WHY YOU SHOULD TAKE THE CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

By PAUL GOUDARZI-FRY

The Campus Climate Survey was been distributed to Puget Sound students starting earlier this week via e-mail. The aim of this survey is to provide a statistical analysis of the University’s environment and evaluate diversity, inclusion and a general view of the student body. The Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) gives the survey out once every three years. Once the results are presented and analyzed, discussions will be held concerning the different issues of the survey and what can be interpreted from the results.

“It’s a survey that helps us get an understanding of what the culture, the climate, the experiences are of students on campus, having to do with issues of all kinds of diversity,” Director of Institutional Research and Retention Ellen Peters said.

The previous surveys allowed for conversations to happen from the beginning of the academic year, engaging students in issues from the start.

“We used that [data] to get students to think about and talk about the issues in the classroom, outside the classroom, and get them into a conversation about diversity in the curriculum,” Chief Diversity Officer and Dean of Diversity and Inclusion Michael Benitez said.

The surveyed issues bring up questions of gender, race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, disability, political leanings and, most recently, sexual assault.

While the breadth of topics can seem overwhelming, the DAC has attempted to condense the most important questions. The survey is expected to take approximately ten minutes to complete.

SEE CLIMATE PAGE 2
Every year a handful of incoming students are awarded scholarships based on merit and financial aid. The majority are members of the incoming freshman class, awarded by tuition revenue and awarded to incoming students. Some of the incoming students include the Dean Scholarship, the Trustee's, the Nunn Endowed Scholarship, the President’s Scholarship. The University has responded to these incoming students changes depending on the annual budget report. Every year, there was an increase in the merit scholarship awarded to incoming students. “So every single year we look at a lot of things. Every year tuition goes up a little bit. Every year the budget for financial aid goes up a little bit. Every year we provide a little bit more need-based aid for continuing students. Every year we look at our aid structure and may or may not change some values depending on what we need to in order to enroll the class we want to enroll. A diverse class— we are focusing on groups that are very strong class the right number of students to come to Puget Sound. So it is part of the mission of the institution to look at to see what do we need to,” Associate Vice President for Student Financial Services Margaret Mituch said.

However, while the merit scholarships can only be awarded to incoming first years, there are some scholarships funded by endowments or gifts that have a separate application process that current students are encouraged to apply for. Donors provide these scholarships and a committee selects the best-fit candidates. There is a large range of scholarships that can be awarded to current students. Some scholarships are specific to majors while some look at students extra-curricular activities or community involvement. Amy VanZandt, a financial aid counselor at the University, explains that she would love for more students to apply. “A lot of students just don’t know that they are out there. So part of this is just to get the word out there and the awareness that there are scholarships available. My understanding from the S.U.B. tabling was that students were not aware of these opportunities and that there were these opportunities available. So our goal this year is to make it known that these scholarships are out there,” VanZandt said.

Applications for these scholarships are due March 31. A list of these individual scholarships, their descriptions and respective applications can be found on the Puget Sound website. These scholarships are awarded to incoming students and Student Financial Services encourages everyone to apply.

The following incidents occurred on campus and were reported to Security Services on campus and were reported to Security Alert messages. This service is also available to some areas off-campus except for North Quad... which is a purely residential quad.” Young said.

A list of these individual scholarships can be found on the Puget Sound website. They are part of a Wide Area Broadcast System that delivers immediate response to accidents, assaults or other emergencies. “I do know where [the blue lights] are and I appreciate that as an accommodation on campus for students,” junior Haley Snoer, said. “ If you seek to procure a talk-a-phone for North Quad or any part of the school, there is a project that benefits the Puget Sound campus that all ASUPS senators must complete. She hopes that the installation of blue light towers installation will ensure that students feel safe while walking at night on campus.

Chi Chong, a sophomore, is looking for an added blue light tower on campus. “We need to in order to enroll the class we want to enroll. A diverse class— we are focusing on groups that are very strong class the right number of students to come to Puget Sound. So it is part of the mission of the institution to look at to see what do we need to,” Associate Vice President for Student Financial Services Margaret Mituch said.

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CLIMATE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Every single question has an opportunity for an open-ended response,” Peters said. “Some times… you answer the question, but it’s just not quite what you want to say, and you have more you want to say.”

This is the third survey the QAC conducted. The first was its inception in 2006, coinciding with the creation of the position of Chief Diversity. Coinciding with the second survey of 2012, results from both surveys were compared and analyzed. With this survey, the council can see the changes from the previous years and observe how and where those changes occurred. However, like any statistical work, certain factors must be taken into consideration. “I think it’s really important to recognize that as a majority white, heterosexual, traditional college-aged campus, the data is going to reflect the perceptions of that population,” Peters said.

In order to hear the perceptions of marginalized groups, the examiners of the data listed on the survey’s comments for a greater understanding of the climate at Puget Sound. “We have to be able to strike a balance between generally gathering as much as possible while also focusing in on groups that would normally not be thought about,” Benitez said.

“The issue of sexual assault as an archival record for the university, serves as a link between University of Puget Sound and the source of information relevant to its readership. Greater Tacoma community and provides an open forum for student opinion and discourse. Visit trail.pugetsound.edu for the full mission statement.

The most important part about that is you can see one photography [blue light tower] except for North Quad… which is a purely residential quad,” Young said.

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The Puget Sound Diner has experienced various changes in the past year, including the most recent renovation. While it may seem that prices at the Diner have recently gone up, they have actually remained the same since the summer of 2013.

“Even though food prices have increased in stores and restaurants, the prices we charge in the Diner have remained the same for two academic years,” Director of Dining & Conference Services Terry Halvorson said.

While the prices have remained the same at the Diner, there are still students at Puget Sound who struggle to afford food in the S.U.B. or cannot fully afford the meal plans offered on campus.

“I’ve seen several instances of students struggling with food security while on campus,” student Nakisha Renee Jones said.

Nationally, 49 million people in the U.S. are food insecure, while 27 percent of them do not qualify for food stamps. One in 10 people being helped by Feeding America, a network of food aid groups, is a student.

In conversations with 50 students in the campus community, 15 percent of those interviewed have chosen educational expenses over paying for food at some point in the last year. While it may appear that most attending a college are able to afford food, it is not always the case.

“Almost every year I have been at Puget Sound, I have heard stories from students who struggle with food security this year than in previous years,” student Chaplain, Dave Wright, thinks the number of students going hungry at Puget Sound may be on the rise.

While it may seem that prices at the Diner are food prices off-campus, the Diner have recently gone up, they have actually remained the same since the summer of 2013. While it may appear that most attending a college are able to afford food, it is not always the case.

“We…have students who are unable to afford the nutrition and sustenance they need.”

Some individuals on campus feel that there needs to be more programs in place to assist those that are going hungry on campus.

“We have fellow students who are unable to afford the nutrition and sustenance they need,” student Renee said. "There is currently no payment or aid plan available through Dining Services. Financial Services is the best resource at this time for students seeking help with financial Services about student meal plans or managing food prices off-campus,” Wright said. While I can’t think of a specific student who has said that they cannot afford the “new prices” this year, I have had more conversations with students struggling with food security this year than in previous years.

Some students believe that more conversations are still very rough over winter break when they don’t know where your next meal is coming from,” Jones said. There is currently no payment or aid plan available through Dining Services. Financial Services is the best resource at this time for students seeking help with financial Services about student meal plans or managing food prices off-campus, the Diner have recently gone up, they have actually remained the same since the summer of 2013.

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Mara Cummings (Leavenworth, Wash.), Melissa Motyer (Goleta, Calif.) and Allanah Whitehall (Seattle, Wash.) all in the 60-meter dash, clocking in at a time of 26.16 seconds.

The previous record was held by Steven Branham (Gold Bar, Wash.) at 26.16 seconds, with 16 points, nine rebounds and three blocks.

The next day, on Feb. 21, the Loggers won 82-78 against Whitworth in a close, intense game. Senior Amanda Forshay (Portland, Ore.) had thoughts on playing at home. "I don't think it's about reaching a higher peak. I think it's always about building off our previous successes, learning what we can from those games and taking that into the next game," Forshay said. "The best teams reach their potential as they are heading into playoffs, and we are right there with the best teams in our nation. This group of girls is capable of so much, and I am excited to see what playoffs have in store for us.

Having the playoffs at home will help the Loggers as they have sported an 1-1 record while playing here.

"I attribute most of our success to our ability to be open-minded," Forshay said. "You need five players focused on the court doing the same thing to be successful, and I feel like we consistently have that, regardless of who is in the game."
The Logger baseball team pulled through in their final game to return home from Lewis-Clark College with a big win. On the weekend of Feb. 21-22, the Logger men’s baseball team played three games in Portland, Ore. against their rivals, the Pioneers.

Over the three games last weekend, the Loggers ended victorious after winning the first and third games of the series. In the first game of the series the Pioneers were no match for the Loggers, and Puget Sound won 10-3. The game started in favor of the Pioneers with a 2-0 lead, but the Loggers seized an opportunity in the third inning, scoring three runs after Lewis-Clark made a fielding error. Sophomore Colin Maier (Bil-"ings, Mont.), a pitcher for the Logger baseball team, threw an eight-inning streak of strikeouts that shut out the Pioneers from scoring the remainder of the game.

The game finished 10-2 in fa-
vor of Puget Sound. The second game proved to be more of a challenge for the Pioneers. Through most of the game the Loggers managed to stay neck-and-neck with the Pioneers.

In the top of the fifth inning, the Loggers scored two runs by senior Conner Savage (Bothell, Wash.) and junior Nickolas Alan-
cio (Honolulu, Hawaii), which led to a 4-2 victory on the road.

Once the Pioneers caught back into the game, the Loggers were able to pull ahead again by scoring two runs in the sixth inning. Sophomore Casey Muramaru (Honolulu, Hawaii, and Savage) slammed a home run at the end of the game, it was an eight in-
ing run that put the Loggers on the brink of a defeat to the Loggers 5-4.

The third game of the se-
ries, played on Feb. 22, Puget Sound won 2-1, winning the series against Lew-
Is and Clark College with a big win. On the weekend of Feb. 28-March 1, the Loggers faced off against the Linfield Wildcats at home.

What a mound presence! Logger pitcher Steven Wagner huts an-
iother nasty slider as he starts to settle into his senior season.

Frozen ropes Logger senior centerfielder Conner Savage represents a strong bat in the lineup with incredible speed.

By THOMAS OVERTON

The Logger baseball team played three games in Portland, Ore. against their rivals, the Pioneers.

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By NICHOLAS NESTEGN

As the Seattle Seahawks lined up on the one yard line with 26 seconds left in the Super Bowl a suffocating silence overcome my living room. I was silently praying in my blue and green as everyone’s eyes were fixed on the TV, waiting to see what drama would unfold. When Russell Wilson’s first half pass fell into the hands of Pa-
triots cornerback Malcolm But-
er it felt as if a gunshot went off. The people in the room rooting against the Seahawks exploded with cheers as running around like chil-
dren on a playground, hailing the TV and jumping around in elation. I fell back into my chair slumped over in defeat seeing in the mirror the game against the Seattle Seahawks fans with disbelief after experiencing the ultimate heartbreaking loss.

Two weeks earlier I watched Russell Wilson’s pass of destiny spiraled perfectly into wide recei-
vers quarterback Russell Wilson was barking at all of the chaos transpiring as Skittles were being 
out cocktail party with the room and tears were welling in eyes… All of this over a team of 55 players we never had any personal connec-
tion to other than seeing them on TV.

Fandom is a curious phenom-
enon. We invest countless hours watching games and reading and listening to analysis about our fa-
vorite teams. We feel a connection to certain players because of how good they are on (or off) the field, and yet we will never actually know

three players personally. We might feel the commit-
tment to wear shirts representing a team’s colors on a game day or follow superstitions routines to “help” our teams win. Even though there are millions of oth-
er individual fans just like us, we

right to gloat based on the suc-
cess of a bunch of collegiate ath-
letes. Over the past few years I had come to realize fandom was nothing more than living a dream through other people who achieved the success that you never accomplished.

Being a huge Seattle sports fan, this considering perspective had led me to ful-
ly appreciate the successes of some of our favorite teams over the past couple of years. It wasn’t until a late-night con-
versation with a friend a few months ago where my perspec-
tive on fandom changed. Being a fan, my friend said, was the same thing in his life that he would let himself be illogical about. And hit me. In my busy lives where we are constrained by rubrics, deadlines and rules we turn to enter-
tainment for escape. In our busy lives where we are constrained by rubrics and rules we turn to enter-
tainment for escape.

NORMALIZE YOUR STUDY ROUTINE

By ZAL ROBLES

One of the more interesting things educators and students can do to have thousands of people re-

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Navigating the World of Study Abroad
Applying to go abroad can be confusing—but often for a good reason

by clara brown and maddy kunz

one of the appeals for many students at this university and other small liberal arts schools is the opportunity to study abroad at some point during their time here. the topic is widely discussed throughout campus as students leave, return and are excited by the prospects of doing so for some portion of their junior or senior year.

in the midst of discussion, puget sound’s study abroad program seems to generate a lot of frustration among students on campus. and we have heard the comments and even said some ourselves: there’s not enough up-front information about costs and the impact on degree plans. too many students discover that they can’t go abroad due to either unanticipated financial requirements or because they suddenly realize that their credits will not transfer.

Once we looked into what our campus has to offer, however, the program started to make sense. In trying to poke holes in the system, we instead discovered that there are good reasons that the system functions the way it does.

Not All Majors Can Study Abroad

We sat down and talked with Roy Robinson, director of international programs, to voice some of the questions and concerns we had. at the end of the day, we came away around campus (as well as some of our own questions). We asked roy about why some majors can’t go abroad while others cannot, and what he thought about that.

Roy told us that the biggest reason that some majors—mainly the sciences—are restricted and difficult.

The result of the original restructuring, the university no longer has as great a financial burden from study abroad, and has funds to use in support of extended field study courses such as the internships course last spring, the cuba course last fall, and the borneo course currently happening.

In some ways, these courses are more beneficial—students are able to learn with a small group of their peers plus a faculty member for an entire semester, and apply a very focused knowledge base to the fieldwork at the end of the course. After the course official ends, students are able to stay after and travel within the region, conduct research, or participate in service work.

When to Study Abroad

Lastly, we wanted to address the time frame a student can study abroad. When looking into going abroad earlier this year, we both heard that it was uncommon for seniors to go abroad. financial advisors assume that most students are juniors and at most only five seniors per term go abroad.

“I just heard it was a bad idea,” Sophomore Marcella Heineke said. She considered going abroad senior year, but has since decided against it.

Many other students we asked were in agreement, believing that it was a bad idea to go abroad senior year. When we pressed them about what made it a bad idea, most could not come up with an answer. A few, however, said that they thought they needed their eight credits to be on campus, or that the programs were oriented more towards juniors and therefore the credits earned might not fill the gaps that they expected to close their senior year.

We asked roy if there was any other advice, and he agreed that the biggest reason that only about four seniors go abroad per year. He said that it is possible that students would want or need to work on their senior thesis or take an upper division class that is only offered once a year, making them unable to be abroad during that year. But in most cases it likely is something else.

“I think that students tend to romanticize their senior year. They want to be here on campus to experience those ‘last times’ with friends. But our campus is actually different than most in that it allows students to go abroad their last semester if they want,” Roy said.

Most schools require a student’s last eight credits to be completed on-campus, but puget sound is unique in that a student is able to do their last semester abroad. We will even let students walk during their graduation ceremony, but push back their official date of graduation to allow them to go abroad the summer after their senior year.

Students have validity in voicing their complaints about study abroad. It is true that puget sound’s study abroad program may be difficult for some students to schedule into their degree plan, and it can be that hard to sort through all of the information or misinformation on campus. The information about the program is constantly changing, but that is because those running the program are trying to change the program for the better. Study abroad offers opportunities for new experiences and a new way to learn. Ideally, students would receive more financial aid to study abroad, but like any other scenario, it’s difficult to please everybody and our current structure is our best attempt at a happy medium.
ISLAM: DON’T JUDGE A RELIGION BY ITS EXTREMISTS

By ANGELICA SPACERWOMAN

Recently, the events involving the Chapel Hill shooting, Charlie Hebdo, Boko Haram and ISIS have created a nationwide and even a worldwide discussion about Islam as a religion and the overwhelming use of violence in the name of or against Islam.

Islamic Extremists Groups committed 6 percent of terrorist attacks on U.S. soil from 1980-2005 according to a study conducted by the University of Puget Sound. It is common knowledge that Islamist groups don’t dominate in the U.S. People of all religions and all backgrounds use violence and Islam takes the heaviest for being because the media spins it to be that way.

Why is it that we only hear about terrorism attacks involving Muslims? Why do we hesitate to call what happened in Chapel Hill a hate crime but say Charlie Hebdo a terrorist attack? There are more acts of terrorism committed by other religions than Islam, so why not give them the same form of attention? Professor Matthew Ingalls in the Islamic Studies Department at the University of Puget Sound has a lot to say on this issue.

“The media has these narratives that they are trying to fit new events to, so we never get the complete picture,” Ingalls said. “Islam is a tradition that is constantly being re-negotiated throughout history. Each generation has to establish its own relationship to the religion. There is not a singularized authority in Islamic thought. The media is responsible for telling us about the world and they are giving us a very skewed picture that prioritizes stories of violence over stories of peace.”

These are media reports that are an act of terror committed in the name of Islam, then that is how Americans will frame their thoughts and dialogue. We feel the need to ask Muslims to defend their religion and to justify their faith when it isn’t recently violent. However, there is obviously a huge problem with this. No one should have to defend to be who they are and what they believe. It is very sad that the conversation these days revolves around Islam and violence.

“I read about Boko Haram and I think of all these things that they are misunderstanding the tradition,” Ingalls said.

The media adds a filter to our world. Nothing we hear is a lie necessarily, we just have to remember that each event is being framed in a way that is very specific and is not always the most relevant. Ingalls believes we need to take the complexity of each event we hear about into account.

Junior Imera Hallafow had a lot to say on the subject of Islam and the media: “We prioritize certain people and certain people’s narratives over others.” Hallafow said. “We just need to change the conversation. I don’t want to talk about why ISIS and Boko Haram are the outliers, I don’t care. They are doing their thing. That is not Islam. If we blame Islam for women being oppressed, for terrorism, for everything then we don’t have to critically look at our society and ourselves. Because maybe Islam can’t misogynistic maybe all religions have a little misogyny in them because all religions have men in them…”

People need to remember that it is not Islam that incites, but violence. The problem is people targeting all of their anger and rage at Islam.

“For me, Islam is beautiful religion. Islam is truly a religion of mercy,” Hallafow said. “And all the others are beautiful religions as is every religion.”

OREGON MAKES GENDER PAY GAP ILLEGAL

By JORDYN ATKINSON

The pay gap may not be as wide as it was 50 years ago, but it still is a major conversation point today. This famous issue has been exposed, debated and is seen as an outright myth by some. However, some states, such as Oregon, are addressing this complex problem directly. Ben Craddick is a Hood River State Senator, just wrote a bill in order to decrease the gender earnings gap. Approved, House Bills 2005 and 2007 would make paying different wages to employees illegal, unless the employer has a good reason for doing so.

The Oregon State Legislator believes the bill will directly improve the lives of the 8.2 million Oregonians in need. This was the goal of the National Organization for Women and others that are committed to fighting the on- and off-wage feminism movement, and it should be the goal today. The 1971 Equal Pay Act (EPA) was proposed in order to provide childcare for working mothers, priced accordingly for income. The bill was passed by the Senate (63 to 17 votes); however, President Nixon vetoed the bill shortly after. The Equal Pay Act is a contemporary bill that seeks to address this problem today in order to increase the amount of mothers able to work full time, and thereby increase the gender pay gap.

In my state, we do not have paid ma- tedly and patently false, we lack ac- cessible and affordable child care. We need policies such as those to address the child care crisis.

In fact, the day care system that America currently boasts is actually in direct violation of Title IX and quality. The expense of childcare is often- overworking for families, and es- sentially the state must find a way to provide for the child care for those families. In New York, full-time care for an infant would cost approximately $10,000 per year. The Oregon state median income for single mothers, ac- cording to research conducted by the Child Care Aware of Oregon. In terms of quality, childcare centers scored incredibly low in the National In- stitute of Child Health Development’s study; a majority of centers were rat- ed as either “fair” or “poor” and 10 percent were scored as providing “high quality child care.” A reworking of Americas daycare systems would di- rectly improve the lives of the 8.2 million children who spend a part of their week in organized child care, as well as the mothers who are struggling to maintain their jobs.

Proposing bills and other behavior- al actions will be a great idea. It is a good way to start decreasing the gap between women and men’s wages in the state of Oregon. Craddick was not enough in order. For a true dif- ference, much larger action must be expected. There is a larger, more complex problem, instead of simply scratching the surface.
The Vagina Monologues was a perform- ance presented by WIXEN and direct- ed by Robert Hetwig and Grace Cook and featured different women within the stu- dent body performing a mono- logue about female sexuality. The atmosphere of openness and candidness in the room was liberating and almost cathartic. Hearing women talk so candi- dly about their sexuality cre- ated an instant bond between all the women in the room, while also giving the men a direct in- sight into female struggles and issues. Molly Brown played an old woman whose sexual life was tested by one mortifying experience she had when she was younger. Due to this one experience, she chose to completely ign- oire her own sexual needs for the rest of her life. So this story is somewhat representa- tive of what society tells women they should do: that they should be the pleasure givers and not the receivers.

“It wasn’t like they were recit- ing something, it was like the students were speaking this for their own story,” student Arlee Hall said. “I had read the book before, but hearing people say it really brought it to life and made it have way more meaning.”

The actors did an exceptional job of embodying their charac- ters that took their roles daring- ly, laying on the floor to demon- strate their stories, putting on different accents, standing on tables with their arms raised, and at one point even chanting an explicit word at full volume.

By the end of the show, it is safe to say that the performers were able to turn certain previ- ously off-limit topics into a casu- al and comfortable discussion.

“During the first skit I was blushing and wouldn’t look up. But then at the end I was like ‘Yeah! We’re talking about something that exists and isn’t taboo or anything… it being the vagina,’” Hall said.

The vagina was not the only taboo discussed in The Vagina Monologues. In one of the seg- ments, the “They Bitch Get Out of my Boy…. Or so They Tried,” the actors portrayed a trans- gender woman. She discussed the trouble she went through before she came out as a woman in order to try to suppress her feminine urges, like joining the military. Eventually, after finding a trans- gender community to support her, she decided to transition. Society was not as supportive though, and a group of hateful men banded together and murdered her boyfriend. This crime was caused by one factor: fear of dif- ference.

The Vagina Monologues helps people to under- stand differences, such as why people are born trans- gender.

“I appreciated that there were so many women with different experiences. But at the end of the day they all identified as female,” Erin Cummiskey, who por- trayed a transgender woman in the show, said.

Perhaps it was that common denominator of identifying as a woman and experiencing all of the suffering and benefits that come with it that created such a sense of community within the audience.

It is events like these that peo- ple who are not feminists should be encouraged to attend so that their mind might be changed. Not only did The Vagina Mono-

VAGINA MONOLOGUES
Performance of feminism, sexuality and community

Want to continue the conversation? WIXEN holds meetings Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in the SDC.

FEMINISM

By CLAIRE MEYER

The Vagina Mono- logues is a perform- ance presented by WIXEN and direct- ed by Robert Hetwig and Grace Cook and featured different women within the stu- dent body performing a mono- logue about female sexuality. The atmosphere of openness and candidness in the room was liberating and almost cathartic. Hearing women talk so candi- dly about their sexuality cre- ated an instant bond between all the women in the room, while also giving the men a direct in- sight into female struggles and issues. Molly Brown played an old woman whose sexual life was tested by one mortifying experience she had when she was younger. Due to this one experience, she chose to completely ign- oire her own sexual needs for the rest of her life. So this story is somewhat representa- tive of what society tells women they should do: that they should be the pleasure givers and not the receivers.

“It wasn’t like they were recit- ing something, it was like the students were speaking this for their own story,” student Arlee Hall said. “I had read the book before, but hearing people say it really brought it to life and made it have way more meaning.”

The actors did an exceptional job of embodying their charac- ters that took their roles daring- ly, laying on the floor to demon- strate their stories, putting on different accents, standing on tables with their arms raised, and at one point even chanting an explicit word at full volume.

By the end of the show, it is safe to say that the performers were able to turn certain previ- ously off-limit topics into a casu- al and comfortable discussion.

“During the first skit I was blushing and wouldn’t look up. But then at the end I was like ‘Yeah! We’re talking about something that exists and isn’t taboo or anything… it being the vagina,’” Hall said.

The vagina was not the only taboo discussed in The Vagina Monologues. In one of the seg- ments, the “They Bitch Get Out of my Boy…. Or so They Tried,” the actors portrayed a trans- gender woman. She discussed the trouble she went through before she came out as a woman in order to try to suppress her feminine urges, like joining the military. Eventually, after finding a trans- gender community to support her, she decided to transition. Society was not as supportive though, and a group of hateful men banded together and murdered her boyfriend. This crime was caused by one factor: fear of dif- ference.

The Vagina Monologues helps people to under- stand differences, such as why people are born trans- gender.

“I appreciated that there were so many women with different experiences. But at the end of the day they all identified as female,” Erin Cummiskey, who por- trayed a transgender woman in the show, said.

Perhaps it was that common denominator of identifying as a woman and experiencing all of the suffering and benefits that come with it that created such a sense of community within the audience.

It is events like these that peo- ple who are not feminists should be encouraged to attend so that their mind might be changed. Not only did The Vagina Mono-
DESTINATION TACOMA: THEMED RESTAURANTS

This column seeks to provide key spots on the map for those with adventurous spirits to get out of the school bubble and explore this amazing town we call home. Please direct all comments, complaints and suggestions/requests to trailfeatures@pugetsound.edu.

By CASEY DEY

The Rock Wood-Fired Kitchen

Rock music fans will love this pizzeria. The Rock is here at a backseat at a concert, with posters, lights and graffitied brick walls. The tables look like instrument cases, the backs of the walls are covered with famous rock song titles and the food and drinks are named after famous songs. There are also TV screens everywhere playing the music video to all your favorite classic rock songs.

The Rock uses fresh dough daily and hands toss their crusts in an open kitchen, which allows people to see how their food is made. Most of their food is made in-house, but they also have a variety of gluten-free options. Prices range from $10 to $20. Their slogan is “Hell yeah, that’s good pizza!” Food includes classic to gourmet pizzas, burgers and even steaks.

My personal favorite is the Founder’s Pie, topped with their great red sauce, sweet sausage, pepperoni mozzarella and ricotta cheese. They also have a great selection of microbrews and buckets for those old enough. On the sweeter side, they offer cookie dough skillet—top it-notch—a large cookie baked in the oven in a skillet obsessed with vanilla ice cream. Save room for dessert!

There are more than 22 locations in venues in Oregon, Alaska and even Texas, and they recently heralded their 20th anniversary in September. So they’re well on their way to become a household name. Find The Rock’s original location at 1920 Jefferson Ave., up the hill from Museum District, open every day from 11:30 a.m. to midnight.

Southern Kitchen

You don’t have to be from the South to appreciate a good home-cooked meal, but Southern Kitchen offers award-win-

The Rock Wood-Fired Kitchen

ing, finger-licking goodness that will make you wish you were back home. You definitely feel as though you’ve gone Southern and back a few decades when you enter here, with old-fashioned tablecloths and pictures hanging on the wall. The Food Network’s “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives” visited in 2009, and there are at least three or four pictures of Guy Fieri and the owner hanging on the wall, as well as articles from Tacoma Weekly and Trip Advisor. The sign on the door says, “We make everything from scratch. Prepare to experience southern cooking at its down home best.” This is the place to go.

6th Ave., near Bluebeard Coffee and Memo’s. They’re open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Olive Branch Café

If you’re looking for a bit more elegance, try the Olive Branch Café. This beautiful tea room is designed as a Victorian parlor and is draped in a sense of elegance and familial hospitality. There’s a selection of over 20 teas in the cabinet from Pike Place Market, and you get to sniff all the jugs before you pick the one you like. You can also try a traditional British-style afternoon tea with scones and sandwiches on a tiered tray, or even go as far as a high tea with sandwiches, savories and a dessert or two. Prices are very filling. Prices are $30 a person.

The Olive Branch Café: Go here for an assortment of teas and delicious sandwiches.

The Olive Branch Café

What do employers look for in potential employees?

This was the question posed by students to four Puget Sound alumni who now work as recruiters. On Feb. 18, Matthew Kennedy, Erin Carlson, Siga Herbst and Sean Rice returned to campus to share their insights on the practices of recruitment.

The work starts before you even apply for a position. Herbst, Kennedy and Carlson all stressed the importance of maintaining a professional social media presence and an up-to-date LinkedIn profile. While lacking a LinkedIn account may not ruin an applicant’s chances of getting an interview, having a well-rounded profile may secure them one if an employer was previously on the fence. When it comes to experiences and activities on one’s resume, organizations want individuals who did more than just show up. Rice recommended aiming for quality over quantity.

“Find leadership opportunities...and find a way to really make an impact.” —Sean Rice

The owner and waitstaff are all extremely friendly and treat you like family. It’s no wonder they have such a large clientele! They proudly display photos of their new friends on their Facebook page. The café is moving however. They’ll open mid-March in Freighthouse Square near the Tacoma Dome. The new spot will increase their size from 2000 square feet to 4000, and a wine bar will be added. You’ll find them at 2501 East St., Suite 97, dates to be announced.

The Olive Branch Café

The waitstaff are all extremely friendly and treat you like family. It’s no wonder they have such a large clientele! They proudly display photos of their new friends on their Facebook page. The café is moving however. They’ll open mid-March in Freighthouse Square near the Tacoma Dome. The new spot will increase their size from 2000 square feet to 4000, and a wine bar will be added. You’ll find them at 2501 East St., Suite 97, dates to be announced.

Southern Kitchen: Come enjoy some close to home cooked food not too far from campus. Featured on “Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dines” you can be assured this food will provide you with a satisfying break from the SUB. PHOTOS COURTESY/ CASEY DEY

The Rock Wood-Fired Kitchen

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Southern Kitchen: Enjoy some close to home cooked food not too far from campus. Featured on “Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dines” you can be assured this food will provide you with a satisfying break from the SUB. PHOTOS COURTESY/ CASEY DEY

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The Rock Wood-Fired Kitchen
February, the month of love and passion, is finally coming to a close. What better way to cel-
brates this than to list 10 of the most sexi-
er words: make out with [their] arms.
(Men’s Health)

Or you could go to a Mexican re-

cruis. Groups of animals adopt

GEOGRAPHY

THE BODY LANGUAGE OF HUMAN COURTSHIP

Perhaps you saw her from across the room at a costume party, dressed like a taco. Perhaps you saw him lovingly rearranging his broccoli into a Mayan temple on his dinner plate. Perhaps they were dancing, or writing, or running or dressed like some other type of Mexican food. Whatever the case may have been, you saw them and immediately felt the thrill of your biology pro-

By PAT N. DIAZ

THE BODY LANGUAGE OF HUMAN COURTSHIP

By GREGORY

COPY EDITING AND FACT CHECKING/JORDYN ATKINSON

PAGE DESIGN/SARA HARVEY

PAGE DESIGN/BRIANNA BOLTON

POPULAR MAGAZINES’ WORST SEX TIPS

By GREGORY

February 27, 2015

happytrail@pugetsound.edu
JOBS & INTERNSHIPS  SELECTED BY CES

AMERICORPS NCCC
(National Civilian Community Corps)*
Team Leaders & Corps Members (Search "NCCC" in LI) clean up trails/shorelines, fight wildfires, help communities recover from disaster, and more.

INTERSTATE DISTRIBUTOR*

MAXIM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH*
ABA Therapist/Behavioral Technician (LI# 24694): Flexible part-time work helping children on the autism spectrum.

NORDSTROM:
Various internships (Search IL for “Nordstrom”): Creative, Visual Stylist, Design & Product Development, e-Commerce, and more!

INTERSTATE DISTRIBUTOR*

AMERICORPS NCCC
(National Civilian Community Corps)*
Team Leaders & Corps Members (Search "NCCC" in LI) clean up trails/shorelines, fight wildfires, help communities recover from disaster, and more.

TABLEAU SOFTWARE*
Marketing Public Relations Interns (LI# 43975) monitor, update, and track media coverage; write press releases, blog posts, and other PR documents.

SHERWIN WILLIAMS*
Management/Sales Trainees (LI#24695) develop skills needed to build a successful career in management and/or outside professional sales.

*These organizations will be at the Career Fair on March 5! See the full list at pugetsound.edu/ces.

Need last-minute advice before the Fair? CES offers special extended drop-in hours Tuesday and Wednesday! Drop by Howarth 101 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. for a brief 5 to 10-minute advising session.

Career Fair advice from a recent grad: “CES made good recommendations based on what I was looking for. If you don’t immediately see employers that interest you, talk to CES before assuming that there’s nothing for you.”

How well do you know The Trail this week? Find out below!

SUDOKU

LEVEL: MEDIUM
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The Trail reserves the right to refuse to publish any ads with discriminatory, explicit or offensive content. Up to 60 words printed free unless you are asking for more than $500, in which case we as for 5 percent.
STUDENT JOURNALIST QUITS SCHOOL PAPER FOR HARD-HITTING REPORTING AT BUZZFEED

By HUTC H, THE GREAT

Following news that there was no longer a viable market for true, hard-hitting reporting from viewers, student Gavin Upnophone has decided to pursue a career at Buzzfeed. It was something that weighed heavily on Upnophone’s mind as they realized they were going to the “dark side” and essentially selling out.

“I just don’t think anyone is really interested in hearing what I have to say,” they said.

Disheartened, the student realized that the only way to eventually make a living in the world was to compromise their morals and aspirations for what they could hope for the world. Rather than reporting on issues of social importance, Upnophone would now instead look to go for cheap laughs whenever possible.

“My future will now consist of making an excessive amount of lists that are click-bait for whoever happens to be bored enough on the Internet to go to Buzzfeed of all places. I’m finding out that this makes up most of the Internet and that I’ll probably end up having to make a video about edible sex toys. Wait, they already did that? I was totally joking,” they said.

The future of modern journalism has drastically changed as a result of newspapers dying out left and right, forcing news providers to make their content more accessible to their audience without offending anyone by the truth that exists in the world.

Natural- ly, Buzzfeed is bravely biasing a new trail into this bright future. We actually pulled some sample headlines to see how well this new journey is going to be.

Here are some of our favorites:

*10 Things That The Homeless Man On My Street Said To Me Today*

*A Hot Guy Named Oscar Commenting On The Results Of The Oscars This Poll To See How Much You Really Like Knock-Off Nutella, Almond But-

*16 Best GIFs Of Cats Laying Down While Waiting For Food*

*8 Activities That Are Easier To Do Than Actually Working Out*

*Take Our Quiz: Which Future Ill-Informed Citizen Will You Be?*

*What Thomas the Tank Engine Character Are You Most Attracted To?*

*That Is Pretty Amazing Stuff. Just Reading It Makes Me Feel Bad When Everyone Else Does It Better. What’s Your Excuse?* (Jack Shepherd)

*Hope? I’ve lost sense of what that even means anymore. My future is over, my parents don’t even know yet, and I’m scared to tell them. I’m thinking of making my first article my way of telling them, “20 Reasons Your Son Is Now A Failure.”*

E D I T: Wednesday morning, Dicaprio checked himself into the rehab center Passages Malibu. He is currently undergoing the WebMD recommended treatment for an existential crisis (two Adults and light exercise). This begs the question: Are awards now worthless?

Some University of Puget Sound students think so.

“I thought the Academy was made up of a bunch of hip young celebrities who, like, chatted with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. But it’s just old white guys. They have never even been to Uth Cafè, let alone insta- grammed a gluten-free pastry,” senior Paul Haggis said.

The trend of dismissing the Academy Awards began when Woody Allen refused to attend the 1977 Oscars, even though his film Annie Hall won four awards, including Best Picture. Like Allen, some students expect the reign of the Academy Awards to end ages ago.

“Avatar won Best Picture in 2010,” sophomore Kathryn Bellew said. “How much is a movie worth?!” Senior Sam Miller asked.

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ACADEMY AWARDS SHOW DOESN’T GO AS PLANNED

By A U D R Y K A U F M A N

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science (AMPAS) is considering canceling the annual Academy Awards show due to lack of ratings and artistic relevance.

Ratings of the 87th Academy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 22 were disturbingly low, with less than 1 percent of American households watching the awards show live.

The show’s advertised host, actor Neil Patrick Harris (“How I Met Your Mother,” The Smurfs 2) pulled out at the last minute because he “had a thing.” ABC quickly replaced him with Anne Hathaway and James Franco, who “killed it” at the 53rd Academy Awards in 2011.

Viewers didn’t watch the show; they preferred to read recaps from critics. Critics didn’t watch the show; they preferred to read tweets from viewers and loosely structure a recap that way. America is in mourning of its favorite arbiters of cinematic taste and merit. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio (“Titanic,” “Roseanne”) was found by his assistant Monday morning, weeping in the bathtub of his Malibu house after finding out that the Academy Awards might cease to exist.

“On the one hand, I’m happy. Because now it’s not a big deal that I haven’t won one. It makes me feel bad when every time I don’t win an Oscar people point it out. It’s like, ‘Yeah I know. But it’s also, like, there was this thing that I was striving for and now it’s just worthless,”” DiCaprio said.

EDIT: Wednesday morning, DiCaprio checked himself into the rehab center Passages Malibu. He is currently undergoing the WebMD recommended treatment for an existential crisis (two adults and light exercise).

This begs the question: Are awards now worthless? Some University of Puget Sound students think so.

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EMAIL AS A JPEG TO TRAILCZ@PUGETSOUND.EDU

The Trail reserves the right to refuse to publish any comic, editorial cartoon, or other depiction with discriminatory, explicit or offensive content.
STUDENT VIGILANTE JOINS CAMPUS SECURITY, GIVES RIDES TO LAZY STUDENTS IN PERIL

By MICHELLE LOSERBY

Taxi driver: The short-lived student-run taxi service really made a splash on campus for the short time it was in operation. Too bad the visionary was cut down before his time was up. A true legend.

The campus security office reported an employee had driven a golf cart across campus that afternoon to SAE in order to evaluate an electrical issue the fraternity had reported. Student Mitchell Leatherman was standing at the corner of 14th and Union Avenue when the security official arrived.

"There I was, hungry, freezing cold and just looking for someone to help me out," Leatherman said.

Leatherman recounted an afternoon in January where he asked for something he wouldn’t be given.

"So I asked the guy if I could get a ride to the S.U.B.," Leatherman said, "and he just laughed at me. Imagine being in my position. All I’d had to eat that day was a Clif bar. That was at like, what, 8 a.m.? And then this guy has something that can help me, but he doesn’t use it."

According to their website, campus security’s mission is to "ensure a safe and secure campus environment by maintaining a professional presence on campus and providing the highest quality of service to its constituents."

Leatherman presumed that the "highest quality of service" entailed transportation for students in what he deemed "luxurious situations."

Leatherman was so convinced of this interpretation of campus security’s mission statement that he applied for a job.

"Duty official Mark Burnson said, "he was able to work four-hour shifts during the day when most of our student employees have class conflicts. We hired him to work four days a week, Monday through Thursday.""

"Of course I didn’t tell them why I wanted the job," Leatherman said, "but I felt strongly that I was doing the right thing. I’d hoped, over time, they’d see that what I was doing was for the benefit of the campus community as a whole and golf cart chauffeuring would become a standard."

Leatherman started on a Tuesday, completing a list of tasks such as performing campus building checks. Leatherman used a golf cart to drive from building to building.

"I only escorted one student that day," Leatherman said. "My friend Andrew Keaton is an art major and I saw him by the fieldhouse, and I thought to myself ‘there is no way it is safe for him to be walking all the way from the fieldhouse to Kittredge’ so I told him to get on in and he did. It was a matter of safety."

Soon, multiple students had gotten word of Leatherman’s security golf cart taxi service.

"I’d get a text from one friend and I’d have to be like ‘Sorry, I have to pick Jace Menzell up from the library and take her to baseball practice first.’ I was starting to get overwhelmed, Leatherman’s golf cart shuttle service antics were not discovered, however, despite his inability to complete his required duties while on the clock.

"This kid comes up to me and starts whispering to me like someone’s gonna overhear him,” campus security employee Mack Evans said, "and he slips me a dollar and says, ‘Look, kid, I’m not your cabbie,’ and he shook his head and said, ‘I know you drive people, Leatherman.’ And then he offered to buy me a drink in Oppenheimer if I’d just take him.”

Evans told this story to Mark Burnson later that day, who promptly called Leatherman into the office and fired him.

"I understand why I was fired,” Leatherman said, “but I don’t regret anything I did. I’m a man of strong convictions and I believe that weary students should occasionally have the luxury of a nice golf cart ride across campus. This is America. Life, liberty and the pursuit of golf cart transportation.”
**WHAT THE HECK IS GLUTEN?!**

By BRIANNA BOLTON

What is gluten? What is this “newly discovered” substance to which some people are unfortunately intolerant, and why are some health professionals and fitness nuts saying it’s not good for anyone?

I have no doubt that if some individuals on campus were to be asked to explain what exactly gluten is, their response would be something akin to one of Mia Thermopolis’s many unbecoming facial expressions from *The Princess Diaries*.

Here are some facts about gluten so you can avoid making one of those faces the next time you’re in the S.U.B., or simply questioning whether you need to start a gluten-free diet.

Gluten is protein that can be broken down into two sub-proteins—glutenin and gliadin. It is these two chains that give bread its doughy texture and creates the pockets you see in baked pastries.

Gluten naturally occurs in four main types of foods: wheat, barley, oats and rye.

So what should be gluten-free? “Unless you have celiac disease or a true gluten sensitivity there’s no clear medical reason to eliminate it,” Allaggio Fasano M.D., the director of the Center for Celiac Research at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston said to Consumer Reports in an interview discussing gluten-free food. Only three types of people truly benefit from a gluten-free diet—those with celiac disease, wheat allergies or gluten intolerance, all of which need to be diagnosed by a doctor. For those who don’t fall into any of these three categories, a gluten-free diet will most likely do more harm than good.

So before you jump on the gluten-free bus and start substituting Tastilacs for Glutino crackers, first consider other healthier ways to go gluten-free.

You can replace gluten-containing grains with quinoa, corn, amaranth, millet, teff and rice on occasion.

In addition, when you buy any processed food—whether it claims to be gluten-free or not—read the label and check the amount of sugar, fat and sodium. So pick up a gluten-free muffin if you think they taste better, or you prefer their hardy texture. But hopefully now that you have a better idea of what gluten is, you can determine whether it is the best permanent diet choice for you.

**How Foods Stack Up**

Gluten-free doesn’t necessarily mean healthier

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**Consumer Reports**

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**SPRING INTO CAMPUS STYLE**

This past week, the sun was shining and spirits were high! To celebrate this change in weather, I tracked down Loggers who like to keep it fresh with their style. These students gave me a tidbit on their own personal style and how they represent it through their clothing choices. Keep an eye out for more campus style segments!

Photos and Text by KASEY JANousek

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I’m definitely not from L.A.

Aaron Pomerantz

Jane Birkin and stripes.

Sloan Strader

Sleek lines and bold statement pieces.

Louisa Raitt

Soft fabric and lots of pockets.

Blake Hessel
NEED A STUDY BREAK? CHECK OUT SAN JUAN

The San Juan Islands, nestled between Washington and Canada, is the perfect spot for a fun and quick getaway.

By ALEXANDRIA VAN VORIS

Are you a Logger looking for a fun getaway only a few hours from campus? Trying to burst the Puget Sound Bubble? Looking for an adventure? Then consider taking a trip to the San Juan Islands.

In the northwest corner of the United States, nestled between Washington and Canada, sits the San Juan Islands. These islands are a fun and quick getaway and just a few hours away! Accessible by a gorgeous ferry ride, Friday Harbor is one of the main attractions in the San Juan Islands. This fun town has shopping, restaurants, a movie theater and many outdoor activity options like kayaking and whale watching.

The San Juan Islands, nestled between Washington and Canada, is the perfect spot for a fun and quick getaway.

Mopeds are available for rental—exploring the island this way is an absolute must. While you are exploring, there are some stops on the island that you need to check out.

The first stop is the Krystal Alpaca Farm. This is perhaps one of my favorite places on the island. If you need your fix of furry, fuzzy adorableness you must make time to stop here. Roughly 70 alpacas live on this gorgeous 80-acre farm. You can admire their cuteness and watch them graze in the sunshine, all while trying to figure out why Puget Sound hasn’t adopted alpacas to “mow” the acres of green grass would be pretty awesome! If you are still trying to de-stress from a long week of classes and homework, the Pelindaba Lavender Farm might be just what you need!

Stop by, stroll the grounds, grab a lavender-infused snack, and check out the shops in search of the calming agent of your choice, within a large selection of items such as soaps and household cleaners.

After you’ve had the event from your time on the Lavender Farm, it’s time for lunch. Stop at a cute cafe for some fish ‘n’ chips in Roche Harbor on the northwest side of the island. Walk around, check out all the boats, perhaps explore that new yacht you are looking into, perhaps just dream about said new yacht... Roche Harbor also offers more opportunities to go kayaking, sailing and camping. If you haven’t gotten out on the water, you created!

One last stop that one needs to make is the San Juan Island Lavendar Farm, it’s time for lunch. A grassy field surrounded by lavender and a café serving wonderful lavender focaccia and housemade lavender macaroons, refueled and rejuvenated from the alpacas, orcas and camels and awesome gastronomy you created!

Mona will often stroll over to the ferry and return to the Anacortes, refueled and rejuvenated from the alpacas, orcas and camels and awesome gastronomy you created!

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MOLECULAR GASTRONOMY

By JAMES KANER

It is difficult to imagine a period of time that affects our lives more than the years that we spend in college. For many of us, it is the first time we leave the nest and experience the real world on our own (albeit a somewhat watered-down version of the real world) and the access to great grass—many of us are old enough to drink alcohol.

On Thursday, Feb. 19, both of these aspects of college life came together into one event; the Tacoma Art Museum opened its doors and welcomed members of the community and students alike to attend a lecture titled “Food—Molecular Gastronomy.” Thanks to the Science and Art of Food and Drink.

The event was centered on the growing field of molecular gastronomy. Heading up the event were two guest speakers: one from the greater Tacoma community and the other from our very own science department.

The first of the speakers was owner and operator of Hilltop Kitchen and Marrow Chris Keil, who demonstrated for the audience how each item on his cocktail menu was a real-life example of molecular gastronomy in action.

“We approach drinks like cooks approach food, and we take every opportunity to deconstruct the work of the chefs in the kitchen,” Keil said after being introduced to his audience. He explained how each item on his cocktail menu was a real-life example of molecular gastronomy in action.

In his lecture, Keil demonstrated how each item on his cocktail menu was a real-life example of molecular gastronomy in action. He talked about the science behind each item, how each item was made, and how it was presented.

Keil noted that this quickly growing field affects our lives daily. This became especially apparent as the audience welcomed the next speaker: Associate Professor of Chemistry Jeff Grinstead of the University of Puget Sound.

Grinstead wasted no time and was virtually able to turn the lecture hall into a classroom within minutes. Grinstead spoke with a calm and informative demeanor and before long was using slide shows, test tubes and 3-D models of fatty acids to teach those gathered all about the other aspects of molecular gastronomy.

Specifically, he talked about what makes up the many different foods that we enjoy each and every day and how they can be altered and changed to allow new flavors into them through the process of molecular gastronomy.

After he was done speaking, the audience was left with a newfound appreciation for the science behind our food. We were left with a newfound appreciation for the science behind our food, and we were all left with a newfound appreciation for the science behind our food.

February 27, 2015
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
February 27, 2015
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PAGE DESIGN/NOAH LUMBANTOBING

PHOTOS COURTESY/ALEXANDRIA VAN VORIS
THE SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

By DANA DONNELLY

With humble beginnings in 1976 as a film festival aimed at showcasing small films to pacific northwest audiences, the Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) has grown to become one of the largest, and most attended film festivals in North America.

The Seattle-based organization offers countless independent, international, film viewing opportunities for community members every year.

With a festival, three theaters and numerous special events, SIFF is a great resource for anyone interested in film.

The actual Seattle International Film Festival takes place every year, from mid-May to early June. While many University students will not be in the area over summer, SIFF operates theaters catering to the self-proclaimed “film lover” year round.

Some theaters operated by SIFF specialize in screening films that don’t generally receive wide distribution. The films they screen are often international, in an effort to expose audiences to different cultures through the accessible medium of film.

One film, Sean Mullin’s Amira and Sam, screened from late January to early February of this year, is a perfect example of the type of films SIFF cinemas target for screenings.

A seemingly typical “romantic comedy” (boy meets girl, lots of laughs etc..), Amira and Sam is different in that its lead characters seem out of place in a traditional romantic comedy context.

Sam (played by Martin Starr) is an American war veteran, back in America. Amira (played by Dina Shihabi) is an Iraqi woman living with her uncle in Iraq. Amira and Sam share a bed and talk about the challenges of being in America. They kiss, they cuddle, and it’s really really sweet.

Amira and Sam is probably the most romantic, most comedic, “romantic comedy” the film industry has seen in a long time.

It’s relevant, it’s hilarious and most of all it’s poignant. Despite the obvious quality however, Amira and Sam has not received the mainstream theatrical distribution it deserves, presumably because of the “war angle” and the “Muslim angle,” both of which are not central themes of the movie.

It is for this reason that SIFF screened movies like Amira and Sam: movies that artfully tell interesting stories but that fall to receive mainstream distribution as commercial reasons.

While SIFF theaters do operate as traditional cinemas outside of festival dates, they also host many specialty movie events.

Over Valentine’s Day weekend, SIFF screened Hal Ashby’s classic Harold and Maude (1971) at their Film Center location. In addition to occasional weekend-long screenings of classic favorites, SIFF also hosts many different film series (showing films every Tuesday that showcase the work of a particular director).

They introduce a new film series every month. Their most recent film series featured the work of depression-era filmmaker and three-time Academy Award-winning director Frank Capra.

SIFF screened selected Frank Capra films including It Happened One Night and Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.

Some other examples of SIFF’s special events include their upcoming 3rd annual “music video festival”, which will be held this Sunday, Feb. 28 at the Film Center location; and their ongoing “Recent Raves” Mondays, where SIFF screens critically acclaimed features that you may have missed while they were still in theaters.

Recent Raves is also held at the SIFF Film Center. SIFF’s mission to “create experiences that bring people together to discover exceptional films from around the world... [and to] foster a community that is more informed, aware, and alive” through the art of film is evident in the kind of films they show.

They’re unique, important and depict human experiences not found in most movies with wide distribution.

Anyone with any sort of general interest in film will be pleased with SIFF’s selections, as well as their commitment to engaging Seattle’s community educationally through film.

When ridiculed by a fellow hijab-wearer on the street for extra cash. She wears a hijab, but doesn’t generally receive wide distribution. The films they screen are often international, in an effort to expose audiences to different cultures through the accessible medium of film.

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