Sigma Chi suspended due to pending investigation of bias hate

A University investigation into allegations of “a range of anti-Semitic behaviors” at the fraternity is ongoing. The suspension was made in coordination with Sigma Chi’s national office. Fraternity members also reported experiencing backlash following news of the allegation.

By Ashley Malin

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, the Dean of Students Office received a report addressing allegations of an anti-Semitic conversation overheard in the Sigma Chi fraternity. Chief Diversity Officer Michael Benitez sent a following email to the Jewish student leadership of Hillel to notify them in advance of the allegations. On Wednesday Jan. 27, a campus-wide email was sent out from Benitez.

Sigma Chi’s Greek life activities received a temporary suspension until further notice. Dean of Students Mike Segawa, Assistant Dean Sarah Shives, and Director of Student Contact Frank Cirioni lead the ongoing investigation.

“The suspension is in coordination with Sigma Chi’s national office,” Dean of Students Mike Segawa said. “This is all temporary until we and the University and Sigma Chi National have a chance to investigate allegations. That’s what we’re in the process of doing now. We’re interviewing a lot of people. Our hope is that we’re going to be finished at the end of this week with the interviews. If we find there’s enough information there to think there could be violations of any conduct code then we’ll proceed with the conduct process.”

Within hours of the reported incident, three to four Greek life students reported hurtful and negative comments directed at them.

“I’ve heard much more from Greek students, Sigma Chi or [other fraternities] who have come to me to say, ‘people are looking at you funny,’ or people actually saying stuff to me like, ‘are all Greeks anti-Semitic?’” University Chaplain David Wright said. “That all seemed to happen within the 24 hours of that email going out.

That same Wednesday, Assistant Dean of Students Sarah Shives and University Chaplain David Wright moderated an open forum where over 50 people gathered in the Student Diversity Center. Those attending were invited to share their experiences and emotions pertaining to the incident.

“I was really pleased a number of members of Sigma Chi came,” Wright said. “From my sense of it, I think people got really scared by the way information was being passed around and I don’t think that was necessarily wanted, or helpful,” sophomore and Hillel co-president Rebekah Sherman said. “I’m glad [the incident] was received and responded to in the way that it was.

On Friday, Jan. 29, an incident directly connected to the allegations Security Services reported from Sigma Chi chapter members. According to the weekly campus report, the members received “threats of physical harm through a social media.” The anonymous social media post on Yik-Yak claimed to be from Olympia and threatened physical harm to chapter members.

Security Services notified Tacoma police and increased security around the fraternity house. The University contacted Yik-Yak and the social media site took down the post. Segawa offered the option of on-campus housing to Sigma Chi chapter members for their security.

Last weekend, three members from the Sigma Chi fraternity offered an apology and explanation to Hillel presidents Rebekah Sherman and Mia Covirtsman over the anti-Semitic remarks that were overheard.

“It was definitely scary to think that people on this campus could be anti-Semitic,” Sherman said. “I don’t feel unsafe on this campus and I think part of that is because there’s been so much support for the Jewish community from Jews and non-Jews, Greek members and non-Greek members.”

Before the investigations occurred, a number of senior Sigma Chi members had deactivated or chosen to withdraw from activities within the chapter, due to what they perceived to be issues within the fraternity culture.

On Monday, Feb. 1, Dean Mike Segawa met with the Sigma Chi chapter to discuss investigations going forward.

“I met with the chapter on Monday and we covered a lot of ground,” Segawa said, “including encouragement that if they feel they have been harassed in any way, shape or fashion, we really want to know... because that’s not going to be acceptable.”

Historically, Sigma Chi, a prominent member of the Greek community at Puget Sound, has fostered many campus leaders and alumni; some members currently serve on the Board of Trustees.

“Sigma Chi has been consistently one of our strongest fraternities... especially in this area around issues of diversity and social justice about engagement with the community broadly,” Segawa said. “We have had a lot of student leaders over the years come out of Sigma Chi and serve this place so well.”

“I think one of the biggest lessons to be learned is that whether or not it was true,” Sherman said, “it’s very important for this campus to be a community that is safe for everyone, not just for one group or another.”

PAGE DESIGN/MICHELLE LEATHERBY

ASUPS Vice President Resigns

ASUPS Vice President Allisa Hartnig resigned at formal Senate on Thursday, Feb. 4, citing personal reasons. According to the ASUPS constitution, the Senate will elect a Senator to become Vice President to the ASUPS constitution, the Senate will elect a Senator to become Vice President for the remainder of the term. The person will be selected by a vote at ASUPS formal Senate Feb. 11, according to Senate chair Lyndal Bauer and an email sent out by ASUPS president Nakasha Renee Jones announcing the change. Spring elections to determine the 2016-2017 ASUPS President and Vice President will occur in March, following spring break, according to Jones’ email.

Two finalists selected for University President

The Presidential Search Committee has winnowed down a group of 10 semi-finalists to two finalists. The Board of Trustees will decide which of the two finalists will become the University’s 14th President.

By Emily Schuellein

The presidential search is coming to an end with two finalists for the position and the hope that the new president will begin work July 1, 2016, according to the Presidential Search Profile. President Ronald Thomas hopes to end his 13-year tenure as the University’s 13th president in the coming months as it is a “right and natural time for a leadership transition,” according to a campus-wide email from his office. “The committee has completed its work because their job isn’t to choose the president but to identify the candidates. Search processes typically take, especially for a position like this, about a year or a little more than a year,” Gayle McIntosh, Executive Director of Communications, said. “One of the board of trustee’s primary duties is selection of the institution’s president.”

“The board of trustees will meet Feb. 23 to 26, 2016,” ASUPS president Nakasha Renee Jones, who sits on the Presidential Search Committee, said. continued on pg. 2

On the way out: President Ronald Thomas will end his tenure as the 13th president of the university at the end of this academic semester.

PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND
Two finalists selected for University President

continued from pg. 1

The Presidential Search Committee represented "members of the board of trustees as well as Puget Sound faculty, staff, students, alumni and parents," Robert Pohlad, chair of the committee, said in a campus-wide email.

The committee worked with "AGB Search, a hybrid process between an open and closed search," McIntosh said according to their site. AGB Search focuses on "soliciting exclusively on higher education leadership."

In a nod to student protests in the fall semester, several students demanding a better representation of Pohlad's email to the campus mentioned that the 10 semi-finalists in late 2013, there were four women and four people from "historically underrepresented groups."

The presidential search committee, as well as students, faculty and staff representatives, met with the two finalists for off-campus interviews on Jan. 25 and 26, 2016, according to a campus-wide email from the presidential committee.

The identities of those candidates were kept confidential, with interview meetings kept closed, and interviewers asked to sign confidentiality forms.

A number of reasons why candidates might choose a closed process, for example if you were a sitting president at a public institution... and not ultimately chosen for this position," McIntosh said.

"There is value to open interviews. The impact on campus was significant controversy because of Puget Sound's history of having open searches," Jones said.

"In regards to whether or not enough student representation was involved in the search, Jones said, "out of all the students, was at least a better choice to ask the ASUPS president because I have a lot of student contact. I am planning on making a resolution for more students and staff to change the overall composition of the presidential search committee in the future. Students will be able to support this resolution."

Some of the desired presidential attributes include: "an informed and committed leader, a person who values teaching and scholarship, a proven fundraiser, a leader who focuses on students and an understanding of the role of desired presidential attributes is listed in the Presidential Search Profile.

As to how the University will change with a new president: "the university operates under a shared governance model," McIntosh said. "Typically, the new president won't have an agenda and will try to get the feel of the campus" during the first year," Jones said.

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Trans & non-binary inclusive housing options to be offered in the fall

Public and private, confidential housing will be offered to trans and non-binary identifying students. Public housing to be geared towards having a safe space for trans and non-binary students and provide more programming for trans and non-binary students. The private option to keep be confidential to protect students.

By Casey O'Brien

New transgender/non-binary on-campus housing options are being offered in the fall of 2016 from Residence Life. The program will be two-tiered. The first is a "public" housing option, which is great," Bates said. Bates was inspired to create the project partly because of his own experience with Transphobia his freshman year.

"Last year I had a lot of problems with my housing, namely that I was living near people... who were really unsafe, and I didn't feel comfortable doing everyday things like showering, or using the bathroom in the hall that I was living in. Which is something that I don't think the people that I was living with understood, because everything that was happening for me was confusing, and I just didn't even expect to people, like, hey, I'm trans and the things you say make me uncomfortable.'"

"Bills felt strongly that the project was necessary because of experiences like Bates'. "It was very apparent that this was a huge need on campus. I was very aware of things happening in first-year residence halls that showcased that this was a huge need," Bihl said.

While the theme house is designed to operate as a community space for trans/nonbinary individuals on campus, there is still need for a larger, non-residential space.

"To be honest [I] don't much rather if we get a gender resource center," Bihl said.

Further concerns have been raised, given that there is no similar option for first-year students, although there is an existing system within the first-year housing form that allows first-years to request housing accommodations with regards to gender, according to Bates.

Bates worked with Jenny Chadwick and Austen Bittreman to make the project a reality, alongside the Trans Awareness Work Group Housing subcommittee.

"I think [Residence Life] in the past year has really been trying to up their capability on trans issues, we're doing great," Bates said.

"That's something the Trans Advisory Committee will be looking into, because while this is a step forward, for me it also feels like an identity tax, and that's extremely problematic.... we are definitely aware of this problem, we're going to be looking into it with the school and student financial aid to see what we can work out," Bihl said.

While some rooms have been assigned, if more students express interest, more spaces will be allocated for the program, according to Bihl and Bates.

Safe space: The new options will allow for inclusive housing for trans and non-binary students on campus according to Bates.

The option is priced at the on-campus premium rate for a single room in a hall, which is $3780, compared to the standard on-campus rate at $3590.

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SECURITY UPDATES

The following incidents occurred on campus and were reported to Security Services in February 2, 2016 and February 8, 2016.

(1) Fire Safety Violation: A smoke detector in a fraternity was dis- dispensed and covered to prevent effective op- eration.

(2) Alcohol Violation: Security responded to an incident with alcohol consumption in a residence hall.

(3) Drug Violations: Security responded to two reports of suspect- ed marijuana use in residential areas on campus. Security countered two reports suspected of using marijuana outside on an academic building.

(4) From Vehicle: A stu- dent reported her vehicle was entered and personal property removed while it was parked near N. 13th St. There were no signs of forced entry to the vehicle, although the owner reported she altered her routine in threats of being driven.

Crime Prevention

Good quality "U-Bolt" style locks are highly recommended. Use addi- tion to the high end components (wheels, etc.) to the bicycle when stored. Be mindful of personal and uni- versity property by keeping it secured or with you at all times. This includes of- fice areas and residential spaces.

Secure your residence and/or room — especially at night while sleep- ing.

Always immediately report suspi- cion activity to Security Services or Ta- coma Police.

Security Services

Security is open and staffed 24/7 to serve the university community.

Utilize the Security Courtyard Com- ert Services if you find yourself walking done on campus — especially at night. This service is also available to some ar- eas off-campus.

Please update the university with your cellular telephone number. We need it need you important Security Alert messages.

Visit our website and check us out on Facebook to learn more about our services and stay up to date on cam- pus security.

Todd A. Badham '95, P11 | Director of Security
In four years, the Port of Tacoma has become the largest methanol production plant in the world. Northwestern Innovation Village (NWI), the joint venture partnership with backers ranging from a Chinese government agency to the British Petroleum, has proposed a $3.4 billion project to construct a gas-to- methanol plant in Tacoma. This facility would process natural gas into methanol, which would then be shipped to Asia and converted into olefin, a compound used in plastic containers, carpets and consumer goods.

According to the Port of Tacoma website, the project is currently undergoing environmental review through the Washington State Environmental Policy Act, which will assess and analyze potential environmental impacts and propose strategies to minimize or avert negative impacts. The City of Tacoma, as an agency on this review and will issue an Environmental Impact Statement on the project.

There are a number of potential environmentally impacts that will result from this facility. Citizens for a Healthy Bay, a nonprofit organization focused on protecting the waters of Commencement Bay, has noted environmental concerns such as water demands, air pollution and noise generated by this project.

NWI recently announced that they have reduced their initial estimate of potential carbon footprint by 28 percent, from 10,000 gallons of water per minute to 7,200. Annually, this will add up to 5.9 billion gallons—for reference, the total annual residential water consumption in Tacoma is about 3.9 billion gallons—according to Tacoma Public Utilities statistics. Similar to previously stated projects, the production process gives off a variety of compounds. These include CO₂ and other greenhouse gasses, carcinogenic pollutants and respiratory irritants to make Citizens for a Healthy Bay.

The production process will also produce other waste products, such as zinc sulfide, and uses copper and nickel to convert into methanol. At this stage in the proposed project, NWI has not issued a public estimate on the waste products produced, nor how waste will be disposed of. While the potential environmental risks of this project are evident, proponents argue that it will boost Tacoma’s economy, provide jobs and be a cleaner process than using coal or oil. David Childers, Digital Media Services manager down at Technology Services, made it clear that this was his reasoning for not purchasing better equipment.

“There’s not enough avid photography people who want to use that equipment. We just don’t have the need for it,” Childers said. “If we were to try to accommodate every student who comes in with a media request, we’d be bogging down spending God knows how much on very particular types of equipment.”

“Most of the equipment we own is cameras that shoot above ten megapixels, a quality that ensures the best for many photographers. Tech Services doesn’t own high-end video cameras, but we have a very specific list to check out, just for the full-time staff videographers.

Some things don’t add up. This campus has superb software programs for post-production, which goes totally to waste if the photos and videos are shot on crappy equipment and students never get taught how to use the programs. Students have to come to campus already owning expensive equipment and knowing how to edit. If this campus was concerned about costs, throw out the expensive subscription to Adobe CC and purchase the much-cheaper and slightly-less-powerful Adobe Elements package. It’s not like any students are being taught how to use Adobe.” David Childers said.

Most photographers that use Adobe to the point that they’d never notice any difference. Within a couple years the University could have spent a lot of money on quality DSLRs that shoot photos and videos at 25 megapixels, purchased entirely off budget, which is clearly just a lack of interest that hails the lack of a club.

“Adobe to the point that they’d never notice any difference. Within a couple years the University could have spent a lot of money on quality DSLRs that shoot photos and videos at 25 megapixels, purchased entirely off budget, which is clearly just a lack of interest that hails the lack of a club. Media release offices haven’t become a club because it’s hardly a team activity. Perhaps carbon politicians haven’t become a club because no one knows where to begin.”

Even if the money is efficiently re-appropriated, there’s still the argument that students won’t use the better equipment because there’s no student interest. There’s no evidence proves such believers wrong, either. The campus has no photography or video clubs, which are normally good gauges of student interest; “I’m proud to see the Port of Tacoma and NW Innovation Works reaching another milestone for State’s clean energy future,” Governor Jay Inslee said, according to an NWI press release. “Washington State is working to turn the global challenge of carbon pollution into new jobs and strong communities. This project at the former Kaiser site will boost our regional economy while eventually providing a needed supply of clean methanol fuel to Asia.” NWI estimates that up to 1,000 jobs will be created at the peak of the project, and it will employ about 260 workers and managers once the facility is operational, according to the Port of Tacoma’s website. While the entire project has been repeatedly framed as environmentally friendly and a move towards a cleaner future by NWI, elected officials and the Port of Tacoma, this rhetoric does not change the fact that there are significant environmental and economic costs that will potentially affect everyone living in the South Sound region. This project will not only generate hundreds of jobs, but could create an economic benefits offered by NWI do not outweigh the negative environmental impacts that could result from this project. This risks to occur on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at Meeker Middle School at 5:00 p.m.
Letters to the editor

Sent on January 16th:

This letter is in part inspired by a series of articles over the last year in several on-campus publications that deal with the issue of Greek Life. When I became a member of Sigma Chi in January of 2015, and quit in February of 2016, I was not prepared to have anything like this now so that there will be no mistaking my realm of expertise; I have had firsthand experience with any of the other chapters on this campus, and will refrain from guessing at the culture of those houses here. In writing this letter, I hope to express some of the things that I experienced and bring some food for thought for particularly members of Sigma Chi.

In my first semester in Sigma Chi, I held every piece of the fraternity’s values as a brilliant piece of life advice that I would do well to use to inform my actions. During my sophomore and junior years I held two officer positions, each lasting a year, and became progressively more disillusioned with the fraternity. To make matters worse, during my first semester as a member I was sexually assaulted at a Sigma Chi dance party. The fact that this could happen in front of sober monitors was deeply unsettling to me, though I did not have the words to express that for much of my time as a member.

By February of 2015 the stress could no longer be simply ignored (much as I hoped otherwise), and I decided to leave. The primary reason for leaving was that the financial cost was too great, and to that point I had not known. I gave the additional reason that whether or not it actually was, the chapter did not feel like a safe place for me. Even while leaving for the sake of self-care, I was convinced it was my own hypersensitivity that had led me to this point and not a problem with the chapter as a whole.

Due to the fact that I parted with little animosity, I was invited to sit in on the meeting this past semester. What I saw and heard at the third meeting near the end of the past semester, compounded by my negative experiences over the years prior, finally led me to feel that this letter was necessary.

At the meeting, someone who had been alienated was brought up for a discussion for negative comments about the person and puerile pronouns of transgressor individuals. A few members expressed that misogyny and transphobia do not align with Sigma Chi’s values (or those of any values-driven organization), regardless of whether they come from a place of ignorance or bigotry. The overwhelming majority of the members present argued that the positive qualities of this member outweighed his negative comments and that comments like these did not necessarily preclude membership in the fraternity. Put more broadly, it appeared to me that many members felt that it is important to keep the lines of communication open and various conversations on social justice on campus. The implication was that the organization should make remaining engaged worthwhile.

― Nicholas Lyon (’16)

Sent on February 8th:

Dear Latinos Unidos,

We are writing to you today to express our sincere appreciation to you as a club, in addition to each individual member of this campus who felt sad, angry, disappointed, or marginalized from the Mariachi band brought to campus by ASUPS programming. We would also like to apologize for failing to keep Latinos Unidos involved in the final decision when it deserves to be given much more weight.

It is troubling to all of us that we have had repeated instances of insensitivity and disrespect in the fraternity this school. It is equally troubling that some of these instances have happened through ASUPS. Through this letter I sought out several current and past members of Sigma Chi to help me temper my language such that I wouldn’t simply attack a system I was once a part of. I don’t want to belittle Sigma Chi, and I truly feel that this complacency with the status quo is actively antithetical to the values of Sigmas Chi, in particular the focus on the constant quest for self-betterment and growth.

In writing this letter I sought out several current and past members of Sigma Chi to help me temper my language such that I wouldn’t simply attack a system I was once a part of. I don’t want to belittle Sigma Chi, and I truly feel that this complacency with the status quo is actively antithetical to the values of Sigmas Chi, in particular the focus on the constant quest for self-betterment and growth.

By Chase Hutchinson

The search for the new president of the University is continuing and a few questions need to be asked about the process.

When I first heard that there were going to be confidential meetings between candidates and students, I understood that this was a neediness because of the stigma that employers could possibly penalize those applying if it was dis- covered that they were seeking a new job. However, I did not anticipate the level of silence that seems to prevail. Among all the students who were asked to help interview these candidates, emails sent out to the student interviewers leading up to the interviews revealed confidential information these emails did not reference the scope of the confidentiality agreements and it seems to me that the scope is too broad.

Students who are discouraged from discussing with the very people they are meant to rep- resent, i.e. the student, the very antithesis of having genuine community input. When some- one leaves, or is left, or is ignored (much as I hoped could no longer be simply a member.

I do not have the words to express the unsettling to me, though I did understand that this could happen in front of the image. I was sexually assaulted at a Sigma Chi rarely, if ever, challenged me to look at systems of power that I do, Sigma Chi’s values (or those of any values-driven organization), regardless of whether the minority of the members present argued that the positive qualities of this member outweighed his negative comments and that comments like these did not necessarily preclude membership in the fraternity. Put more broadly, it appeared to me that many members felt that it is important to keep the lines of communication open and various conversations on social justice on campus. The implication was that the organization should make remaining engaged worthwhile.

― Nicholas Lyon (’16)

The point of transparency is to allow students to see what is behind closed doors. The recommendation of the students could go into the trash and become progressively more significant. The implication will often remove the conference in the room at the moment the conversation starts or it could be a driving force of the dialogue. Either way, students won’t know what influence they have on the final decision if they are shut out from the process.

Even if the recommendations were genuinely considered, we will never be able to learn how about the way they affect the Board’s dialogue. Universities need to be open up space for the sharing of ideas and the current process we are witnessing countermand the fundamental of education will never be type of education will never be taught.

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Thinking about HIV/AIDS

By Natalie Scoggin

With the recent exhibit art AIDS America at the Tacoma Art Museum and the upcoming one at the Seattle Art Museum featuring AIDS, Politics, and Culture in Colleges, the community may be wondering: why AIDS? Why now?

The response to that question is varied. At no point since its first documented appearance has AIDS disappeared. The current consensus in the medical community is that HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) first passed from chimpanzees to humans when infected blood came into contact with bush hunters in Central Africa; from then, the disease was sexu-

rally transmitted. For example, during the 1980s and 1990s a resurgence in homophobia, but also caused a further increase in contraction rates among MSM of color. According to Halkitis, Ph.D., M.S. at New York University, this increase in contraction rates among MSM of color is really at stake: the mental, emotional and physical safety of non-cisgender students on campus. He wants to make one thing clear, that “transgender students deserve the right to exist safely.”

First year Danny Perkins is one of the only students that fit into the Transgender Non-Binary Housing option. They echo Bates’ concern for safety: “A lot of trans people need private changing spaces, showers and restroom because just being in public can be incredibly dangerous. On top of that, some trans people experience dysphoria, which means they feel very uncomfortable away from other people, just for the sake of privacy around their body. Giving us our own rooms and access to a safe restroom will relieve a lot of the daily pressure of being trans in a cissexist society, while also providing us with a support network within our own community.” Bates also addressed concerns about isolating transgender individuals from the rest of the campus community: “Many of us [non-cisgender individuals] are incredibly tired of having to teach those around us about how to give trans people basic respect. Trans housing doesn’t completely isolate us from the rest of the campus, it gives us a space that we will still be able to interact with like anyone else, but it’s housing simply guarantees when we come home we don’t have to explain ourselves to anyone else.”

Likewise, Bates says the Trans and Nonbinary House on Theme Row is really about programming focused around educating our campus community about gender diversity. Not only are non-cisgender students excited about this new option for housing, but RA’s and RCC’s see it as a much needed addition to the on-campus housing community. Bates says, “We’ve never heard of anything like this housing option before.”

Nathan Bradley says that students may take more time and energy, the excitement of student staff in residence life and passionate student activists on campus will ensure that students are taken to create a more inclusive campus. Jae Bates would like to remind students that this housing option is still available and non-cisgender students should speak with Residence Life.

Black History Month highlight: Amandla Stenberg

By Sophia Lugo

February is Black History Month, a time to celebrate and recognize African-American history and achievements.

Amandla Stenberg is a 19-year-old actress who is known for her role in The Hunger Games movies. She was also celebrated for her breakout role in the movie, but recently she’s made her way into the spotlight as a young activist. She’s been advocating for equal rights and acceptance. Her work has been inspiring people with her powerful messages about self-love, acceptance and visibility.

Her portrayal of Rue in The Hunger Games movies has really resonated with her fans and has brought attention to important social issues. She has been using her platform to advocate for the rights of marginalized communities and has been a vocal advocate for social justice.

Amandla Stenberg is an example of how one person can make a difference. Her dedication and hard work have inspired many to stand up for what they believe in and to fight for a more just and equal society.

The importance of transgender/nonbinary housing options

By Kaitlyn Vallance

According to Campuspride.org, 201 college and university campuses in the United States currently offer gender-neutral residence halls. Campuspride also reports being denied gender-neutral housing options, but still have the ability to live with other non-cis students. According to Bates, the purpose of offering this housing option to only transgender, non-binary and gender questioning students is to create a community for these students where they can feel safe and be given advice to others concerning gender identity and sexual orientation, mental health issues and problems they encounter on campus without fear for their safety.

Bates emphasized the fact that this housing option is not a political statement, but a matter of safety. While some may see this as another way our university is trying to be more “politically correct,” Bates claims the politicization of identity detracts from what is really at stake: the mental, emotional and physical safety of non-cisgender students on campus. He wants to make one thing clear, that “transgender students deserve the right to exist safely.”

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By Natalie Scoggin

With the recent exhibit art AIDS America at the Tacoma Art Museum and the upcoming one at the Seattle Art Museum featuring AIDS, Politics, and Culture in Colleges, the community may be wondering: why AIDS? Why now?

The response to that question is varied. At no point since its first documented appearance has AIDS disappeared. The current consensus in the medical community is that HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) first passed from chimpanzees to humans when infected blood came into contact with bush hunters in Central Africa; from then, the disease was sexually transmitted. For example, during the 1980s and 1990s a resurgence in homophobia, but also caused a further increase in contraction rates among MSM of color. According to Halkitis, Ph.D., M.S. at New York University, this increase in contraction rates among MSM of color is really at stake: the mental, emotional and physical safety of non-cisgender students on campus. He wants to make one thing clear, that “transgender students deserve the right to exist safely.”

First year Danny Perkins is one of the only students that fit into the Transgender Non-Binary Housing option. They echo Bates’ concern for safety: “A lot of trans people need private changing spaces, showers and restroom because just being in public can be incredibly dangerous. On top of that, some trans people experience dysphoria, which means they feel very uncomfortable away from other people, just for the sake of privacy around their body. Giving us our own rooms and access to a safe restroom will relieve a lot of the daily pressure of being trans in a cissexist society, while also providing us with a support network within our own community.” Bates also addressed concerns about isolating transgender individuals from the rest of the campus community: “Many of us [non-cisgender individuals] are incredibly tired of having to teach those around us about how to give trans people basic respect. Trans housing doesn’t completely isolate us from the rest of the campus, it gives us a space that we will still be able to interact with like anyone else, but it’s housing simply guarantees when we come home we don’t have to explain ourselves to anyone else.”

Likewise, Bates says the Trans and Nonbinary House on Theme Row is really about programming focused around educating our campus community about gender diversity. Not only are non-cisgender students excited about this new option for housing, but RA’s and RCC’s see it as a much needed addition to the on-campus housing community. Bates says, “We’ve never heard of anything like this housing option before.”

Nathan Bradley says that students may take more time and energy, the excitement of student staff in residence life and passionate student activists on campus will ensure that students are taken to create a more inclusive campus. Jae Bates would like to remind students that this housing option is still available and non-cisgender students should speak with Residence Life.
The Office for Intercultural Engagement held its first Speak Out Loud (SOL) conversation of the semester to discuss “The Trump Effect.” On Feb. 3, students gathered at The Student Diversity Center from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. to talk about Donald Trump’s recent comments, actions and attitudes towards minority communities.

“Like all the SOL conversations, this one was an opportunity to discuss a particularly pressing subject that affects life both on and off campus,” first-year Aidan Regan said.

In a seminar style discussion, students examined a large scope of topics, ranging from the controversial rhetoric used by Trump to the preexisting hate and bigotry that continues to permeate throughout the United States. This conversation revealed the threat participating students felt that Trump poses to this country, specifically for those from marginalized backgrounds.

“Many people have reacted with nothing more than amusement, but to millions of Americans, the danger of such attitudes can’t be understated,” Regan said.

With multiple points of view from a wide variety of students, Regan believes he was able to approach these issues with a thoughtful dialogue, learning a lot within a short amount of time.

“Something important I and many of the other attending students learned was just how tangible of an impact these issues have,” Regan said. “Speaking to marginalized individuals, on whom Trump’s comments have real-world consequences, was powerful, to say the least.”

Looking forward to the monthly SOL conversations to come, Regan takes pride in the opportunity to have his voice heard and to hear the voices of others.

“Experiences like these are key to thinking critically of your own views and connecting with the campus community at large. Taking advantage of these experiences is what makes Puget Sound such an enriching place to learn and grow as an individual,” Regan said.

Trump placed second in the recent Iowa Republican caucus, polling at 24.3 percent to Ted Cruz’s 27.6 percent, according to the Associated Press.
Diversions’ new look receives positive feedback

By Emma Brice

Here at the University of Puget Sound, there is a wide selection of study spots, each with its own unique vibe, for students to choose from as they focus on their daily loads of homework. Diversions Cafe has always been a hot spot on campus, but has recently gained popularity due to its new makeover.

Whether the goal is late night studying, an early morning coffee date or a simple hangout with a friend, Diversions is the place to be.

Some may question the reasoning behind the renovations of the cafe since it was already such a popular place. However, almost every person makes comments about the new layout and its ability to provide so much more space than before, creating a more accessible environment.

“The layout behind the counter is more efficient for the baristas [and allows them to] have a much better, streamlined work flow. It allows us to ‘double bar,’ or have two baristas work together on a drink or a succession of drink orders. We can be quicker and more efficient when one worker focuses on pulling shots and the other steams milk and passes out beverages,” Cafe and Cellar Manager Paige Phillips said.

Phillips draws attention to the point that customer service was a large reason for the renovation, in addition to the need of a makeover.

“The big pieces of reaction that we hear [are] how much bigger the space looks and feels,” Phillips said. With just a few small adjustments and fresh appliances, the cafe possesses a fresh vibe of rejuvenation that is inviting to the entire campus.

“I think the new layout provides the perfect blend of space for socializing and studying,” first-year student Gabrielle Kolb said.

Kolb is a frequent customer at Diversions and one of many students who appreciates the new changes that have been made to the atmosphere.

“Diversions has never had a ton of space to work with, but they have optimized the space that they do have [with the new changes],” she said. Other students shared Kolb’s observations about the new space.

“It seems like it works out better for the people working behind the counter because there’s more space and it looks nicer too,” Olivia Burke, another first-year student and frequent customer at the cafe, said.

With only a few small alterations, Diversions has evolved its already vibrant atmosphere into an even greater social hub. The combination of coffee, rainy days and upbeat music is too much to resist for Puget Sound students.

As far as further renovation plans go for Diversions, there is no set timeline or urgent need for any touch-ups. In the meantime, students are encouraged to bask in the positive energy that emanates from the doors of the most happening place at the University of Puget Sound.

Celebrating Black History Month

Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, is an annual observance aiming for the remembrance of important events, people and leaders in the history of African American diaspora. The Black Student Union of the University of Puget Sound is hosting a variety of events on campus in order to commemorate this history.

**FEBRUARY 21**

5 P.M. | IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Chaney Sims & Yazmin Monet Watkins singing with poetry.

**FEBRUARY 22**

7 P.M. | KILWORTH MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Chaney Sims & Yazmin Monet Watkins spoken word and voice.

**FEBRUARY 26-28**

7:30 P.M. | RAUSCH AUDITORIUM
Campus Films: Creed.

**BLACK STUDENT UNION**

**THURSDAYS 7 P.M.**
Northwest Lounge, Commencement Hall.
Local ally speaks up for only gay friend

By Yolo Ono

First year Thom Ford claims he sees something the rest of us don’t. He claims what he sees is a dangerous plague that is attacking our classrooms, our campus and our hearts. He says that while the problem is invisible to the naked eye, it can be seen on the naked body. No, he’s not talking about the high cost of student loans, climate change or even dead people. What Thom Ford sees is something far worse: homophobia. And right now, he believes even gay people don’t realize it’s happening.

“It all started when I was in English class,” Ford told The Flail. “We were having a discussion about Lord of the Flies when I noticed nobody was talking about the gay side of things. I thought about my friend Tod, the only gay dude I know, and how that made him feel. So in that moment, I knew what I had to do: I had to speak up for him.”

Ford spent the next half hour describing the gay lifestyle to his English class. He explained the ins-and-outs of the dating scene, hooking up, and what he knew was right. Self-proclaimed ally, Ford only thought they did in the bed. A scene, he explained, that he knew was right.

“I was really only talking about the LBGTQ community, as he didn’t know what the T and Q stood for. “I just wanted to be clear I’m talking from my own experiences with homophobia, not others,” Ford explained.

Ford went on to explain that most students have a hard time believing this type of discrimination could happen on our campus of mostly white middle class students.

“We have safe places around campus, clubs for people of different backgrounds, and a lot of classes, signs and pamphlets mentioning diversity,” Ford added. “And yet, I clearly face discriminations everyday as a straight person.”

In response, Ford is now devoting much of his free time to making sure people are aware of the unseen problem.

“I’ve formed a Facebook group called Students Against Homophobia,” Ford told The Flail. “It has over 1,000 members, all from Puget Sound.

World’s best ally: You know in elementary school law when you could lock things and claim them as your own? That’s kind of the same concept with being an ally. The best way to be an ally is to loudly claim “I’m an ally!” and speak for those you’re an ally for.

“It’s been nice that a straight person like me can speak up for a group of people they’re not even part of and be so well received by the campus community.”

Still, Ford is hoping for an actual gay person to join the group. He believes once the gay community see this is further evidence that homophobia is so rampant on campus that students don’t even feel safe coming out.

THINGS TO DO ON FEBRUARY 14th:
suggestions from Combat Zone writers Barm Skalpz, Yolo Ono, SpaNish, and Madd Punz

- wake up and take some Advil for that pounding headache
- remember Susan
- remember that Susan left you
- brush your teeth
- text Susan. No wait. Should you?
- buy milk
- stop for morning coffee
- wonder if the barista is flirting with you with that heart latte art
- buy another cup of coffee just to check
- think about Susan
- work on novel
- remember Susan
- look at the guy next to you, who also has latte art
- Susan would never play you like that
- but she totally did
- remember that it’s Valentine’s day
- make a reservation for dinner
- text your current girlfriend Jessica about the plans
- remember Susan
Mandy Moonz, one of the indistinguishably average faces here on campus, is causing confusion and backlash among her friend group after she began refusing to speak in anything but poetic form.

"I'm not trying to toot my own horn, or even bring about all this scorn, I'm just a poet, and it took this class for me to know it."

"It's so f*cking annoying," Liza Freeze, a close friend of Moonz, said. "Like it was kind of funny at first. I would ask her 'how's your day?' and she would respond with 'It was OK, but the sky is gray, and there's a bill I need to pay.' But now it's gone too far. Like that whole bill thing isn't even real; she's just looking for a rhyme. Mandy's never worked a day in her life."

Freeze continued, saying "Honestly, I don't think that she can even stop; she's too immersed. The poetry has just taken over."

When Moonz was asked to comment on her speech pattern, she merely shook her head and walked away. Luckily, however, she came back 20 minutes later and explained herself.

"The life of the poet is great. The life of the poet is humble. I am merely following my preordained fate, and trying not to fumble."

"It's not even good poetry," Freeze said after she was shown Moonz's latest comment. Freeze and others of Moonz's friends have signed her up for counseling, hoping that she will "realize how annoying she is being" and "start talking like a real person again."

Moonz, however, has intimated this adversity has only strengthened her will to dedicate herself to "the cause."
Shipley sets Puget Sound record during UW Invitational

By Lukie Crowley

Senior Tyler Shipley (Forest Grove, Oregon) ran at the University of Washington Invitational on Jan. 29 and set a university record of 14:28:7 in the 5000 meter race. Shipley surpassed the former Puget Sound record by a little more than 14 seconds, set by Francis Reynolds in 2009.

Shipley placed fifth overall in the race that included many runners from Division I schools such as Seattle University, Boise State, Washington State and Gonzaga University. However, this is just one of the many accomplishments that Shipley has earned in his senior season.

Earlier this year, Shipley took home awards as the Northwest Conference Runner of the Year and the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association West Region Male Athlete of the Year. Add those to the multiple NCAA West Region title and the week accolades that he won during the week he competed.

“I’m really passionate about track, but the whole goal is to be an All-American,” Shipley said.

Shipley’s coach Mike Orechia has also had a major impact on his success.

“Horses are a big help in having someone who relates in what I’m trying to do and someone that has similar goals to mine and is really successful runner and having someone to do all of my runs with really help,” Shipley said.

Shipley’s coach Mike Orechia has also had a major impact on his success.

“His dedication, his work ethic, his knowledge of the sport and the desire to be great… He accepts the awards in the interest of the fact that he does not work for. It’s not something he works towards, it’s just a by-product of all of the hard work he puts in and the dedication he puts in,” Orechia said.

Lizier-Szmudzinski voiced his thoughts on the importance of Shipley’s work ethic to his success.

“His work ethic is impressive. It has to be in order for him to run to run as much as he does while lifting and taking care of himself by sleeping and eating well.”

As to why Shipley might have that extra edge in running, Orechia looks to his past history in wrestling.

“I don’t think a lot of people know that he was a wrestler when he was younger… They’re very close and he’s got some of that wrestler’s mentality that he carries over as far as competing goes,” Orechia said.

It can be hard to keep the drive for running in the way that Shipley does, putting in 100-110 miles of running per week, but he does it. He explained how.

“It basically comes down to self-satisfaction I guess, every time you finish a run you get… a runner’s high. You feel accomplished at some level and that’s what keeps the repetitive act of running over and over again. It’s always self-satisfying and no matter how bad it was and no matter how much you don’t want to get out of the door when the run’s done you’re always happy you did it,” Shipley said.

Shipley will compete in races and continue to train for nationals as part of the 10,000-meter heat in May. With the drive and competitiveness that he brings, he would surprise no one if he placed first.

Coach Hansen ends final season with conference title

By Nick Nestingen

When the Logger women’s soccer team takes the field next fall in pursuit of a 15th straight Northwest Conference title, there will be a new head coach patrolling the sidelines for the first time since 1995.

After 20 years of coaching the University of Puget Sound women’s soccer team, Randy Hanson announced his retirement in January. Hanson’s career at Puget Sound was historic to say the least. The longtime head coach will finish with a career record of 303-74-36 including a 16-10-6 record in conference play. Of the 20 seasons Hanson was the head coach, the Loggers finished with a winning record for 19 of those seasons. Since 2000, when Hanson led the Loggers to the first of 15 NWC titles over the next 16 years, the Loggers have lost no more than five games in the regular season. In 2004 Hanson coached the Loggers to a 22-2-0 regular season record that culminated in an appearance in the NCAA Division III national championship.

Despite the consistent success of his teams from year to year, Hanson cited wanting to spend more time with his family and in his son’s growing soccer career as primary reasons behind his retirement.

“I loved my time at Puget Sound,” Hanson said. “The relationships built throughout the entire university were and are very important to me. Leaving that type of environment is hard, but sometimes one has to make hard decisions.”

While Hanson’s career record speaks for his ability to coach the game, junior Emily Prasil (Lake Oswego, Oregon) saw his impact extending beyond the field.

“As an athlete Randy showed me what true ambition and motivation is. But his best skill by far was his ability to apply what were learning in soccer to our everyday life. He taught us valuable lessons regarding our perspective and mindset, especially when overcoming obstacles,” Prasil said.

“Success can be measured in many ways but our focus was on developing people first,” Hanson said. “When I could see that someone in the program had grown as a person… that they made it through something hard and learned from it, those were my favorite moments as a coach.”

Hanson’s final season as a head coach was one of his greatest, as he helped to coach the Loggers to a dominating 17-0-0 season. During that season, the Loggers set an NCAA tournament record. In the NCAA tournament the Loggers advanced to the round of 32 before losing to a talented and well-coached squad from Wartburg College (Waverly, Iowa) in penalty kicks. Nonetheless, the 2015 Loggers will forever have a place in the Puget Sound record books holding the greatest winning percentage in Logger women’s soccer history.

While it will be hard for next year’s team to have another undefeated season, Prasil and the rest of the upcoming seniors know that they are prepared to continue the winning tradition of the women’s soccer team.

“It was hard when we heard that Randy was retiring,” Prasil said. “But it has also made us come together as a team to overcome this obstacle and put into action some of the lessons Randy taught us over the years. Next year we are going to continue to uphold the core values that Randy has always emphasized and by doing so, maintain his spirit within the team.”

While Logger women’s soccer will never be the same without Coach Hanson, he has created a legacy that will live on forever in Puget Sound history, a legacy that he credits to the players more than himself.

“A coach’s success can only come through others,” Hanson said. “And I am eternally thankful for all those I shared my time with at Puget Sound.”

For a full recap of this week’s sports, go to track.pugetsound.edu

Sports recap by Zal Robles

PACIFIC - 8
WILLAMETTE - 64
WILLAMETTE - 100

BASEBALL

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MEN'S BASKETBALL

For a full recap of this week’s sports, go to track.pugetsound.edu
Alumni Create Spaces for Queer Art

By Georgia Gustavson

It was another rainy, blustery night in Seattle, Washington. The sky was dark, and the streets were especially hard, and what better place to find refuge than in an exploratory and inclusive art space—how could that morph into a dance party? Hosted by Lion’s Main Art Collective, last November’s “Erasure” event was a huge and unique success. That night the Nuclear Exchange Studio and VCR gallery was turned into a vibrant space full of interdisciplinary art. There were both two and three dimension visual pieces, performance art, video, music and dance. The variety of mediums felt appropriate, given that the purpose of the event was to create an all-inclusive space for over 30 queer artists to explore the theme of erasure, and express that theme as freely as possible, from the most comfortable physical and emotional spaces. A video of someone beaming with joy after shaving their head shows how much small, symbolic acts of self-expression can feel both the need that simply needed to happen; there was a visceral urgency to it. Artist Yani Robinson’s performance piece of breaking through tramas and feelings about being a survivor even breached some physical limits for the audience. “It involved fire and there were tears,” Green said. “We do not claim to be a safe space,” founding coordinator and fellow University alum Jackie Braun said of Lion’s Main. “We value transparency... we have all these strangers coming together and they all have histories that we have no control over.” They understand the balance between freedom, safety and necessity, and when working with them the sensitive such as trauma and family dynamics within queer lives, they try their best.

Some personal favorites of attendee and University of Puget Sound student Kaylee Braun’s were a “No Dads”-themed performance by “kitschy” girls as well as an all-female, all-queer performance art, video and music event, “Erasure” event was a huge and unique success. That night the Nuclear Exchange Studio and VCR gallery was turned into a vibrant space full of interdisciplinary art. There were both two and three dimension visual pieces, performance art, video, music and dance. The variety of mediums felt appropriate, given that the purpose of the event was to create an all-inclusive space for over 30 queer artists to explore the theme of erasure, and express that theme as freely as possible, from the most comfortable physical and emotional spaces. A video of someone beaming with joy after shaving their head shows how much small, symbolic acts of self-expression can feel both the need that simply needed to happen; there was a visceral urgency to it. Artist Yani Robinson’s performance piece of breaking through tramas and feelings about being a survivor even breached some physical limits for the audience. “It involved fire and there were tears,” Green said. “We do not claim to be a safe space,” founding coordinator and fellow University alum Jackie Braun said of Lion’s Main. “We value transparency... we have all these strangers coming together and they all have histories that we have no control over.” They understand the balance between freedom, safety and necessity, and when working with them the sensitive such as trauma and family dynamics within queer lives, they try their best.

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Preparing for RENT and the world of theatrical composing

The theater department brings three musical theater composers to invite students into the contemporary musical theater world, weeks away from the premiere of RENT in the Norton Clapp Theatre.

By Courtney Seyl

This past week brought three musical theater composers to campus: “Off-Broadway Theatre Award (OBIE) winner, composer and performer Dave Malloy, who is on the brink of his Broadway debut with Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812; Jonathan Larson Award-winning composer and performer Maria Michelson, co-writer of the acclaimed musical Tamar of the River; and Tony-nominated lyricist, composer, and performer Amanda Green, the first woman of the River; and Tony-nominated writer of the acclaimed musical Tamar Larson Award-winning composer and performer Maria Michelson, co-writer of the acclaimed musical Tamar of the River; and Tony-nominated lyricist, composer, and performer Amanda Green, the first woman Larson Award-winning composer and performer Maria Michelson, co-writer of the acclaimed musical Tamar of the River; and Tony-nominated lyricist, composer, and performer Amanda Green, the first woman Larson Award-winning composer and performer Maria Michelson, co-writer of the acclaimed musical Tamar of the River; and Tony-nominated lyricist, composer, and performer Amanda Green, the first woman Larson Award-winning composer and performerMaria Michelson, co-writer of the acclaimed musical Tamar of the River; and Tony-nominated lyricist, composer, and performer Amanda Green, the first woman. Preparing for RENT and the world of theatrical composing

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Alumnus’ mural art criticizes immigrant detention

Situated across the Port of Tacoma, the NWDC houses 1500 detained immigrants, which has recently become the subject of protests. David Long’s mural asks the question, “How can a human be illegal?”

By Daniel Wolfert

Unbeknownst to many citizens of Tacoma, as well as many students of Puget Sound, there is a fenced white building just east of the city that houses undocumented immigrants. Situated across the port of Tacoma, this building— the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC)—is owned through contract by both the federal government and the private company Geo Group Inc., “a leading provider of correctional, detention, and community reentry services,” according to their website.

In recent years, it has been the subject of enormous controversy and vehement protest, as activists and grassroots organizations follow the leadership of those detained in the facility who demand better treatment and conditions and an end to all deportations. One such activist is David Long, a Puget Sound alumnus and local mural artist. A recent mural of his lies upon a wall on 11th Street, and it asks the question: How can a human be illegal?

Painted with large words in gray, teal, white and yellow against a chalk-gray background, the mural consists of quotes from Maru Mora Villalpando, a Washington-based journalist and social activist. The mural explains the allegations against the center, which include brutality against detainees and the profit Geo Group Inc. makes from their incarceration. The mural also points to activists within the NWDC and to shed light on the actions that the detainees have been doing from the inside, Long said.

When Spaceworks Artscapes Program first gave Long the space for a mural in June of 2015, he knew that he wanted to create something that wasn’t abstract, and so he reached out to the grassroots organization NWDC Resistance as a potential cause.

“As a movement we reject the paradigm that classifies immigrants as either ‘hardworking’ or ‘criminal,’ ‘worthy’ or ‘unworthy,’” the organization’s website said in describing its aims. “Words like these seek to further divide our communities between people whose lives are considered disposable and people whose lives are judged worthy of protecting. We reject these divisions.”

In painting this new mural on 11th Street, Long sought to provide further voice both for the organization and for the detainees within the center.

“What with this work I’m attempting to strengthen or bolster the work that NWDC Resistance has already been doing and to shed light on the actions that the detainees have been doing from the inside,” Long said.

Reception has been mixed, with many people—including members of Spaceworks in charge of approval of Long’s mural idea—criticizing it as unartistic. Long described the arduous process by which he received permission for his mural in 2015, during which Spaceworks scrutinized his idea for an unusually long period of three months.

“In the fact that it took three months for it to be approved indicates something,” Long said. “I was getting feedback, anonymous feedback, that it wasn’t real art, that it looked like a commercial.”

Long also criticized the lack of coverage of the issue by local media, as well as the lack of coverage of the mural itself. “By not sufficiently covering this story, our local media sources are complicit in muting this issue,” Long said. “There is a violent, tragic and oppressive history unfolding in our backyard and we need to be talking about it. By not talking about it, there is blood on the hands of our local media.”

Backlash against protests of the detention center is not unexpected. The profit that Geo Group Inc. gains from the facility has been one of the major criticisms of the center, but the economic stimulus that the center provides, alongside the investment the federal government has made, makes changing such a facility difficult. Geo Group Inc.’s website provides a description of the facility that defends its economic significance.

“Staff were recruited from the local community and local vendors are used as much as possible,” the website’s profile of the center said. “As a result, the facility contributes significantly to the local economy through salaries and purchase of goods and services.”

“Not all of the feedback on Long’s mural has been critical. Long described how, while working on the mural in the daytime, many pedestrians stopped by and commended him for speaking up on such a sensitive and relevant issue.”

Hundreds of people pass the mural every day,” Long said. “Who knows how many of these people have been informed by the piece or continued to have discussions about this issue with their friends or family as a result of seeing my piece?”

As a current resident of Tacoma and an alumnus of Puget Sound, Long believes that this issue is relevant to the University community in spite of the ignorance many may have about the detention center.

“There’re probably students at Puget Sound who are undocumented or have family [who is undocumented],” Long said. “It’s not something that people feel comfortable talking about, but this issue is everywhere and I wouldn’t be surprised if there are students for whom this is really, really relevant.”