuing protection. Yet, Trump has discarded and discredited these needs, mocking the very people Christ called upon his followers to uplift. His actions reveal a fundamental disconnect between the faith he masquerades for political gain and the faith as practiced by those who genuinely strive to live and love by its principles.

This is the core of the issue: Trump’s religious posturing is a fraud. He does not follow Christianity; he weaponizes it. He does not value faith; he commodifies it. His interest in religion extends only as far as it serves his personal ambitions, allowing him to manipulate devout voters into believing he is their champion. His presidency and ongoing political influence demonstrate the alarming dangers of a leader who sees religion not as a moral guide, but instead as a weapon of control.

If faith is to have any true meaning in politics, it must be rooted in genuine moral leadership — one that values justice, compassion and care for the oppressed, and one that, above all, is removed from direct governmental influence, allowing for freedom of religion across the country. Trump’s brand of religious nationalism is none of these things. It is a cynical performance, a marketing scheme and a means to an end. As long as it remains unchecked, it will continue to threaten the very principles of faith and democracy.



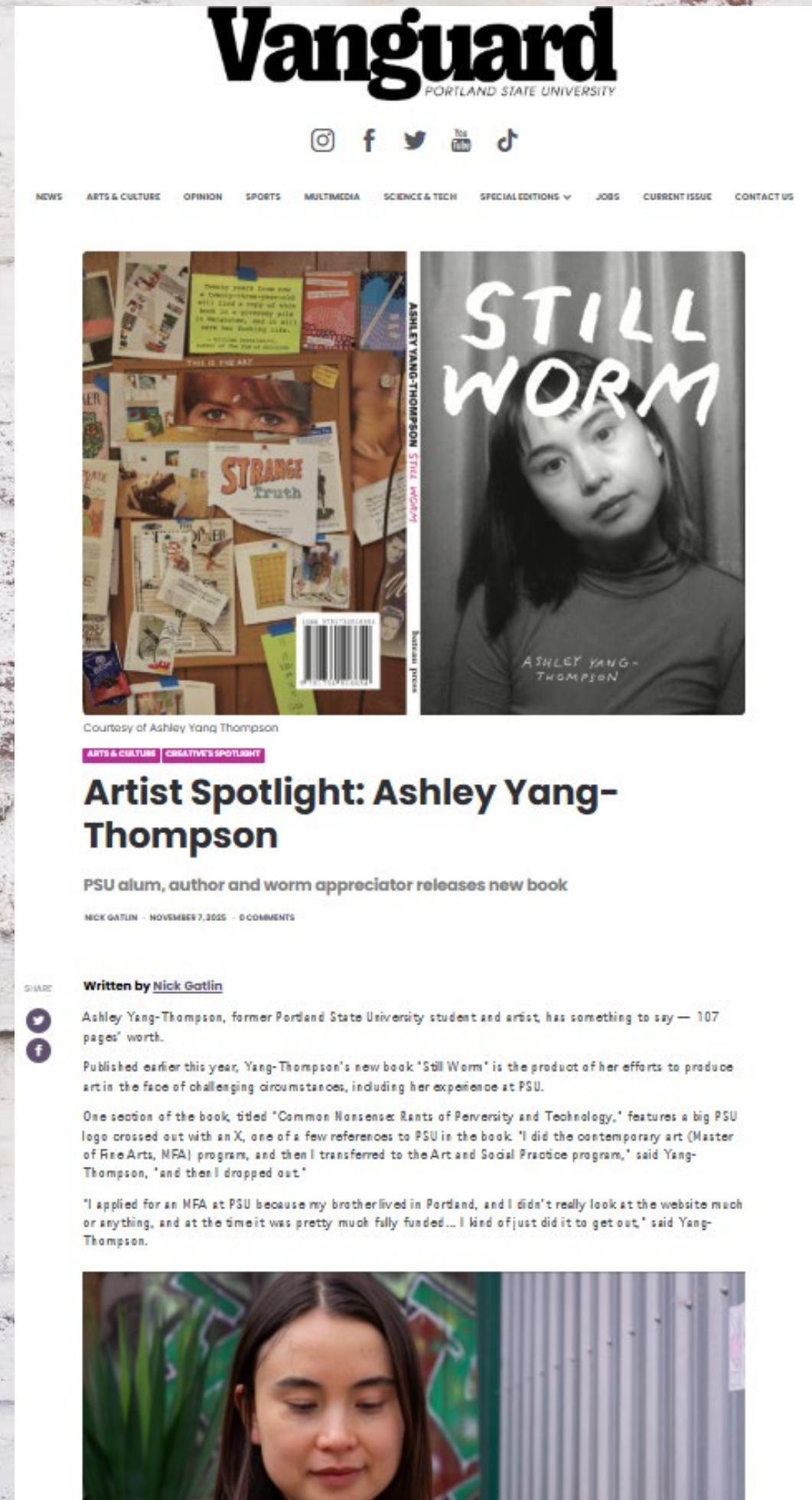
# Best Writing

College Group 2

2nd Place

Vanguard - PSU

Nick Gatlin



**Vanguard**  
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

NEWS ARTS & CULTURE OPINION SPORTS MULTIMEDIA SCIENCE & TECH SPECIAL EDITIONS JOBS CURRENT ISSUE CONTACT US

**STILL WORM**

Ashley Yang-Thompson

Courtesy of Ashley Yang Thompson

ARTS & CULTURE CREATIVE'S SPOTLIGHT

## Artist Spotlight: Ashley Yang-Thompson

PSU alum, author and worm appreciator releases new book

NICK GATLIN · NOVEMBER 7, 2025 · 0 COMMENTS


Written by [Nick Gatlin](#)

Ashley Yang-Thompson, former Portland State University student and artist, has something to say — 107 pages' worth.

Published earlier this year, Yang-Thompson's new book 'Still Worm' is the product of her efforts to produce art in the face of challenging circumstances, including her experience at PSU.

One section of the book, titled "Common Nonsense: Rants of Perversity and Technology," features a big PSU logo crossed out with an X, one of a few references to PSU in the book. 'I did the contemporary art (Master of Fine Arts, MFA) program, and then I transferred to the Art and Social Practice program,' said Yang-Thompson, 'and then I dropped out.'

'I applied for an MFA at PSU because my brother lived in Portland, and I didn't really look at the website much or anything, and at the time it was pretty much fully funded... I kind of just did it to get out,' said Yang-Thompson.



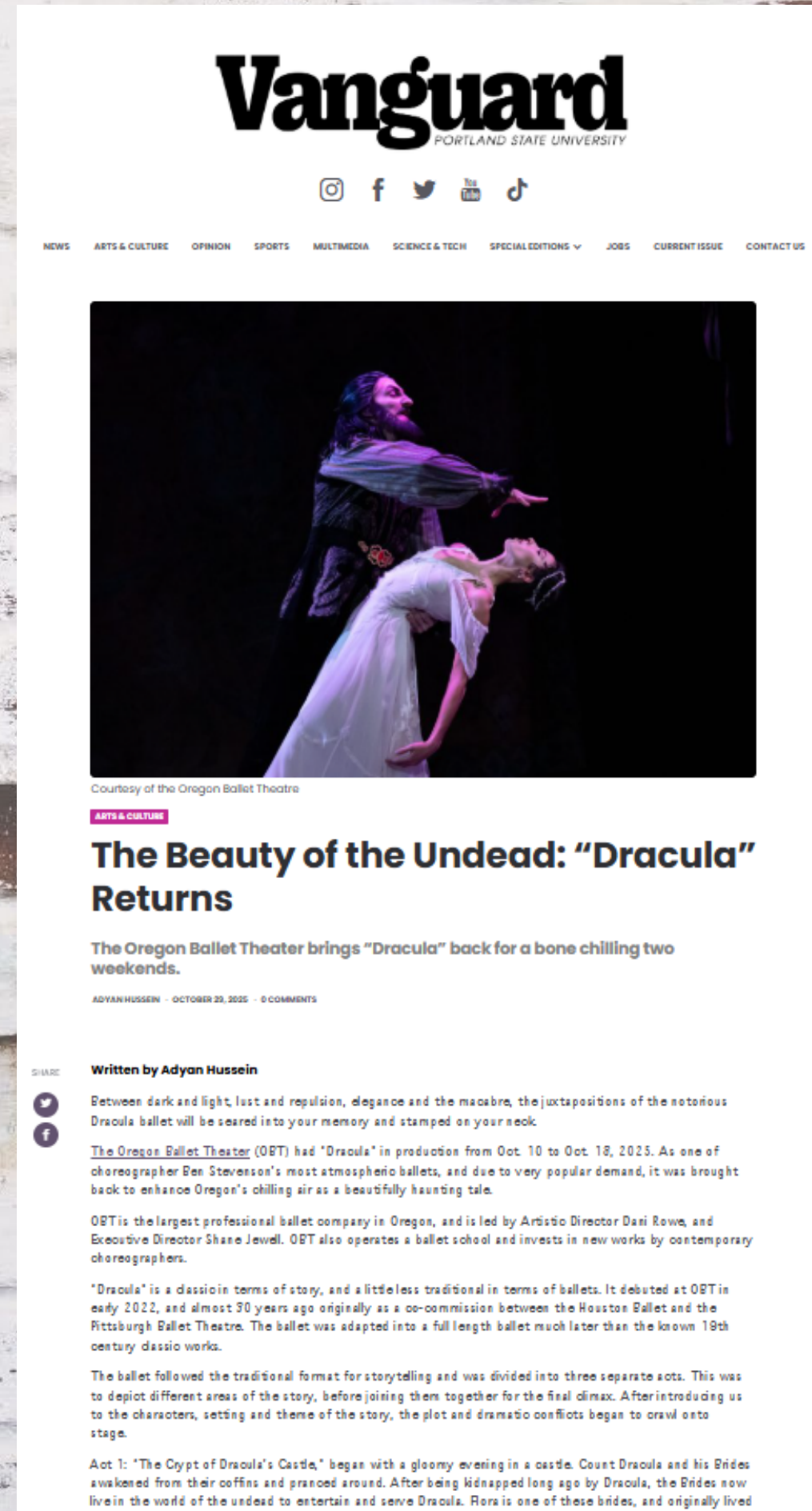
# Best Writing

College Group 2

1st Place

Vanguard - PSU

Adyan Hussein



The image shows a screenshot of a web article from Vanguard, Portland State University. The article is titled "The Beauty of the Undead: 'Dracula' Returns" and is categorized under "Arts & Culture". It features a photograph of a ballet performance with a male dancer in a dark, gothic-style costume and a female dancer in a white, flowing dress. The article text discusses the Oregon Ballet Theater's production of "Dracula" and mentions the choreographer Ben Stevenson. The author is Adyan Hussein, and the article was published on October 29, 2025.

**Vanguard**  
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

NEWS ARTS & CULTURE OPINION SPORTS MULTIMEDIA SCIENCE & TECH SPECIALEDITIONS JOBS CURRENT ISSUE CONTACT US

Courtesy of the Oregon Ballet Theatre

**Arts & Culture**

## The Beauty of the Undead: "Dracula" Returns

The Oregon Ballet Theater brings "Dracula" back for a bone chilling two weekends.

ADYAN HUSSEIN · OCTOBER 29, 2025 · 6 COMMENTS

Written by Adyan Hussein

Between dark and light, lust and repulsion, elegance and the macabre, the juxtapositions of the notorious Dracula ballet will be seared into your memory and stamped on your neck.

The Oregon Ballet Theater (OBT) had "Dracula" in production from Oct. 10 to Oct. 18, 2025. As one of choreographer Ben Stevenson's most atmospheric ballets, and due to very popular demand, it was brought back to enhance Oregon's chilling air as a beautifully haunting tale.

OBT is the largest professional ballet company in Oregon, and is led by Artistic Director Dani Rowe, and Executive Director Share Jewell. OBT also operates a ballet school and invests in new works by contemporary choreographers.

"Dracula" is a classic in terms of story, and a little less traditional in terms of ballets. It debuted at OBT in early 2022, and almost 90 years ago originally as a co-commission between the Houston Ballet and the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. The ballet was adapted into a full length ballet much later than the known 19th century classic works.

The ballet followed the traditional format for storytelling and was divided into three separate acts. This was to depict different areas of the story, before joining them together for the final climax. After introducing us to the characters, setting and theme of the story, the plot and dramatic conflicts began to crawl onto stage.

Act 1: "The Crypt of Dracula's Castle," began with a gloomy evening in a castle. Count Dracula and his Brides awakened from their coffins and pranced around. After being kidnapped long ago by Dracula, the Brides now live in the world of the undead to entertain and serve Dracula. Flora is one of these brides, and originally lived

# Best Writing

College Group 3

3rd Place

The Commuter- Linn  
Benton CC

Ryland Bickley

Band Spotlight

Dancing on a

## MOONBEAR

words by RYLAND BICKLEY  
photos via MOONBEAR

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Lead guitarist George Letzack and drummer Shun Tsuji also joined the band through the college.



# Best Writing

College Group 3

2nd Place

The Advocate-MHCC

S. Cousins

## “ALL GAS, NO BRAKES” GOAL OF SUPPORT FOR ALL STAYS ALIVE AT MT HOOD

S. Cousins  
The Advocate

How empowered do you feel in your everyday life? Do you feel like you can do what you find fun when you want to? Do you feel that you can pursue your dreams and catch them? Do you feel free to express who you came into this life to be? Do you feel that you can “be your dream”?

As I chat with folks in our MHCC community, I often hear fresh concerns with what is happening in the White House and how it will affect their lives. Many in our community have already been impacted by Federal Work Study or other program funding pauses/threats of defunding. Other recent Trump administration edicts include sending ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents to crack down at schools and churches, and moving to defund any programs or institutions using DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) language.

Given that the political puppet show can distract us from focusing on what matters most to us individually, I wondered how Mt. Hood is responding.

I am delighted to discover that our college is embracing empowerment over fear.

MHCC President Lisa Skari wrote in a Jan. 28 email to all college staff after a flurry of Trump executive orders, “I want to acknowledge that these issues can bring up fear and uncertainty for many in our community. Please know that you are not alone in navigating these challenges. We are here to support one another, and I am personally committed to



Photo by Tony Acker

ensuring that our college remains a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who walks through our doors.” The latter specifically cites Mt. Hood’s declared mission to serve undocumented students, in alignment with sanctuary policies adopted by the state of Oregon, the state’s community college association, Multnomah County and the City of Portland.

### RETREAT WOULD ‘BETRAY MISSION’

I also caught up with Traci Simmons, Mt. Hood’s director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as many more changes ordered by the White House directly target her area of work.

She emphatically echoed Skari’s message of support for all. “Mt. Hood’s stance is: ‘We are pro-civil rights, we are pro-human rights,’” said Simmons.

The MHCC community is “situated in Oregon, in Multnomah County, in Gresham, which has a huge population of people from all different backgrounds – 71 different languages spoken in the area,” she noted.

“To back away from diversity, equity and inclusion would be to betray our mission, betray the mission of community colleges and ultimately betray what we want to do for our community, which is to advance education, civic engagement, and economic development.

**“TO BACK AWAY FROM DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION WOULD BE TO BETRAY OUR MISSION...”**  
-TRACI SIMMONS

“It can’t happen without us doing this work and so we’re very committed,” Simmons continued.

We’re not stopping the work that we’re doing with regards to (DEI). We know our community. We know who we serve.

And it’s a very diverse community with lots of different people, with lots of different backgrounds, and spoken languages, and skin colors, and hair types, and hairstyles, and gender identities... “And so it’s like, what? Why would

we stop it?” she said. “We can’t. We know who we need to serve, to be sustainable in this community, into the future... We know we have to be able to serve everyone.”

### ‘CLOSER MATCH’ TO COMMUNITY

Following several talks with Skari, Simmons said Mt. Hood’s ongoing focus is clear. “We’re all gas, no brakes. We’re continuing our work,” Simmons said.

“We’re continuing our work with student basic needs, we’re continuing our work with diversification of our workforce, so it has a better and closer match to our community so that the people who come here to get educated see themselves in the space,” she said. “We’re continuing to support our faculty and staff, and developing and implementing culturally responsive practices and culturally relevant practices.”

Simmons conceded that federal rule changes, such as blocking grants and funding, “could hinder that work,” she said.

“That presents some challenges for specific programs. But we are prepared to fight for everything that we’re doing for our students. We also recognize that the federal government has limits on what they can tell us we can and can’t do,” she said. That means Mt. Hood remains steadfast in its DEI mission, Simmons said.

“And so we’re not complying in advance” with White House directives, Simmons said. “If (it) comes up that we have to... we will absolutely follow the law, but we also have Oregon state law that has so many protections for people. So, we have that on our side, as well as our internal policies.”

### OVERARCHING LAWS

We at The Advocate have written stories about the efforts Mt. Hood are taking to support students through lean years, including student housing support at Abigail Court, among the first of its kind in the nation. These programs are proof that we care about our community and supporting each other.

By continuing to move full steam ahead with the DEI work already set in motion the college is taking an empowered stance to stand up for what we know to be right for our community.

Obviously there may be risks ahead. But in my previous career experience, many projects interrupted by world events or corporate-level events instead put my teams’ focus on the things that really matters in a fulfilling life: Being kind to and loving one another, regardless of the law of the land.

Following the law of the heart overrules following the rules or management’s edicts. Following my heart is the only path that has worked long-term for me, and ultimately the laws of the universe do not get trumped by government decrees.

### CALL FOR CONVERSATION

Skari said the present climate calls for a renewed approach to respecting differences, while seeking positive common ground.

The college is “taking a cue from the mountain embedded in our name – ‘It’s Time to Elevate,’” Skari said. “We are adopting this new slogan as a rally for elevating the impact of our college. We must encourage students to take the opportunity to elevate their lives, which in turn supports our community.” While some in our government look to create

**“UNITING AROUND THE IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE, EQUITABLE HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS EVERYONE.”**  
-LISA SKARI



Photo provided by Lisa Skari

more division by attacking our neighbors who may include immigrants, LGBTQIA+ individuals and more, Skari stressed the importance of “calling people in” – inviting them into conversation by focusing on shared values – as “the more strategic choice if you want to make real change,” she said.

“I ask us to make this a practice: Let’s invite one another, and our extended community, into the joy and collective gain that can happen when we unite around our community college mission,” said Skari. “We don’t all have to agree to be leaning in the same direction, and in fact, it’s best if we don’t! Our district serves a highly diverse community – ideologically, demographically, and geographically.

“But uniting around the importance of quality, accessible, equitable higher education benefits everyone,” she said.

# Best Writing

College Group 3

1st Place

The Advocate-MHCC

Morgan McCarraher

NOV 7, 2025

OPINION **A**

## WHEN AWARENESS TURNS TO EXHAUSTION

Morgan McCarraher  
The Advocate

Have you ever noticed that certain headlines – local, national, or global – barely register anymore? You scroll past them, not because you don't care, but because you've simply run out of space to care.

That creeping sense of indifference has a name: news fatigue. It's the emotional and mental exhaustion that comes from the relentless current of information, especially the kind steeped in crisis, conflict, and catastrophe.

We live in the age of information, a time when technology has made news omnipresent. What used to arrive once a day in print or at six o'clock sharp now floods every screen, every minute. The 24-hour news cycle was born as a marvel of access and now has evolved into a marathon of exposure. The consequence is subtle but profound. When every story competes for urgency, tragedy becomes background noise. We begin to tune out the very things that should move us.

Apathy isn't always a choice; often, it's a symptom of saturation.

The problem with tuning out isn't that people stop caring – it's that they stop feeling. Constant exposure to violence, corruption, or disaster dulls the emotional reflex that keeps societies empathetic. When everything is breaking news, nothing truly breaks through. This erosion of attention has consequences: fewer voters, less accountability, and a public that grows numb to injustice because it no longer shocks them.

News fatigue isn't just about burnout; it's about trust. When audiences feel overwhelmed, they begin to suspect that every outlet is manipulating emotion for clicks. The line between information and entertainment blurs. And when truth itself feels exhausting, people drift toward silence,

distraction, or echo chambers where the noise at least feels familiar.

Even the rare appearance of good news can hit differently – muted, dulled by the same exhaustion that numbs us to tragedy. News fatigue works both ways: It can flatten joy as easily as sorrow. But fatigue isn't the end of awareness, it's a signal to recalibrate it. We can choose to consume consciously, to step back without stepping away. That means setting boundaries with our feeds, seeking out reliable reporting instead of viral outrage, and remembering that empathy isn't infinite, but it is renewable.

There's also a quieter danger hidden in news fatigue: When we disengage, we leave the narrative to those who don't. Outrage and misinformation thrive in the silence left behind by the exhausted majority. Algorithms, after all, don't measure truth: they measure attention. The less we engage thoughtfully, the more the loudest and angriest voices dominate the conversation.

That's why the solution isn't to abandon the news, but to reclaim it... to remember that information is meant to enlighten, not to exhaust. It means valuing long-form journalism over viral soundbites, choosing depth over immediacy, and recognizing that our attention is a finite civic resource. Like any resource, it must be renewed and protected.

We may not be able to control the pace of the world, but we can control the pace of our awareness. That act – deciding when and how to engage – isn't apathy. It's stewardship. And if enough people make that choice, the noise begins to thin, revealing the stories that actually matter.

Because the world doesn't stop turning when we look away. And if we all look away at once, the people who depend on being seen will vanish into the static. Truth is lost not just to lies, but to the tired silence that follows them.



### Tips for shedding news fatigue

News fatigue doesn't mean you've stopped caring. It means your attention has reached its limit. The goal isn't to disconnect from the world but to approach information with intention.

Try setting boundaries with your media intake. Check the news at certain times of day instead of letting it fill every quiet moment. Balance heavy headlines with stories that show progress or creativity, so your view of the world isn't filtered through crisis alone. Choose a few trustworthy outlets and read deeply rather than endlessly scrolling through fragments.

Give yourself permission to rest your empathy – step away, breathe, and reconnect through art, nature, or local community instead of another feed refresh.

Remember that awareness doesn't require exhaustion. You can't fix everything you see, but you can stay informed enough to make small, meaningful choices. The healthiest attention is the kind you can sustain.

# Best News Story

College Group 2

3rd Place

The Beacon

Samantha Zavala

The Beacon  
The Student Voice of the University of Portland Since 1935

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## Professors rethink teaching as AI reshapes the classroom

By [Samantha Zavala](#) | November 12, 2025 4:35pm

Where should we begin?  
How is AI changing the classroom?

A ChatGPT conversation with the prompt, "How is AI changing the classroom?"  
Media Credit: Maggie Dipp / The Beacon

From the [grocery store](#) to the [research lab](#), artificial intelligence (AI) has found its place everywhere, including in the classroom. Through individualized study guides, essay editing and more, [students](#) of all ages are turning to AI to help with school. Even [teachers](#) have found AI useful for things like lesson planning and expediting grading. As AI changes the academic landscape, UP professors are learning to navigate the technology to either encourage or discourage student use. To combat students using AI for his classes, political science professor Jeffrey Meiser has reverted to mostly in-class work. For his courses, Meiser assigns quizzes that students will then incorporate into their final paper. While students could use AI for the final assignment, he hopes that breaking the assignment down will discourage students from engaging with the technology. Although he describes himself as an "anti-AI extremist," Meiser understands that the technology's convenience invites usage. He also says students worry about being qualified for an oversaturated job market that [prioritizes AI usage in most fields](#). "I am sympathetic because I think there's pressure on students as they're entering the workforce to know how to use AI," Meiser said. "I think there ought to be offerings at UP for students to gain that knowledge. But I just don't like any hints that as regular professors in our disciplines, we need to have students incorporate AI in our courses. I'm not interested in that. I'm not going to do that." The university, however, is encouraging professors in all disciplines to use AI in the classroom. Funded by the [Dundon-Berchold Institute for Applied Ethics and Moral Formation](#), the new [ethical AI initiative](#) asks faculty to create a course that engages with AI. Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Valerie Banschbach spearheaded the initiative with the hopes of preparing students for the workforce and ensuring the ethical use of AI. "I'm worried about what happens to any technology if it isn't shaped by people who care about the common good," Banschbach said. "It can be used in ways that are discriminatory and are disadvantageous to people who are not the ones who own the technology."

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# Best News Story

College Group 2

2nd Place

The Pioneer Log

Emma Claire Ambroziak



# The Mossy Log



Vol. 104 No. 5

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

www.mossylog.org

## Staff, faculty anticipate budget cuts amid deficit

CAS employees report low morale, concern over wages, workloads, funding in face of \$3.7 million shortfall

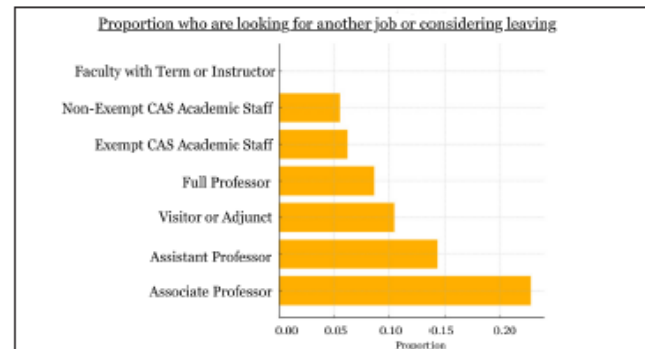
By EMMA CLAIRE AMBROZIAK

**L**OWER undergraduate enrollment in recent years has led to reduced tuition revenue, and subsequently, the need to enforce cost-cutting measures across the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) campus. Anticipated cuts on the academic side of campus have contributed to growing dissatisfaction among faculty and staff regarding current compensation practices.

In a Mossy Log article published last September, Hollie M. Elliott, the associate vice president for admissions, explained that LC had hoped to enroll 625 first-year students this past year. Instead, only 485 first-year students enrolled in LC, compared to 553 first-year students the year prior. This is in part due to Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) delays last spring.

It remains unclear whether the delayed rollout of the 2025-26 FAFSA will lead to a smaller incoming class this fall and continued CAS budget cuts that threaten faculty salaries and support staff wages. LC is anticipating that CAS will face a \$3.7 million deficit for FY25 (Fiscal Year 2025) due to low enrollment and the increased central costs resulting from inflation — which include utilities, custodial services, insurance and food costs associated with residential students.

The primary source of financial stress for the school is decreased net tuition revenue, stemming largely from low enrollment in recent years and increased financial aid packages. As of Nov. 5 2024, students on average pay only 38.6% of full



Results from the April 1 BAC survey demonstrate discontent with compensation practices.

tuition. Additionally, with the class of 2025 being the largest currently on campus (the so-called Classzilla) and about to graduate, tuition revenue is expected to fall further.

In early March, the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), comprised of nine members (faculty, staff and one student representative), sent a Compensation Survey to the CAS faculty and CAS forum email listservs to solicit opinions on current compensation practices. The survey was open March 4-18, and its results shed light upon widespread discontent among CAS faculty and staff members regarding wages, budget cuts, workloads and morale.

The Compensation Survey was accompanied by a Cost Savings Survey, whose data, as of April 8, had not yet been analyzed by the Budget Advisory Committee Working Group (BACWG). The Cost Savings Survey was open March 17-21 and sought feedback on a

wide variety of proposed cost-cutting measures, ranging from reducing sabbatical pay, to disincentivizing small class sizes to faculty and staff attrition. Several of these long-term cost-cutting measures were proposed at the BACWG "Unhappy Hour" meeting on Feb. 11, 2025, which was open to faculty, staff and other community members.

Some proposals suggested increasing professors' teaching loads from five classes per academic year to six. Others would count classes consisting of eight students or fewer as equivalent to teaching half of a class, requiring professors to take on additional work to reach the quota.

Cost-saving measures proposed at budget meetings over the past few months ranged from changes to sabbatical policies, which would see professors receiving reduced pay on sabbatical relative to

current policy, to curriculum changes such as eliminating the CORE Numbers requirement for first years or adjusting the foreign language requirement. Proposals for reductions to departmental operating budgets and conference travel budgets surfaced, as did suggestions about reducing support and administrative staff. One proposal suggested decreasing the amount of support staff and contingent faculty positions, whereas others floated the idea of faculty and staff attrition (in which positions left vacant by retirement or resignation would remain unfilled), as well as offering early retirement packages to incentivize staff and faculty to leave their positions.

The committee has been clear throughout the process that all proposals are preliminary and that no formal recommendations have been made, nor has any course of action yet been decided upon. The results and analysis from the Cost Savings Survey will be presented at the next BAC meeting on May 1.

In the most recent BAC report from April 1, the committee presents a comprehensive summary and analysis of the findings from the Compensation Survey, which garnered 148 responses from a wide cross-section of both faculty and support staff working this academic year. This academic year, there are 133 faculty members and approximately 150 support staff employees employed across the CAS. Roughly one-third of the responses to the Compensation Survey came from staff, while two-thirds came from faculty. The most common length of service reported by survey respondents was more than 15 years.

The first question on the Compensation Survey asked respondents how satisfied they were with LC compensation on a scale of 1-10. The mean response was 4.5, with a standard deviation of 2.3. This means that on average, respondents reported feeling a satisfaction level of 4.5 out of 10, and that most responses fell between 2.2 and 6.7 on the scale. It is worth noting that only about 50% of staff and faculty submitted responses, so it is possible that those experiencing more discontentment were more likely to fill out the survey, skewing the data due to self-selection bias.

Anonymous quotes from the survey, along with data analysis charts, were included in the April 1 BAC report, which depicted the range of sentiments felt among staff and faculty regarding the school's current compensation practices.

One respondent, an associate professor, described their reliance on supplemental income, contract work and extreme budgeting.

"Overall, I used to be an excellent liberal arts college professor, love my job, and invest in the college. Now I'm a mediocre college professor, feel grief for losing my academic career, and I am in the process of leaving. I used to be proud of the way I served students. Now I'm embarrassed by my lack of service, but I need to take care of myself," they wrote.

A different associate professor expressed frustration with their workload.

"They don't actually care about me — I am overworked. This is not the dream I thought I was pursuing," they wrote.

"COLLEGE" continued on page 4.

# Best News Story

College Group 2

# 1st Place

# Oregon Daily Emerald

# Tristin Hoffman

**THE DAILY Emerald**  
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025 INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM PRODUCED BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS

**CITY NEWS**  
**Reviving downtown: How Eugene is trying to bring life back to its core — one small win at a time**  
By Cecil Cronk  
City News Reporter

**ARTS & CULTURE**  
**Spilling the tea with Eugene's most elusive tea salesman**  
Read story on page 7

**CAMPUS NEWS**  
**SOJC faculty issues open letter to defend press freedom**  
Read story on page 8

**INVESTIGATIONS**  
**Abroad, SOJC Dean Flies High. Back Home, His School Spirals Into Deficit.**  
After nearly a decade of running UO's journalism school, Dean Juan-Carlos Molleda faces questions about his leadership, budget management and personal conduct.  
By Tristin Hoffman, Daily Emerald Editor-in-Chief  
Read story on page 8

**CAMPUS NEWS**  
**UO unions demand budget transparency from university**  
By Ayana Vilhena  
Campus News Reporter

**SOJC Dean Juan-Carlos Molleda is late for a portrait.** (Left: Emerald's Tristin Hoffman)

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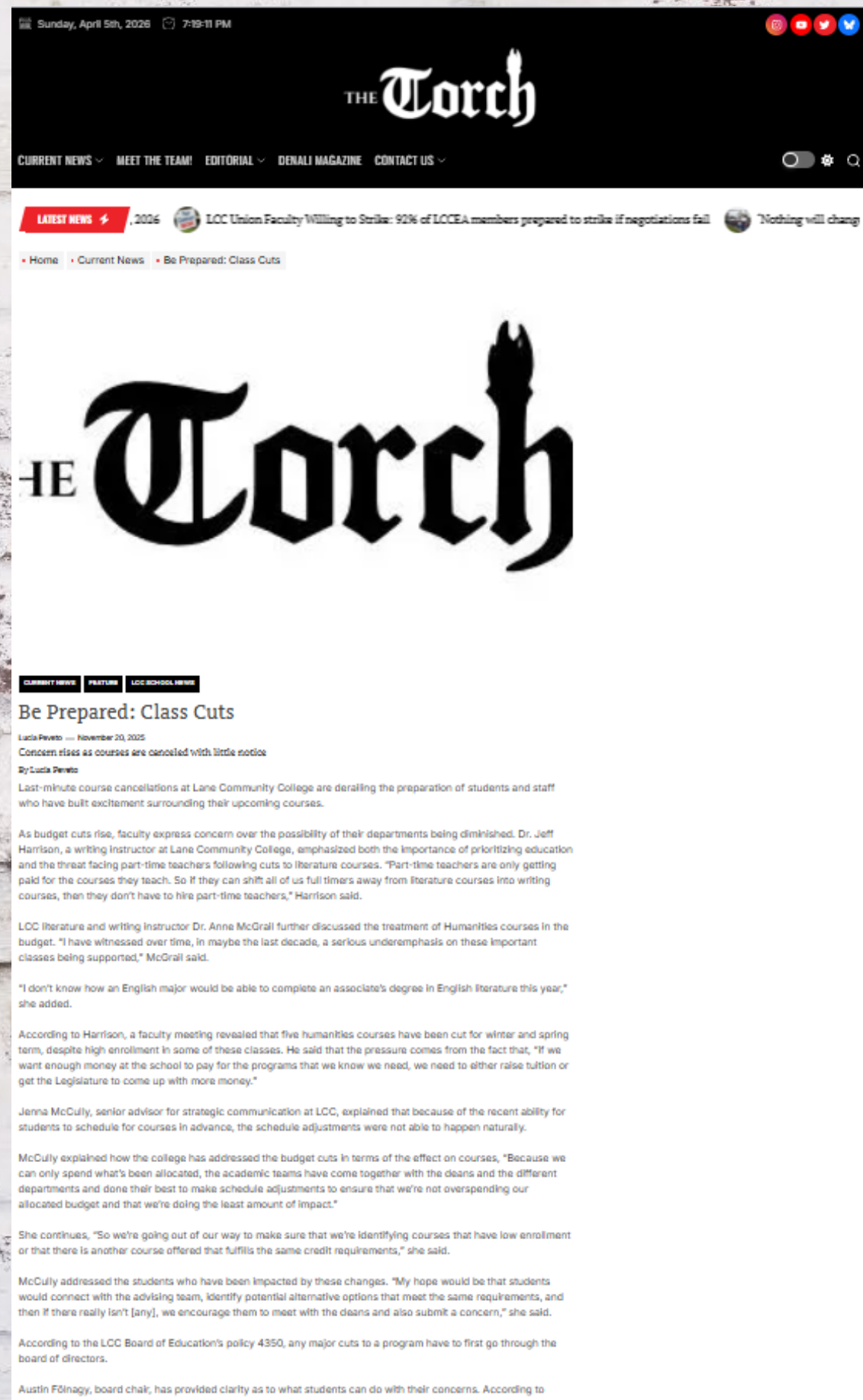
# Best News Story

College Group 3

3rd Place

The Torch- Lane CC

Lucia Peveto



# Best News Story

College Group 3

## 2nd Place

### The Commuter- Linn Benton CC

Sid Mydland, Ryland Bickley



words by SID MYDLAND AND  
RYLAND BICKLEY

**W**hen Donald Trump was inaugurated as the United States' 47th president on Jan. 20, it marked the beginning of a period of upheaval in the federal government. Trump signed 26 executive orders on his first day in office, with the total rising to 37 in the first week – not counting various pardons, memorandums, and proclamations, as well as the actions of other members of his administration.

One such memo that many college students noticed was released on Jan. 27, with Matthew J. Vaeth, the acting director of the Office of Management and Budget, instructing agencies to pause all federal financial assistance.

The memo excluded Social Security and Medicare from its scope, but the status of federal student aid was not made clear. While the Department of Education later clarified

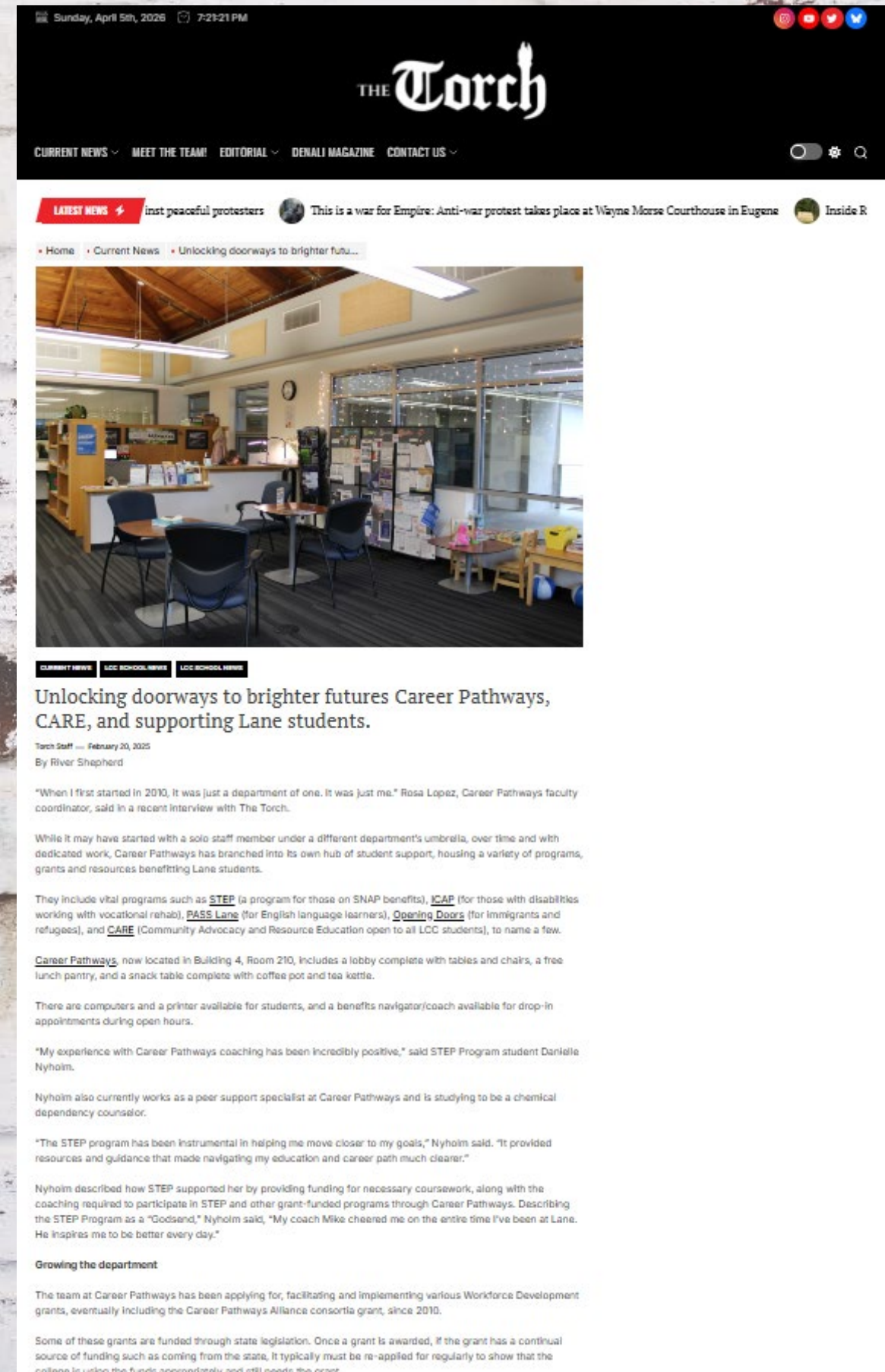
# Best News Story

College Group 3

1st Place

The Torch- Lane CC

River Shepherd




Sunday, April 5th, 2026 7:21:21 PM

THE Torch

CURRENT NEWS MEET THE TEAM EDITORIAL DENALI MAGAZINE CONTACT US

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Home Current News Unlocking doorways to brighter futu...



CURRENT NEWS LCC SCHOOL NEWS LCC SCHOOL NEWS

## Unlocking doorways to brighter futures Career Pathways, CARE, and supporting Lane students.

Torch Staff February 20, 2025  
By River Shepherd

"When I first started in 2010, it was just a department of one. It was just me." Rosa Lopez, Career Pathways faculty coordinator, said in a recent interview with The Torch.

While it may have started with a solo staff member under a different department's umbrella, over time and with dedicated work, Career Pathways has branched into its own hub of student support, housing a variety of programs, grants and resources benefitting Lane students.

They include vital programs such as [STEP](#) (a program for those on SNAP benefits), [ICAP](#) (for those with disabilities working with vocational rehab), [PASS Lane](#) (for English language learners), [Opening Doors](#) (for immigrants and refugees), and [CARE](#) (Community Advocacy and Resource Education open to all LCC students), to name a few.

[Career Pathways](#), now located in Building 4, Room 210, includes a lobby complete with tables and chairs, a free lunch pantry, and a snack table complete with coffee pot and tea kettle.

There are computers and a printer available for students, and a benefits navigator/coach available for drop-in appointments during open hours.

"My experience with Career Pathways coaching has been incredibly positive," said STEP Program student Danielle Nyholm.

Nyholm also currently works as a peer support specialist at Career Pathways and is studying to be a chemical dependency counselor.

"The STEP program has been instrumental in helping me move closer to my goals," Nyholm said. "It provided resources and guidance that made navigating my education and career path much clearer."

Nyholm described how STEP supported her by providing funding for necessary coursework, along with the coaching required to participate in STEP and other grant-funded programs through Career Pathways. Describing the STEP Program as a "Godsend," Nyholm said, "My coach Mike cheered me on the entire time I've been at Lane. He inspires me to be better every day."

### Growing the department

The team at Career Pathways has been applying for, facilitating and implementing various Workforce Development grants, eventually including the Career Pathways Alliance consortia grant, since 2010.

Some of these grants are funded through state legislation. Once a grant is awarded, if the grant has a continual source of funding such as coming from the state, it typically must be re-applied for regularly to show that the college is using the funds appropriately and still needs the grant.

# Best Series


College Group 2

3rd Place

The Collegian-Willamette  
Univ

Skeet Starr, Aubrey Lee

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April 16 >

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Skeet Starr, Editor-in-Chief · Sep 19, 2025 · 5 min read

## WU student tries to start Turning Point USA chapter days before Charlie Kirk assassination

Updated: Sep 24, 2025



Turning Point USA on campus. Graphic by Dasha Allyn.

**Editor's Note:** When asked, Lexi Thorsett told *The Collegian* she is a distant relative of Willamette University President Stephen Thorsett. The president's office declined to comment on family relations.

If anyone hadn't heard of Turning Point USA (TPUSA) before last week, they have now. That's especially true at Willamette.

# Best Series

## College Group 2

# 2nd Place

# The Pioneer Log

## Staff



# The Mossy Log

est. 1942

LEWIS & CLARK'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER



NOBE BULL, THE MOSSY LOG

Vol. 105 No. 6

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025

www.mossylog.org

## Student Life responds to uncertain semester

Leadership adjusts responsibilities, practices in response to budgetary constraints, evolution of positions

By OLIVIA FENDRICH

THROUGHOUT THE country, colleges and universities have faced increasing financial challenges as a result of a national decline in college enrollment, the effects of economic inflation and various attacks on higher education by the Trump administration. These issues have resulted in mass layoffs at many institutions and a restructuring of institutional programs to save costs. As a consequence of the decline in hiring, many college faculty and staff have found themselves taking on work from co-workers who left their institutions.

President Robin Holmes-Sullivan discussed Lewis & Clark's own financial issues in an email sent to the LC community on Sept. 8. In the email, Holmes-Sullivan noted the impact of both under-enrollment and lower than expected net tuition revenue from first-year students on the college's budgeted College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) operating deficit. One consequence of this downturn is the implementation of an institutional hiring freeze.

"As we move through the budget process, we have suspended hiring in CAS and Common Service, except for positions considered mission-critical, such as those impacting the health and safety of our community," Holmes-Sullivan wrote.

The hiring freeze was one of the measures the college implemented in order to address its financial troubles. However, in an Oct. 9 Finance Division Update, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Operations Andrew Dooley stated that the college's operating results for non-2025 performance did not meet the institution's financial expectations.

"While the Board had approved a modest \$0.4 million operating deficit, the College concluded the year with a smaller-than-anticipated \$0.2 million shortfall," she wrote. "Undergraduate enrollment of 2,200 was more than 100 students below budget and resulted in an estimated \$1 million revenue shortfall for CAS. However, good expense controls in both CAS and Common Service, strong returns on short-term investments, and a higher endowment draw helped to significantly mitigate these revenue challenges."

In a statement to The Mossy Log, Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Helen Howell said that the college has actually gained full-time employees over the last five years.

"In terms of numbers, Lewis & Clark has actually had a modest increase, with a net increase of 4 staff FTE (full-time equivalent), which is how employees measure total workforce over the last 5 years. These numbers are always a snapshot of a particular moment in time, but the additions

reflect things like staffing to support the addition of new sports teams (men's soccer, women's lacrosse), the creation of the Career Accelerator, and the expansion of First Year Experience," she said.

Howell discussed the hiring freeze's impact on HR's approach to managing the process of filling positions. "When a position opens up, the hiring freeze lets us pause and consider, should this position be filled in the same way it previously was filled? Or is this a chance to rethink the work of a department or team, to consider ways to reorganize or do things differently?" she explained. "Sometimes the freeze is just a pause before a similar hire, but sometimes the freeze gives us a chance to streamline or expand what particular positions do, based on current need. Either way, we are thoughtfully taking the time to make sure we are staffing effectively."

Despite the college's ability to avert some of the financial strain imposed by the deficit, the hiring freeze has remained in place. This, as well as the regular turnover associated with voluntary departures, has pushed many administrators at LC to take on more responsibilities and implement new approaches to managing their offices.

One example of this is the shift that has occurred within the Division of Student Life since the departure of former Vice President of Student Life (NSP),

Debra Castillo-Clark and former Director of Student Engagement Tamara Ko. In response to the vacancy left by Castillo-Clark, Ten Moss, who formerly worked as the director of Campus Living, was appointed by Holmes-Sullivan as the interim vice president of Student Life and dean of students.

"While Debra was here, she really worked closely with me to help developing the division. So when she departed, there was an opportunity to step in and be an interim vice president and support the whole student life, and that has kind of then converted into being able to do that

in a permanent fashion," Moss said in an interview with The Mossy Log.

When Moss shifted to being the interim vice president of Student Life, responsibilities were then redistributed throughout the division, and Jonathan Moss was appointed as interim assistant dean of students. On Aug. 18, Moss's duties as the interim vice president of Student Life and dean of students ended and he was formally appointed to the permanent role.

"DIVISION" continued on page 5.



The Office of Human Resources manage employee hiring and recruiting for vacancies.

## Ray Warren Symposium fosters diversity, community, activism

By MARGARET-JOANNE LUKE

FROM NOV. 12-14, organizers hosted the annual Ray Warren Symposium on Race and Ethnic Studies. This year, the student-led symposium was focused on social justice through meaningful resistance. Across the three days of events, speakers discussed a wide variety of topics, but the symposium's central theme of "knowing resistance" tied all of these presentations together.

The symposium featured a variety of events, including presentations from experts outside Lewis & Clark, a student research showcase, a fashion show, a traditional dance workshop and the concluding event, Race Monologues. The symposium was co-chaired by four LC students, Devine Subyart '25, Elizabeth Durston '25, Jackson Gabriel Garcia Rosales '25 and Ajahn Martinez '26, who served as this year's symposium co-chairs. Other organizers included the symposium's director, Professor Kimberly Franklin and various student and faculty volunteers.

In his keynote presentation, "The Anti-Authoritarian Playbook," social justice activist Scott Nakagawa emphasized the historical power held by student groups fighting against authoritarian regimes.

"Throughout history, when authoritarian have seized power, it has often been students — young people your age approximately — who have recognized

what time it was and turned the tide," Nakagawa said.

Nakagawa gave examples of previous student movements and their success in order to encourage the LC community to follow in a similar fashion, fighting against an ongoing authoritarian governmental takeover through an organized, united front.

"In Serbia, students toppled the dictator everyone said was unmovable. In South Korea, students took down a military dictatorship backed by superpowers. In Indonesia, students ended 32 years of authoritarian rule. In Chile, students forced constitutional reform against neoliberal order. In Hong Kong, students showed the world what democracy looks like. In Taiwan, students stopped an authoritarian trade deal and energized democracy," Nakagawa said. "Every single one of these movements was told they couldn't win, and every single one won anyway, not because they had more resources, not because they had better odds, and not because they faced less danger — it's because they understood what time it was, and they moved."

The Mossy Log spoke to the symposium's co-chairs about the experience of planning and putting on the event series.

"I think it is really nice to have the Ray Warren Symposium to build

this space for students to share their experiences, showcase their student work and to create community," Garcia Rosales said.

She noted that creating safe spaces for representation like this is vital due the current era of political violence.

"Especially in moments like this, when there's a lot of division and debate and a lot of attacks against different groups, I think having this symposium is really important to help students feel welcome, safe, valuable and to stand for them in some way," Garcia Rosales said.

The symposium sought to both empower student voices and identify while advocating for more political resistance.

Through the Race Against Disciplinary Boundaries: Student Research Showcase, students were given the chance to share their research, covering topics such as mixed racial identity, language gaps in natural disaster alerts, the effect of climate disaster on marginalized communities, and the work and methodology of a historical social activism group, Congress of Racial Equality. The event was moderated by Subyart and showcased the research of four LC undergraduates: Mikela Beloney '26, Jacqui Contreras '26, Christen San Diego '25 and Blake Harrison '25.

"SHOWING" continued on page 5.

## Department hosts event on ranked choice voting

By BRADY VINLOVE

IN 2024, THE CITY OF Portland implemented changes to the city's governance structure and election methods. Part of this adjustment included adopting the ranked-choice voting system for city elections. To better understand the significance of this change and engage with students, on Nov. 20, the Lewis & Clark Political Science Department hosted a conversational event discussing its impact and origins. The event featured four members of the political science faculty: professors Ellen Seljan, Todd Lockner, Leah Gilbert and Ben Gaskins. Additionally, two guest speakers presented — Marina Karanitsky and Shannon Grimes.

Karanitsky is the research manager for the North Star Civic Foundation, a Portland-based organization which works toward a more open democracy and a just and equitable market economy through a variety of local projects. Grimes is a senior researcher specializing in democracy and elections at the Lightline Institute, a think tank focused on the Canadian region aiming to promote sustainability.

Gaskins facilitated the conversation, kicking off the event by asking Karanitsky and Grimes to give a brief history of Portland's decision to implement ranked choice voting. Karanitsky explained that every 10 years, a commission is formed to examine Portland's charter — a document that acts as the city's

constitution. This commission then makes recommendations for changes to the charter in the future.

In 2020, this commission found that many Portlanders felt underrepresented and that the city government was inefficient. The group recommended expanding the number of city council members from five to 12, with three representing each geographical district of the city, and shifting councilors' roles to focus on setting policy.

The commission also proposed using ranked-choice voting for all city elections. Under this system, voters can choose multiple candidates and rank them by preference. The mayor's and auditor's races would use single-winner ranked choice voting where a winner must secure over half of the votes. City council elections would use multi-winner ranked choice voting where a candidate must secure over 25% of the votes.

In 2022, voters chose to adopt these measures. When the next general city election took place in 2024, ranked choice voting was used for the first time in Portland.

Grimes added that the greater number of city councilors and the voting system was especially intended to give residents of color the chance to have their voice heard, which she sees as a benefit of the ranked choice system.

"RESEARCHERS" continued on page 5.

Today's Inspiration  
  
NOBE BULL, THE MOSSY LOG  
Should add assignments be forgotten and never brought to mind. We'll have a copy of Red Bull yet, in days of mid-ling eyes.  
PAGE 4

WE NEED CHANGE!  
OPINION  
Anonymity weakens activism  
Facing backlash for political beliefs you express is not a crisis; it is a symptom of talking about politics at all.  
PAGE 4

36 hours in Portland  
FEATURES  
The New York Times' article missed these must-see Portland spots.  
PAGE 7

New Hoffman exhibit  
ARTS  
Yellow exhibit offers phone booth that allows students to browse a variety of audio artwork.  
PAGE 9

Basketball wins  
SPORTS  
Men's and women's teams kick off season with success.  
PAGE 11

# Best Series

College Group 2

1st Place

The Linfield Review

Kenny McMillen

With Japanese no longer offered at Linfield, where do interested students go?

On May 1, Orion Bretherton made a decision that would change his life. He decided to enroll in Linfield University. One of the biggest draws was a standalone Japanese major.

That all changed in the middle of summer.

“I got an email saying the Japanese program got cut,” Bretherton, now a freshman, said. “So, we set up a call with Gennie VanBeek and with Michelle [Tomseth], and apparently they did know that they were cutting Japanese. They just hadn't finalized it yet, so they didn't tell anyone.”

Japanese is one of the handful of programs that are being cut as part of phase one of the Reorganization, Elimination and Merger (REM) process of the Balanced Budget Initiative. These cuts are to help erase what was once a \$4.9 million deficit.

Gennie VanBeek, the dean of the college of arts and sciences, was in communication with students affected by these cuts around the third week of July. The reason this communication came so late was a result of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) review period of the REM process not ending until July 4.

This delay has drawn ire from some students, like freshman Andrew White.

“I feel like I got the rug pulled out from under me because I came here specifically for the Japanese program,” White said.

Bretherton feels “screwed over” with the situation as well. It caught both of them off guard. Both of them said there was no prior indication that Japanese could potentially be getting cut.

What made the situation even more difficult was that the only Japanese professor, Masayuki Itomitsu, left Linfield at the end of the last academic year. Because of that, Linfield had to not allow incoming students to enroll in the program.

Left with a difficult decision, the students are forced to decide between staying and being unable to do the program they want, or attempt the challenge of transferring to another university at the last second.

Bretherton has considered transferring, but White doesn't think he will. Both of them are weighing the pros and cons of taking such action.

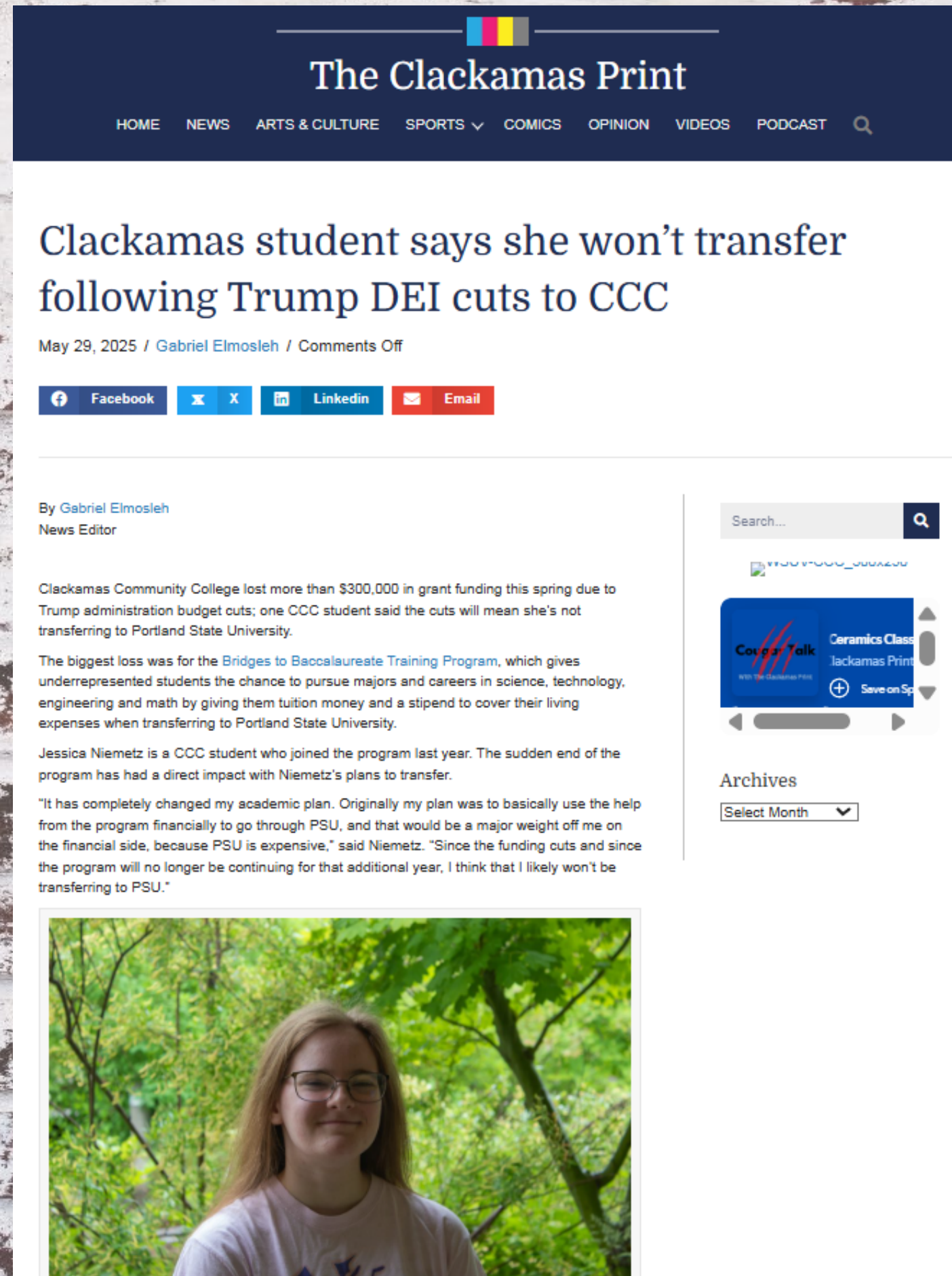
# Best Series

College Group 3

3rd Place

The Clackamas Print

Gabriel Elmosleh and  
Corban Stanton



The Clackamas Print

HOME NEWS ARTS & CULTURE SPORTS COMICS OPINION VIDEOS PODCAST

## Clackamas student says she won't transfer following Trump DEI cuts to CCC

May 29, 2025 / Gabriel Elmosleh / Comments Off

Facebook X LinkedIn Email


By Gabriel Elmosleh  
News Editor


Clackamas Community College lost more than \$300,000 in grant funding this spring due to Trump administration budget cuts; one CCC student said the cuts will mean she's not transferring to Portland State University.

The biggest loss was for the Bridges to Baccalaureate Training Program, which gives underrepresented students the chance to pursue majors and careers in science, technology, engineering and math by giving them tuition money and a stipend to cover their living expenses when transferring to Portland State University.


Jessica Niemetz is a CCC student who joined the program last year. The sudden end of the program has had a direct impact with Niemetz's plans to transfer.

"It has completely changed my academic plan. Originally my plan was to basically use the help from the program financially to go through PSU, and that would be a major weight off me on the financial side, because PSU is expensive," said Niemetz. "Since the funding cuts and since the program will no longer be continuing for that additional year, I think that I likely won't be transferring to PSU."



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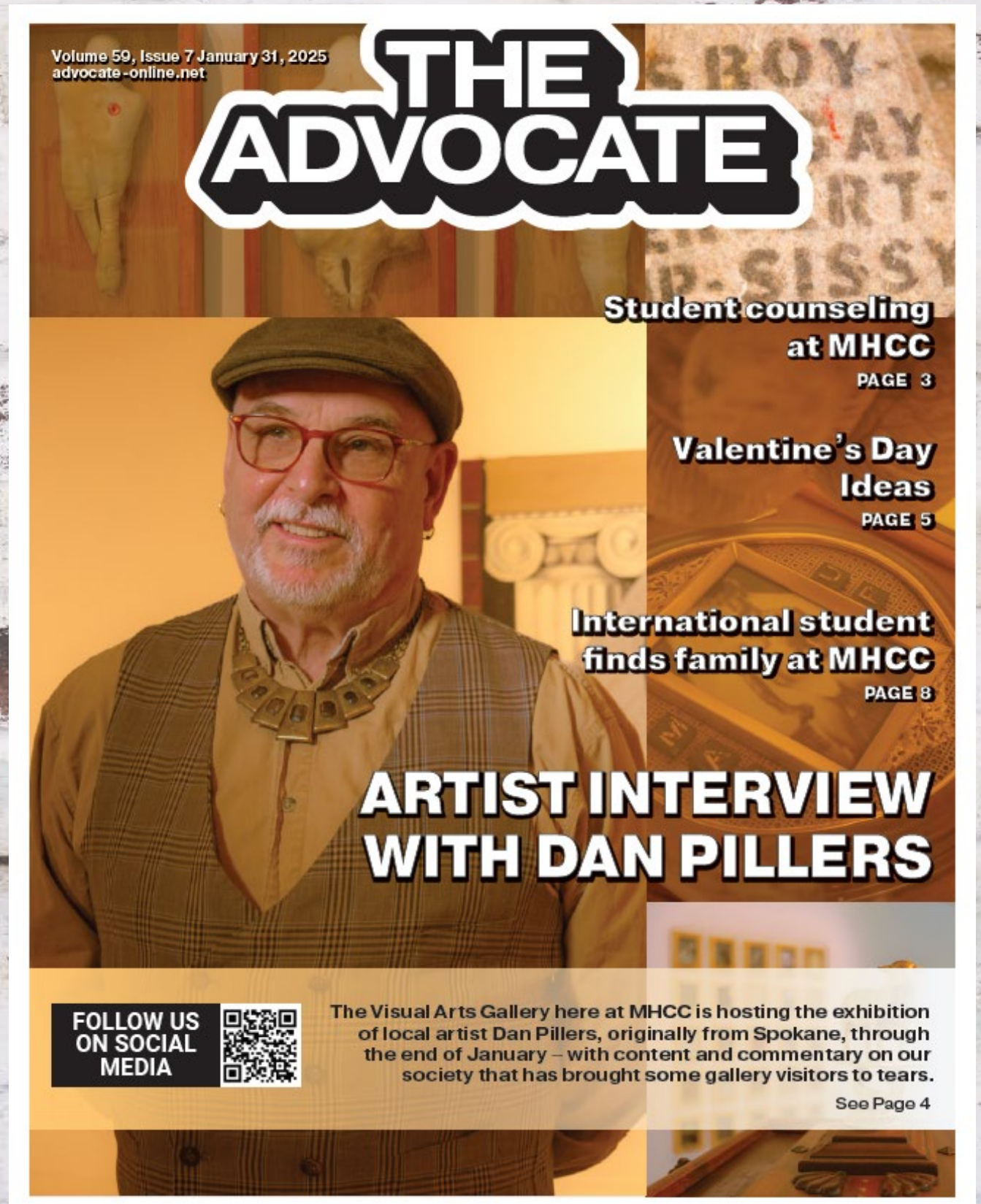
# Best Series

College Group 3

# 2nd Place

# The Advocate-MHCC

Staff



# Best Series

College Group 3

1st Place

The Advocate-MHCC

Staff



## MHCC BOND COLLEGE FUTURE HINGES ON BOND PASSAGE

**Leo Fontneau**  
The Advocate

The long-sought Mt. Hood Community College bond measure (following a handful of unsuccessful attempts, the most recent in 2017) is finally going to have its moment on the ballot, again.

Oregon's May 20 special election will include the \$136.4 million tax proposal for all property owners in the college's far-reaching district, which was formally adopted on Jan. 15 by the MHCC District Board of Education.

The summary submitted to explain the bond proposal to voters mostly focuses on how the bond money would repair aging facilities, update classrooms, create a new health professions center and construct a cover for the college's outdoor swimming pool. These are the top-line items the college is focusing on as it goes to ask the community to support funding the bond.

Otherwise, the explanation to voters about the bond is rather sparse.

The best available information we have about how the bond could change MHCC comes from the 10-year facilities plan presented to the Board in June 2024. The plan includes all the items described above, plus a more detailed explanation about what renovating the campus could look like.

Any final impacts are still in play. Responding by email, Jennifer DeMent, vice president of finance for the college, explained to me that bond projects are often "conceptual and require extensive stakeholder engagement to finalize details."

In that context, the bond should be understood more as starting a process than approving a completed proposal. For now, as point of conjecture, we can examine the ideas presented in the facilities planning document to get a sense of what the college hopes to achieve with the bond.

### Health Professions

The bond proposal explicitly includes the creation of a health professions center, which the facilities plan recommends should create an interdisciplinary environment for students in the college's health professions programs. Currently, one of the college's mini-campuses, The Bruning Center near central Gresham, is the location of the college's nursing program. The creation of a health profession center would likely relocate the nursing program to the main campus.

This centralizing of the college's health programs could create an opportunity for the college to reduce its total footprint and operating costs. In light of the "surplus of general-purpose classrooms" the facilities report describes currently at the Gresham campus, this might make sense.

As it now stands, DeMent said, "No decision has been made regarding the future of the Bruning Center after the Nursing program relocates to the Gresham campus."

### Aquatics

The construction of a permanent, retractable roof around the outside Olympic-sized swim pool at Mt. Hood's Aquatics center seems to serve two purposes for the college.

First off, the pool roof has been one of the clearest talking points I've seen the college manage to get out into the public. As a part of campus used by more members of the community besides just students, the pools seems to be a feature the college believes it can get people to relate to: Updating its pools is a tangible benefit the college can show to community members in return for them supporting the bond.

Second, the Aquatics center is a side business the college runs that earns revenue. The thinking behind the roof is that if the pool can remain open longer during the winter months, the center can produce more revenue by hosting more events, in working with its partners. A roof also would allow year-round use by Mt. Hood students.

### Maintenance

Several parts of the campus are showing the effects of aging as time passes. The bond aims to renovate the campus to replace aging infrastructure that is either approaching or already beyond its intended lifespan.

Charles George, Mt. Hood's associate vice president of facilities, public safety, risk and environmental health and safety, said that only about a third of roofs on campus have been recently replaced or treated, leaving the rest at the cusp of pushing beyond their expected lifespan.

As the roofs continue to age they are going to require increasing maintenance to prevent water damage, but even that will only work for so long, he said.

It's a similar story for the fire control panels. George said if he isn't able to make improvements or changes soon, the college will be left with another problematic patchwork system to maintain.

"We're at a point where I have to upgrade all the fire panels or at some point eventually I'm not going to be able to get replacement parts and I'm (going to have) multiple fire systems, which would be weird," he said.

In addition, the bond measure proceeds would go toward repairs of siding, floors, air conditioning and electrical systems.

### General Modernization

The college wants to update all the classrooms across campus to be equipped with consistent, newer technology, replace the remaining chalkboards on campus with whiteboards, and have dedicated hybrid learning instructional space (available for in-person and virtual sessions).

### Accessibility

The college's plan would make the campus more accessible by increasing the number of elevators and updating some of the campus's older existing ones. The college has two main elevators used for accessibility purposes – the elevator next to the library and the elevator in the Student Union. George said the elevator in

the Student Union "is at an age that it needs to be modernized to prevent future breakdown."

The plan also includes renovating bathrooms to be both more accessible and non-gender specific.

### Safety and Security

One of the features of the bond-funded plan emphasized by the college is the ability to instantly lock down the building in the event of an active shooter scenario.

This change would require replacement of physical door keys with a key card system. Currently, George says that the college must order physical keys, replace lost ones and even replace the locks on doors in the case that an employee departs MHCC and forgets to return that key. With an access card system instead, changes would be easier and the college would have the ability to secure the system "almost immediately," he said.

Besides more easily securing the physical doors on campus, bond money could improve the college's security camera system by replacing a patchwork of incompatible security camera systems with a unified security camera system, school officials say.

### Renovating science labs

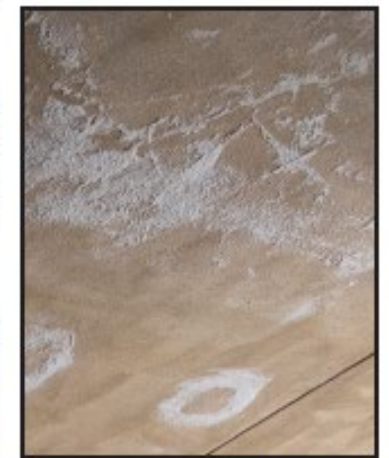


Photo by Leo Fontneau

# Best Feature Story

College Group 2


3rd Place

The Collegian-Willamette  
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Violeta Basenko

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Violeta Basenko, Staff Writer · Mar 17, 2025 · 4 min read

## Leadership, community and growth: Inside Willamette's Greek life

Updated: Mar 19, 2025



The former Alpha Phi sorority house at 880 Mill St. SE. Photography by Keenan Yoshizawa.

Among the many clubs and organizations at Willamette University, students might be interested in Greek life, communities that are divided into fraternities and sororities. Greek life organizations aim to offer lifelong friendships, leadership opportunities, networking, philanthropic engagement, academic support and a strong sense of belonging. However, many students may not be aware of their existence or fully understand how they function at Willamette, what the recruitment processes look like, and what values they share.

At Willamette University, students looking to be a part of Greek life can join sororities Alpha Chi or Alpha Phi or fraternities Kappa Sigma Theta-Delta or Sigma Chi. Greek life

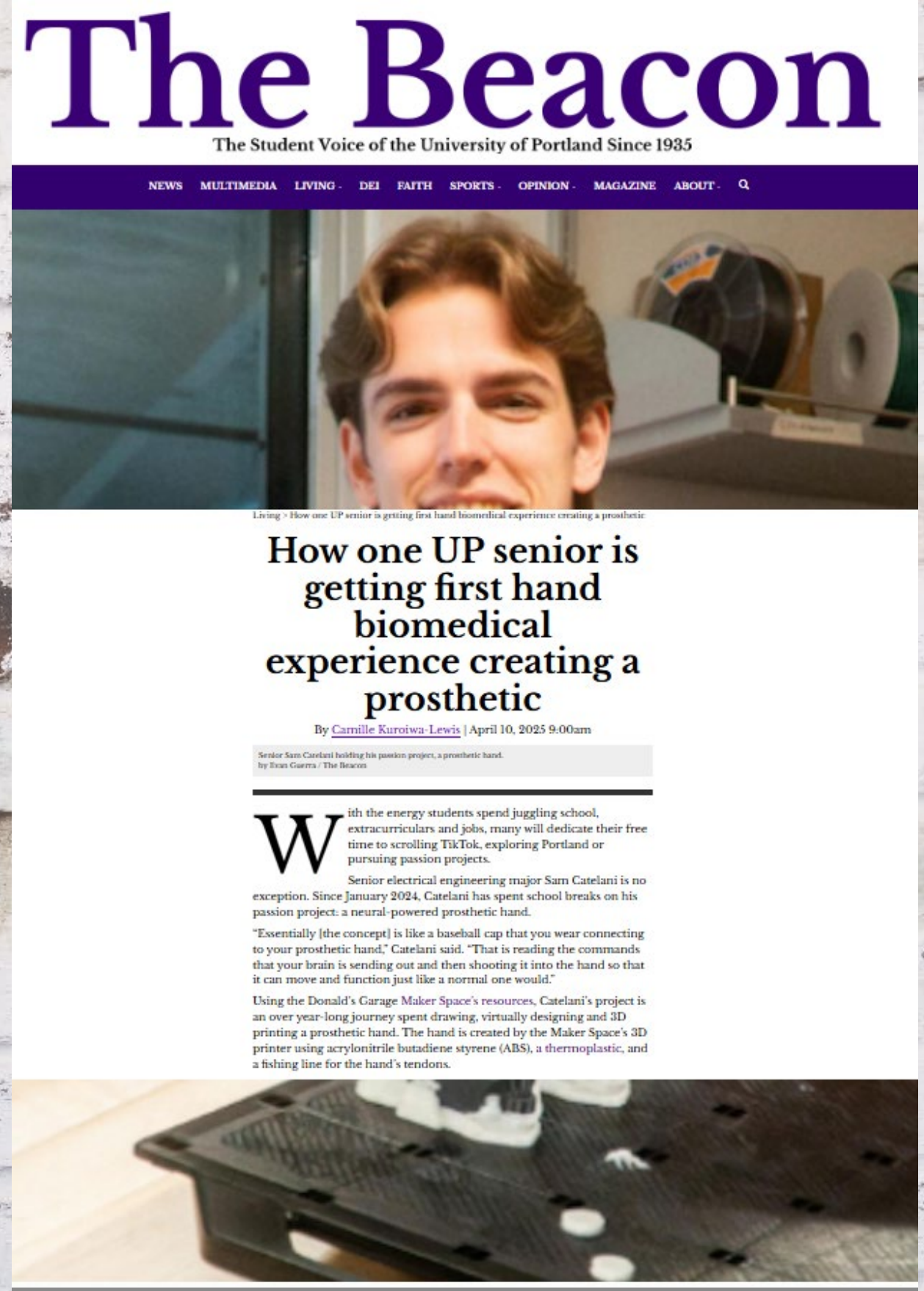
# Best Feature Story

College Group 2

2nd Place

The Beacon, University of  
Portland

Camille Kuroiwa-Lewis, Evan  
Guerra



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Living > How one UP senior is getting first hand biomedical experience creating a prosthetic

## How one UP senior is getting first hand biomedical experience creating a prosthetic

By [Camille Kuroiwa-Lewis](#) | April 10, 2025 9:00am

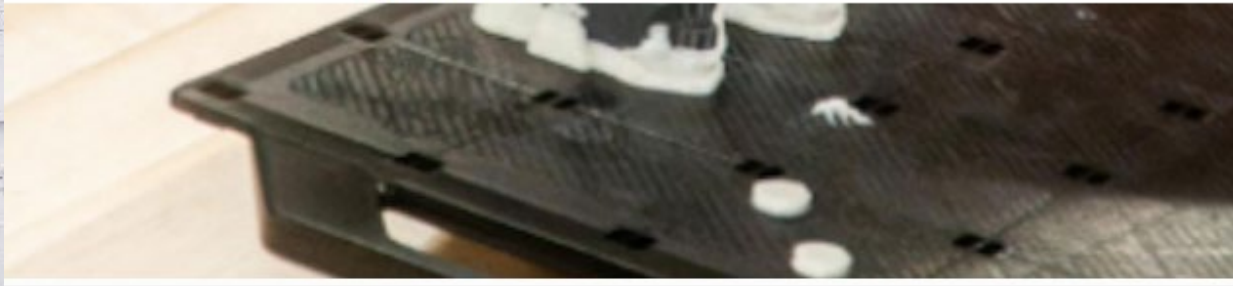
Senior Sam Catelani building his passion project, a prosthetic hand.  
by Evan Guerra / The Beacon

**W**ith the energy students spend juggling school, extracurriculars and jobs, many will dedicate their free time to scrolling TikTok, exploring Portland or pursuing passion projects.

Senior electrical engineering major Sam Catelani is no exception. Since January 2024, Catelani has spent school breaks on his passion project: a neural-powered prosthetic hand.

"Essentially [the concept] is like a baseball cap that you wear connecting to your prosthetic hand," Catelani said. "That is reading the commands that your brain is sending out and then shooting it into the hand so that it can move and function just like a normal one would."

Using the Donald's Garage Maker Space's resources, Catelani's project is an over year-long journey spent drawing, virtually designing and 3D printing a prosthetic hand. The hand is created by the Maker Space's 3D printer using acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), a thermoplastic, and a fishing line for the hand's tendons.



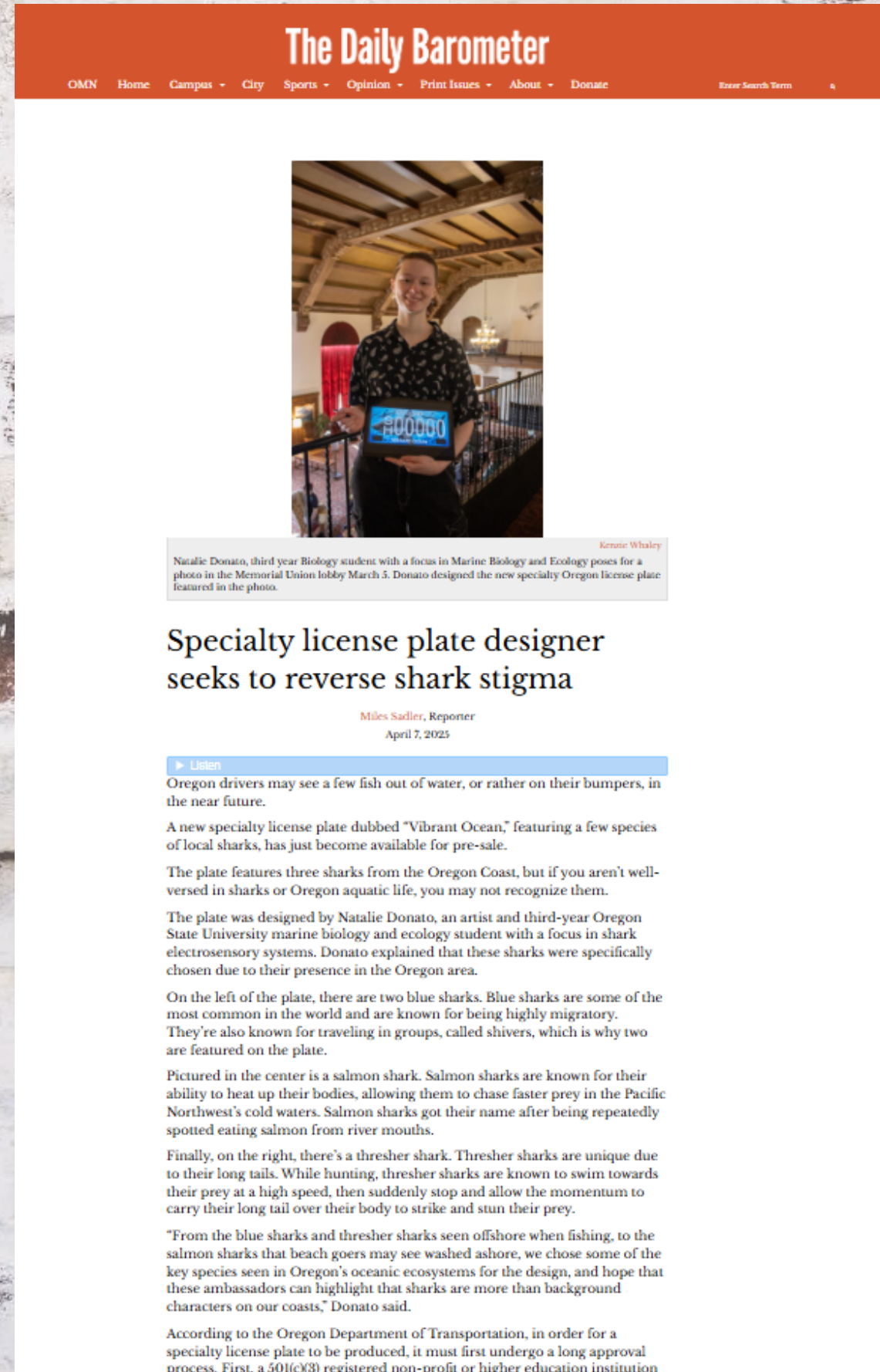
# Best Feature Story

College Group 2

1st Place

The Daily Barometer


Miles Sadler



The screenshot shows a news article on the website 'The Daily Barometer'. The article is titled 'Specialty license plate designer seeks to reverse shark stigma' and is written by Miles Sadler, Reporter, dated April 7, 2025. The article features a photo of Natalie Donato, a third-year Biology student, holding a specialty license plate. The article discusses the 'Vibrant Ocean' specialty license plate, which features three species of local sharks: blue sharks, salmon sharks, and thresher sharks. The article also mentions that the plate was designed by Natalie Donato, an artist and marine biology student, and that the plate is currently available for pre-sale.

**The Daily Barometer**

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Kennie Whaley

Natalie Donato, third year Biology student with a focus in Marine Biology and Ecology poses for a photo in the Memorial Union lobby March 5. Donato designed the new specialty Oregon license plate featured in the photo.

## Specialty license plate designer seeks to reverse shark stigma

Miles Sadler, Reporter  
April 7, 2025

[▶ Listen](#)

Oregon drivers may see a few fish out of water, or rather on their bumpers, in the near future.

A new specialty license plate dubbed "Vibrant Ocean," featuring a few species of local sharks, has just become available for pre-sale.

The plate features three sharks from the Oregon Coast, but if you aren't well-versed in sharks or Oregon aquatic life, you may not recognize them.

The plate was designed by Natalie Donato, an artist and third-year Oregon State University marine biology and ecology student with a focus in shark electrosensory systems. Donato explained that these sharks were specifically chosen due to their presence in the Oregon area.

On the left of the plate, there are two blue sharks. Blue sharks are some of the most common in the world and are known for being highly migratory. They're also known for traveling in groups, called shivers, which is why two are featured on the plate.

Pictured in the center is a salmon shark. Salmon sharks are known for their ability to heat up their bodies, allowing them to chase faster prey in the Pacific Northwest's cold waters. Salmon sharks got their name after being repeatedly spotted eating salmon from river mouths.

Finally, on the right, there's a thresher shark. Thresher sharks are unique due to their long tails. While hunting, thresher sharks are known to swim towards their prey at a high speed, then suddenly stop and allow the momentum to carry their long tail over their body to strike and stun their prey.

"From the blue sharks and thresher sharks seen offshore when fishing, to the salmon sharks that beach goers may see washed ashore, we chose some of the key species seen in Oregon's oceanic ecosystems for the design, and hope that these ambassadors can highlight that sharks are more than background characters on our coasts," Donato said.

According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, in order for a specialty license plate to be produced, it must first undergo a long approval process. First, a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit or higher education institution

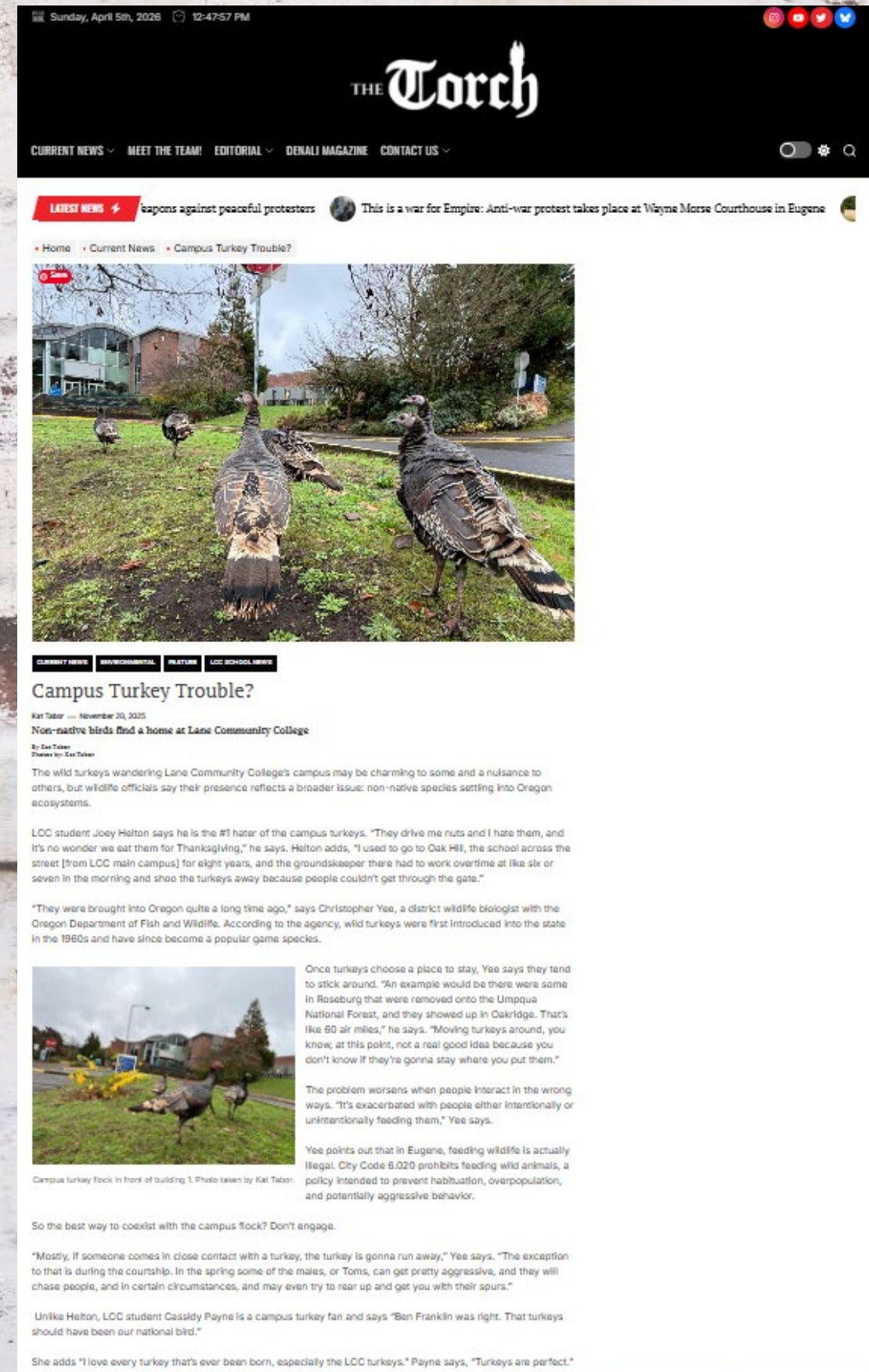
# Best Feature Story

College Group 3

3rd Place

The Torch- Lane CC

Kat Tabor



The screenshot shows a mobile browser view of a news article. At the top, the date is Sunday, April 5th, 2026, and the time is 12:47:57 PM. The website logo is 'THE Torch'. Navigation links include 'CURRENT NEWS', 'MEET THE TEAM!', 'EDITORIAL', 'DENALI MAGAZINE', and 'CONTACT US'. A 'LATEST NEWS' section features two headlines: 'Weapons against peaceful protesters' and 'This is a war for Empire: Anti-war protest takes place at Wayne Morse Courthouse in Eugene'. The article's breadcrumb trail is 'Home > Current News > Campus Turkey Trouble?'. The main image shows several wild turkeys on a grassy area in front of a building. The article title is 'Campus Turkey Trouble?' by Kat Tabor, dated November 20, 2025. The sub-headline is 'Non-native birds find a home at Lane Community College'. The article text discusses the presence of wild turkeys on the Lane Community College campus, mentioning student Joey Helton's dislike of them and wildlife biologist Christopher Yee's perspective on their introduction to Oregon in the 1960s. A smaller image shows a turkey in front of a building, with the caption 'Campus turkey flock in front of building 1. Photo taken by Kat Tabor.' The article concludes with a note on the best way to coexist with the flock: 'Don't engage.' and a quote from student Cassidy Payne: 'Ben Franklin was right. That turkeys should have been our national bird.'

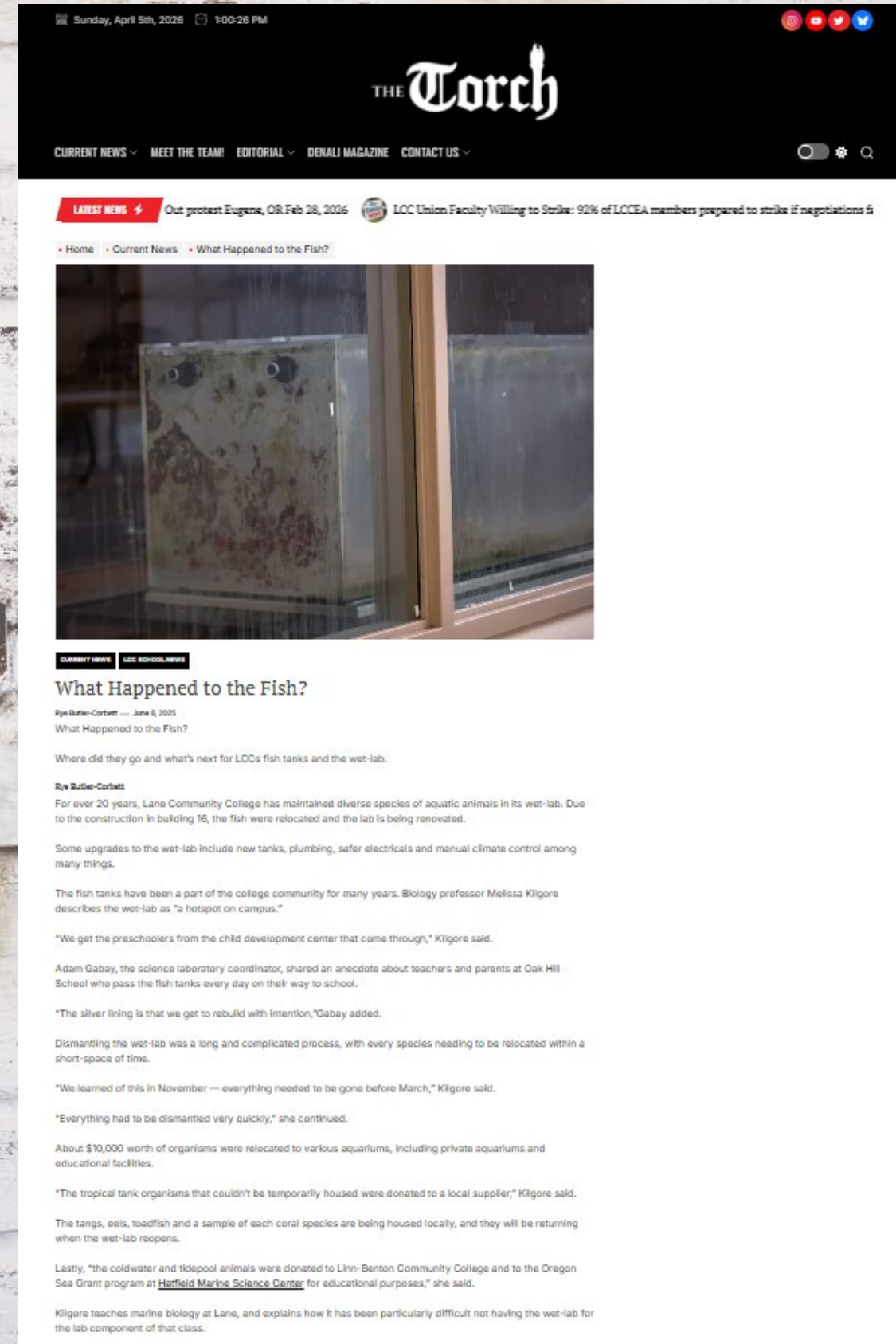
# Best Feature Story

College Group 3

2nd Place

The Torch- Lane CC

Rye Butler-Corbett



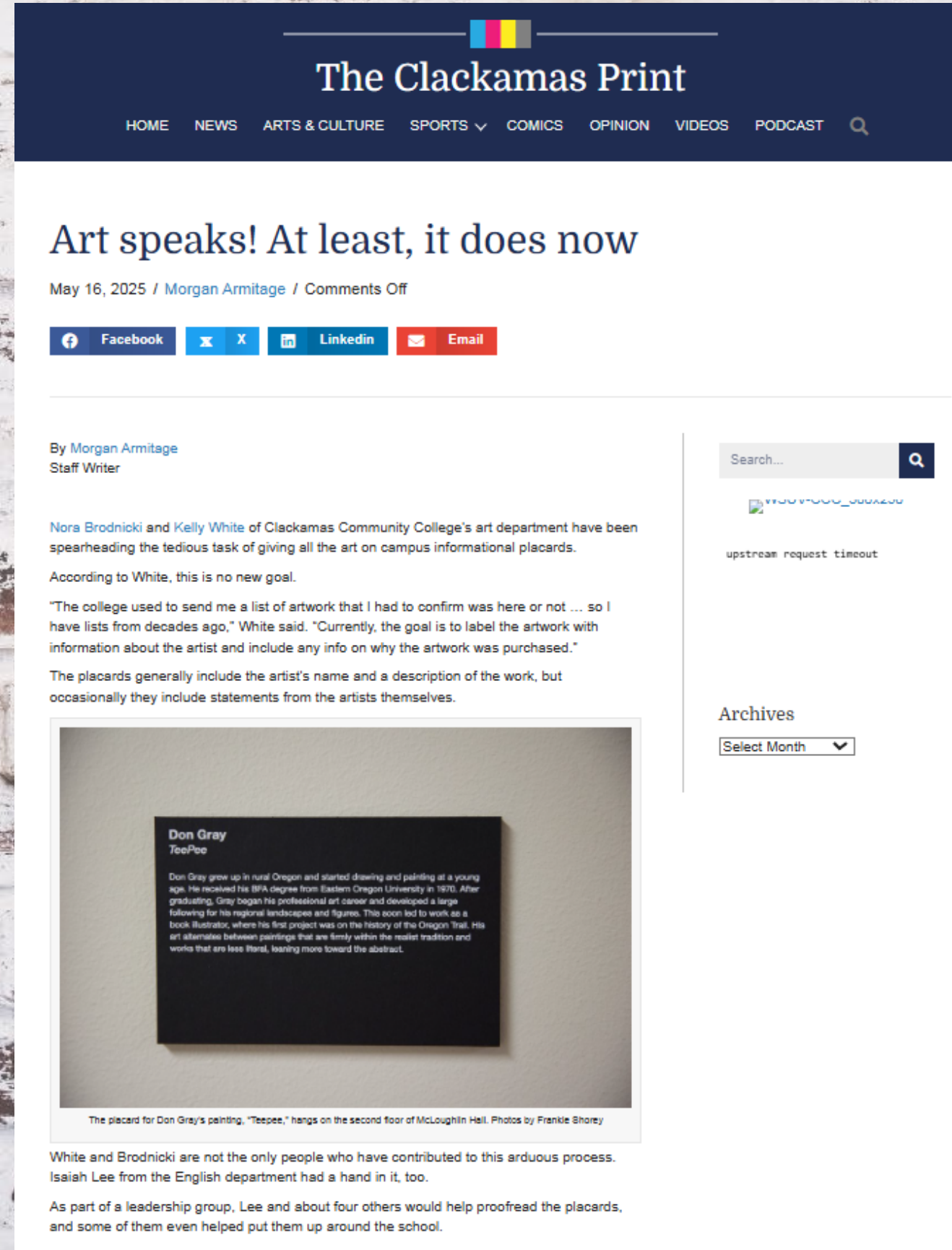
# Best Feature Story

College Group 3

1st Place

The Clackamas Print

Morgan Armitage



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying an article on 'The Clackamas Print' website. The article title is 'Art speaks! At least, it does now' dated May 16, 2025, by Morgan Armitage. The article discusses the task of labeling art on campus placards. A photo shows a placard for Don Gray's painting 'TeePee'. The placard text describes Don Gray's background and art style. The article continues to mention the involvement of other staff members like Isaiah Lee.

**The Clackamas Print**

HOME NEWS ARTS & CULTURE SPORTS COMICS OPINION VIDEOS PODCAST


## Art speaks! At least, it does now

May 16, 2025 / Morgan Armitage / Comments Off

Facebook X LinkedIn Email

By Morgan Armitage  
Staff Writer

Nora Brodnicki and Kelly White of Clackamas Community College's art department have been spearheading the tedious task of giving all the art on campus informational placards. According to White, this is no new goal. "The college used to send me a list of artwork that I had to confirm was here or not ... so I have lists from decades ago," White said. "Currently, the goal is to label the artwork with information about the artist and include any info on why the artwork was purchased." The placards generally include the artist's name and a description of the work, but occasionally they include statements from the artists themselves.



The placard for Don Gray's painting, "Teepee," hangs on the second floor of McLoughlin Hall. Photos by Frankie Shorey

White and Brodnicki are not the only people who have contributed to this arduous process. Isaiah Lee from the English department had a hand in it, too. As part of a leadership group, Lee and about four others would help proofread the placards, and some of them even helped put them up around the school. "I didn't know the origin of many of the pieces around campus, and as kind of part of our work,

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# Best Editorial

College Group 2

3rd Place

The Pioneer Log

Megan Ziegele

**The Mossy Log**  
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LEWIS & CLARK'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

HOME START CONTACT NEWS OPINION FEATURES ARTS SPORTS THE BACKDOOR ARCHIVE

Home / 2025 / March / 7 / Trump weaponizes, manipulates Christian religion for political gain

Opinion

**Trump weaponizes, manipulates Christian religion for political gain**

By Megan Ziegele | March 7, 2025 | 5 minutes read

Since taking office in 2016, President Donald Trump has branded himself as a religious figure, inspiring his supporters to go so far as referring to him as "The Chosen One," a title Biblically bestowed to Jesus. During all three of his candidacies, he has marketed himself as a public proponent of faith and has recently signed an executive order seeking to establish a "Faith Office," counterintuitively consulting world figures on religious liberty while blurring the ever-thinning lines between church and state. Project 2025 (P25) — the conservative

Widen Kalla / The Mossy Log

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# Best Editorial

College Group 2


2nd Place

The Collegian-Willamette  
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Teresa Putzerin

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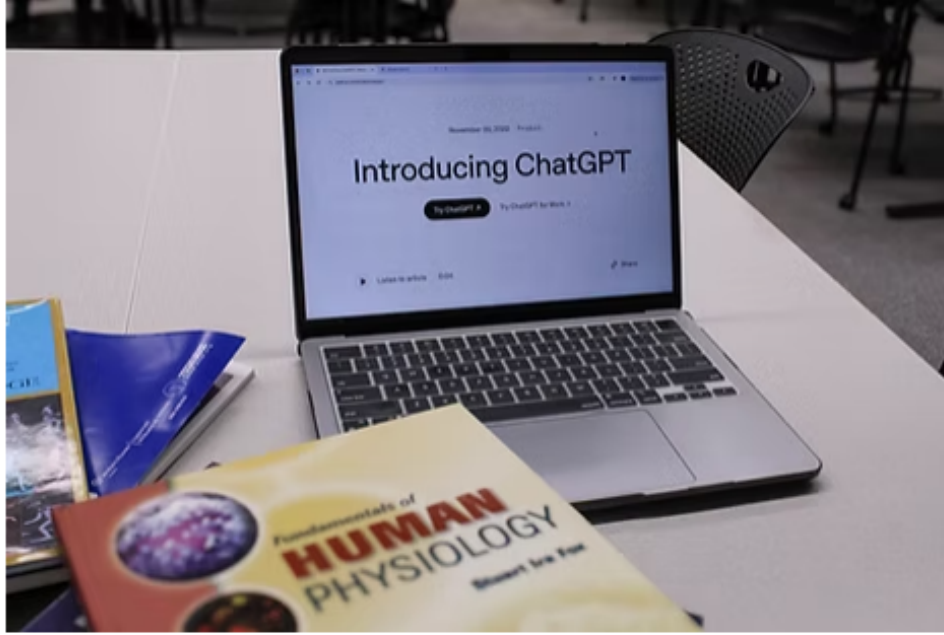


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Teresa Butzerin, Staff Writer · Nov 3, 2025 · 4 min read

## Opinion: Higher education needs to catch up with AI, not run from it



Students may be getting more information from artificial intelligence like ChatGPT than textbooks recently.  
Photo by Sofie Szigeti.

When ChatGPT-3.5 was released in November of 2022, it was immediately clear that education would change forever. It sparked dramatic headlines speculating the effect of the program on higher education, such as ["The College Essay Is Dead"](#) from The Atlantic, and opened a world of untapped possibilities for cheating, plagiarism and rampant misinformation that educators were left to restrain. It's been a few years since the initial launch of ChatGPT, and the advances in subsequent versions show that ChatGPT's developers have not lost any ambition.

Given that AI will only become more prevalent in our lives, universities should be taking more formal steps to make sure graduating students are literate in the practical uses of AI and have college with a well-rounded understanding of the ethical issues

# Best Editorial

College Group 2

# 1st Place

# The Pioneer Log

Olivia Fendrich

**The Mossy Log**  
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LEWIS & CLARK'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

HOME STAFF CONTACT NEWS OPINION FEATURES ARTS SPORTS THE BACKDOOR ARCHIVE

Home / 2025 / December / 5 / Anonymity jeopardizes journalistic integrity, indicates generational trend

Editor's Choice Opinion

### Anonymity jeopardizes journalistic integrity, indicates generational trend

@Olivia Fendrich · December 5, 2025 · 7 minutes read · 0

Sally Schraeder/The Mossy Log

As a product of the central role of the internet in our lives, Generation Z covets anonymity in a capacity that undermines the value of our opinions and the power of our voices. I say that not as a cynic lobbing the usual "kids these days" critique, but as someone who edits a student newspaper in a moment when journalism is being reshaped — often distorted — by an overwhelming reluctance to attach one's name to one's own beliefs. And unlike previous eras of campus activism, the fear today is less about physical danger and more about the abstract terror of being perceived.

In a newsroom, that shift is a daily negotiation. More and more, our reportage is impacted — if not hindered — by sources who decline to go on the record despite circumstances that do not truly warrant anonymity. This pattern is most visible in our stories about student activism and protest culture, where the impulse to conceal one's identity has become almost reflexive. Students attend public demonstrations, chant slogans, post

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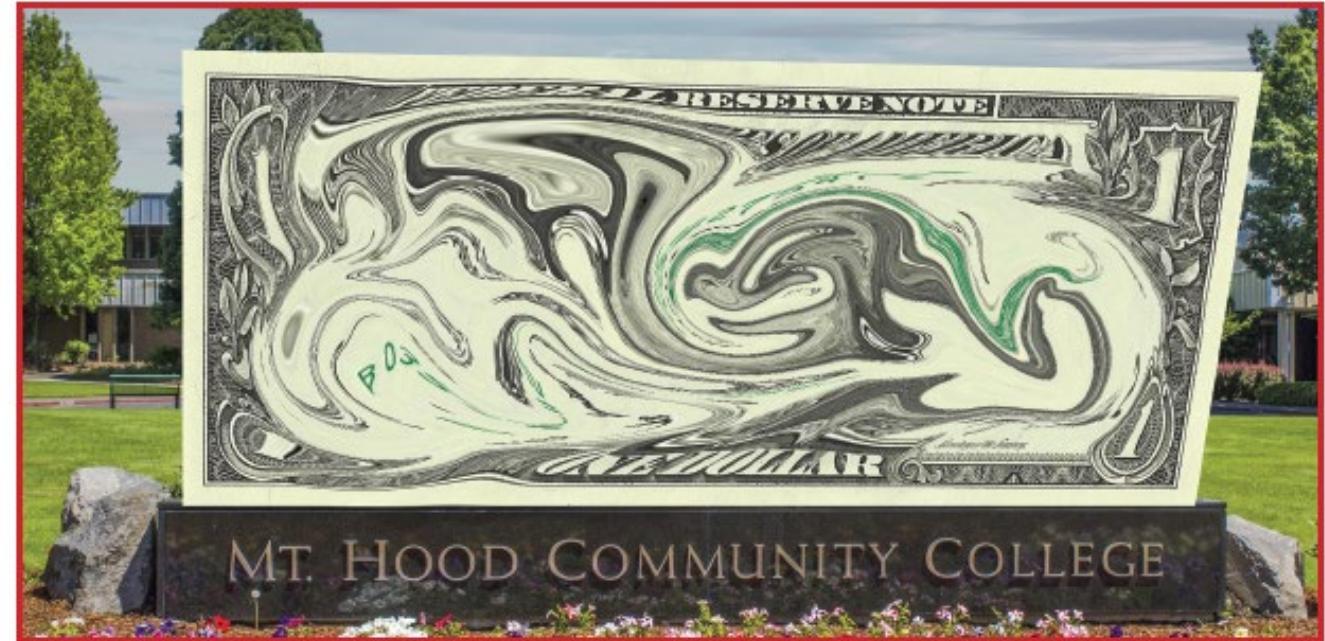
# Best Editorial

College Group 3

3rd Place

The Advocate-MHCC

Ken Perez, Staff



Graphic by Ken Perez

## MHCC FAILS TO COMMUNICATE

Ken Perez  
The Advocate

I hate to say it, but I love this school a lot. It damn sure is not perfect but it and the great people that work at this school have helped change my life for the better.

But, sometimes things happen in ugly ways, and you must have some uncomfortable conversations for there to be some sort of resolution.

In Fall Term of 2024 students who participate in the Federal Work Study (FWS) program got an early Christmas – or so we thought. The per-term income limit for some students was raised to \$2,400 which was awesome, but also suspicious.

The following term Mt. Hood lowered the maximum per-term income back to \$1,500 with an email from Christopher Natelborg letting students who earn FWS dollars know of the change. Which is all good; hey,

sometimes money runs low, and it is good to have a heads-up.

At the same time this Work Study debacle was happening we saw a large cut in tuition waivers, too. Keep in mind that this was not communicated to students whatsoever in an upfront manner. No email or anything. The way I found out in Winter Term was WORD OF MOUTH. I found out by chance that a resource I depend on at school was being cut.

I get emails for campus cleanup days, asking students to come clean up the school they pay to go to for some reason – keep in mind, many classrooms and parts of the school are not even cleaned by janitorial staff. In a lot of the classrooms in the school, only the trash is emptied, nothing more, leaving these rooms to be cleaned most of the time by low-income students who participate in Work Study.

I get lots of emails from the school but whenever there is something that goes against the school's brand guidelines students will never get informed about it. We can get multiple emails about a student government

election, but when the MHCC student body president resigns, we can never be told about.

### COMMUNICATION AND LACK OF BEING ABLE TO MANAGE MONEY IS A HUGE FAILURE OF THE SCHOOL

Even though every student body president I have seen in my three years here has resigned.

This Spring Term I was informed again by word of mouth that there will be no tuition waivers and no Work Study pay. I found this out about Week 4 of this term. It was too late to plan anything or drop my classes. This literally stressed me out and hurt me in a brutal way. And I know I am not alone. Some departments at the school had to scramble to find money to pay Work Study employees, or just let them go altogether.

This lack of communication and lack of being able to manage money is a huge failure

of the school, and the school is so desperate to get a bond passed that its leaders won't even respectfully acknowledge that they disrespected and hurt their own students and faculty.

Lisa Skari, Christopher Natelborg, John Hamblin, Doctor Abio Ayeliya – and Mt. Hood's deans and directors of departments and co-curricular programs – this is on your hands. Natelborg is the director of Financial Aid, and failed to inform students on this matter. Hamblin, the vice president of student development, and Abio Ayeliya, director of Student Life and civic engagement, failed to inform students on how their development, and their lives, would be negatively affected. Skari is the president of MHCC and failed her students.

You all failed to inform students that the school had mismanaged school funds, or at least to inform us of the direct impact on our lives, and because of this our community is in pain.

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# Best Editorial

College Group 3

2nd Place

The Advocate-MHCC

Morgan Mccarraher

NOV 7, 2025

OPINION **A**

## WHEN AWARENESS TURNS TO EXHAUSTION

Morgan Mccarraher  
The Advocate

Have you ever noticed that certain headlines – local, national, or global – barely register anymore? You scroll past them, not because you don't care, but because you've simply run out of space to care.

That creeping sense of indifference has a name: news fatigue. It's the emotional and mental exhaustion that comes from the relentless current of information, especially the kind steeped in crisis, conflict, and catastrophe.

We live in the age of information, a time when technology has made news omnipresent. What used to arrive once a day in print or at six o'clock sharp now floods every screen, every minute. The 24-hour news cycle was born as a marvel of access and now has evolved into a marathon of exposure. The consequence is subtle but profound. When every story competes for urgency, tragedy becomes background noise. We begin to tune out the very things that should move us.

Apathy isn't always a choice; often, it's a symptom of saturation.

The problem with tuning out isn't that people stop caring – it's that they stop feeling. Constant exposure to violence, corruption, or disaster dulls the emotional reflex that keeps societies empathetic. When everything is breaking news, nothing truly breaks through. This erosion of attention has consequences: fewer voters, less accountability, and a public that grows numb to injustice because it no longer shocks them.

News fatigue isn't just about burnout; it's about trust. When audiences feel overwhelmed, they begin to suspect that every outlet is manipulating emotion for clicks. The line between information and entertainment blurs. And when truth itself feels exhausting, people drift toward silence,

distraction, or echo chambers where the noise at least feels familiar.

Even the rare appearance of good news can hit differently – muted, dulled by the same exhaustion that numbs us to tragedy. News fatigue works both ways: It can flatten joy as easily as sorrow. But fatigue isn't the end of awareness, it's a signal to recalibrate it. We can choose to consume consciously, to step back without stepping away. That means setting boundaries with our feeds, seeking out reliable reporting instead of viral outrage, and remembering that empathy isn't infinite, but it is renewable.

There's also a quieter danger hidden in news fatigue: When we disengage, we leave the narrative to those who don't. Outrage and misinformation thrive in the silence left behind by the exhausted majority. Algorithms, after all, don't measure truth; they measure attention. The less we engage thoughtfully, the more the loudest and angriest voices dominate the conversation.

That's why the solution isn't to abandon the news, but to reclaim it... to remember that information is meant to enlighten, not to exhaust. It means valuing long-form journalism over viral soundbites, choosing depth over immediacy, and recognizing that our attention is a finite civic resource. Like any resource, it must be renewed and protected.

We may not be able to control the pace of the world, but we can control the pace of our awareness. That act – deciding when and how to engage – isn't apathy. It's stewardship. And if enough people make that choice, the noise begins to thin, revealing the stories that actually matter.

Because the world doesn't stop turning when we look away. And if we all look away at once, the people who depend on being seen will vanish into the static. Truth is lost not just to lies, but to the tired silence that follows them.



### Tips for shedding news fatigue

News fatigue doesn't mean you've stopped caring. It means your attention has reached its limit. The goal isn't to disconnect from the world but to approach information with intention.

Try setting boundaries with your media intake. Check the news at certain times of day instead of letting it fill every quiet moment. Balance heavy headlines with stories that show progress or creativity, so your view of the world isn't filtered through crisis alone. Choose a few trustworthy outlets and read deeply rather than endlessly scrolling through fragments.

Give yourself permission to rest your empathy – step away, breathe, and reconnect through art, nature, or local community instead of another feed refresh.

Remember that awareness doesn't require exhaustion. You can't fix everything you see, but you can stay informed enough to make small, meaningful choices. The healthiest attention is the kind you can sustain.

## POCKET PINCHER:

## THE ULTIMATE STUDENT DISCOUNT LIST

Adeola Ade-Serrano  
The Advocate

Your student ID isn't just a plastic card that opens doors or hides in your wallet, it's a discount card in disguise.

You're literally walking around with cash you're not using. From educational platforms to shopping sites and streaming services, plenty of companies are ready to hand you perks just for being a student here at Mount Hood Community College.

Save this, you're going to need it soon! I'll start with the ones I love and use myself:

### STUDY & LEARNING DISCOUNTS

- Quizlet Plus Student Plan offers lower rates for flashcards and study sets with no ads. Especially helpful for STEM majors.
- Coursera and edX Student Scholarships are free college-level courses from Yale, Google, and Oregon State.
- Skillshare Student Trial is one month free for creative and career skills.

Bonus tip: Always sign up with your .edu email. That's your golden ticket to discounted or free learning tools.

### FASHION & LIFESTYLE DEALS

For all my fashion grrlles, thrift shops are your best friend for quality plus value, but particularly for those extra-special events, especially with the holidays coming up. You can thank me later.

Amazon Prime Student offers six-month free trial and 50% off afterwards.

ASOS / UNIDAYS is 15-25% off.

H&M Student Beans offers 15% off online purchases.

Shein / PrettyLittleThing is rotating 20% student codes.

Levi's Student Program is 15% off jeans that last, but check the nearest Goodwill store first.

### FOOD & COFFEE FIX

I always recommend homemade meals, but whether you're celebrating, treating yourself, or socializing on a budget, try these:

Chipotle is 10% off with student ID.

Subway / Dairy Queen / Burger King is almost always offering the same 10%, if you ask.

Domino's campus promo codes = pizza math that works.

Starbucks Rewards free birthday drink, plus bonus star events.

### STREAMING & ENTERTAINMENT

pecially with the holidays coming up. You can thank me later.

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If you're into streaming, this list will keep you entertained for less. Don't forget that some phone companies throw in free streaming with certain plans, and occasionally Uber Eats or Uber Rides offer a free month of Netflix or Spotify.

Hulu + Spotify Premium Student is \$5.99 for the bundle.

Paramount+ and Apple Music Student Plans is half price.

YouTube Premium Student offers ad-free study sessions for less than a cup of coffee.

### HEALTH & WELLNESS PERKS

Walgreens / CVS Extra Care Student Perks offers bonus coupons and cash rewards. I got extra value here with my student MHCC card when I went in for my vaccinations and immunization.

Planet Fitness offers free summer access for students.

America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses offers two pairs of glasses plus an eye exam for \$79.

Dental Hygiene Schools (including MHCC's own Dental Clinic) offer low-cost cleaning, exams, and x-rays, performed by students under supervision.

### OREGON & LOCAL GEMS

In the coming week, I will comply a list of fun things to do in Oregon for cheap, and even cheaper, with your student identification, so

watch out for that list. Meantime:

Portland Art Museum has \$5 admission with student ID (regularly \$25).

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) offers a 20% student discount on entry and planetarium tickets.

Pittock Mansion is \$10 admission with student ID (or free, on Portland Parks Free Days).

Portland Japanese Garden is \$5 off general admission for students.

Oregon Zoo has \$3-off tickets for students with valid ID.

Because sometimes life throws lemons, therapy shouldn't cost you your rent money. Here are my top five ways to take care of your mental health for free or cheap:

The MHCC Counseling Center offers free, confidential sessions covered by tuition.

Lines for Life (Oregon) 1-800-923-HELP offers a free, 24/7 emotional-support line.

BetterMynd / TimelyCare / UWILL offers low-cost online therapy for college students.

TherapyDen – to find Oregon therapists with sliding scale pricing.

Headspace & Calm Apps offers 50-70% student discounts.

In sum: Next time you look at your MHCC ID, don't see just a card. See a key that unlocks classrooms and your educational journey, sure, but it also opens the door to dozens of discounts waiting for you to claim them.

# Best Editorial

College Group 3

1st Place

The Advocate-MHCC

Jennifer Childers

## Re:Mind

### FINDING STEADY GROUND IN UNSTEADY TIMES

**Jennifer Childers**  
The Advocate

Midterms, money issues, shorter days, rainy weather, and complex family dynamics – this time of year can be difficult for students even under the best circumstances.

But this fall, the weight of it feels heavier. Government shutdowns, SNAP benefits on hold, military deployments, rising community tension over increased immigration enforcement, protesting, political polarization, and global uncertainty – it's no wonder so many of us are feeling stretched so thin. We're on edge, we're tired, and even simple routines feel harder to hold onto. It's a lot to carry, and most of us are doing our best to just get by from moment to moment.

If you're having a hard time focusing, sleeping, or even showing up to class –

If you're going to work or school on an empty stomach because you ran out of time or money to eat –

If you're afraid to leave your house because you don't know what awaits you when you arrive, or who might not be home when you get back –

or

If you're simply exhausted from putting on a brave face and pretending to be okay –

You are not alone.

You're not failing.

And there are people here at MHCC whose jobs, and genuine desires, are to help you find your footing.

The thing is, supportive services are not one-size-fits-all. Depending on your specific needs, your first step might look completely different from someone else's, and that's okay. Whether you need someone to talk to, help meeting your basic needs, or simply a safe space to catch your breath or feel like you belong, there are people and spaces here ready to

meet you where you are.

#### IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO...

The Mental Health & Career Counseling Center at MHCC offers free, confidential counseling with licensed professionals both online and in person, as well as an anonymous online mental health screening that you can take anytime. This is a great private way to check in with yourself, reflect on how you're doing, and gauge your specific support needs. The Center even offers urgent in-person crisis support if you or a friend is experiencing an emergent mental health crisis while on campus during regular hours.

#### IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING TO MEET YOUR BASIC NEEDS...

Stop by Barney's Pantry for free groceries and personal care essentials. It's located inside the Equity & Community Resource Center, where staff are familiar with both MHCC programs and local community resources that you can tap into as well.

You can also connect with the Student Basic Needs Department to help navigate housing, employment, transportation, or emergency funding resources. For additional food-related resources, the community links on the Barney's Pantry website are a great place to start.

#### IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SAFE SPACES OR A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING...

You'll find connection and identity-affirming spaces all over campus, from our many student clubs and organizations and the aforementioned Equity & Community Resource Center, to the Veterans Center and Lounge and the Multicultural & Diversity Resource Center, which includes one of MHCC's many meditation spaces and resources for undocumented, immigrant, and refugee students. The campus is littered with safe, comfortable spaces to gather, share, and recharge.

Another great opportunity for students

to connect, share strategies, and bolster their well-being, specifically for students who are parenting or caregiving, is to join the Student Parent Group. This term the group meets on Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon, through Nov. 21, and is facilitated by a licensed professional counselor. Registration is required though so be sure to email [counseling@mhcc.edu](mailto:counseling@mhcc.edu) if this is something that calls to you.

#### AND FINALLY, IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SAFETY, FOR YOURSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE...

MHCC's CARE Team is here to listen and connect students with support when something feels off, whether you're feeling concerned for your own safety or worried about the well-being of a friend or classmate. You can share what's happening through the Share a Concern form, available at the bottom of every page on the MHCC website. Once submitted, a member of the CARE Team will reach out quickly and compassionately with resources and next steps.

Wherever you find yourself right now, whether that's exhausted, anxious, uncertain, or just taking it one breath at a time trying to make it through the week, please remember: You are doing the best you can in a world that keeps asking for more, and that's enough.

Support isn't one path or one place. There isn't one right way to take care of yourself. There's just the next small step that feels possible – a conversation, a breath, a moment of rest. So, reach out when you can, rest when you need to, and remind yourself often that you are worthy and deserving of support.

Consider this your formal invitation to take it.

#### About This Column:

*Re:Mind with Jennifer Childers explores the intersections between student life, mental health, and regenerative living – offering space to pause, reflect, and design a life that nourishes you, your community, and the world around you.*

**SOMEONE TO TALK TO**  
Mental Health & Counseling Services  
Location: AC 1150  
Phone: 503-491-6927  
Email: [counseling@mhcc.edu](mailto:counseling@mhcc.edu)

**SUPPORT WITH BASIC NEEDS**  
Barney's Pantry  
Location: Equity & Community Resource Center, AC1261  
Email: [barneyspantry@mhcc.edu](mailto:barneyspantry@mhcc.edu)

**STUDENT BASIC NEEDS**  
Phone: 503-491-7081  
Email: [mhcc.edu/student-basic-needs](mailto:mhcc.edu/student-basic-needs)  
NEED SAFE SPACES & BELONGING  
Equity & Community Resource Center  
Location: AC1261

**MULTICULTURAL & DIVERSITY RESOURCE CENTER**  
Location: Student Union, AC1050  
Phone: 503-491-8175  
Email: [Student.Union@mhcc.edu](mailto:Student.Union@mhcc.edu)

**STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS LIST**  
[www.mhcc.edu/campus-life/clubs-organizations/index](http://www.mhcc.edu/campus-life/clubs-organizations/index)

**STUDENT PARENT GROUP (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)**  
When: Fridays 11 a.m. - noon, Oct. 10 - Nov. 21  
Email: [counseling@mhcc.edu](mailto:counseling@mhcc.edu)

**VETERANS SERVICES CENTER & LOUNGE**  
Location: AC1152  
Phone: 503-491-7346  
Email: [veteran.services@mhcc.edu](mailto:veteran.services@mhcc.edu)

**CARE TEAM – SHARE A CONCERN FORM**  
<https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MfHoodCC>

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**Video**  
Brian Moua

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# Best Sports Story

College Group 2

3rd Place

The Pioneer Log

Bertie Mahoney



Home / 2025 / October / 31 / T Boy Wrestling raises visibility, creates community in athletics

## T Boy Wrestling raises visibility, creates community in athletics

By Bertie Mahoney | October 31, 2025 | 6 minutes read | 0



Courtesy of Clarke Stone

On Oct. 10 and 11, the Portland event space AVENUE hosted T Boy Wrestling, a queer gathering organized by Los Angeles-based social group Trans Dudes of L.A. The two events, which both ran for six hours into the evening, attracted hundreds of people from Portland and elsewhere to watch and participate in wrestling matches. Highlighting transgender athletes and performers, matches ranged from classic grappling duos to costumed and choreographed performances. T Boy Wrestling is organized by Adam Bandrowski and Mich Miller, the co-directors of Trans Dudes of L.A.

"Me and Adam have been very incrementally moving away from making physical art and into social practice art because of what is happening in the world around us and to our friend group and our family, our trans family, and across the U.S.," Miller said in an interview with The Mossy Log. "Making one trans person's life better grows and blossoms into so many other fruitful things, into healing and into other people, and we are seeing that in every city."

The Oct. 11 event was the 10th occurrence of T Boy Wrestling since its founding by the pair in 2024. After selling out Los Angeles venues seating up to 800 people in March 2025, T Boy Wrestling events were scheduled across the country, attracting crowds in the Bay Area, New York City and now Portland. The Mossy Log was present at both Portland events, the first of which saw the debut of Ren Crenshaw '28 in the ring under the moniker Pretty Boy.

"It was crazy and weird and so cool ... having everyone show up for trans people because they care, and because they want not only trans rights and all that, but joy," Crenshaw said of the experience. "For people to show up and be excited for trans joy was so magical."

Each pair that entered the ring was welcomed by raucous cheering and their names displayed on a wall-length jumbotron alongside music of their choice. Then, the pair would begin three rounds of minute-long grapples, followed by a referee holding up the hand of the winner of the match.

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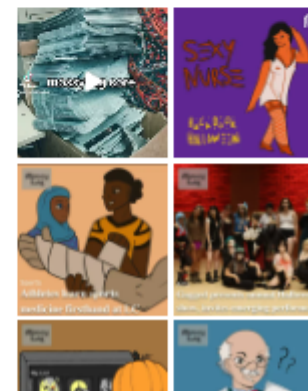
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# Best Sports Story

College Group 2


2nd Place

The Collegian-Willamette  
Univ

Leslie Gomez

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Leslie Gomez, Staff Writer · Oct 31, 2025 · 3 min read

## 'His story is unprecedented': Former coach reflects on Cedric Coward's journey from WU Bearcat to Memphis Grizzly

Updated: Nov 3, 2025

When Cedric Coward stepped onto the court for Willamette University in fall of 2021, few would have predicted that he might one day hear his name called in the first round of the NBA Draft.


Yet that projection has become reality: in June, Coward was selected 11th overall in the 2025 NBA Draft by the Portland Trail Blazers before being traded to the Memphis Grizzlies.



Coward, called up. Art by Adrian Axtell.

Starting from the DIII level and going to the highest level of professional basketball is almost unprecedented. Only 14 DIII players in history have ever been selected in the draft — and just one of those 14 was selected in the first round. But from the start of his career with the Bearcats, Coward proved just how extraordinary he was.

In his first practices, Coward stood out not just for his game but for his presence. "He came to Willamette mature beyond his years," recalled former Willamette assistant coach Chris Horton. "He was immediately a leader. Most freshmen are timid or uncomfortable in their skin — Cedric was comfortable."



In the Bearcats' 2021 season opener against Bushnell University, he registered

# Best Sports Story

College Group 2

# 1st Place

# Oregon Daily Emerald

# Owen Murry

**THE DAILY Emerald**  
MONDAY, FEB. 10, 2025 INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM PRODUCED BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS

**CITY NEWS**  
**Station 25 firefighter smashes front of engine**  
*(Times Out/Ernie Alt)*  
A day in the life of Eugene-Springfield firefighters  
By Stephanie Hensley  
City News Reporter  
Before most people have had their cup of coffee, the firefighters at Eugene-Springfield Fire Station 2 are already gearing up for their day — checking equipment, reviewing emergency calls and preparing for their upcoming shift.  
Crews will typically work 24 to 48 hour shifts, rotating each morning to the following crew.  
While shifts start at 8 a.m., crews may come in earlier for gear and equipment checks before getting an update from the previous shift.  
Their morning starts with breakfast made by crew members on shift, filling the common area with the smell of fresh coffee and bacon. A large table held donated food from various community members, including cookies, muffins and other baked goods.  
The majority of calls received will be  
*(Continued story on page 6)*

**ARTS AND CULTURE**  
**Lizzy and Darcy welcome the season of love through ballet**  
*(Read story on page 10)*

**SPORTS**  
**Oregon Track and Field announces outdoor schedule**  
*(Read story on page 15)*

**ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING**  
**The opportunity sport**  
*Acrobatics and Tumbling began with one coach on the West Coast. It's grown into a national sport, but Felecia Mulkey still lives at its center.*  
By Owen Murry  
Sports Reporter  
Thirty-five thousand feet in the air above California, on her way to a recruiting visit for a sport that barely existed, Felecia Mulkey took a napkin from the flight attendant.  
She had two problems: The space which the University of Oregon had just hired her to coach in 2012 didn't have rules, and she had forgotten her notebook in her checked bag. Carefully, on the wrinkled United Airlines napkin, she sketched out the six-event formula that the collegiate association whose last 12 championships she owns now uses. She relaxed. She could figure out what came next.  
What Mulkey has done since then is unprecedented: 12 straight titles, split between two schools.  
*(Continued on story on page 8)*

**ARTS & CULTURE**  
**Books to read this Black History Month**  
By De Ra Graham  
Arts & Culture Writer  
Black History Month is as good a time as any to read books that explore and honor the stories, struggles and triumphs of Black people through history. Many books tackle themes of institutionalized racism and colonialism and challenge societal understandings of these themes. The following books are great picks for you next read this Black History Month.  
*(Continued story on page 10)*

**OPINION**  
**Why the faculty strike matters**  
By Mike Drake  
Opinion Columnist  
When I met with Mike Urbancic, a senior instructor II of economics and president of Unikel Academics, he illustrated the University of Oregon faculty's plight with a metaphor.  
"We've got that lovely collection of world flags around Hayward Field. They were gorgeous when they were put up, but over time they've fallen into miserable disrepair. They're tattered, torn and snagging on trees — it's a powerful visual. The university is really proud whenever we create shiny new things, but when it comes to maintaining them, it's just not a priority — they're left to be weathered, bedraggled and fall apart," he said.  
"UCO's faculty endure a similar state of neglect as they bargain for their new  
*(Continued story on page 7)*

**Chris Mulkey, Secretary of the United Academics of the University of Oregon, poses for sports at the home of the UA.**  
*(Times Out/Ernie Alt)*

**THE DUCK STORE**  
From the coffee & pick-me-ups that you want, to the supplies & gear that you need... as the University of Oregon's original, 100% nonprofit store we've got you covered.

# Best Sports Story

College Group 3

3rd Place

The Commuter- Linn  
Benton CC

Ethan Birmingham

SPORTS · NEWS

## One Pitch From **Perfection**

words by **ETHAN BIRMINGHAM**

Throughout the prolific history of the Linn-Benton baseball program, no pitcher has ever recorded a perfect game. On April 3, pitcher Connor Mendez was one hit away from becoming the first.

Mendez's stellar performance led the Roadrunners to a decisive 1-0 victory over Southwestern Oregon during the first game of a doubleheader at Dick McClain Field against the Lakers. Mendez owned the pitcher's mound all game, throwing 12 strikeouts, allowing only one hit, and recording zero walks in a dominant nine-inning performance.

"I want to do my best to give us a shot to win every game," said Mendez. "It's about the eight guys behind me and just playing for them, really."

Mendez, a sophomore from Pasco, Wash., transferred over from Saint Martin's University in the summer of 2024. Enticed by the opportunity Linn-Benton gave him, Mendez entered the 2025 season hoping to bolster the Roadrunners' bullpen.

Making his seventh start of the 2025 season against Southwestern, Mendez showcased why the program had brought him in. After Mendez got through the entire Southwestern batting order without a blemish in just three swift innings, many in attendance understood the magnitude of the situation.



photo by **MICAH TEAGUE**

# Best Sports Story

College Group 3

2nd Place

The Clackamas Print

Morgan Armitage

The screenshot shows the top of a news article on the website 'The Clackamas Print'. The navigation bar includes links for 'About', 'Join The Print', 'Staff', 'Advertise', and 'Contact'. The main menu has categories: 'HOME', 'NEWS', 'ARTS & CULTURE', 'SPORTS', 'COMICS', 'OPINION', 'VIDEOS', and 'PODCAST'. The article title is 'College athletics are bone-crushingly intense—literally', dated 'October 30, 2025' by 'Morgan Armitage'. Below the title are social media sharing buttons for Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Email. The author's name 'Morgan Armitage' and title 'Sports Editor' are listed. The article text begins with 'College athletes are generally known for their physical capacity, endurance and strength; but they are also known for being injury prone...'. A photo of a young woman with crutches is visible at the bottom of the article. On the right side, there is a search bar and an 'Archives' section with a 'Select Month' dropdown menu.

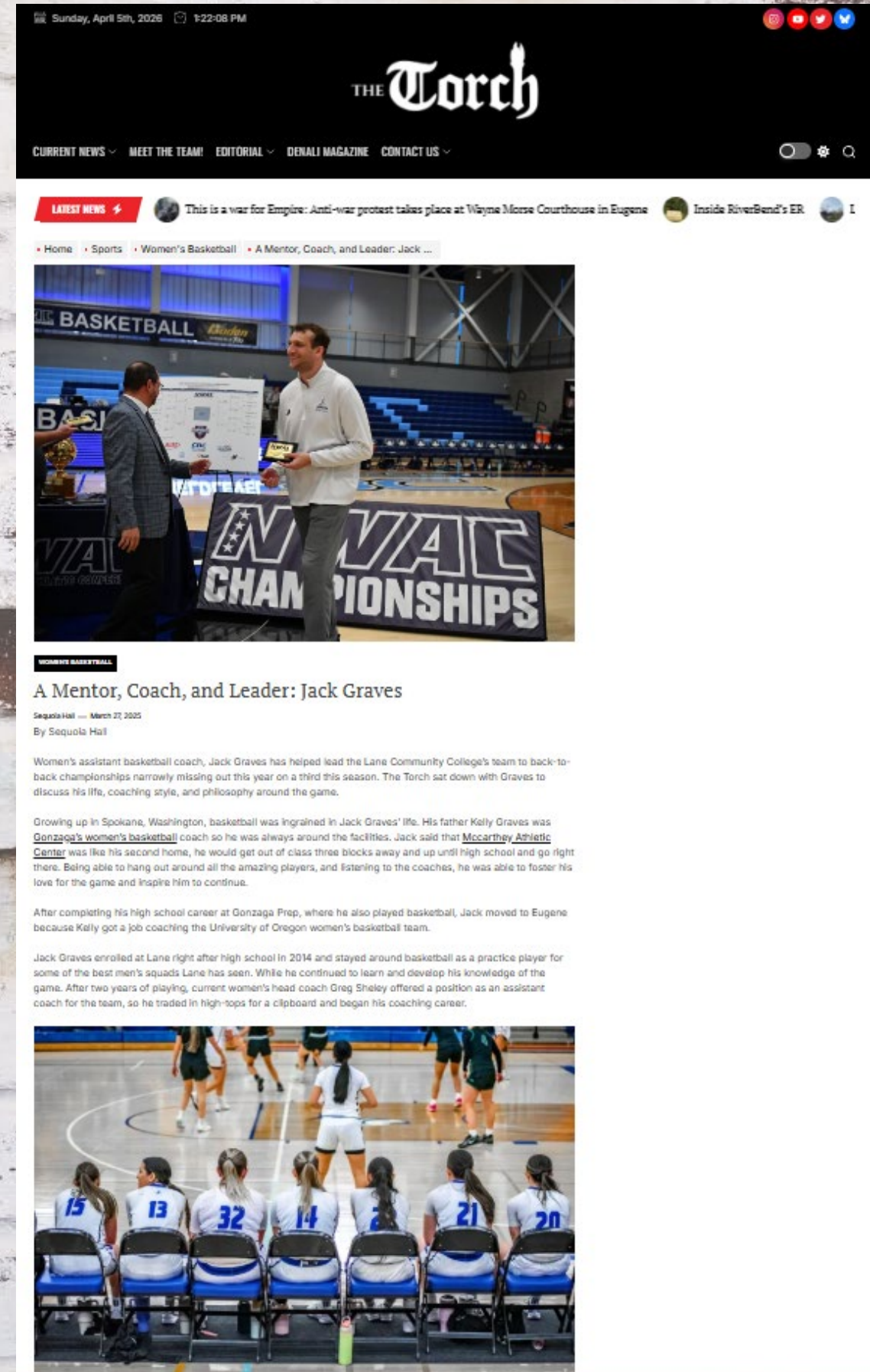
# Best Sports Story

College Group 3

1st Place

The Torch- Lane CC

Sequoia Hall




Sunday, April 5th, 2025 1:22:08 PM

THE Torch

CURRENT NEWS MEET THE TEAM EDITORIAL DENALI MAGAZINE CONTACT US

LATEST NEWS This is a war for Empire: Anti-war protest takes place at Wayne Morse Courthouse in Eugene Inside RiverBend's ER

Home Sports Women's Basketball A Mentor, Coach, and Leader: Jack Graves



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### A Mentor, Coach, and Leader: Jack Graves


Sequoia Hall — March 27, 2025  
By Sequoia Hall

Women's assistant basketball coach, Jack Graves has helped lead the Lane Community College's team to back-to-back championships narrowly missing out this year on a third this season. The Torch sat down with Graves to discuss his life, coaching style, and philosophy around the game.

Growing up in Spokane, Washington, basketball was ingrained in Jack Graves' life. His father Kelly Graves was [Gonzaga's women's basketball](#) coach so he was always around the facilities. Jack said that [McCarty Athletic Center](#) was like his second home, he would get out of class three blocks away and up until high school and go right there. Being able to hang out around all the amazing players, and listening to the coaches, he was able to foster his love for the game and inspire him to continue.

After completing his high school career at Gonzaga Prep, where he also played basketball, Jack moved to Eugene because Kelly got a job coaching the University of Oregon women's basketball team.

Jack Graves enrolled at Lane right after high school in 2014 and stayed around basketball as a practice player for some of the best men's squads Lane has seen. While he continued to learn and develop his knowledge of the game. After two years of playing, current women's head coach Greg Sheley offered a position as an assistant coach for the team, so he traded in high-tops for a clipboard and began his coaching career.



# Best Review

College Group 2

3rd Place

The Pioneer Log

Brady Vinlove

The Mossy Log  
est. 1942  
LEWIS & CLARK'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

HOME STAFF CONTACT NEWS OPINION FEATURES ARTS SPORTS THE BACKDOOR ARCHIVE

Home / 2025 / September / 19 / "Man's Best Friend" provokes controversy

Arts

### "Man's Best Friend" provokes controversy

By Brady Vinlove · September 19, 2025 · 3 minutes read · 0

Courtesy of Island Records

On Aug. 29, Sabrina Carpenter released her latest album titled "Man's Best Friend." Ever since the June release of the single "Manchild," there has been a flurry of criticism surrounding the album's messages about gender roles and feminism. At the same time, many fans (myself included) wholeheartedly love the album's upbeat melodies and resonate with the sarcastic and witty lyrics.

Since its release, I have been listening to "Manchild" nearly every day. Its humorous opening calls upon common qualms women have, but cannot voice, toward men. She sings words like "stupid" and "useless" to describe men before landing on the more accurate descriptor, "manchild." The rest of the song is danceable, turning this frustration into something to laugh about.

The album is full of fun songs that condemn men's poor behavior. One song that stood out to me was "Tears." At first, it may seem as if Carpenter is enamored with the male subject as she sings, "I get wet at the thought of you." It is only after a long pause that she clarifies that she only feels this way at the thought of him "being a responsible guy." The song brings attention to the pitifully low standards society holds men to in relationships with something as simple as "considering I have feelings" makes him more attractive to her. Carpenter sings in a sarcastic way, adding humor to what many women want to say to men: that they are mediocre. The tune is also cheerful, particularly towards the end, so the commentary does not feel too harsh. Throughout the album, she subtly hints at relatable frustrations with how men treat women in energetic songs that allow us to laugh despite our dissatisfaction.

Of course, it would not be a Sabrina Carpenter album if she were not making sexual jokes and passes too. One of the more positive songs, "House Tour," is about inviting a date into her house. Carpenter insists that, "none of this is a metaphor," but that she just wants him to "come inside." The rather obvious sex jokes add to the raunchy and multifaceted persona Carpenter creates. She is not just frustrated with men, but is extremely attracted to them.

Much of the criticism for the album comes from the sexual position Carpenter puts herself in. The album cover alone sparked controversy online, with some saying it upholds stereotypes of women submitting to men; Carpenter kneels like a dog at the feet of a man who clutches her hair. There is also a critique that she centers men in a woman's experience, as they are the subject of each song.

Yes, she sings solely about men in the album, but unfortunately, men are a part of women's lives. Carpenter

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# Best Review

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Maisy Clunies-Ross, Staff Writer · May 22, 2025 · 4 min read

## Opinion: Bloom Bloom Wow: Finding hope in a climate doom comedy

Updated: Sep 2, 2025



Olle Wurtzel ('25) plays the role of a dead horse in "Bloom Bloom Pow." Photo courtesy of KJ Johnson.

Even before its opening night on Friday, April 11, "Bloom Bloom Pow" had cemented its relevance in the consciousness of many Willamette students through advertisements asking for students' trash. This gave students an opportunity to contribute to the production: to give new purpose to trash, to transform something typically discarded and disregarded. The production team utilized the garbage well, masterfully crafting old bottles, cardboard and plastic bags into an immersive and surprisingly beautiful set, as well as incorporating some garbage into the costuming. While many components of the show were unconventional, the team behind "Bloom Bloom Pow" created an engaging and thought-provoking experience for all who watched.

# Best Review

College Group 2


# 1st Place

The Collegian-Willamette  
Univ

Maisy Clunies-Ross

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Maisy Clunies-Ross, Staff Writer · Oct 17, 2025 · 4 min read

## Opinion: Why Taylor Swift's most recent album fell flat



Taylor Swift posing in a bathtub as seen on the cover for her new album, "The Life of a Showgirl." Rather than water, the tub is filled with hundred-dollar bills. Art by Wes Mowry-Silverman.

On Oct. 3, 2025, Taylor Swift dropped her 12th studio album, the highly anticipated "The Life of a Showgirl." Within moments of its release, the album and its subsequent discourse consumed the media ecosystem. [Rolling Stone](#) released a resounding

# Best Review

College Group 3

3rd Place

The Clackamas Print

Tomas Alonso

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying an article on 'The Clackamas Print' website. The page has a dark blue header with the site's name and navigation links. The article title is 'Theater department slays with 'She Kills Monsters'', dated November 15, 2025, by Tomas Alonso. Below the title are social media sharing buttons for Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Email. The article text begins with a quote: "'She Kills Monsters' begins with a young English teacher named Agnes cleaning out her deceased little sister's bedroom and ends with her plunging a sword into the heart of a dragon.' Below the text is a photograph of five theater performers in medieval-style costumes on a stage. A caption identifies the performers: Enzo Martin as Agnes, Addison Markwart as Lillith, Camden McCorkle as Tillus the Paladin, Jenny Hackenberger as Kalliope, and Jakey Sparks as Circus. The article continues with a paragraph about the drama-comedy, written by Qui Nguyen, directed by Allison Moon, and another paragraph about the prop and costume design by Tegan Richards and Aiden McFarland.

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HOME NEWS ARTS & CULTURE SPORTS COMICS OPINION VIDEOS PODCAST

## Theater department slays with 'She Kills Monsters'

November 15, 2025 / Tomas Alonso / Comments Off

Facebook X LinkedIn Email

By Tomas Alonso  
Co-Arts & Culture Editor

"She Kills Monsters" begins with a young English teacher named Agnes cleaning out her deceased little sister's bedroom and ends with her plunging a sword into the heart of a dragon.



The adventuring party stands together for the first time. Left to right: Enzo Martin as Agnes, Addison Markwart as Lillith, Camden McCorkle as Tillus the Paladin, Jenny Hackenberger as Kalliope and Jakey Sparks as Circus. Photos by Jackson Arterberry

The drama-comedy, written by Qui Nguyen, was directed by Clackamas Community College's Allison Moon, associate professor of theater arts. Scene and lighting designer Chris Whitten transformed the stage with shocking effects and vivid colors, making incredible use of puppets, shadows and tricks.

Prop designer Tegan Richards and costume designer Aiden McFarland create convincing outfits for both dungeon crawlers and the everyday wear of the mid-1990s. The armor, weapons and puppets. In place of people in suits many of the monsters were played by puppets, including goblins on sticks controlled by shadowy stage hands Orion Moss, Evin McGill and Arden Carter.

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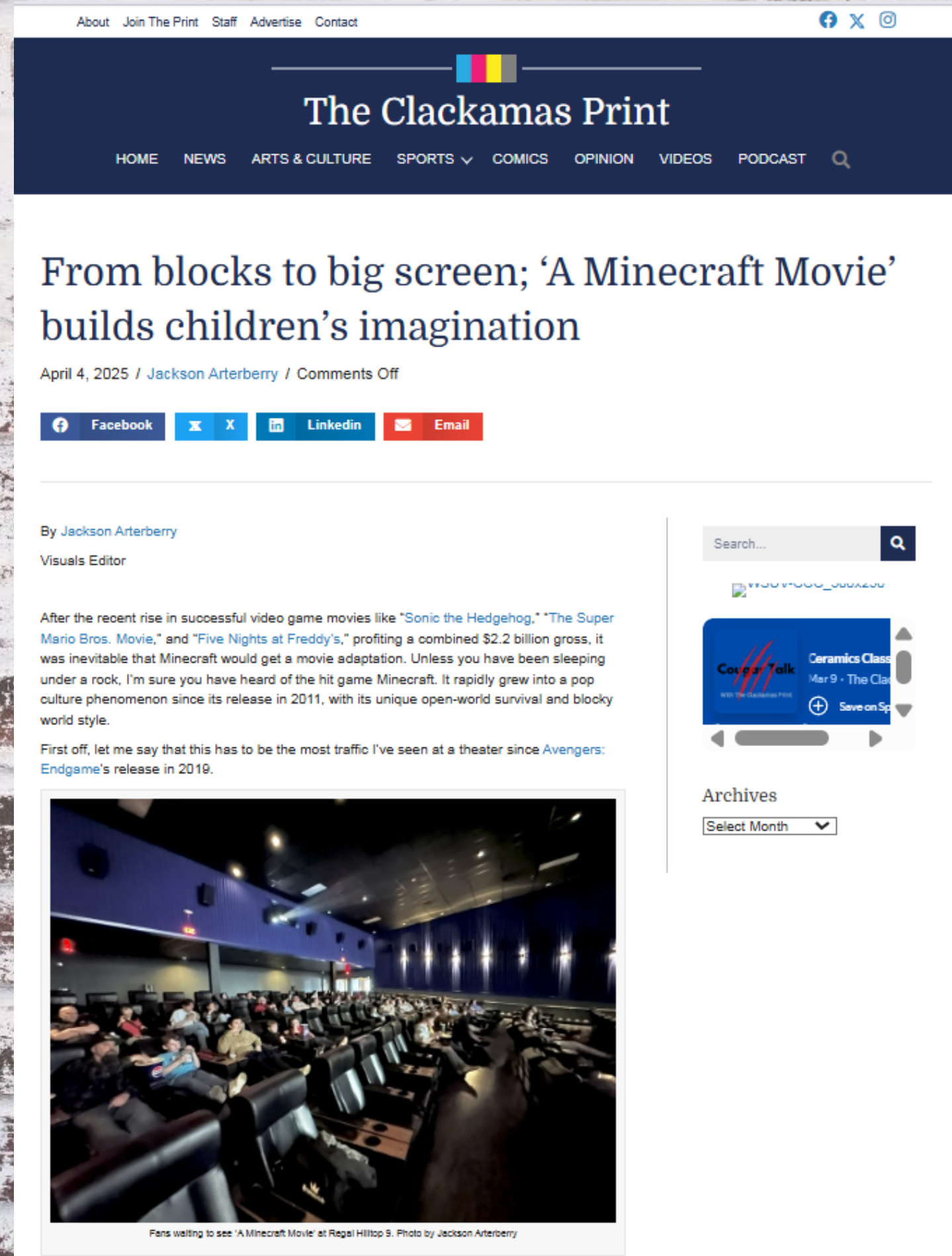
# Best Review

College Group 3

# 2nd Place

# The Clackamas Print

Jackson Arterberry



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying an article from 'The Clackamas Print'. The page has a dark blue header with the site's name and a navigation menu including 'HOME', 'NEWS', 'ARTS & CULTURE', 'SPORTS', 'COMICS', 'OPINION', 'VIDEOS', and 'PODCAST'. The article title is 'From blocks to big screen; 'A Minecraft Movie' builds children's imagination', dated April 4, 2025, by Jackson Arterberry. Below the title are social media sharing buttons for Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Email. The author's name and 'Visuals Editor' role are listed. The main text discusses the success of video game movies and the anticipation for the Minecraft movie. A photo of a theater audience is included at the bottom of the article. On the right side, there is a search bar, a 'Ceramics Class' event listing, and an 'Archives' section with a 'Select Month' dropdown.

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HOME NEWS ARTS & CULTURE SPORTS COMICS OPINION VIDEOS PODCAST

## From blocks to big screen; 'A Minecraft Movie' builds children's imagination


April 4, 2025 / Jackson Arterberry / Comments Off

Facebook X LinkedIn Email

By Jackson Arterberry  
Visuals Editor

After the recent rise in successful video game movies like "Sonic the Hedgehog," "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," and "Five Nights at Freddy's," profiting a combined \$2.2 billion gross, it was inevitable that Minecraft would get a movie adaptation. Unless you have been sleeping under a rock, I'm sure you have heard of the hit game Minecraft. It rapidly grew into a pop culture phenomenon since its release in 2011, with its unique open-world survival and blocky world style.

First off, let me say that this has to be the most traffic I've seen at a theater since [Avengers: Endgame's](#) release in 2019.



Fans waiting to see 'A Minecraft Movie' at Regal Hilltop 9. Photo by Jackson Arterberry

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# Best Review

College Group 3

# 1st Place

The Commuter- Linn  
Benton CC

Brenda Autry

LOCAL · REVIEW

## THE ALBANY PHO DOWN

words and photos by BRENDA AUTRY

Three restaurants, three bowls, one mission:  
to find the most authentic and delicious pho in Albany.

Pho is one of Vietnam's most famous dishes. A noodle soup that originated in Northern Vietnam over 100 years ago, the once local dish has become a global comfort food. I fell in love with pho while traveling through Vietnam several years ago and since then I've taken every possible opportunity to indulge. But finding a good bowl of pho can often be a challenge.

Albany has quietly built a small pho scene, now home to three restaurants

servicing this beloved Vietnamese dish. Naturally, I had to find out which one is serving up the best pho in town—welcome to the Albany Pho Down.

For this taste test, I visited all three restaurants—Sam City Pho, Ba's Vietnamese Comfort Food, and Pho House—and ordered a similar bowl of pho: pho bò, beef noodle soup. I rated each bowl on a scale of one to five, with five being the best, in the following categories:

Broth	A good pho broth should be amber in color and full of complex sweet and sour flavors, and it should be cooked for a minimum of 12 hours before serving.
Noodles	Flat, wide, rice noodles that should be firm but not sticky, tender but strong enough to lift with chopsticks without breaking.
Meat	The various meats should be cooked appropriately and have good flavor, texture, and quality.
Garnish	At a minimum there should be a side of sprouts, Thai basil, jalapeños, and lime. Ideally, there will also be some house made chili oil, or other seasonings.
Authenticity	Authentic pho should reflect traditional Vietnamese flavors and preparation and should be served with chopsticks and Asian soup spoons. Bonus points for authenticity in décor.
Price/Value	The price should match the portion size, quality of ingredients, and overall experience.



# Best Columnist

College Group 2

3rd Place

The Pioneer Log

Noah Lowrey

The Mossy Log  
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LEWIS & CLARK'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

HOME STAFF CONTACT NEWS OPINION FEATURES ARTS SPORTS THE BACKDOOR ARCHIVE

Home / 2025 / October / 17 / Spill It!

Opinion  
**Spill it!**  
By Noah Lowrey | October 17, 2025 | 3 minutes read

Rose Bullock/The Mossy Log

Dear Spill It,

I love my boyfriend and want him to pursue his interests. However, "Clash Royale" feels like it's transformed from an innocent hobby into a full-blown addiction. I feel it's become a hindrance to our relationship and a way for him to "escape" spending time with me. I can see how escapism means developing the self (i.e. athletics or reading) and could be healthy, but I truly don't understand how getting trophies in Clash Royale makes him a better person. I LOVED your last column, and would truly appreciate your help in the matter.

From,  
Royally Ignored Girlfriend

Dear Royally Ignored Girlfriend,

In an increasingly digitized age, convenience is crucial. You can get anywhere with the press of a button, call

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# Best Columnist

College Group 2

2nd Place

Vanguard - PSU

Nick Gatlin

## Every MAX Line In Portland, Ranked

Or: losing and finding myself on Portland's rail network

NICK GATLIN

READER, DON'T YOU JUST LOVE the sound the MAX makes — that grunting, wheezing chunk chunk — as it rolls into the station? Do you lie awake the night before a flight, fantasizing about the train ride to PDX? Do you have difficulty making eye contact? If you answered yes to any of these questions, this list is for you.

Why did I decide to write this article? Huh? Reader, have you ever ridden four MAX lines end to end in one day? Do you have any idea what that does to a person?

Sorry. Moving on. Here's every MAX line in Portland, ranked from "Best Scenic View" to "Most Likely To Get You Stabbed by a Guy With a Machete."

### BEST SCENIC VIEW: YELLOW LINE

The Yellow Line, which runs from the SW College station up to the Expo Center, has some of the best views in the entire TriMet light rail system. From the Rose Quarter station, with its primo angle of the L'Jolie Prince sculpture, to the windy climb up to Overlook Park with a view of the city skyline over the banks of the Willamette — the Yellow Line has it all. If you're heading out from Portland State University, you're in luck — like the Green Line, you can take this train all the way from campus to the other end and back (as I did, for this article).



### BEST LINE ON WHICH TO FALL HALF-ASLEEP LISTENING TO ART BLAKEY AND THE JAZZ MESSENGERS, THEN CHAKA KHAN, THEN PAUL SIMON, THEN THE DEAFENING SILENCE OF NO ONE: GREEN LINE

I started at Case Study Coffee Roasters on SW 30th Avenue. I bought a mailed cinnamon maple oat latte for \$7.99; it was warm. The air

was nippy. I walked a few blocks, then sat and waited on the cold, metal bench at the station, staring listlessly at the food carts across the street and wishing I had eaten that morning.

The train finally came. Destination: "Clackamas." So it goes.

Clackamas Town Center is possibly the most boring transit center I've ever seen, and that's saying something (looking at you, Beaverton). It's nothing but concrete and a Residence Inn by Marriott. Everything past Gateway Transit Center feels like despair. The strip malls are

enough to make you want to look for an exit, if you know what I mean (I'm pretty sure the crew switch takes the same tool as a skate-board belt).

### HONORABLE MENTION FOR BEST LINE ON WHICH TO FALL HALF-ASLEEP...: FX2-DIVISION

Yes, TriMet's FX2 is technically a bus. It's not a train, but it's multi-segmented, shaped like an accordion and sick as hell. So I'll briefly mention it here.

I took the FX2 from the SE Division Max Station back to downtown Portland; I just couldn't bear to ride the Green Line any longer. On my walk to the bus stop, I passed many lovely-looking bakeries and cafes; on the bus, there were three people sitting together wearing lucky slip-ons, two in Crocs, one in Birkenstocks (with socks). The world is full of wonders for those who look.

### WORST LINE FOR PLANEWATCHING: RED LINE

You can sit around and watch planes all day if you have a ticket, but if you don't have one, you can't even walk around the airport pre-security? What a scam.

I hitched a ride on the Red Line one morning,

### BEST LINE THAT'S REALLY JUST AN EXTENSION OF AN ALREADY-EXISTING ROUTE: ORANGE LINE

Seriously, explain to me how the Orange Line isn't an extraneously named add-on to the Yellow Line. They literally overlap on the rail system map. They expanded the Red Line out to Hillsboro! Why does Milwaukie get to have its own line? What's even in Milwaukie?



TRIMET Rail System



### MOST LIKELY TO GET YOU STABBED BY A GUY WITH A MACHETE: BLUE LINE

One of my friends grew up in Gresham and took the Blue Line into the city all the time; I have heard several stories about men with machetes patrolling the stations late at night, swinging them around like nightsticks. I have also run into not one, but two katana-wielding MAX riders at Sunset Transit Center and Orenco.

Hide this one during the day. And bring pepper spray.

### HONORABLE MENTION(S) FOR FEAR OF DEATH BY WATER: PORTLAND STREETCAR AND WES

The NS Loop Streetcar and WES Commuter Rail are the only parts of the TriMet rail system that don't cross the Willamette at any point (not including the Portland Aerial Tram, which is on the rail system map but feels like it shouldn't be because it's, you know, in the air). If you have rabies or a fear of bridges, these lines are for you — leave the MAX for the East Siders. ♡

# Best Columnist

College Group 2

# 1st Place

# Oregon Daily Emerald

# Aishiki Nag

THE DAILY  
**Emerald**  
TUESDAY, JAN. 21, 2025 INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM PRODUCED BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS

► SPORTS  
**Athlete of the Week:**  
Jackson Shelstad  
*Read story on page 11*

► OPINION  
**Oregon's burning budget**  
*Read story on page 7*

► CITY NEWS  
**Eugene home prices expected to rise by 3% in 2025**  
By Stephanie Hensley  
*City News Reporter*  
As the city of Eugene continues to grow, housing opportunities will remain a challenge for prospective residents in 2025. These challenges are part of a larger trend affecting housing markets nationwide, with rising mortgage rates and increasing demand for homes putting pressure on buyers and renters alike. According to Houseo, home prices in Eugene and Portland are expected to rise to 3.1% by the end of March. Over the past five years, Eugene's housing prices have steadily increased as prices remain relatively high compared to historical costs. According to Redfin, July 2023 marked a peak in home sales, with the average home selling for \$523,000. By November 2024, the median sale price was \$510,000. According to Realtor, national mortgage rates are expected to average at 6.3% through-  
*Continue story on page 8*

**LOS ANGELES FIRES**



*The faces behind the fire*  
With a large portion of out-of-state students coming from California, the Los Angeles fires are hitting remarkably close to home for many

By Aishiki Nag  
*Opinion Columnist*

Grace Berger, a sophomore at University of Oregon, received an update from her family on Jan. 7, saying that her home was under emergency evacuation orders due to the proximity of the Eaton Canyon fires in Altadena, California. "Being in these classes, it felt like no one else even knew this was happening or had any idea... everyone was fine and I wasn't fine. I was checking my family's location. I was texting them and they weren't responding, and it was nerve-wracking," Berger said. "I didn't know if they were okay, (and) I didn't know if our house was okay."

Berger's family had left their house in Altadena to stay with her grandparents — whose house is close to the Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena — there they received a second evacuation order the very same night and had to flee again. Berger's father drove up to the evacuated neighborhood and put out some of the embers from the main fire, in an attempt to prevent further fires from igniting. Berger recalled that her neighborhood had around 180 houses, of which 50 had burned down. Her grandparents' home was one of them. They had lost everything. Berger received this news in the form of a text message from her sister during class. "She's (Berger's grandmother) like a big sentimental person. All of the family things, photos and everything was in her house that burned... she's being very strong about it," Berger said, recalling how her grandmother is currently handling the devastating news. *Continue story on page 6*

► ARTS & CULTURE



*Eating with the Seasons: Winter Gardening in Eugene*  
By Fern Pava  
*Arts & Culture Writer*

Winter in Eugene brings unique challenges and opportunities for gardeners and farmers. As the days grow shorter and temperatures drop, plant growth slows, but there's still a surprising variety of crops to harvest in winter. At GrassRoots Garden, a 2.5-acre plot in Eugene, volunteers and staff grow food year-round for Food for Lane County and local community members. Emily Johnson, assistant garden lead at GrassRoots, shared her experience with winter gardening and seasonal eating. Outside the greenhouse, hardy crops such as *Continue story on page 5*

# Best Columnist

College Group 3

3rd Place

The Commuter- Linn  
Benton CC

Sid Mydland

## *Feeder, Feeder,* **SUNFLOWER SEED EATER**

*How to help backyard birds  
through the winter*

words by SID MYDLAND

**F**or many birdwatchers, winter is not the most exciting season. However, this time of year is full of songbirds and woodpeckers who could use extra help.

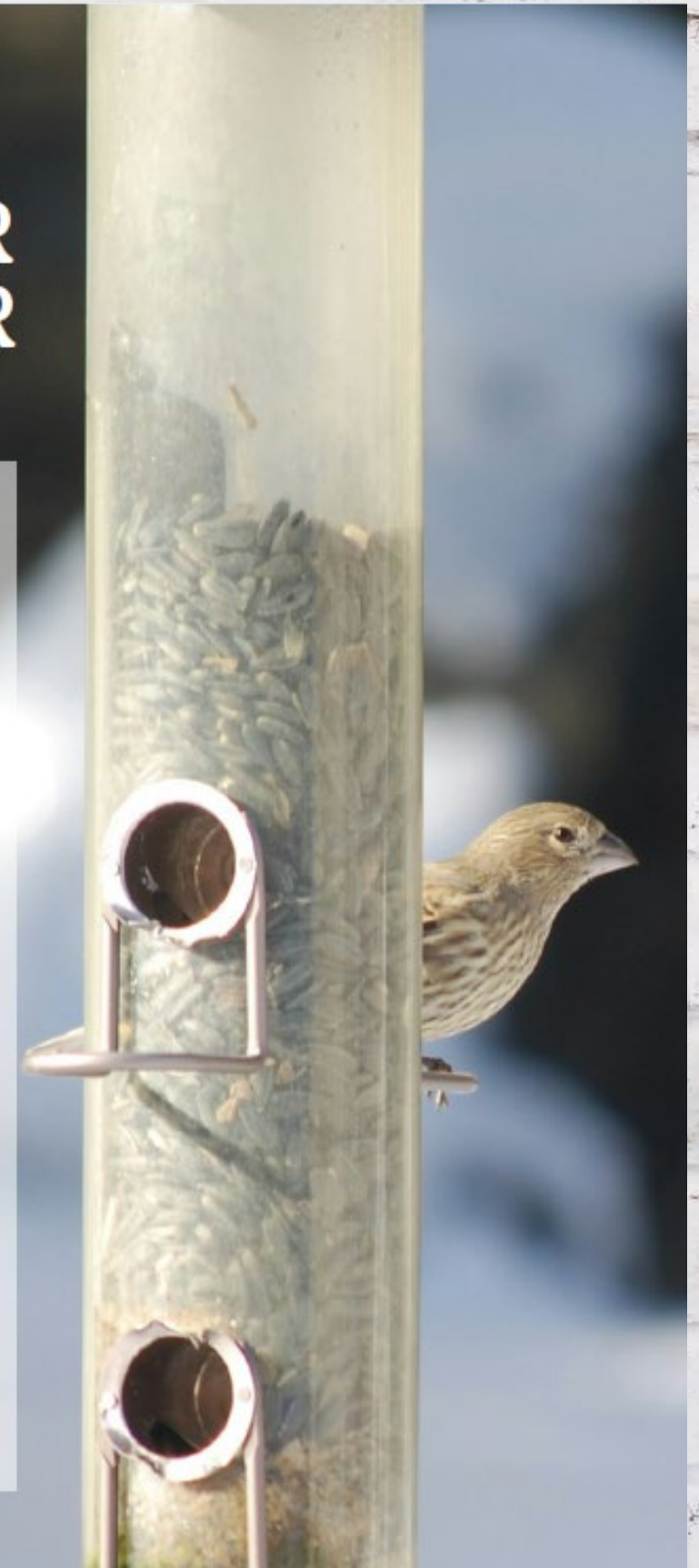
Humans have caused habitat loss for almost as long as we have existed; fragmentary pieces of suitable habitat are too far apart. Increasingly more prominent is how climate change affects wintering birds. Rising heat is altering what's left of their natural environment. These two factors, habitat loss and climate change, amplify each other, getting us to where we are now.

Some birds are better at living in winter weather but still deal with loss of cover (due to leaf fall), exhausted supplies of foraging goodies, and fewer bugs out with a shorter time to look for food. Cold causes birds to burn much more energy than they typically do, losing up to 75% of their body weight overnight when conditions are extreme.

To stay warm, these little guys need all the help they can get. Full bird feeders mean full bellies and more energy storage. To help, we can fill our feeders with foods that are high in fat and energy, such as roasted and unsalted peanuts, suet, and sunflower seeds.

Setting up and maintaining clean bird feeders is fundamental, but it doesn't have to be complicated. Simply setting out a plant saucer and putting seed in it is perfect, but if you want to go the extra mile, you have tons of options. Different feeder types include hoppers, tubes, platforms, metal mesh, towers, suet, nectar, and more!

You can hang feeders from branches, attach them to balconies, place them on the ground, or hang them from garden poles. Depending on the birds you want to attract, you can choose different feeders, placements, and food varieties. For example, tube and hopper feeders have enough room to support most songbirds,



# Best Columnist

College Group 3

2nd Place

The Clackamas Print

Morgan Armitage

The screenshot shows the website 'The Clackamas Print' with a dark blue header. The main article title is 'The trials and tribulations of transfer athletes', dated May 20, 2025, by Morgan Armitage. Below the title are social media sharing buttons for Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Email. The author's bio identifies Morgan Armitage as a Staff Writer. The article text discusses the challenges of transferring as an athlete. A photo of Morgan Armitage in a red volleyball jersey is included, with a caption: 'Morgan Armitage at her media day at Everett, Fall 2025. Photo provided by Morgan Armitage'. The article continues with paragraphs about her experience at Everett Community College and the transfer process. On the right side of the page, there is a search bar, a 'Cover Talk' sidebar with a 'Ceramics Class' article, and an 'Archives' section with a 'Select Month' dropdown menu.

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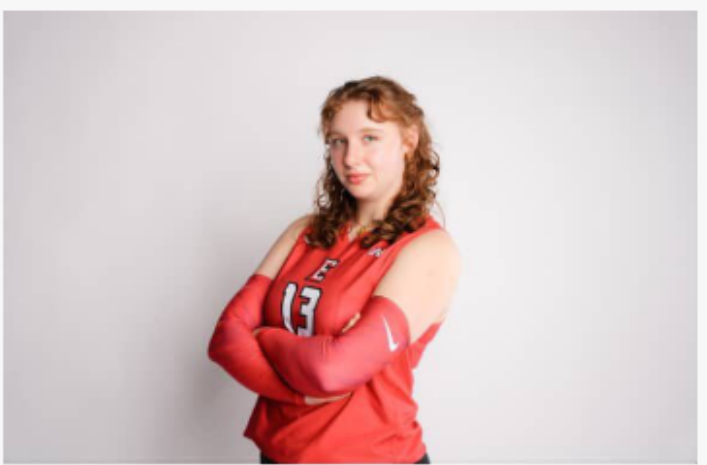
## The trials and tribulations of transfer athletes

May 20, 2025 / Morgan Armitage / Comments Off

Facebook X LinkedIn Email

By Morgan Armitage  
Staff Writer

A few athletes have found their way to [Clackamas Community College](#) by non-traditional means. As of the last few years, schools have made it easier for students to transfer. This is proving true in athletics, too.



Morgan Armitage at her media day at Everett, Fall 2025. Photo provided by Morgan Armitage

As a volleyball player, I committed to Everett Community College my senior year of high school. That's where I played my first collegiate season before deciding that I did not wish to continue my time there.

Being unwilling to give up volleyball, I moved home and reached out to the team here at CCC, and I was able to join them this spring season.

Transferring was a bit of an odd process. When an athlete is being recruited before college, it is their responsibility to make their presence in their sport known online. The coaches often take it from there.

The transfer process differs in this way because it becomes the complete job of the athlete to market themselves to the coaches, particularly because the coaches are limited in their ability to reply.

The Letter of Intent that athletes sign in college pledges their commitment to said school, and

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# Best Columnist

College Group 3

1st Place

The Advocate-MHCC

Mary Nashed

COLUMN

## REALITY CHECK ON COLLEGE PATH TO COLLEGE DREAMS STREWN WITH STONES

Mary Nashed  
The Advocate

Entering college is often seen as an exciting chapter in life – a time for independence, new friendships, and self-discovery. But for many students, it can also be when mental health struggles, especially depression, begin to surface.

Growing up, movies and people at school made college seem for me like the ultimate dream: moving away, being independent, living in dorms, going to parties, the whole deal. But as I got older, I started hearing a different story from people who actually went to big-name schools such as Oregon State, the University of Oregon, and even fancy out-of-state universities.

**'ONE MINUTE, THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD LIFE FIGURED OUT. THE NEXT? TOTAL BREAK-DOWN.'**

To my surprise, a lot of them ended up coming back home, transferring to Portland State University or even here, to Mt. Hood. When I asked why, the answer was almost always the same: stress, burn-out, and financial struggles. And what really threw me off? These weren't just any students; they were the straight-A, overachieving, 4.0 GPA types. The ones who had spent years

building perfect résumés.

But even for these standouts, the whole experience wasn't worth it. The pressure, the overwhelming workload, and the debt all hit harder than expected. One minute, they thought they had life figured out. The next? Total breakdown.

That's when I started questioning everything. Why did no one talk about this part? Why was college always painted as this flawless experience? Leaving home at 18 and being "independent" sounds great until you're crammed into a tiny dorm, drowning in student loans, and realizing you just paid \$20,000 for housing, alone.

**'...FINANCIAL AID FEELS LIKE A MATTER OF LUCK, AS IF A HEARTBREAKING STORY INCREASES YOUR CHANCES OF SUPPORT.'**

Somehow, people act like the harder a school is to get into, the better it is, like choosing financial stability over prestige is something to look down upon. But what's actually smarter, struggling under debt for a name on a diploma or making a choice that won't wreck your future?

### The Reality of College Costs and Scholarships

In 2025, the cost of attending college is staggering. Even for in-state students at public universities, tuition and fees can exceed \$40,000 per year, while out-of-state students may face costs surpassing \$90,000. Private universities aren't any better, often charging over \$60,000 annually. And that's before factoring in textbooks, housing, and everyday living expenses.

For many students, the financial burden feels inescapable. Scholarships are often portrayed as the prime solution,

but in reality, they aren't guaranteed. Despite working hard, maintaining a high GPA, and building an impressive résumé, many students, myself included, find that scholarships simply don't come through.

Sometimes, receiving financial aid feels like a matter of luck, as if having a heartbreaking story increases your chances of support. At the same time, mental health struggles among college students are rising. A recent survey found that 44% of students reported symptoms of depression, and 15% seriously considered suicide in the past year.

The relentless pressure to succeed academically while juggling financial stress takes a toll. Many of my friends, students with perfect grades and ambitious goals, believed they had their futures mapped out. But one by one, I watched them drop out, overwhelmed by the weight of it all. A 2023 report from the American College Health Associ-

### 'IT'S A PAY TO PLAY SYSTEM'

ation found that 60% of students experienced "overwhelming anxiety" over the prior year, and 40% said stress and depression significantly impacted their ability to function. For some, like my friends, the combination of academic and financial pressure just becomes too much to bear.

### The Reality of Scholarships and Support

College is often presented as a straightforward path: Work hard, get good grades, earn scholarships, and everything will fall into place. The reality is far more complicated, and means that success in higher education is not just about effort, it's also about circumstances, resources, and sometimes, sheer luck.

All my life, I was told that if I stayed on track I would be rewarded with college acceptance and scholarships. Teachers and parents reassured me that I wouldn't have to sweat the costs

# Best Spot News

College Group 2


3rd Place

The Daily Barometer

Carter Pardue

The Daily Barometer

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Carter Pardue  
Cecilia Sergi and Zoe Johnson and pushed by Abby Paschal and another OSU undergraduate down the largest hill at Avery Park on February 13, in Corvallis. OSU campus was closed Thursday and Friday due to winter weather.

## Snow continues, OSU campus closed through Thursday

Audrey Saiz, Editor-in-Chief  
February 13, 2025

▶ Listen

Corvallis woke up to a blanket of snow Thursday morning that continued to fall, prompting the closure of Oregon State University's Corvallis campus through the rest of the day.

The update, sent out through [OSU Alerts](#) at 9 a.m. this morning, said that all events, classrooms and office buildings are closed through the day.

As temperatures begin to warm, Corvallis remains under an ice storm warning from the [National Weather Service](#) until 4 a.m. Friday. According to NWS, the snow is likely to turn into freezing rain by midday Thursday.




The Beaver Bus follows campus closures and will not run while the Corvallis campus is closed due to weather. Updates can be found on their [live tracker](#).

For the most recent updates, the OSU community can visit the [OSU website](#) which is updated shortly after alerts are sent out.

Corvallis Transit System is currently running, with only slight delays in routes, further information and updates can be found on their [website](#).

Was this article helpful?  Yes  No

### More in Campus News

-  OSU Gymnastics places third at the NCAA Corvallis Regional in the first session
-  ASOSU Senate passes new bill, confirms new senators
-  OSU archivist publishes second book on Linus Pauling

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2nd Place

The Pioneer Log

Jamilia Ataeva

The Mossy Log  
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LEWIS & CLARK'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

HOME STAFF CONTACT NEWS OPINION FEATURES ARTS SPORTS THE BACKDOOR ARCHIVE

Home / 2025 / October / 17 / Students tear gassed at local ICE protests

## Students tear gassed at local ICE protests

@ Bertie Mahoney · October 17, 2025 · 5 minutes read · 0

Since June, individuals have staged protests at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing facility on South Macadam Avenue. According to the City of Portland, the purpose of the processing center is to detain immigrants for up to 12 hours and conduct routine check-ins with immigrants throughout their naturalization process. Though initially smaller in scale, the protests have flared up in response to the land use violation lawsuit filed by the city in September and President Donald Trump's attempts to deploy the National Guard in Portland.

On Oct. 4, several Lewis & Clark students attended a protest organized by immigrant rights organization Portland Contra Las Deportaciones, which began in Elizabeth Caruthers Park before marching to the nearby ICE building. By 1 p.m., about 400 people were protesting, many of whom held signs, wore masks or other concealing clothing, and chanted phrases like "Hey hey! Ho ho! ICE has got to go! Hey hey! Ho ho! Sanctuary for all!"

The Mossy Log was present at the site of the protest and spoke to students as they left. The crowd included journalists, veterans, elderly people and mothers with children. A group of counterprotesters was also present, holding signs which read "God Bless ICE" and "Honk if you Like ICE." By 1:20 p.m., ICE agents began to push the crowd back away from the building and the plaza in front of it, firing pepper spray and tear gas canisters. Agents allegedly took these measures without warning.

"On the loudspeaker (agents) announced that anyone on their property was subject to arrest, but they said that people were allowed to move to the sidewalk," said Aurora Wade '29, who attended the protest. "Within minutes, they tear-gassed us on the sidewalks anyway ... The rubber bullets were crazy. They did not give a warning for deploying those, and I don't think they were aiming them very low. Pepper spray was frequent and without warning ... it was like an attack, it was not slow."

According to a Use of Force memorandum from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) updated on Feb. 6, 2023, officers "shall use only the force that is objectively reasonable in light of the facts and circumstances confronting him or her at the time force is applied."

On Oct. 6, KGW8 reported that Portland City Attorney Robert Taylor sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice where he accused the federal government of using excessive force. He claimed they violated the Fourth Amendment and that the DOJ Civil Rights Division failed in their duties to protect all citizens' constitutional rights. Taylor claims they used this force against "otherwise peaceful demonstrators."

These protests are in part a response to the ongoing lawsuit against the facility. Formal complaints filed on June 16 argued that the facility was violating their permit to operate in Portland by holding people longer than the 12-hour window. These complaints followed a petition of more than 18,000 signatures calling for the city to revoke the usage permits of the ICE facility. On Sept. 17, the City of Portland revealed that their investigation in response to this complaint found that the facility violated the authorized time limit in 25 instances between Oct. 1, 2024 and July 27. As a result, the facility is legally required to correct these violations.

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Oregon Daily Emerald

Saj Sundaram

(UOEW) Four the their last boxing match, roughly 375 people attended a rally at the Frontsteps of Johnson Hall, the administrative building on the University of Oregon campus. (Saj Sundaram/Emerald)



government job, and we're government trained, and it's hard to leave. Our staff members deal with a large crowd of people, handling one customer takes like 30 minutes. So when that adds up, it gets really stressful and I feel really bad putting that burden on my staff and my co-workers and my supervisor because they don't deserve that," she said.

Isabella Bartocci, a sophomore student, said she was glad about the agreement, but had concerns about how UO was treating its student workers.

"I feel really bad putting that burden on my staff and my co-workers and my supervisor because they don't deserve that."

"I think the school is f\*\*\*ed up for how they're treating student workers and RAs and everything," Bartocci said. "It hasn't been necessarily affecting me, except for everything that's been shut down."

Despite her disappointment with the lack of resources around campus, Bartocci also expressed support for the strike.

"I think it's good that people are getting involved with stuff they care about," Bartocci said.

*Editor's Note: This article is as of 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5, due to The Daily Emerald's print production process. Any updates or changes in relation to the tentative agreement and ratification vote can be found on The Emerald's website.*



Striking student worker Blu Jones receives giant inflatable duck after winning the heart of a boxing match. (Saj Sundaram/Emerald)

Event "disruptions" by striking student workers led to possible disciplinary and legal action

In an email sent to the UO community on May 2, Provost and Senior Vice President Christopher Long and Mark Schmeck, vice president and chief human resource officer, said that protest activities by the University of Oregon Student Workers union, "disrupted three important university events," including two private and one public event. These events were held between April 29 to May 2 — during the first week of UOSW's strike.

As a result, Long said that UO is actively reviewing these disruptions and could take "possible legal and disciplinary action."

According to the email, the "disruptions" created "a threat to health and safety by exceeding fire marshal occupancy limits, blocking exits and intimidating participants."

The email also stated that protesters also "interfered with the delivery of food and essential medication, affecting fellow students who depend on these deliveries."

## UOPD, EPD arrive during UOSW Johnson Hall occupation



Around 10:00 p.m. on May 5, roughly 60 striking student workers from the University of Oregon Student Workers Union occupied Johnson Hall, UO's administrative building. The occupation followed a study-in that began around 1:00 p.m. in Johnson Hall. At the same time, UOSW was in their third bargaining session with UO since the strike.

After several hours of occupying Johnson Hall, around 10 University of Oregon Police Department and Eugene Police Department officers arrived at 10:30 p.m. at the south entrance of the building, dressed in riot gear and wielding batons.

Once all striking workers left the inside of the building around 10:40 p.m., police officers and cars soon left the scene without making a single arrest.

Victoria Robison, a media liaison for UOSW, told The Daily Emerald that the striking workers weren't expected to leave Johnson Hall after "until their demands (were) met." The demands included a revised arbitration section for harassment and discrimination — topics that were discussed at the bargaining session.

According to UO Spokesperson Angela Seydel, UOPD entered the building to "ensure the safety of those inside and secure university facilities."

(UOEW) The first of 60 striking student workers and police officers made their way out of Johnson Hall, the University of Oregon administrative building at approximately 10:40 p.m., according to UOPD and EPD officers. (Saj Sundaram/Emerald)

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The Torch- Lane CC

Amy Miller


Sunday, April 5th, 2026 1:55:41 PM

THE Torch

CURRENT NEWS MEET THE TEAM! EDITORIAL DENALI MAGAZINE CONTACT US

LATEST NEWS **Prepared to strike if negotiations fail** **'Nothing will change if we don't stand up': Willamette High School students walkout in protest**

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CURRENT NEWS LCC SCHOOL NEWS LCC SCHOOL NEWS


### LCC Staff and Students Gather in Protest.

Amy Miller — October 24, 2025

LOCEA members, staff, and students of Lane Community College come together to demonstrate for a fair faculty contract outside Downtown Eugene LCC Campus building.

By Amy L. Miller


Lane Community College students and staff gathered alongside other prominent community members to protest what they consider unfair treatment of the Lane Community College Education Association (LOCEA) and the college as a whole by the LCC administration in downtown Eugene on Saturday, Oct. 4.




The event began with a meeting for the Oregon Education Association (OEA) at the Graduate hotel. The march started in front of the hotel and extended to the LCC Downtown Campus. OEA president Enrique Farrera says that he and the over 42,000 active state union members stand in full support of the LOCEA fighting for their rights to a fair contract for staff and students who strive for academic success.

LOCEA has been fighting against budget cuts that total over \$3million per year for the next three years since May 2025, and other big decisions made by administration without contacting the LCC Board or inquiring public opinion.


One of many of these decisions include the removal of the Licensed Practical Nursing program despite record-breaking applications and high graduation rates.



Protesters march from Downtown Eugene LCC building back to Graduate by Milton after demonstrating in support of a fair faculty contract. Photo Credit: Amy L. Miller



President of Oregon Education Association Enrique Farrera (center) and other demonstrators march back to Graduate by Milton after demonstrating support for a fair faculty contract. Photo Credit: Amy L. Miller



Staff, students, and families gathered to listen to LCC faculty contract demonstrations. Photo Credit: Amy L. Miller

Adrienne Mitchell, president of the LOCEA and instructor for over 25 years, said at protest decisions like these are "reflective of current right-wing federal government" and are "not only an attack on LCC, but the concept of

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2nd Place

The Advocate-MHCC

Leo Fontneau

JUNE 6, 2025

NEWS **A**

## AFTER 51 YEARS MHCC PASSES A BOND!



MHCC President Lisa Skari (left) and MHCC Board Chair Diane McKeel (right) at a May 21 Board of Education meeting after the bond passed.

The moment the preliminary election results were revealed at the MHCC election watch party on May 20. Photo by Leo Fontneau

Leo Fontneau  
The Advocate

After initial results of the proposed \$336 million Mt. Hood Community College bond measure were posted the evening of May 20, election day, showing it lagging in support, the next vote updates showed it gaining support as additional mail ballots were counted.

Now, from a narrow lead of just 11 votes on May 21, the winning margin has increased to 144 votes, as of June 3.

After six failed attempts over the years,

**"THIS IS MORE THAN A VICTORY - IT'S A COMEBACK STORY FIFTY YEARS IN THE MAKING,"**  
**-JENNIFER BOEHMER**

MHCC finds itself on track to pass its first bond measure since November 1974.

Campus leaders are able to savor the success, while thanking those who made it happen.

"This is more than a victory - it's a comeback story fifty years in the making," Jennifer Boehmer, who leads community outreach for Mt. Hood, wrote in an email to The Advocate.

"The passage of this bond marks a historic turning point for MHCC. It means safer, more modern facilities, expanded career training opportunities, and a stronger, more connected college for generations to come," she said.

Boehmer credited all those who campaigned for and supported the bond proposal.

"This victory belongs to every person who knocked on a door, shared their story, wore an 'I [heart] MHCC' sticker, liked a social media post, or had a conversation with a neighbor. We couldn't have done it without them," she wrote.

In sum, she stated: "The margin was narrow, but the message is clear: people believe in our mission, our students, and the power of public education to transform lives."

Back at the MHCC election night watch party, in a small venue in downtown Gresham, the first vote count did not go as President Lisa Skari had hoped.

Appearing shortly after 8 p.m., the results showed the bond trailing in support by 1,785 votes and behind in every county (Multnomah and Clackamas counties) except Hood River County, where the race now stands in a dead tie.

It seemed that the bond was on the road towards defeat - again. When Skari addressed those present, she thanked all those who had supported the measure and said the college should continue to build ties with the community.

While she said she remained hopeful, there was a real sense that Skari was preparing for the real possibility the measure would fail and the college might need yet another campaign to pass a bond.

By the time an MHCC District Board of Education meeting started the following night, the mood had changed: Updated election results that afternoon showed bond leading by a

### MHCC ELECTION RESULTS

#### MHCC Bond

Yes:	21,233	50.17 percent
No:	21,089	49.83 percent

#### MHCC Board Elections

##### Zone #1

Larry Morgan	5,781
Write-in	114

##### Zone #2

William Miller	6,011
Write-in	192

##### Zone #4

Annette Mattson	3,725
Write-in	78

mere 11 votes.

The tone had changed from the slightly somber crowd of the previous night to a gleeful optimism shared from the members of the Board.

Skari reiterated her comments the previous night after the early vote count "about how this community helped make this happen and they were there with us, a number of them were out supporting us, canvassing, knocking on doors, putting up signs," she told the Board and other attendees.

"It was incredible and so they showed up for us in an amazing way and so we need to continue to show up for them," she said. She noted in comparison that the May 2016 bond measure attempt, which failed 55 to 45% overall, was defeated in all three counties.

Ultimately, the 2025 measure pulled ahead in Multnomah County by nearly 1,300 votes - and Skari and others could celebrate the long-sought result.

All final voting results across Oregon will be certified on June 16.

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Gabriel Elmosleh

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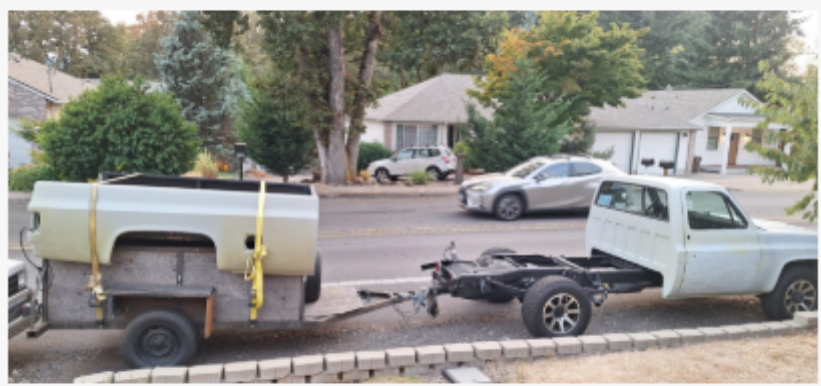
### Auto restoration students, faculty, sue college

October 22, 2025 / Gabriel Elmosleh / 1 Comment

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By Gabriel Elmosleh  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Shawn Price has been taking his 1986 GMC pickup to auto restoration classes at Clackamas Community College for over two years. But after the college cancelled the classes, Price and his truck were left in a state of limbo.



Shawn Price worked on his 1986 GMC in the auto restoration class. Photo provided by Shawn Price

The auto restoration classes have been held for more than over 30 years, and students like Price repeatedly took the class to work on their cars.

"Fred [Davis, an instructor for the classes] promised me that within a year, maybe two, I'd have a complete truck and they'd be rolling out of here," said Price.

The classes provided students with a wealth of knowledge that for Price was impossible to find anywhere outside of them.

"Even from the senior citizens in the class, they're a wealth of information," said Price. "You can't get that experience from a book."


Unable to repair his primary mode of transportation, Price now rides a 50cc Vespa.

Due to the removal of these restoration classes, Clackamas Community College is embroiled in an ongoing lawsuit after former students of the cut classes sued.

The lawsuit filed by Melinda Wilde, an attorney and former student in the classes, sought to prevent the closure of the classes with an injunction, despite the fact that the classes were already cancelled.

The lawsuit also claimed that the college was committing age discrimination when it canceled

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The Linfield Review

Zachary Hampson



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### The Beacon, University of Portland

Evan Guerra

# The Beacon

The Student Voice of the University of Portland Since 1935

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## GALLERY: Pilots Fall to Furman, Ending a Historic Season

December 6, 2023 at 12:03 pm



Portland forward Diego Rojas prepares for a corner kick. The Pilots lost to the Furman Paladins 1-0 on December 6, 2023. Photo by Evan Guerra.

Portland's historic men's soccer season concluded on December 6, 2023 with a 1-0 NCAA Tournament loss to Furman. This was the first time the Pilots have hosted the quarterfinals.

Evan Guerra is the Multimedia Editor for The Beacon. He can be reached at guerra28@up.edu.

### Recent Slideshows



GALLERY: Hawai'i Club hosts 48th annual Lū'au



GALLERY: Rock The Bluff 2026



GALLERY: Fifth annual Gender and Sexuality Partnership drag show



### RECENT ARTICLES

Theology professor Jon Stanfill is also a small-town mayor

Pilot Pit Stop Episode 2 | March 26 - April 2

Robert Pamplin in trouble with the state, again

### WEATHER

Portland, OR 97209

Weather

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The Daily Barometer

Andreas Shypertt

The screenshot shows a web page from 'The Daily Barometer'. At the top is an orange navigation bar with links for OMN, Home, Campus, City, Sports, Opinion, Print Issues, About, and Donate, along with a search bar. The main article is titled 'Photo Gallery: Beavers overcome Titans in 4-2 win' by Andreas Shypertt, dated September 5, 2025. The featured image is a soccer player in mid-air performing a bicycle kick. Below the image is a 'Gallery - 7 Photos' button and a caption: 'OSU Midfielder Arnau Farnos (10) attempts a bicycle kick for goal. Oregon State took down Cal State Fullerton 4-2 at Lorenz Field in Corvallis on Sep 4, 2025.' A feedback poll asks 'Was this article helpful?' with 'Yes' and 'No' options. A 'More in Sports' section follows, containing six article thumbnails with titles such as 'OSU Gymnastics places third at the NCAA Corvallis Regional in the first session', 'Pac-12 adds new wrestling affiliates', 'Beavs fall flat in historic loss', 'Beavers extend streak to seven, sweep Mercer with 3-1 win', 'OSU softball falls to San Diego in game three', and 'Lewis' walk-off grand slam lifts Beavers to 8-6 comeback win'. Each thumbnail includes an 'OMN SPORTS' logo.

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3rd Place

The Commuter- Linn  
Benton CC

Ayden Hortt

ROADRUNNERS IN  
**ACTION**



intro by ETHAN BIRMINGHAM  
photos by AYDEN HORTT

**COMMUTER SPORTS:**  


**WOMEN'S SCHEDULE:**  


**MEN'S SCHEDULE:**  


Over the last few months, the men's and women's basketball teams at Linn-Benton have been busy at work as they make their way through the 2024-25 season. Despite both teams facing competitive opposition as members of one of the NWAC's toughest divisions for basketball, both teams remain within touching distance of a playoff spot.

With the season winding down and the Roadrunners in the back stretch of their conference schedules, now would be a better time than any to catch a game. And if you can't make it in-person, Commuter photographer Ayden Hortt has captured some of the action at Linn-Benton home games, chronicling moments and memories from the teams' seasons. You can also stay caught up on the latest with lbcommuter.com's sports coverage. ★



24 | SPORTS

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### The Advocate-MHCC

Catherine Green



Volume 59, Issue 14 May 23, 2025  
advocate-online.net

# THE ADVOCATE

**MHCC fails to communicate**  
PAGE #2

**The pressure of higher education**  
PAGE #3

**Balancing life and waves**  
PAGE #7

## SAINTS LOSE THEIR HALO

FAIL TO DEFEND SOFTBALL TITLE

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Last year, Mt. Hood Community College softball team had an incredible championship season. I'll admit – I knew nothing about softball at the time. But when I heard the Saints had a shot at another title run this year, I knew I had to be there to see it for myself.  
See Page #6

# Best Sports Photo




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The Clackamas Print

Evan Tichenor

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**The Clackamas Print**

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## Clackamas track and field sets facility records at Corban University


May 11, 2025 / Tashanique Barrs / Comments Off

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Brodie Leslie and Loic Bassett runs the 4x100 meter at Corban University. Photo by Evan Tichenor

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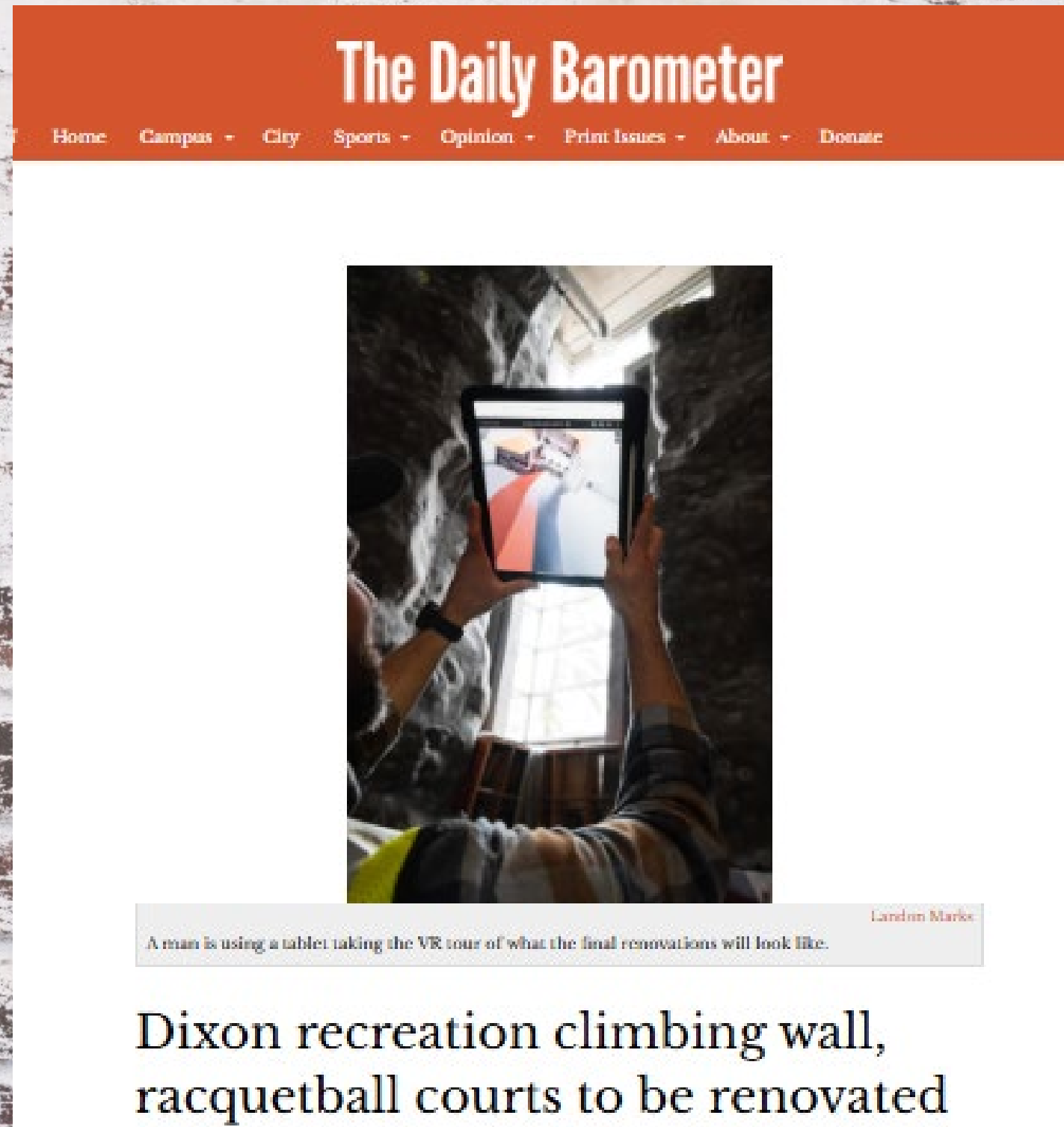
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Landon Marks



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HOME STAFF CONTACT NEWS OPINION FEATURES ARTS SPORTS THE BACKDOOR ARCHIVE

Home / 2025 / February / 21 / Lan Su Chinese Garden honors Lunar New Year

Features

### Lan Su Chinese Garden honors Lunar New Year

By Brady Vinlove February 21, 2025 5 minutes read 0



Brady Vinlove / The Mossy Log

The month of February might feel dreary and boring, but, in fact, it has many fun celebrations to lift one's spirits. One of the most important holidays in China, the Lunar New Year, began on Jan. 29 with festivities continuing into February. Not only is the holiday significant in many Southeast Asian countries, it is also widely observed here in the Pacific Northwest. One iconic celebration for the holiday takes place at the Lan Su Chinese Garden in downtown Portland. To celebrate, the garden features beautiful seasonal decorations, engaging demonstrations and fun cultural performances which anyone can enjoy.

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Vanguard - PSU

Haley Hsu



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The Commuter- Linn  
Benton CC

Ayden Hortt

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### Trike Day at LBCC

By The Commuter / October 27, 2025

Photos by Ayden Hortt

Tuesday Oct. 7, The Student Leadership Council at LBCC ran a trike racing event in the courtyard to duke it out for the best times. It ran from Noon to 2:00 p.m. with people finishing two laps in only twenty-four seconds! The event was accompanied with free pizza to any student who chose to attend. It was a fun and interactive way to spend one of the last warm days before Fall fully kicks in.

The Commuter offers a weekly email newsletter bringing you news about LBCC and the surrounding areas. Sign up below.

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Trey Copeland

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## Students roll with it in Board Game Club


January 31, 2025 / Tomas Alonso / Comments Off

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Aidan Kelly reaches across the table, making a play for the win. Photo by Trey Copeland

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Brenda Autry



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The Collegian-Willamette  
Univ

Patricia Krepel

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Patricia Krepel, Staff Photographer · May 13, 2025 · 1 min read

## Photojournalism: Renew Sustainable Flea Market

On April 24, 2025, a flea market sponsored by the Fabric, Yarn and Textiles Club and Climate Action Alliance was hosted on Brown Field. Many vendors signed up for the Renew Sustainable Flea Market as Bearcats shopped around for clothes, art and other accessories. The items for sale were repurposed, handmade and secondhand, and the event was funded by CAFES.



A crowd during the evening of the Flea Market. Photo by Patricia Krepel.

# Best Photography

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2nd Place

Vanguard - PSU

Nash Bennett



# Best Photography

College Group 2

1st Place

Vanguard - PSU

Haley Hsu



# Best Photography

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The Commuter- Linn  
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Brenda Autry



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Jackson Arterberry

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## The Clackamas Print

HOME NEWS ARTS & CULTURE SPORTS  COMICS OPINION VIDEOS PODCAST 

### College president runs home to Oregon City

August 7, 2025 / Morgan Armitage / Comments Off

 Facebook  X  LinkedIn  Email

By Morgan Armitage  
Sports Editor

Clackamas Community College's President Tim Cook ran right into homebase on Saturday, August 2, with a police escort and the entire women's volleyball team following behind him. His return to CCC marked a near end to his [state-wide journey](#).



Cook surrounded by students, staff, and supporters. Photos by Jackson Arterberry

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# Best Photography

College Group 3

1st Place

The Clackamas Print

Evan Tichenor

The screenshot shows a news article on the website 'The Clackamas Print'. The article title is 'Rogue college Roller Skate Club seeks to change ban on campus skating', dated March 13, 2025, by Frankie Shorey. The article text discusses a student government vote on March 12 to allow a roller skating club on campus, provided they don't skate on campus. It mentions that club members plan to appeal a ban on roller skates on campus. Skaters first got news of this ban on Feb. 26, after their second unofficial meeting. While skating, they were stopped by campus security and told they weren't allowed to roller skate on campus. Pete Kondratieff, the College Safety manager on campus, said, 'I believe we received multiple complaints with at least one including an individual roller skating inside the building (Wachend).' Shelby Walman, ASG Club Chair, expressed concerns about safety and liability regarding roller skaters on campus. If roller skaters were to be allowed to skate on campus, this would be the first time that a club would require students to fill out a liability waiver. 'There are going to be a lot of waivers that are gonna have to be signed, and the liability, I'm assuming, is gonna have to be taken away from the college,' said Walman. Now, the club's members, led by president Lane Farley, plan to take their fight to the school board, where they seek permission to roller skate on campus. Starting spring term, the group says it will meet at the Multicultural Center and then skate to Tyrone B. Woods Memorial Park less than a mile down the road until the school board permits them to roller skate on campus.

Below the text is a photograph of Lane Farley, the roller skate club president, skating on a paved area outside the Wachino Welcome Center. The photo is credited to Evan Tichenor.

On the right side of the article, there is a search bar and an 'Archives' section with a 'Select Month' dropdown menu.



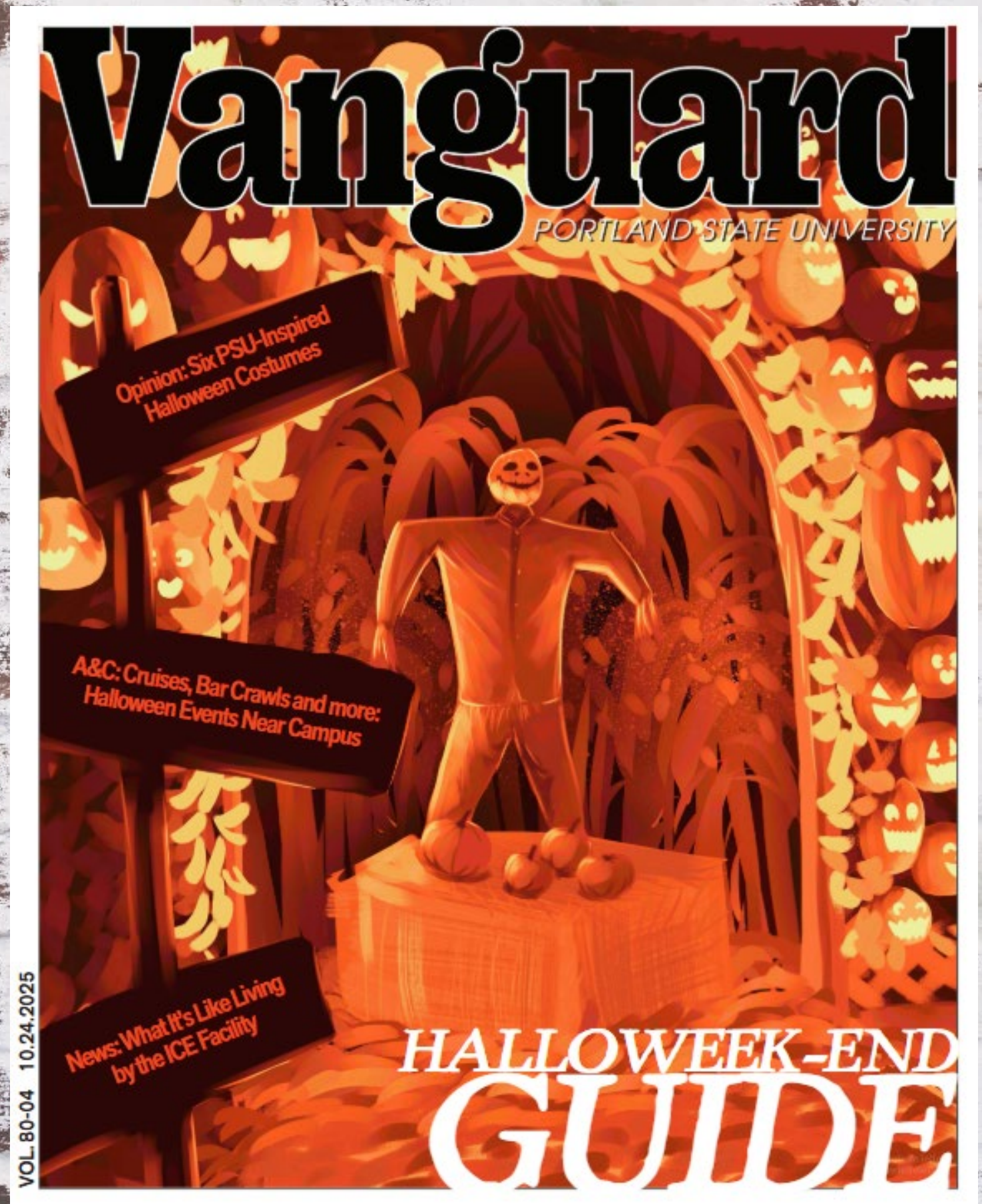
# Best Design

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Vanguard - PSU

Vanguard Staff



# Best Design

College Group 2

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# Oregon Daily Emerald

Sam Butler

# THE DAILY Emerald

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM PRODUCED BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS

ARTS & CULTURE

Ungatekeeping style: UO Fashion Clubs's emerging campus presence

Read story on page 13



CITY NEWS

Fire hazard report raises concerns over Lane County housing market

Read story on page 7



OPINION

Make America sustainable again

Read story on page 10



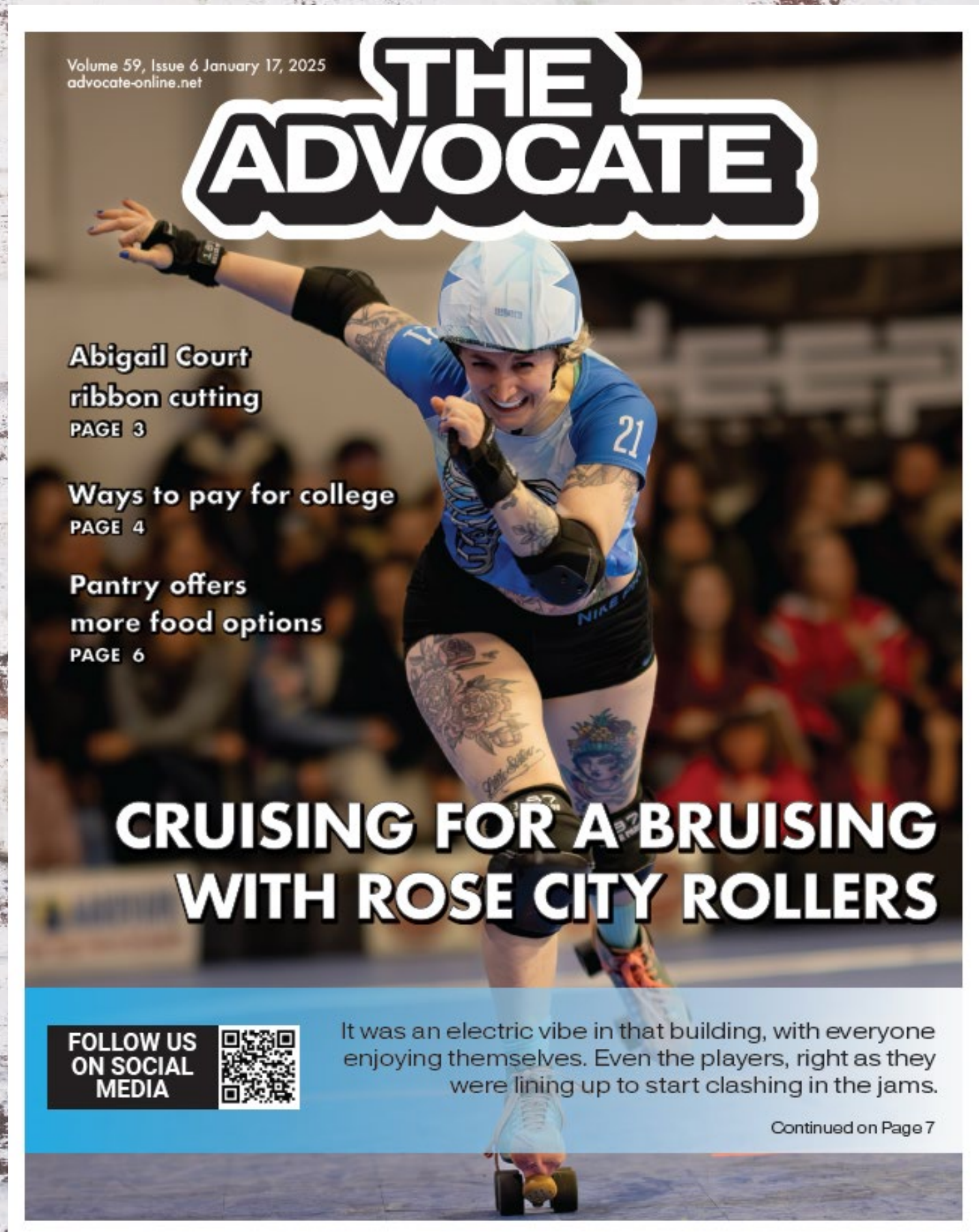
# Best Design

College Group 3

## 3rd Place

### The Advocate-MHCC

staff



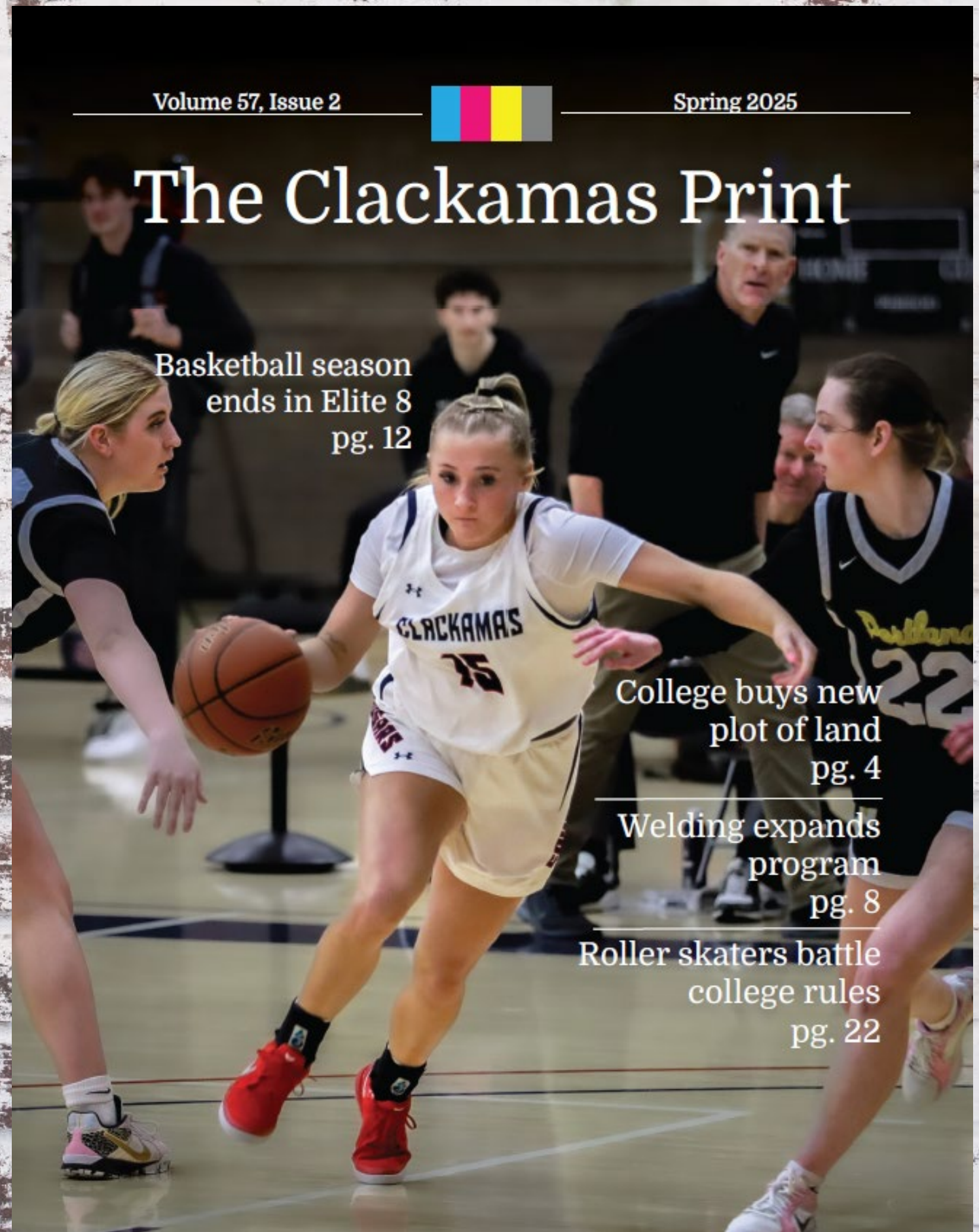
# Best Design

College Group 3

# 2nd Place

# The Clackamas Print

Staff



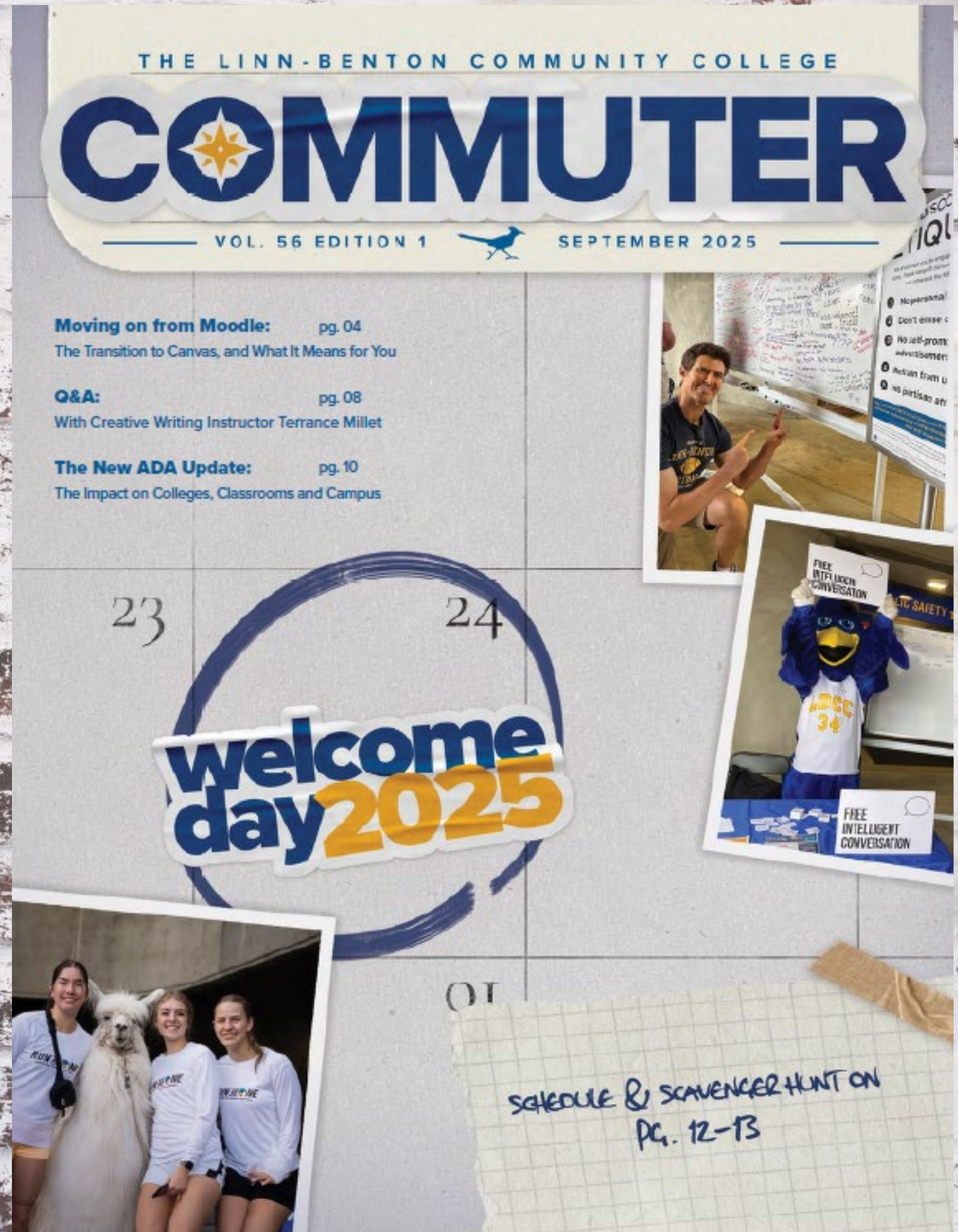
# Best Design

College Group 3

# 1st Place

## The Commuter- Linn Benton CC

Kailyn McQuisten, Staff



# Best Graphic

College Group 2

3rd Place

The Pioneer Log

Kai Godsey

## Students undervalue pursuit of multilingualism

Language-learning opportunities enable understanding, cultural exchange, should not be discounted



KAI GODSEY/THE MOSSY LOG

By BRADY VINLOVE

ALMOST EVERY single Lewis & Clark student takes a foreign language class, but, if asked why, many would say they do it to fulfill the graduation requirement. This makes sense, as we are all here to graduate with a degree. However, I find it frustrating and almost hypocritical that some students do not seem to care about learning another language, especially on a campus with predominantly liberal students who praise diversity and inclusion.

As a freshman world languages and literature major, I am in two beginning level language classes this semester. I absolutely love these classes and feel that they have taught me so much in a short amount of time. However, it seems to me that some students only

want to know enough to pass the test and do not participate very much. I find it discouraging to be in classes with students who seem to not care about learning something.

One potential explanation for this is the difficulty of language classes. I often hear my fellow students complain that "languages just are not my thing" or "I just can not learn this language." Any language professor here will say that you must be willing to make mistakes and continue trying, despite the difficulty. As someone learning Spanish and French at a beginner level, I get it; it is tough to learn a new language with unfamiliar and confusing structures, words and pronunciation. But that does not mean one should not try. We are all here to learn, which will inevitably come with challenges, but if we let

these adversities stop us, we will end up learning less.

Why should one put in the extra effort to acquire a new language? Beyond the self-serving argument about employment, learning a language is essential to connect with many types of people. This is becoming more important in a time of both increased global connection and hostility.

On the LC campus alone, there are more than 200 international students who come from diverse language backgrounds. There are also countless faculty and staff or residents in Portland for whom English is not their first language or what they feel most confident speaking. Yes, lots of these people speak English, too, so communication is possible. But every language expresses ideas differently,

so communicating with someone in a different language can open up meaning and communication in a unique way. Language is deeply connected to culture, so learning another language, or even gaining a more basic understanding of it can help us appreciate and empathize with other cultures.

On the topic of understanding, learning another language brings you closer to the diverse perspectives around you. Learning more languages enables communication with a wider variety of people, something that is increasingly important in a time of rapid communication with those around the world through the internet. On a deeper level, learning another language takes us out of our privileged place as Americans who only speak English and transforms us into more sympathetic, global citizens.

Around the world, language learning is more highly prioritized and studies show that at least 50% of the world population is bilingual. To add to that, many immigrants along with refugees that live in this country learn English, even though it is difficult, because of how monolingual the United States is. Those of us who have never had to learn another language are privileged for being born into a country catering to English but are thus disconnected from the rest of the world.

One of the most direct ways to be more aware and communicative with international residents and our own community is to learn another language or two.

I highlight empathy and diversity because many people at LC prioritize these values. We host multiple symposia like the Ray Warren Symposium on Race and Ethnic Studies and the International Affairs Symposium which are widely attended and showcase diversity. Students and faculty are concerned with the reduction of

diversity in education and the direct targeting of Diversity Equity and Inclusion programs by the federal government. Furthermore, many students here are opposed to President Trump's ideas and policies about immigrants, speaking out against his campaign of mass deportation.

Language learning also brings awareness to and increases diversity through communication, which can also be a way to directly oppose attempts to erase diversity. Recently, Trump declared English as the official language of the United States which promotes the idea that those who speak a language other than English are not welcome here or deserving of equal services. I would argue that learning another language is a way to oppose this order since it shows that people in this country care about language diversity and are not content with attempts by the government to create a conformist society. In particular, learning Spanish shows that the presence of Latino people in the US has mattered and will always matter, despite efforts to deny their rights and importance. In this case, language learning is a way to act and not just talk about our progressive values.

*"Language is deeply connected to culture, so learning another language, or even gaining a more basic understanding of it can help us appreciate and empathize with other cultures."*

I do know that every student learns in their own style and has different goals with their college education, but I still believe that some students could better express their commitment to inclusion by putting more effort and care into language acquisition. It can be a helpful tool that only becomes more valuable with time. LC also offers some great resources, including language assistants, peer tutoring and clubs to help students practice foreign language skills. We cannot let the difficulties that come with learning stop us from understanding something that can better our world.

## Secular campus encourages exploration, not rejection

Different spiritualities co-exist at LC, which has second-least-religious ranking of colleges in United States

By KAI NERMIS-CAVA

LEWIS & CLARK is ranked the second least religious college in the United States by the Princeton Review. Thus, it can easily be considered a secular campus. This does not mean that it is a campus without religion. A non-religious campus is not a place that prohibits religion. Instead, it becomes a place where many religions can comfortably and safely practice, freely without judgment from other students, whether religious, atheist, agnostic, or any other belief.

Ideally, a non-religious campus should be able to create a safe space where everyone is able to coexist, regardless of belief. It should open the door to exploration of various faiths and religions and allow students to question their beliefs healthily. In my own experience, there has been little to no pressure to conform to a belief system, and while attending LC, I have been free to explore varying belief systems as I would like.

The idea that non-belief is a religion in and of itself, an idea I

agree with, deserves a mention, especially on a campus like LC, where so many students form belief systems based on moral concerns and activism. Regardless of the specific belief system, religious or otherwise, in my experience, people tend to base their behavior off a set of beliefs and subsequent moral standards. On a secular campus like LC, the belief system of religion is often seen to be replaced with one's care for the environment, or belief in social justice.

It is not a bad thing to have something to center your worldview and your beliefs on. Being an avid and passionate environmentalist, for example, is a perfectly good base for what some might call faith.

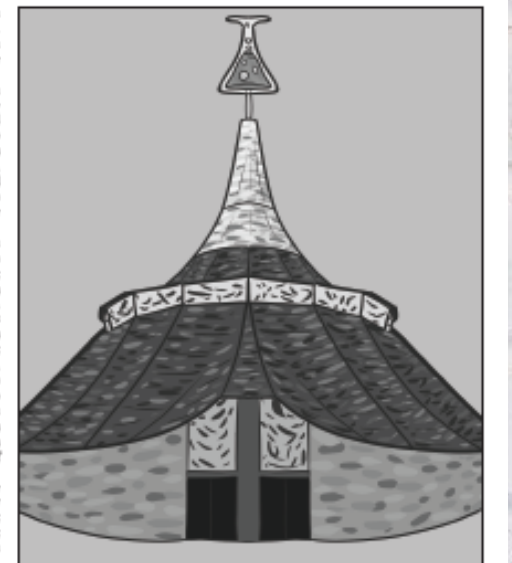
Of course, belief can always be taken too far. There is no shortage of people complaining that others are too extreme in their beliefs, as can be seen in the online reactions to the videos of some climate activists throwing soup on the Mona Lisa, or claiming that some people are simply too sensitive. But this is not just a gripe against secular

belief systems. There are many stories of religious beliefs taken too far. Extremists, regardless of what one is being extreme about, is rarely ideal, or enjoyable for the people around you.

Being on a secular campus allows students to practice the beliefs they brought with them to college, and grants them the opportunity to explore new beliefs if that is an option they are interested in. Regardless, the Agnes Flanagan Chapel, spiritual clubs and services all help to create spaces for students to engage in their religious beliefs.

Being a non-religious campus allows LC the opportunity to be more flexible with its venues as well. It is well-known that the chapel is a popular venue for various events, including lectures, drag shows, music and theatre productions. Sure, a traditional chapel may not be the best venue for a more risqué production, but the environment created on the LC campus allows for the chapel to be used for more than just religious services. It removes some of the stigma around the chapel itself and creates a more welcoming space for students of any faith.

Ultimately, LC being a secular campus is an overall positive factor to the school's environment. It is not an atheistic or agnostic space, but rather, a neutral space that allows for the mingling and existence of all, rather than the promotion of one.



HALACON OVERHAUL/THE MOSSY LOG

# Best Graphic

College Group 2

2nd Place

The Daily Barometer

Jack Schuler

## The Daily Barometer

NOVEMBER 2022  
DAILYBAROMETER.COM  
VOL.131 NO. 03

**CAMPUS**  
Rocky or Remy? Degree Partnership Program packs a punch

The Degree Partnership Program allows students to earn in 17 local Oregon community colleges while still being a student at OSU. 3

**CITY**  
Boutique opens matcha culture on Monroe Street

A new Corvallis cafe opened for about a month last week, pushing matcha and homemade mochi. 7



**SPORTS**  
Football players react to head coach's removal

As the football season wraps up, players share their thoughts on the removal of Trent Doolen. 11

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT Research on thin ice

Federal funding cuts and challenges strain OSU research efforts

By MONTANA BURACK  
Reporter

From working on finding career alternatives to studying Antarctic ice cores, Oregon State University is known for its world-class research across different fields.

Much of this research is funded through federal grants from agencies like the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Health.

Since the start of the Trump administration, several changes to federal research funding, including grant restrictions, funding cuts, the politicization of science and a government shutdown have impacted the federal funding landscape.

Tobi O'Brien Heller, dean of the College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, notes that several OSU research projects have faced grant interruptions, where already appropriated grant funding is no longer funded out.

"There have been a few projects that have been canceled, and we were not provided a reason. They were just terminated. And to tell you the truth, with some of them, I cannot quite figure out why, but there is really no opportunity for recourse," O'Brien Heller said.

"There are real deadlines that are being imposed. And then, we're in a bind and we don't do our most creative work when we're operating out of a position of fear."

According to Martin Brackelink, the director of the OSU Science, Technology,

Engineering and Math Research Center, grant interruptions and funding cuts have also impacted several of the center's research projects.

"The center received a grant continuation notice from the NSF for its Climate Science project.

The project, funded by a \$10 million NSF grant, involved working with hundreds of plantarians across the United States to tell stories about the impact of climate change on local communities, with a focus on climate education and climate change solutions.

The center received a smaller Regional emergency funding grant from a private foundation, but Brackelink said other center projects have not been as lucky.

For the first time in Brackelink's 10 years running the center, funding uncertainty has forced him to lay off several full-time staff members, resulting in a loss of expertise, investment and relationships.

Another concern for researchers is research funding cuts, including those in the Trump administration's new proposed budget.

Ed Dwyer is a project manager for the Ocean Observatories Initiative. The initiative, a partnership between OSU, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the University of Washington, has been funded by the NSF since 2008.

[SEE RESEARCH ON PAGE 2]



ILLUSTRATION BY JACK SCHULER



MILES WILSON

Madison England (center), a business administration senior, speaks to students at the OSU OSU College of Business Career Fair in Austin Hall.

### RESOURCES OSU jobs build students' futures

By CAMPBELL GROVE  
Reporter

Students may begin their search for jobs at Oregon State University, searching the university sites to promote by creating opportunities.

However, the preparation to employ students begins far before they arrive on campus. Some 100 of student employees are trained specifically on transferable skills by Assistant Director of Career Integration Lisa Skidmore.

Whether sites to prepare students for the future, starting with the jobs they apply for, by imple-

menting a tier system within the student employment hub. The system allows students to search for "core competencies." They must gain experience in, "allowing supervisors to showcase what the job will train specifically."

As students begin to search for employment opportunities on campus, they will be able to successfully navigate through the thousands of postings listed at job opportunities. Here, they may take their first steps toward career exploration in college, according to Skidmore.

[SEE OSU JOBS ON PAGE 2]

### FOOTBALL Oregon State football player Exodus Ayers arrested, released on bail

By ETHAN BROWNING  
Senior Sports Writer

Oregon State University football player Exodus Ayers was arrested Nov. 3 in Corvallis on 18 charges, four of which being felonies, in connection with a domestic abuse incident.

Ayers was charged with seven counts of unlawful distribution of an obscene image, four counts of harassment and three counts of fourth-degree assault, as well as counts of robbery, strangulation and third-degree criminal mischief.

These charges are all in connection with allegations of abuse from OSU student David A. Rodriguez, Ayers' girlfriend.

Ayers pleaded not guilty to all charges when arraigned on the allegations of his arrest. He had no contact and he was released from custody that evening. Ayers' bail was set at \$20,000, meaning that \$2,000 was paid for his release.

The arrest happened due to law enforcement signing an affidavit, or written affirmation, of probable cause that listed specific allegations against Ayers.

The two criminal charges, the strangulation charge and the fourth-degree assault charge are all Class C felonies. The other 14 charges



TWYA ETZELL

Corvallis Police Officer David D. Dwyer is seen on the bench at the game against Pacific State University on Sept. 4, at Beaver Stadium. Ayers was arrested on Nov. 3 and released on bail the same day.

Rodriguez posted a viral TikTok on July 28 which showed footage from a dorm room in which a man showed his girlfriend a man who Ayers in The Basement and said that he had abused her physically and emotionally starting in September 2021. The video gained millions of views within days.

[SEE AYERS ON PAGE 11]

# Best Graphic

College Group 2

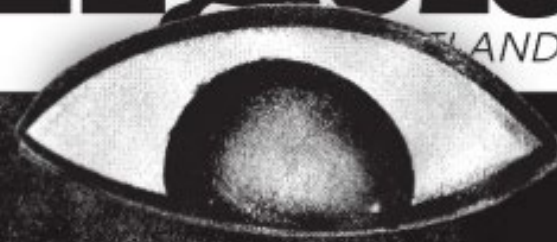
# 1st Place

# Vanguard - PSU

Parker Patnode

# Vanguard

PSU AND STATE UNIVERSITY



## Proselytizing on the Park Blocks

Unification Church members enter University  
ID-protected buildings



News  
Low student turnout  
diminishes ASPSU's  
role on campus P. 4-5

A&C  
Comedy comes to the  
Park Blocks with the  
club Yiking's Horn P.7

OP  
Ann Cudd (not)  
for President P.8

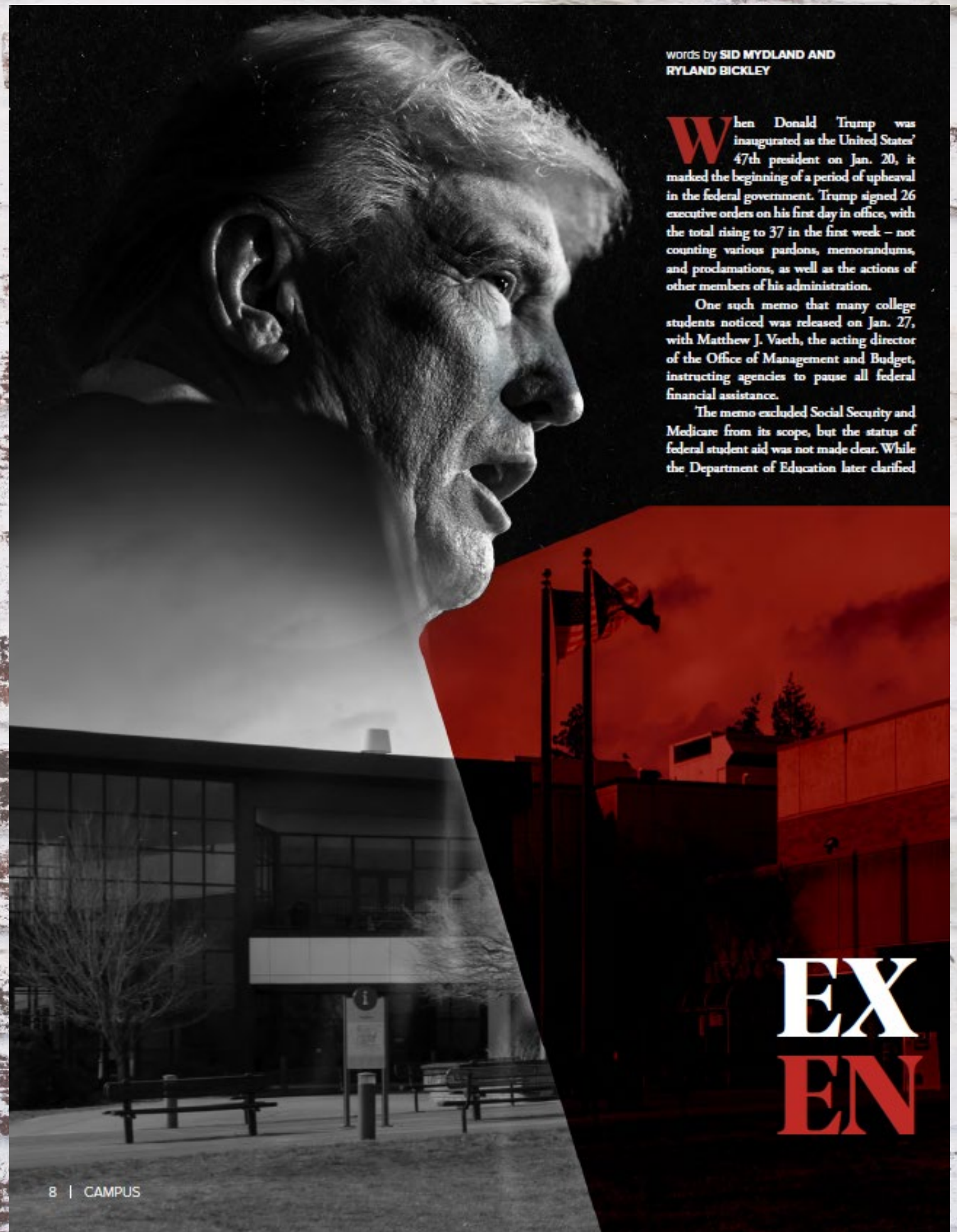
# Best Graphic

College Group 3

## 3rd Place

The Commuter- Linn  
Benton CC

Kailyn McQuisten



# Best Graphic

College Group 3

2nd Place

The Commuter- Linn  
Benton CC

Kailyn McQuisten



# Best Graphic

College Group 3

1st Place

The Advocate-MHCC

Cortlan Souders

FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NEWS **A**

## GENERATING CLARITY ON AI THE PROMISE AND PITFALLS AT MHCC

Zoë Griffin  
The Advocate

AI – artificial intelligence – is gradually shaping the way we interact with technology, from enhancing search engines to providing grammar suggestions in real time. Its uses are growing, especially now in education, where it offers new ways to support teaching and learning.

Curious about how AI is being used at MHCC, I reached out to instructors and advisors to learn more. My aim was to discover how AI is being implemented in our Mt. Hood classrooms, whether through lesson planning or student assessments, and to gather insights on its perceived value and potential drawbacks within our academic community.

While there are certainly positives, the topic of AI raised many concerns from our teaching staff about copyright issues, environmental impact, and effects on student development.

### TWO-SIDED COIN

MHCC art instructor Matteo Neivert said one of the biggest issues is that "AI is using images from artists to make what it thinks is art, by using images of artists it finds online without those artists' legal expressed consent."

This concern is extremely relevant in today's media-driven world. Over 98 AI copyright infringement cases have opened in the U.S. since the release of generative AI services such as ChatGPT and Copilot.

AI currently has a sizable, negative environmental footprint. One of our literature instructors, Holly DeGrow, noted how researchers estimate every AI prompt uses 16 ounces of water to process and almost 10 times as much power (electricity) as a basic Google search.

She raises a great point: AI in its current form is environmentally hazardous. The MHCC community takes its environment seriously, considering the beautiful 62-acre nature park next to our college. I don't think we would want an AI data center next to our campus, sponging up our freshwater and emitting tons of carbon. AI needs to become more sustainable to be used ethically.

On the flip side, lesson planning can take weeks and even months for a college course. Using ChatGPT or MS Copilot or similar tools can

speed this process and has helped one of our math teachers, Robert Hauss, come up with word problems.

A literature instructor, David Wright, let me know there are "loads of legitimate and useful ways this (AI) could be used in the classroom, from idea generation to creating an outline."

While hopeful for all the positive possibilities of this tool, Wright also suspects that there "will continue to be students using it INSTEAD OF doing their own writing, developing their own ideas, or engaging with concepts and content," he said.

### POSING KEY QUESTIONS

The view of AI as a tool is still evolving, and instructors hope students will utilize it to better understand classes and not to skip through them.

As an academic advisor, Layne Morell, said, "AI is here, and we will be using it in the future to assist with our work." We need to prepare students for the future, not the past, he said.

One of MHCC's art instructors, Edie Overturf, teaches a Digital Toolbox class that includes an assignment where students learn about how AI engines work, and the issues to keep in mind when using this technology. This assignment goes into the pitfalls of AI in the art world, and how to use generative tools. It also encourages students to discuss and decide their own answers to ethical questions like,

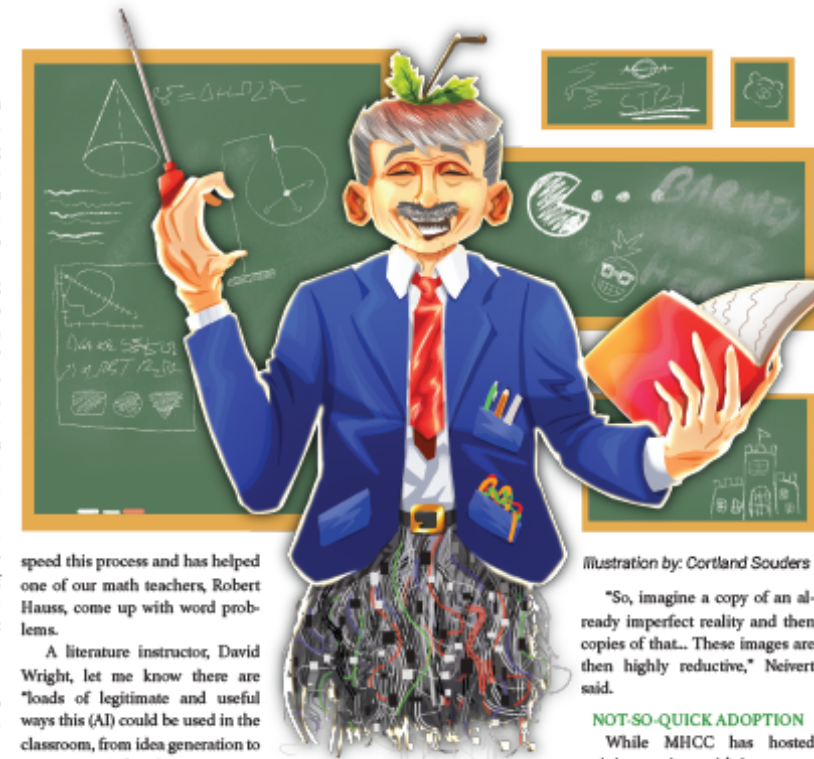


Illustration by: Cortlan Souders

"So, imagine a copy of an already imperfect reality and then copies of that... These images are then highly reductive," Neivert said.

### NOT-SO-QUICK ADOPTION

While MHCC has hosted training sessions with instructors and staff to help them better understand AI, some staff are choosing to avoid using AI because they prefer traditional methods of teaching or completing their work.

English instructor Don Anderson told me he deliberately doesn't use AI, even with its integration into predicting emails. He rarely takes its suggestions.

"I admit I'm old-fashioned, and something of a curmudgeon," Anderson conceded. [Personally, I was delighted to learn this word – thanks, Don!]

Instructors from MHCC's hands-on tech programs, such as Automotive Tech and Machine Tool Tech, also said they don't currently use AI in their classrooms or daily work. These programs might benefit from this technology in the future, but for now, it is not on their radar.

Already, however, some uses of AI can have stellar results. Funeral Service instructor Doug Ferrin connected me with a student, Enjolic Anton, who designed their T-shirt last year using a Bing AI image generator. To generate images, people input written prompts for the AI to create or combine into any image.

"It took a handful of attempts to get what we wanted... The more detailed you are, the more accurate of an image is generated," said Anton, who also made a funeral home logo design using this tool.

Many Mt. Hood instructors have a positive outlook for AI and believe we should learn to integrate it into our school. As Morell, the academic advisor, told me, "AI is here, and we all will be using it in the future to assist with our work." In the first days of (Microsoft) Excel, when advanced statistics could be done without a calculator, some teachers still required students to learn math on a calculator. That approach is, in a way, preparing students for the past and not the future.

To help eliminate the "garbage in" problem, a political science instructor, Janet Campbell, explained how students need to be coached on how to use prompts and to pull from academic research that is peer-reviewed and fact checked.

**"TEACHERS ARE WORRIED ABOUT STUDENTS NOT UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPTS AND UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES TAUGHT IN A CLASS IF THEY SIMPLY USE AI TO DO THE WORK FOR THEM."**

In sum, AI technology has received a lot of hype, but many of us are concerned with ethical and educational use. Overall, teachers are worried about students not understanding the concepts and underlying principles taught in a class if they simply use AI to do the work for them. MHCC doesn't offer a full course on artificial intelligence... yet.

If you want to dive into the world of AI, we have an AI Research Team at Mt. Hood led by Dustin Besette who is helping many of our staff understand how this tech is best used and what we should avoid. As AI becomes more integrated into our education, the challenge becomes how can we all work together to address its challenges and opportunities?

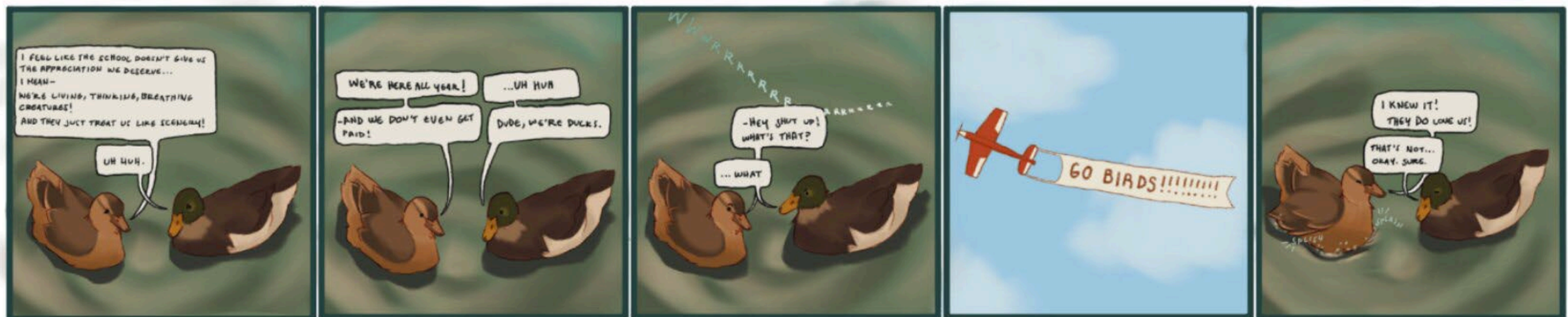
# Best Cartooning

College Group 2

## 3rd Place

The Collegian-Willamette  
Univ

Wes Mowry-Silverman



Comic by WES MOWRY-SILVERMAN

# Best Cartooning

College Group 2

2nd Place

Vanguard - PSU

Devin Singh



# Best Cartooning

College Group 2

1st Place

The Pioneer Log

Angie Bennett



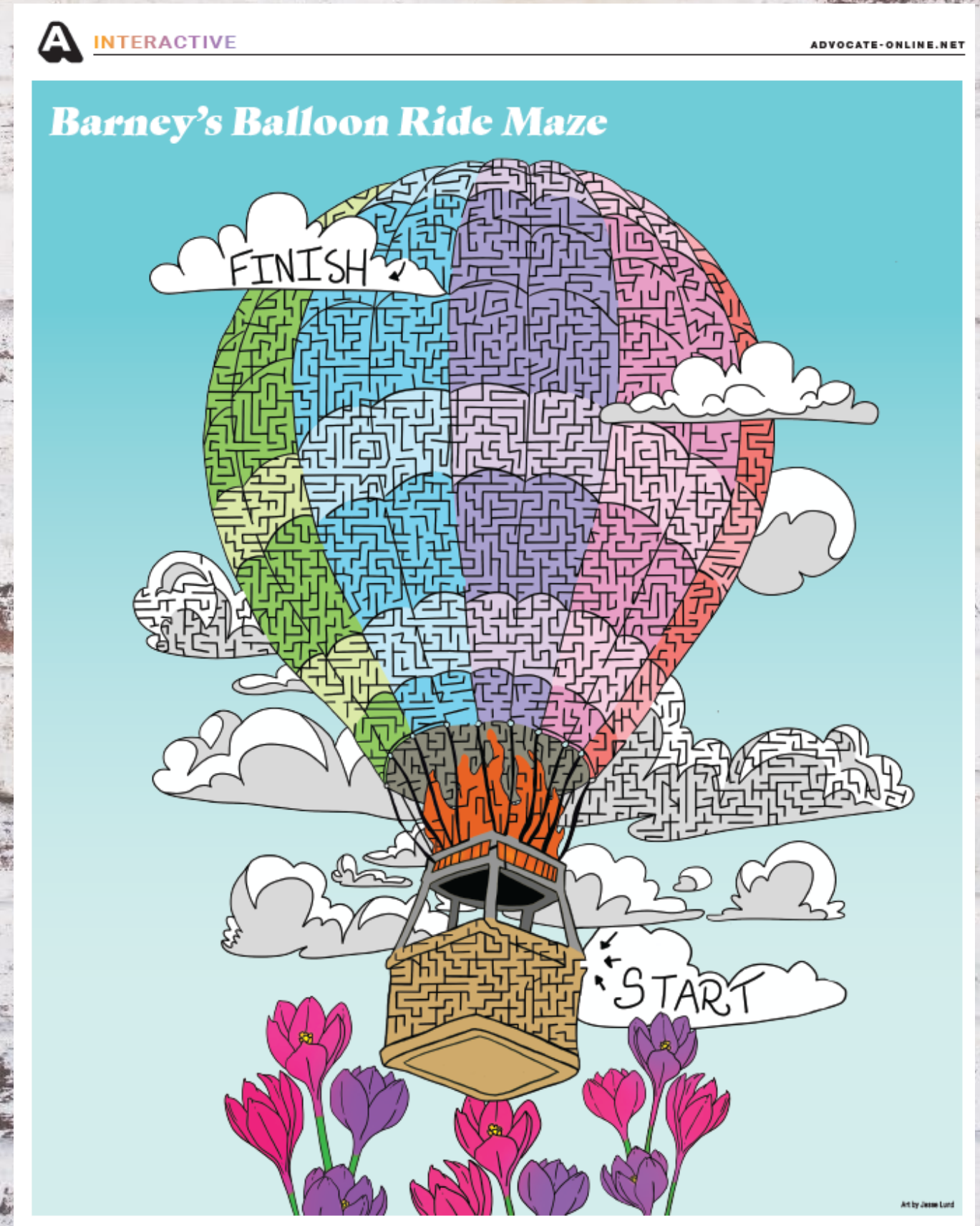
# Best Cartooning

College Group 3

3rd Place

The Advocate-MHCC

Jesse Lund



# Best Cartooning

College Group 3

2nd Place

The Advocate-MHCC

Cortlan Souders

**ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT** ADVOCATE-ONLINE.NET APRIL 11, 2025 **ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**

## BATTLE TO THE DEATH

MODA CENTER VS CRYSTAL BALLROOM

**TYLER THE CREATOR** **POPPY**

### A CONCERT VIRGIN'S COMPLETELY UNBIASED TAKE ON CONCERT VENUES

**Cortlan Souders**  
The Advocate

Going to a concert is a mystical experience that everyone should go through at least once in their life. Nothing in anticipation for your favorite artist to play for thousands, they give it their all, and I loved the punk energy they unleashed. I was also excited for Lil Yachty, who I had listened to for years. Hearing his classic live and being able to see him from a relatively close distance was such a connecting experience that resonated in my mind to this day.

But there is a drastic difference when it comes to the location and venue where the artist plays. Is there a definitive best way to enjoy live music, or can you embrace the relation that different venues offer? This is what was running through my mind as I experienced two wildly different local concerts in the same month.

The first concert was at the Moda Center, with the headline being Tyler, the Creator. I was immediately enveloped with hundreds of people once I stepped inside the arena, who ranged from around age 18 to 30, besides a few parents with their kids. Seeing people in get-ups that were themed to Tyler's previous albums and concerts was a joy.

It was a bit awkward trying to find our designated seats with so many others crowding us, either looking for their own seats, trying to buy \$50 chicken strips from the food court, or searching for the end of the thousand-mile line that led to the merch shop.

Once my friends and I pushed our way to our small seats, we were away with excitement for what would ensue. A large stage loomed in front of the moosh pit with an elaborate setting of green cargo crates, with the center displaying the word "Chromakopia." An entrance bridge hung over the thousands of fans who were curious about its role in the show. Finally, a

small B-stage stood right in front of our spot, which proved to be a blessing.

Two operators performed their acts before Tyler, the duo Paris Texas and Lil Yachty. It was fun to see an up-and-coming act get the chance to perform for thousands, they gave it their all, and I loved the punk energy they unleashed. I was also excited for Lil Yachty, who I had listened to for years. Hearing his classic live and being able to see him from a relatively close distance was such a connecting experience that resonated in my mind to this day.

Still, my anticipation soared once I heard the intro for Tyler. My heart thumped at each word, and I was howling and hollering once the lights dimmed for the main attraction, while others waved with headbashes. He appeared with a flash, wearing his full get-up relating to his recent album. The crowd roared, and my friends screamed like schoolgirls at the sight of their favorite artist.

Everything you expect from such a gigantic artist performing was there. A spectacle of lasers and lights beamed from above, powerful gusts of heat fanned over those from the pyrotechnics, and an uplifting music that left us deaf for half a week. It was

fantastic!

Oh, and that entrance bridge? It slowly lowered halfway through the show, linking the main stage to the B-stage, right ahead of me. Tyler danced his way down to the main stage, which was dressed in a homey room that was plastered with references to his career and life. He would fly through a disarray of albums, projected on a large TV screen for all to see. Each time he would reach from an album that progressed from his earliest work to the newest. The crowd cheered him on and we collectively sang each song with him throughout the night.

This was my first trip inside the Moda Center in half a decade, and the first time I went as an adult with friends. And the whole performance fueled a brand-new desire to see music

live, much higher now. It's an urge that will have to be handled with care, for similar Moda concerts can be costly, especially for the level of artist and venue we got this time.

Just two weeks later, I went with another friend to the illustrious Crystal Ballroom in downtown Portland, where the heavy metal artist Poppy performed.

The Crystal is an entirely different world from the Moda. First of all, tickets are way cheaper, with each being \$30 for the main floor. When we entered the historic venue, it brought to mind so many fond memories from the decades of performers who have played there. Another big plus over the Moda experience was that buying merchandise was way cheaper and took two minutes, rather than waiting in line for an hour. As we bought T-shirts downstairs the opener was already playing above us, and we could feel the building shake and shift.

Entering the main room, we saw an array of metal heads, from those my age ranging to others, standing around since the show, and even the "you." This demographic showed me that metal fans would show up no matter how new the artist was, as long as the act packed a memorable punch with head-biting music.

Our opener was Kuroki '93, a Japanese electronic dance duo that brought punky vibes to the mix. We instantly were in tune with the music and were able to get a closer view of them with the Ballroom becoming one big moosh pit. Despite my jammed, it was more comfortable and freeing in dance and moosh with one another, with us all feeling the music. Once they finished, Poppy and her crew took the stage, and the crowd simply erupted.

What came next was probably one of the best experiences I've had so far this year. Heavy drums reverberated straight through my body and into my soul, Poppy's emotional and visceral vocals rang out, and average guitar riffs tore through the venue. People were mooshing and moshing, crowd surfers raged through, and bass went flying across the room. It was such an energetic and raw happening that left me and my friend craving more of this fiery performance. I hadn't followed Poppy before, but I am now a gigantic fan because of how memorable the event was.

Deciding on which the better venue is ultimately up to the individual. The Moda Center, while being pricier, offers a more worthy theatrical stage for jaw-dropping performances. The smaller Crystal Ballroom brings an equally heavy-hitting performance for a cheaper price, along with showcasing newer and emerging artists who bring a unique style. Drawing from both of my concerts, I strongly suggest going to the Moda at least once to take in a grand spectacle, while also taking a chance at the Crystal to see upcoming artists if you want a fun, more economical outing.

**PHOTO BY TERRY HARRISON**  
PAGE 7

# Best Cartooning

College Group 3

1st Place

The Advocate-MHCC

Leo Decklar

MAY 23, 2025

OPINION/COMMUNITY **A**

## COST OF BEING A STUDENT MORE THAN JUST TUITION

Dina Ibrahim  
The Advocate

Let me start with this: I've been a Mt. Hood Community College student for what feels like forever – but in a good, character-building kind of way. I technically started in high school through dual enrollment, so I've been juggling college classes since I was a teenager.

Now, I'm about to graduate and transfer to Portland State University. It's exciting, exhausting, and honestly, very emotional.

They say an associate degree takes two years. That sounds nice in theory. Maybe if you take 15 credits every single term, have zero life distractions, and manage to pass everything with no mental breakdowns, then sure. But, for most of us, it takes longer.

For me, it's taken three years, and I'm proud of that. Dual enrollment helped save time, so in a way, I've even skipped some years. But the journey still felt long and hard. Even when you're ahead, which should feel comforting, the stress of being a student and dealing with life makes it hard to appreciate your little accomplishments and goals.

Being a student is both a blessing and a curse. You grow, you learn, and you become stronger. But it also drains you, challenges your mental health, and makes you question your worth sometimes. And now that I'm looking back, sharing my story, I can finally say I've lived through what it really costs to be a student – not just financially, but emotionally and mentally, too.

I started college while I was still in high school. Some people may think that's impressive, but it wasn't easy. In fact, starting that young might have added to the stress. I remember one moment clearly: I was just 16, sitting in an MHCC office asking for help, trying to make a plan to improve. A high school adviser working there looked at me and said, "Why are you stressing so much? You're just

16. You don't have to do the whole college thing." I know she probably meant to comfort me, but those words crushed me. I was coming for support, and instead I felt shut down. I left feeling like maybe my effort didn't matter.

And I'm sure I'm not the only student who's had a moment like that. When life outside school is hard already and you finally build up the courage to ask for help, but the words you hear make you feel worse, not better, that's a pain not everyone talks about. That's the part of college people don't usually see.

There were times I felt completely drowned and couldn't even bring myself to open my laptop. But I kept going. I kept standing. Not because I had everything figured out, but because deep down, I knew I had to try. I've worked multiple jobs, dealt with a loud household full of younger nieces and nephews, and faced my own mental health struggles.

When I was just attending high school, I thought being in college would be fun, cool, and a little bit easier. But it was the opposite. It's deadlines, late nights, trying to study while stressed, and keeping your grades up when life outside school is falling apart. Sometimes it feels like people expect you to have it all figured out just because you're in college, like you're supposed to be wise and mature already. The truth is, a lot of the time, you're figuring it out as you go. And that's okay.

Reading other students' stories helped me along the way. That's why I'm sharing mine now. Maybe you're reading this and thinking, "Wow, I'm not alone." And you're not. I want you to know that, yes, going through college takes sacrifice. It's more than just tuition! It's time, energy, relationships, sleep, and sometimes your peace of mind you're burning through. But your story matters too, and someone else might need to hear it one day.

Something else I wish I knew earlier is



Art by Leo Decklar

that MHCC has real counselors! Not just academic advisers. These counselors can help you manage your mental health, stress, and even help guide you to the right resources. I interviewed one of them for the school newspaper. I didn't get to use their services back then, because by the time I found out they existed, I had already gotten used to figuring things out alone.

But I'm saying it here again: Please use the resources available here. If you're still in high school doing dual enrollment and feeling lost like I once did, just know that you can meet with a college adviser, and not just your high school adviser. If one adviser doesn't help, don't give up. Try a different one. Keep asking until someone truly listens.

Also, go to tutoring. There's The AVID

center at the MHCC Library that can help you with your schedule and teach you how to take better notes. There's a writing center to help with your essays. There's even a math and science center that can walk you through your homework. All of this is available in the Library. And if your home is loud like mine, go there. There's a quiet study area in the back that helps you focus and breathe.

These words aren't here to lecture you. I'm just sharing what I wish I had heard much earlier. These are things that could have saved me stress, confusion, and maybe even a few tears.

Being a student is hard. But it's also powerful. And you never know, your story might be the one someone else needs to hear.

## PROTESTERS INCREASE PUNNY PICKETS

S. Cousins  
The Advocate

The picket line at the defunct fountain by the Visual Arts Gallery continues to grow, mirroring the swelling picket lines in front of the Tesla Dealership, as community members come forth to stand up for those who cannot stand for themselves.

"Waddle you do to help?"

"Duck Duck Gone."

"We support to find ducky!"

The new ducky signs demand the authorities continue to investigate the disappearances of Blue and White Duckies in March of

2025. This brings up a great question – who are the authorities in this situation? Campus security? Landscaping? The Visual Arts Gallery attendants? ICE? Home Pond Security? Perhaps this is why these duckies have yet to have justice, they fall between the cracks between the various authoritative groups.

This also brings up questions around who organizes these groups of protest duckies?

That mystery is tantalizing, and yet somewhat immaterial. The protesters are here, demand-



Photo by S. Cousins

ing action for those in their community who are deserving and yet cannot be seen and heard themselves.

## CORRECTION

On Page 3 of our May 9 issue, we published a Letter to the Editor in which a Mt. Hood student critiqued our use of AI-generated art and offered their own artwork.

Unfortunately, this student was misgendered in our responding column. They are nonbinary; and we sincerely apologize to them for the error.

# Best House Ad

College Group 2

3rd Place

Vanguard - PSU

Haley Hsu



# Best House Ad

College Group 2

## 2nd Place

Oregon Daily Emerald

Abigail Raike

The advertisement features a green header with the text "THE DAILY Emerald". Below this, the headline "PUZZLES WORTH QUACKING ABOUT" is displayed in large, bold, black letters. The "WADDLE" logo, with a green duck head icon, is centered in a white rounded rectangle. Below the logo are two puzzle categories: "The Crossword" with a green background and a duck icon, and "The Mini" with a yellow background and a duck icon. At the bottom, a QR code is shown next to the text "PLAY NOW!" in large, bold, black letters.

# Best House Ad

College Group 2

## 1st Place

The Daily Barometer

Rida Kauser



# Best House Ad

College Group 3

## 3rd Place

### The Advocate-MHCC

Ken Perez



*A Newspaper Publication and  
The Student Voice at MHCC*

***WE WANT YOU!***

<i>-Storytellers</i>	<i>Room 1369</i>
<i>-Graphic Designers</i>	<i>12 noon</i>
<i>-Photographers</i>	<i>Mondays</i>
<i>-Videographers</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>
<i>-Writers</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>

*daniel.emst@mhcc.edu*

# Best House Ad

College Group 3

## 2nd Place

### The Clackamas Print

Staff



**clackamasprint** Original audio [Follow](#) ...

**clackamasprint** 19w  
Are you interested in writing or photography? Register for The Clackamas Print today!

[#news](#) [#clackamascommunitycollege](#)

**No comments yet.**  
Start the conversation.

20

November 18, 2025

Add a comment...

# Best House Ad

College Group 3

# 1st Place

# The Advocate-MHCC

Staff

**CREATORS  
WANTED**

[MHCCADVOCATE.COM](http://MHCCADVOCATE.COM)

**WE  
NEED  
YOU!**

Creatives  
Writers  
Designers  
Photographers  
Videographers  
Marketers  
Artists

**MEETINGS  
MONDAYS  
NOON TO 1 PM  
ROOM 1369**

**JOIN  
STUDENT  
PUBLICATIONS**  
[ADVOCATE@MHCC.EDU](mailto:ADVOCATE@MHCC.EDU)

 MT. HOOD'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER  
**THE ADVOCATE**

**CONTACT  
DANIEL.ERNST@MHCC.EDU**

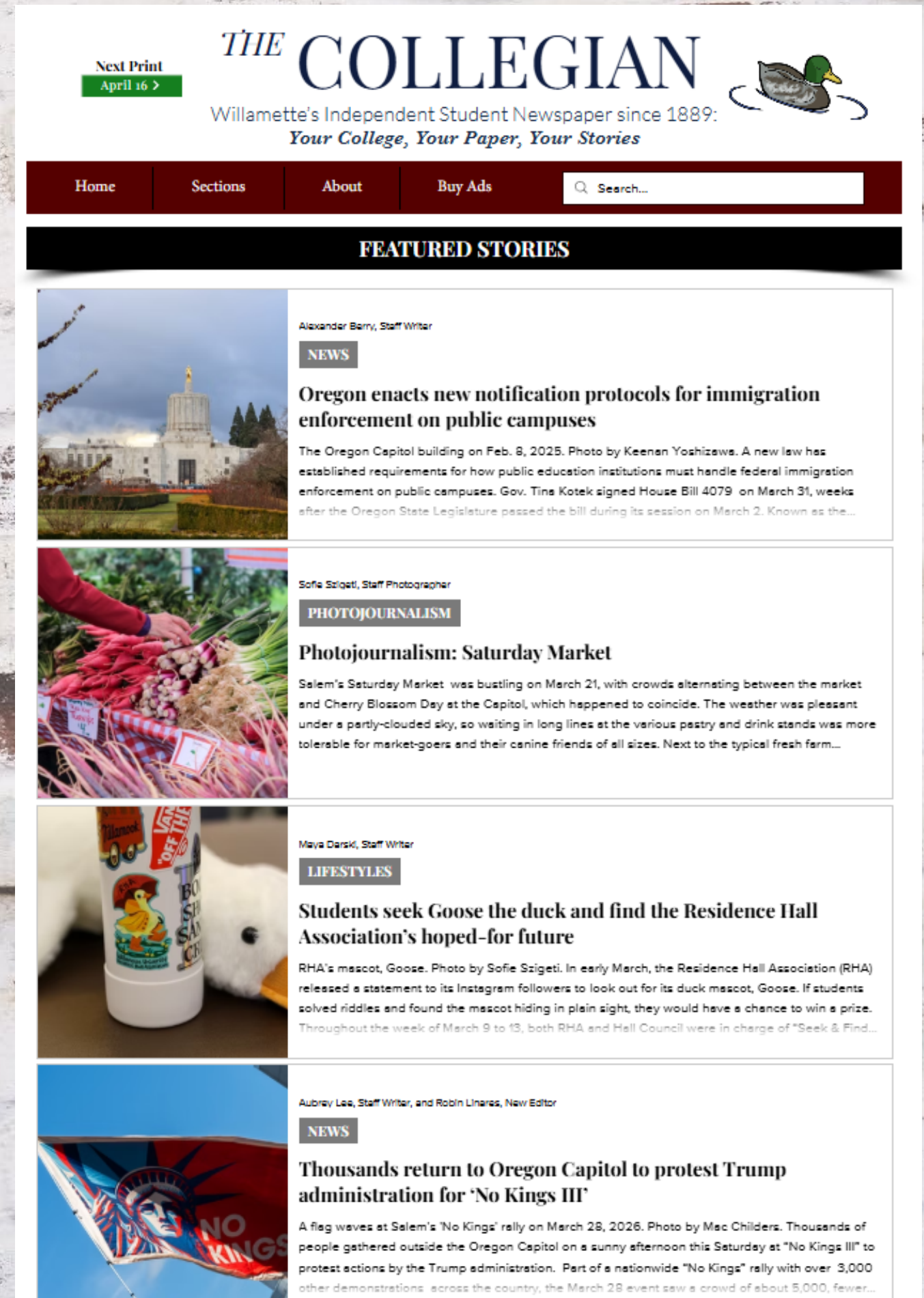
# Best Website

College Group 2

3rd Place

The Collegian-Willamette  
Univ

Staff



The screenshot shows the homepage of 'THE COLLEGIAN', Willamette's Independent Student Newspaper since 1889. The header includes the newspaper's name, a duck mascot logo, and the tagline 'Your College, Your Paper, Your Stories'. A navigation bar contains links for Home, Sections, About, and Buy Ads, along with a search bar. Below the navigation is a 'FEATURED STORIES' section with three articles:

- News Article:** 'Oregon enacts new notification protocols for immigration enforcement on public campuses' by Alexander Berry, Staff Writer. The article includes a photo of the Oregon State Capitol building and discusses a new law signed by Gov. Tina Kotek on March 31, 2025.
- Photojournalism Article:** 'Photojournalism: Saturday Market' by Sofie Sziget, Staff Photographer. The article includes a photo of fresh produce at a market and describes the bustling atmosphere of Salem's Saturday Market on March 21, 2025.
- Lifestyles Article:** 'Students seek Goose the duck and find the Residence Hall Association's hoped-for future' by Maya Darski, Staff Writer. The article includes a photo of a duck mascot plushie and a container of 'Goose' brand items, and describes a 'Seek & Find' event organized by the Residence Hall Association (RHA) in early March.

The bottom article is partially visible:

- News Article:** 'Thousands return to Oregon Capitol to protest Trump administration for 'No Kings III'' by Aubrey Lee, Staff Writer, and Robin Linares, New Editor. The article includes a photo of a flag with the Statue of Liberty and 'NO KINGS' text, and describes a 'No Kings III' rally on March 28, 2026.

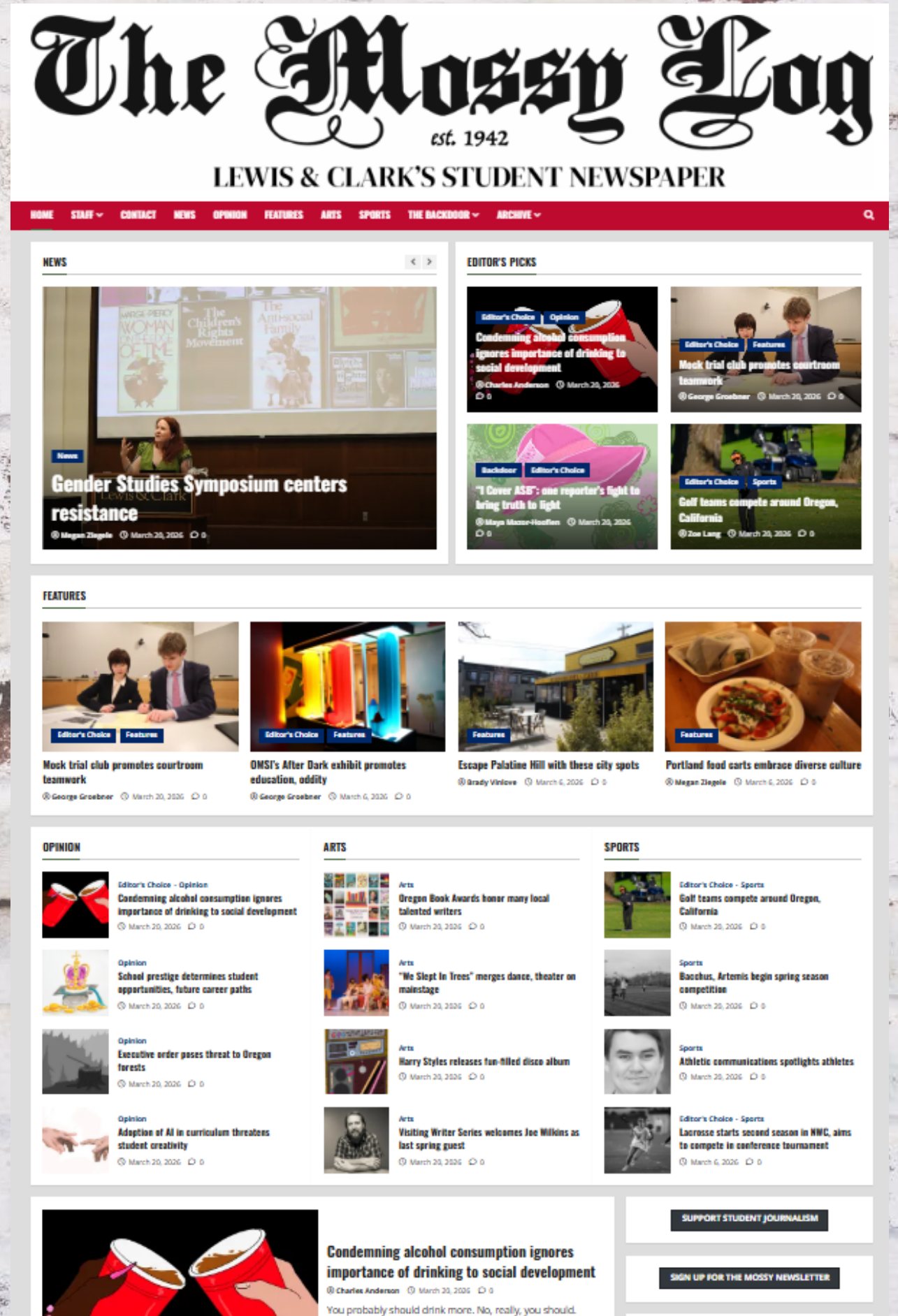
# Best Website

College Group 2

# 2nd Place

# The Pioneer Log

Cole McCorkendale, Claire Bakke,  
Sicily Schroeder



The Mossy Log  
est. 1942  
LEWIS & CLARK'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

HOME STAFF CONTACT NEWS OPINION FEATURES ARTS SPORTS THE BACKDOOR ARCHIVE

### NEWS

**Gender Studies Symposium centers resistance**  
Megan Ziegler | March 20, 2026

### EDITOR'S PICKS

**Condemning alcohol consumption ignores importance of drinking to social development**  
Charles Anderson | March 20, 2026

**Mock trial club promotes courtroom teamwork**  
George Groebner | March 20, 2026

**"I Cover ASB": one reporter's right to bring truth to light**  
Maya Mason-Hoffman | March 20, 2026

**Call teams compete around Oregon, California**  
Zoe Lang | March 20, 2026

### FEATURES

**Mock trial club promotes courtroom teamwork**  
George Groebner | March 20, 2026

**OMST's After Dark exhibit promotes education, oddity**  
George Groebner | March 6, 2026

**Escape Palatine Hill with these city spots**  
Brady Vinlove | March 6, 2026

**Portland food carts embrace diverse culture**  
Megan Ziegler | March 6, 2026

### OPINION

**Condemning alcohol consumption ignores importance of drinking to social development**  
Charles Anderson | March 20, 2026

**School prestige determines student opportunities, future career paths**  
March 20, 2026

**Executive order poses threat to Oregon forests**  
March 20, 2026

**Adoption of AI in curriculum threatens student creativity**  
March 20, 2026

### ARTS

**Oregon Book Awards honor many local talented writers**  
March 20, 2026

**"We Slept in Trees" merges dance, theater on mainstage**  
March 20, 2026

**Harry Styles releases fun-filled disco album**  
March 20, 2026

**Visiting Writer Series welcomes Joe Wilkins as last spring guest**  
March 20, 2026

### SPORTS

**Golf teams compete around Oregon, California**  
March 20, 2026

**Bacchus, Artemis begin spring season competition**  
March 20, 2026

**Athletic communications spotlights athletes**  
March 20, 2026

**Lacrosse starts second season in HWC, aims to compete in conference tournament**  
March 6, 2026

**Condemning alcohol consumption ignores importance of drinking to social development**  
Charles Anderson | March 20, 2026  
You probably should drink more. No, really, you should.

SUPPORT STUDENT JOURNALISM

SIGN UP FOR THE MOSSY NEWSLETTER

# Best Website

College Group 2

1st Place

Oregon Daily Emerald

Staff

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Daily Emerald, an independent journalism website produced by students for students. The site features a clean, modern design with a white background and green accents. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Donate, Advertise, Apply, Subscribe, Housing, Duck Living, and Games. The main header includes the site's name, "The Daily Emerald," and a search bar. Below the header, there are several sections: a blue banner for "Level up your commute" with a transit logo, a "TRENDING STORIES" section with four numbered items, a "RECENT STORIES" section with three items, and a "BEST OF CAMPUS" nomination banner. The main content area features a large article titled "Man convicted in killing of former UO professor" with a photo of a building. Below this, there are sections for "NEWS," "ARTS & CULTURE," and "SPORTS," each with a featured article and a small image. At the bottom, there is a "FLY FURTHER" banner and a social media widget for the Daily Emerald on Instagram.

Donate Advertise Apply Subscribe Housing Duck Living Games

# The Daily Emerald

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM PRODUCED BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS

HOME NEWS INVESTIGATIONS ARTS & CULTURE SPORTS OPINION MULTIMEDIA PDX BUREAU ETHOS

EMG College With Purpose MAKE THE ASSIST HELP THE EMERALD RAISE \$5,000

Level up your commute Download the app and learn more at LTD.org/Transit transit

### TRENDING STORIES

- 1 Eastbound Franklin Blvd reopens after crash near UO; van driver arrested at scene
- 2 Records show forced consumption, retaliation in Delta Sigma Phi hazing investigation
- 3 Second Mandy's location coming to Eugene
- 4 UO Foundation's private jet spending draws scrutiny amid university layoffs

### RECENT STORIES

#### No. 18 Oregon softball sweeps Iowa series with 6-2 Sunday win

Rohan Sica, Sports Writer - April 5, 2026

"Can we go to another year as a team?" Ducks head coach Stacey Lombardi said after Oregon softball's win over Iowa. "I think this series certainly shows that we did that. You looked at the first..."

#### First cycle in program history keys No. 18 Oregon softball's 14-13 extra-innings win over Iowa

April 4, 2026

#### No. 60 Oregon women's tennis shut out by No. 12 USC 4-0

April 4, 2026

### Man convicted in killing of former UO professor

Scott Stolarczyk, the man accused of killing former UO professor Sharon Schuman, is convicted with second degree manslaughter and DUL.

April 3, 2026  
Cory Hoffman and Senior News Reporter

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO DECIDE TO LEAD. ENROLL NOW

### NEWS

#### UO Foundation's private jet spending draws scrutiny amid university layoffs

Ellie Kubaczynk - April 3, 2026

#### Second Mandy's location coming to Eugene

April 3, 2026

### ARTS & CULTURE

#### Musician Jack McGaughey finds his place in Eugene

Vivian White, Arts & Culture Writer - April 3, 2026

#### Family fusion at E2 Eatz

April 3, 2026

### SPORTS

#### No. 53 Oregon men's tennis shutout by No. 20 Michigan State 4-0

Max Koebel, Senior Sports Writer - April 3, 2026

#### Oregon lacrosse drops fifth straight game in a loss to St. Louis

April 3, 2026

FLY FURTHER Join us for a Master of Science in Management info session for Ducks. APRIL 16, 6:00-7:00 PM, 440 LILLIE BUSINESS COMPLEX, 800 E 13TH AVE REGISTER

dailyemerald Daily Emerald 10.7K followers 3,424 posts

# Best Website

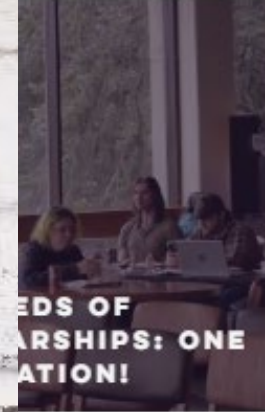
College Group 3

## 2nd Place

### The Advocate-MHCC

Brian Moua, Zoë Griffin

# THE ADVOCATE



**SPECIAL**



Childerah Edoh  
Feb 22

#### GRAMMY ARTISTS SPEAK OUT ON ICE

Childerah Edoh The Advocate This year, the Grammys became more than an awards show. Immigration, equality and human rights were central themes of the night. Pins...



Malikah Mulloy  
Feb 22

#### MHCC POLICIES IF ICE WERE TO POTENTIALLY COME...

Malikah Mulloy The Advocate With recent activity in our communities involving ICE, many students, staff and faculty members may be increasingly concerned about t...



Adam Elwell  
Feb 22

#### ICE RUN-INS REPORTED IN GRESHAM

Adam Elwell The Advocate In December 2025, three Gresham residents were detained after being lured out of their home by Immigration and Customs Enforcement...

# Best Website

College Group 3

# 1st Place

# The Clackamas Print

Staff

The screenshot displays the homepage of 'The Clackamas Print'. At the top, a dark blue navigation bar contains the site's name and a menu with links for HOME, NEWS, ARTS & CULTURE, SPORTS, COMICS, OPINION, VIDEOS, and PODCAST. Below the navigation, a large featured article is shown with a photo of people at a computer workstation and a headline: 'Sixty years strong: CCC celebrates a legacy of community and opportunity'. To the right of this article is a smaller article titled 'ASG' with a headline: 'Getting people in the Associated Students Community...'. Below the featured article is a blue subscription bar with the text 'News to your inbox:' and input fields for 'Name' and 'Email Address', followed by a 'Subscribe' button. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'News', 'Sports', and 'Arts & Culture'. Each column contains several article thumbnails with headlines such as 'ASG seeks involvement', 'The one that got away: Cougar basketball defeated in NWAC Championship', 'A dark romance if there ever was one: "Witch" hits the stage at CCC', 'The time has come: scholarship applications for 2026-2027 are now open', 'Washingtons make a mark in Oregon', 'Students ring in the Lunar New Year', 'Changes are coming to Cougar Cafe', 'Track & field is just a hurdle, throw and a jump away', 'Hear ye, hear ye! The GSA threw the fairest dance in the land.', 'Clackamas Community College seeks to raise tuition YET again', 'Sports betting creates a mental gamble for young adults', and 'Women, wolves and the weight of this world: Paula Bullwinkel brings "Pressure Drop" to Alexander Gallery'.

**Congratulations to the  
winners of the 2026  
Collegiate Newspaper  
Contest.**