MARCH 5: The ASUPS Senate allocated $1,500.00 for assistance in SIRGE sponsored activities on campus.

FEB 26: The ASUPS Senate allocated $280.00 to Collegiate Washington Music Educators Association.

FEB 19: The ASUPS Senate allocated $500 to Lauren Thomas as a down payment for Tacoma Rainier tickets as a student program, $500.00 to Elena Becker for attendance to the Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, $1500.00 to Hui o Hawaii to assist in their annual Lu’au event, $200.00 to the rock climbing club to assist in financing club activities, and $100.00 to yoga club to fund an off-campus instructor.

FEB 12: The ASUPS Senate allocated $19.45 to Student Concerns committee for supplies for Cookies for Concern, $1,500 to Women’s Ultimate Frisbee for assistance in going to a Las Vegas Ultimate tournament, and $436 to assist the funding of students attendance to the Western Psychological Association Convention.

FEB 4: The ASUPS Senate allocated $492.75 to KUPS to finance the founding of KUPS Records.

FEB 19: ASUPS Senate allocated $500.00 to KUPS for legal assistance in the creation of the KUPS record label.

FEB 12: ASUPS Senate allocated $2,500 to the Associate VP of Business services to assist in funding the installation of a Blue-Light security system.

FEB 4: ASUPS Senate allocated $1,681.92 to Women’s Rugby for athletic jerseys.

March 5: ASUPS Senate allocated $5,000.00 to the Men’s Lacrosse team for purchase of new helmets.

ASUPS SENATE ALLOCATES OVER $15,000 TO STUDENT GROUPS

AS OF MARCH 5, $6,701 REMAINS IN THE FINANCE BUDGET

AS OF MARCH 5, $144,614 REMAINS IN THE CAPITAL BUDGET

FINANCE BUDGET AT THE BEGINNING OF SPRING SEMESTER: $13,320.06

CAPITAL BUDGET AT THE BEGINNING OF SPRING SEMESTER: $154,296.43

The ASUPS Senate is in charge of controlling and budgeting a half-million dollar budget. They are also in charge of starting new clubs and are continually accepting new requests for clubs. If a current ASUPS club needs any additional funding, there are four simple steps to obtain new funds from ASUPS Senate. First, fill out the finance request form available from either the ASUPS website or in the office on the second floor of the Whee- lock Student Center. Then, attend the Finance Committee meeting on Mondays at 9 p.m. to make your request. The ASUPS Finance Committee must then determine the amount of funding to recommend to Senate. Every week at formal Senate, ASUPS reviews the recommendations of the committee and clubs making requests can come to the meetings to explain their finance request. Formal Senate is every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Murray boardroom. Open Forum also occurs at every formal Senate, where any member of the student body can voice their concerns to their student government.
Editor’s Note:
- The following are corrections to an article published in the March 6 edition of The Trail entitled “ASUPS Senator Accused of Malfeasance.” The original article contained certain factual inaccuracies. The Trail is dedicated to providing accurate reporting and apologies for any misinformation.
- The article reported that Chong was accused of securing a position on ASUPS from Pogar should Pogar be elected. However, this committee position Chong attempted to secure from Pogar remains unclear.
- The article also failed to mention Espinoza and emphasized the fact that neither Chong nor Espinoza have been involved in ASUPS student government. Coming from an outsider’s perspective, they seek to improve the approachability of ASUPS to the broader campus community. Austin Brittenham and Apostle Hartwig sought to allocate some of the $550,000 in the ASUPS budget for the provision of weekend services at Counseling, Health, and Wellness Services. The ticket also sought to increase proactive engagement by the security team. Asked about their policies for sexual assault prevention, they advocated for proactively informing people in the student body going through sexual assault prevention programs, something Brittenham emphasized during his tenure as President of Delta Alpha Epsilon Fraternity on campus. Multiculturalism and inclusion were the basis of Nakisha’s time during the debate. She focused on creating safe spaces and programs for marginalized people in the campus community. Jones also emphasized her intention to use ASUPS as a platform to allow for more people to have their voices projected. She also spoke to the need for more support for CHWS in order to better support people needing their support. Finally, Tim Pogar and Kaitlyn Vissing focused on their conversation on providing support for various campus communities. In particular, they focused on deeper inclusion of students in campus governance through the abolishing of geographic Senator positions and increasing class and Senator at-Large positions, as well as increasing the number of students in Student Conduct. They also emphasized their commitment to such causes as sexual assault prevention and support, as well as pursuing inclusion emphasizing their work towards gender-neutral bathrooms. 

SECURITY REPORT
The following incidents occurred on campus and were reported to Security Services between March 2, 2015 and March 9, 2015:
- (2) Incident of vandalism: One in Phips Hall and the other at the WSC. Both involve malicious messaging.
- (4) Incidents of theft: A printer was stolen from the Beta Theta Pi house and personal property was taken from an unlocked locker in Warner Gym.

By NOAH LUMBANTOBING
ASUPS Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates held debates on March 9 in the Rotunda. (1) Assault: Student Union Building moderated by current ASUPS President Marc Fagaragan and (2) Incident of vandalism: One in Phips Hall and the other at the WSC. Both involve malicious messaging.

Crime Prevention
- Good quality “U-Bolt” style locks are highly recommended. Use additional locks to secure high end components (wheels, etc.) to the bicycle when stored.
- Do not leave or store valuables in your vehicle.
- Be mindful of personal and university property by keeping it secured or with you at all times. This includes office areas.
- Always immediately report suspicious activity to Security Services or Tacoma Police.

Security Services
- Security is open and staffed 24/7 to serve the university community.
- Please remember to register your vehicle to park on campus.
- Utilize the SecurityCourtesy Escort Service if you find yourself walking alone on campus — especially at night. This service is also available to some areas off-campus.
- Please update the university with your cellular telephone number. We need it send 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 campus security.

ASUPS EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES DEBATE DIVERSITY, POLICY

SPRING BREAK WEATHER FORECAST FOR TACOMA

SUNDAY March 15
AM showers 56°
41° mostly sunny

MONDAY March 16
62°
45° partly cloudy

TUESDAY March 17
64°
43° partly cloudy

WEDNESDAY March 18
56°
44° mostly sunny

THURSDAY March 19
67°
45° partly cloudy

FRIDAY March 20
67°
48° cloudy skies

SATURDAY March 21
67°
48° mostly sunny

WHERE TO FIND THE TRAIL
BLACK BEAR YOGURT Bluebeard coffee CAFE BROUSSEAU SHAKABRAH JAVA GBSON’S FROZEN COUGER

THE PUGET SOUND TRAIL
1095 WHEELOCK STUDENT CENTER, TACOMA, WA 98416-1095 | (253) 879-3197 TRAIL@PUGETSOUND.EDU | TRAILABS@PUGETSOUND.EDU

Report on incident at Beta Theta Pi fraternity
COURTESY OF JDZ-BADHAM
Early Saturday morning, just after midnight, Security Services received a call from Beta Theta Pi to request assistance with an individual who had entered their social function and was not wanted by them. Two officers responded and contacted the individual inside the house and determined some time later that it was a Puget Sound student but not a member of Beta Theta Pi. He was cooperative and punched one of the officers in the face during questioning. Tacoma Police were called by Security. The student was arrested on suspicion of assault.

THE TRAIL is an independent, student-run organization funded by ASUPS. The Trail seeks to produce a credible weekly newspaper that serves as a comprehensive source of information relevant to its readership. The Trail acts as an archival record for the university, serves as a link between University of Puget Sound and the greater Tacoma community and provides an open forum for student opinion and discourse. Visit trail.pugetsound.edu for the full mission statement.
### Attention Loggers and Puget Sound community members!

In an attempt to address student concerns about campus wide communication, ASUPS will be participating in a free trial with an events app called Campus Quad. Starting March 23 students can download the app on their smart phones by searching for Campus Quad in iTunes and should feel free to add events, explore the app and give feedback regarding how useful they think this resource is on our campus! Throughout the first week, DCS will be giving out free doughnuts in the S.U.B. to those who download the app and the bookstore will have prizes for students who show a store employee the downloaded app on their phone. So mark your calendars and spread the word because Campus Quad is coming to town!

### WRITER SPOTLIGHT: CHASE HUTCHINSON

Chase Hutchinson is a dedicated member of The Trail's staff. He is a first-year student and is majoring in communications. He enjoys reading, writing and playing racquetball with friends. He is also a member of the Puget Sound Parliamentary Debate Team, President of Schiff and Harrington Halls, and Secretary for the new ASUPS club Advocates for Detainees' Voices.

### Campus Quad App Coming to Campus for Student Trial

Attention Loggers and Puget Sound community members! In an attempt to address student concerns about campus wide communication, ASUPS will be participating in a free trial with an events app called Campus Quad. Starting March 23 students can download the app on their smart phones by searching for Campus Quad in iTunes and should feel free to add events, explore the app and give feedback regarding how useful they think this resource is on our campus! Throughout the first week, DCS will be giving out free doughnuts in the S.U.B. to those who download the app and the bookstore will have prizes for students who show a store employee the downloaded app on their phone. So mark your calendars and spread the word because Campus Quad is coming to town!
The Puget Sound men’s club lacrosse team played the last of their warm-up games on Saturday, April 7. Even while resting a few of their starters, the Loggers put up a fight against the Portland State University Vikings.

The Loggers ended up losing the game against the Vikings with a final score of 7-11, but this was not the primary concern coming into the weekend.

The Vikings were the last of four games that the Loggers played outside of their conference schedule. On top of that, the Vikings compete in a higher division than the Loggers, so the result was encouraging for a Puget Sound squad missing some of its key elements.

Many of those players missing from the equation are forced to sit out due to concussions and other injuries.

Senior and Logger captain Aidan McDonald (Issaquah, Wash.) has recently spent some time with us discussing the impact of these injuries on the team.

“We had three concussions in our first three games. The [helmet] manufacturer recommends getting [the helmets] recertified every year or replaced every three years. Our helmets have been used for five years with no recertification,” McDonald said.

Aidan has been in talks with ASUPS and other contributors to the club. After making a finance request to ASUPS, the team now has the funds to purchase new helmets so they do not continue the rash of concussive injuries. While concussions are indeed very serious, especially in a heavy-contact sport like lacrosse, McDonald discussed some of the silver linings to the situation.

“Missing our top five (midfielders) is never easy, but having contributions from members of our team that don’t find themselves on the stat sheet is always promising,” McDonald said.

The team looks forward to the full recovery of the injured players in light of the beginning of their conference schedule.

On top of the return of the injured members of the squad, the men’s lacrosse team made quite a few additions in the form of 11 first-year students for the 2015 regular season. Eric Brecheen (Jackson Hole, Wyo.), Mark Officer (Lake Forest Park, Wash.), Hunter Simpson (Norwich, Vt.), David Teskey (Portland, Ore.), Johnny Teahan (Burplingame, Calif.), Gibson Butterfield (Shilshole Beach, Calif.) and Andrew Zink (North bend, Wash.), Jack Randall (Chehalis, Wash.), Brian White (Portland, Ore.), Oliver Young (Cleveland, Oh.) and Erin Arendegg (Bellevue, Wash.) are among those that donated the maroon and white for their first time this year.

McDonald would not go so far as to estimate the chances of a return to the playoffs this year, but the fact remains that the team qualified in the previous two years with a much less healthy squad than they have currently.

“We’re looking forward to our league games coming up after spring break,” McDonald said.

The first of those games is a home game; on Lower Baker field, against the Gonzaga University Bulldogs on March 29 at 1 p.m.

IN NEED OF PROTECTION

By THOMAS OVERTON

The Puget Sound men’s club lacrosse team played the last of their warm-up games on Saturday, April 7. Even while resting a few of their starters, the Loggers put up a fight against the Portland State University Vikings.

Through years of no recertification, the Loggers have had issues with their helmets.

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ARE THE OLYMPICS WORTH A RAINFOREST?

By MADALINE BROOKS

“Ecological Holocaust” spans the width of a homemade banner outside a hotel in Copacabana, Brazil. “IOC go home, you are nature killers,” yells a protester as the Olympic rings are passed by.

Locals are outraged that the Games are being held so close to the shores of the bay, and although the cause of the massive die-off is currently unknown and under investigation, it is a worrisome event for both athletes and Olympic enthusiasts.

According to a statement released by the researchers, if the airplane carrying the researcher is overflying the bay, a few fish are killed. If that wasn’t enough to raise red flags, the Games are being held in an area known for its “Niti Dinkus.”

During the last days of February and into the first few days of March, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Brazilian government conducted a check-up of Rio de Janeiro, the site of the 2016 Summer Olympic Games, to check up on the progress the city is making in preparing for the Games. The recent visit has fanned the flame of an already considerable controversy about the environmental impacts of hosting the Games.

Activists claim that the Games are an environmental atrocity, noting that there are many different issues that could be attributed to the Games.

Locals are outraged that the Olympic golf course is being built on a nature preserve. According to Occupy Golf, an organization formed to inform the public and protest Rio’s new course, the course is estimated to cover the habitats of more than 300 endangered species and take the place of around 100 rainforest trees.

Athletes are also concerned about the state of Guanabara Bay, the site for the water events.

Locals recently discovered hundreds of dead fish surfaced on the shores of the bay, and although the cause of the massive die-off is currently unknown and under investigation, it is a worrisome event for both athletes and Olympic enthusiasts.

20 tons of fish and other sea creatures have already been removed.

Not only are the waters filled with dead fish, but debris in the bay is also a huge concern for athletes.

Brazilian sailer Thomas Low-Beer recalls a day practicing for the Olympic qualifying race.

“I think it was a couch,” he said in an interview with The New York Times, referring to the object that caused him to capsize during the practice.

“The bay is really disgusting, with dog carcasses in some places and the water is turning brown from the sewage contamination,” Low-Beer said regarding the Olympic bay.

If that wasn’t enough to raise red flags on the Rio Games, specialists from the Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, a public health research institution in Rio, have also recently discovered a strain of antibiotic-resistant microbiorganisms in the water.

According to a statement released by the researchers, if the airplane carrying the researchers is overflying the bay, a few fish are killed. If that wasn’t enough to raise red flags, the Games are being held in an area known for its “Niti Dinkus.”

“This controversy poses an interesting question: are the Olympic Games worth the subsequent issues?”

It is relatively indiscernible that the Olympic Games bring an unquantifiable amount of excitement, sportsmanship and unity to the world.

Athletes have a chance to showcase decades of training and fans from hundreds of different countries are connected by a common love of sports. Not to mention, hosting the Olympics brings an unforgettable legacy and earns the city a place in the select few nations who have been hosts.

Whether or not the Olympic Committee should turn a blind eye to issues in the spirit of the Games will continually be debated.

Protestors and debaters on this issue tend to fall on either side or another, however I believe the solution lies somewhere in the middle.

The environmental issues could be controlled if the Olympic Organization would create a third-party regulatory committee. Then there would be an unbiased monitor to decide when the host city committee or the IOC has committed any sort of violation.

This way, we can control any issues that may arise while still protecting an event that brings excitement, unity and Olympic Spirit to the world.
By ZAL ROBLES

Senior Forward Amanda Forshay (Gig Harbor, Wash) led the Loggers to one run over the next three innings to the Pioneers in the first round of the NCAA DIII tournament with a score of 61-56.

While the Loggers who lost 8-0 (five innings) to the Pioneers. The Loggers staged a small rally in the bottom half of the third inning but unlike earlier in the day, the pitching staff was unable to keep the Loggers' offense at bay.

Lewis and Clark took the first inning, scoring six runs off of five hits. The Pioneers took on one more run in the fifth inning, resulting in the game being called early for score.

The first part of the season was a huge step forward for the program. While the Loggers softball team has had a slow start to the year, part of it can certainly be contributed to the amount of youth on the team.

With only one senior on the roster, every game is pivotal. While there is great value experience for the unseasoned players, there are significant playing time and are still unaccustomed to the speed of the college game. With six games left, there is still plenty of time for the season to turn around. Expect the team to continue to improve down the stretch as the youthful talent in the Loggers’ roster gains more experience and confidence.

For the men’s team, it’s all about hard work. Thompson brought in some thoughts about this idea. “Our success has come from hard work on Tuesday and Thursday nights. We only have a few hours a week to hone our skills, and this semester we’ve really upped our game with three wins and no losses,” Thompson said.

Success comes with goals, and both teams have them. Promoting the sport is an important goal, while enjoying Rugby is just as important.

As a whole, the team can work on bringing others into the sport and promoting their love of rugby. We have many seniors who are leaving this year and they will be dearly missed, but looking to the future and bringing in more players is one of our primary goals.

—Max Thompson

SPORTS
March 13, 2015
trailspals@pugetsound.edu
IT’S TOO EARLY TO PREDICT THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

By MICHAEL GREENBLATT

Looking at the news, it would appear that we are in the midst of a presidential election. But in reality, the next election is not only a year away, it is a half year away from Obama’s second term and he’s already being pushed out of the door.

This endless election cycle lessens the excitement of electing a president. It also leads to politics that are hyper-partisan, news that is sensational and an electorate that is mis-informed.

There is no reason to pay attention to the presidential race early in the game. Ignoring the race until it actually matters will make the outcome more meaningful and all of less cynical about our government. Not only is the endless campaign bad for national unity, but it also just doesn’t make sense practically. There are several reasons why such early attention to the presidential race is both inconsequential and harmful to the political process.

The most obvious reason why speculation so early in the race is trivial is that not one person has officially declared their candidacy to run. Nor will they do it soon. So it doesn’t matter what any potential candidates say or do right now because there are no candidates. While some potential candidates may be trying to gather publicity stunts or meeting with donors, which are essential to getting a campaign going, these actions still aren’t anything as yet.

Secondly, there is so much time left before the election that nothing matters at this point. Literally anything can happen to change the game due to unforeseen events, changes in public opinion and the fact that the electorates are often quick to forget certain things.

Past elections are full of examples of unforeseen events changing the race. No one could have predicted the effects of Mitt Romney’s 47 percent video, the damage Tina Fey’s impression of Sarah Palin had on McCain’s campaign or Howard Dean’s corny cheer bringing his demise. Each of these events contributed to these candidates losing their elections—whether any of these events were valid reasons for a candidate to lose is an entirely different matter.

Furthermore, in an arena where so many people are vying for attention, pseudo-events and sensationalism are bound to happen. It’s already happened a few times this early in the race. Take Rudy Guiliani’s recent statement that he doesn’t believe President Obama is patriotic. Such a scandal is doubly advantageous for Giuliani if he does run for the presidency because it enables him to get lots of media attention and credential with conservative voters without hurting his chances with more moderate voters because, by the time the race is in full swing, hardly anyone will remember the scandal.

Another current example of a sensational event that will probably have no effect on the nominating process is the revelation last week about Hillary Clinton’s email account while she was Secretary of State. Even if she did violate the law by using her personal email, this will probably not have any real effect on her presumed candidacy since she is so well known, very popular among Democrats and, to come back to my earlier point, because the early primary elections are so far away. Other events will get in the way that cause people to forget about this one.

With news media often struggling to find newsworthy events to fill time, it is no wonder that there is already focus on the next presidential election. The problem with this media attention is that nothing that happens now will have any consequence on the outcome of any election, not even the primaries.

We must wait at least until people officially declare their candidacy for office before we make any judgments about their actions or their intentions. Otherwise, the demand for sensationalism and cynicism will continue to grow. The issues that matter, such as what a candidate’s actual positions are, will be overshadowed by controversial comments that were deliberately said to gain attention. The presidential race has become too much of a popular contest and less of a real election based on critical assessments of our nation’s next leader.

Put it bluntly, the current climate of the presidential election is sometimes ridiculous. There is an easy way to restore the dignity and the legitimacy of the presidential election, and it is to not pay attention to the race until a few months leading up to the primary elections, thereby blocking out most of the trivial, sensational hoopla.

WOMEN SHOULD TAKE BACK DEROGATORY WORDS

If they feel comfortable, women need to reclaim hurtful terms.

By JORDYN ATKINSON

As someone who is frequently in the midst of many female friends, it is not uncommon to hear the word “bitch” or “slut” thrown around in a casual, joking manner. For some who use these phrases, a social movement to reclaim derogatory terms may not be at the forefront of their mind. But the casual, habitual use of these words may be evidence of just that.

There is indeed a well established effort in which women deliberately utilize the previously mentioned words, as well as many more—some of which are traditionally considered extremely offensive and degrading. The intention of this idea is to move the power that these words hold and allow women to reclaim the very words by which they have been oppressed—in an empowering and positive way. I argue that this is a vital right for women to exercise, yet those who feel uncomfortable with the terms should not be forced into using them.

In today’s society, many things that used to be considered scandalous have lost much of their shock value; there is a sense of comfort that has resulted, particularly in younger generations. This can be seen in clothing styles, entertainment content of music, language choices. The use of previously distasteful language about women can be seen used casually in popular movies and television shows, such as Mean Girls, “Desperate Housewives” and “Gossip Girl.”

As a result of this popularization in the media, some women use this terminology in casual conversation with close friends. From walking into a room demanding to know “what’s up, bitches?” to simply calling your best friends “hookers,” the reclamation of these words can be habitual and almost unintentional, a symbol of perhaps less conservative generation and a new means of familiarity between close friends.

As said before, the more casual use of these terms can also be an extremely effective way to empower women by freeing them of a negative label. The two main examples here for that are Bitch Media as well as the Slutwalk. Bitch Media gets its name from the positive connotation that the founders of the company believe the word to have, despite its oppressive history. According to their website, they claim that bitches are women who “speak their minds, who have opinions and don’t shy away from expressing them, who aren’t afraid to take risks, who won’t be swayed by societal pressures, who are comfortable with their bodies and choices.”

In a similar way, the Slutwalk (a march in which some women dress in revealing clothing to reinforce the fact that clothes are not an excuse for rape) seeks to empower women more through the attention that the word “slut” demands, rather than the actual word itself. Not only has the prevalent use of “slut” in this context stripped the word of its negative powers, but it also allows the walk’s message to be more widespread, through the substantial notice it causes the movement to receive.

However, in my opinion, it is understandable that some women would feel uncomfortable with the use of these admittance provocative words. It is fair to many women when they are used it is intended in a hurtful or demeaning way. Just as women have the right to make use of words like “bitch” or “slut” in this context stripped the word of its negative powers, but it also allows the walk’s message to be more widespread, through the substantial notice it causes the movement to receive.

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Put simply, women should use discretion when considering using controversial and loaded terms about other women, i.e., personally, feel empowered to be able to quote Mean Girls without fearing any serious social consequences. At the same time, it is important to note that these words are still “bad words” and no one should feel pressured to reclaim the words as positive if they aren’t comfortable doing so.

Derogatory words for women: if a woman feels comfortable enough using a term in her everyday language, it should be within her rights to use it in order to reclaim it from its sexist connotation. PHOTO COURTESY SIMONE RACON

Opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of The Trail staff, ASUPS, the University or its Board of Trustees. Articles and letters in the Opinions section are printed at the discretion of the Trail editorial staff. The Trail reserves the right to refuse any letters submitted for publication. Letters to the editor will not be returned. Letters for publication must be typed or neatly handwritten for grammar, spelling, or content, except in the case of material that is considered to be offensive, as determined by the Trail style guide. All letters to the editor must be signed and must have an email address or phone number. Letters for publication the following Friday are due no later than Monday at noon and may be sent to: The Puget Sound Trail, 1095 Wheelock Student Center, Tacoma, WA 98416 or trail@pugetsound.edu.
Students voice their opinions on this year’s ASUPS presidential and vice presidential candidates.

I look up to both Alexia and Sergio for maintaining amazing leadership positions. I believe they will carry these titles with them into their positions in office and will only help to benefit the Puget Sound campus greatly.

—Hailey Greer

I’m voting for Austin and Alissa because I think they combined have the most experience both in broad leadership roles and ASUPS. In addition, I believe they are people of action and not merely talk and their values align with my own. I have faith that they are the best candidates to lead our school.

—Caroline Harris

I’m voting for Tim and Kaitlyn for ASUPS President and Vice President because they are experienced, driven and responsible candidates. I believe that they are fully capable of representing and caring for our student body.

—Marissa Irish

I’m voting for [Nakisha Renée Jones] because I think there is a lot of potential for ASUPS to be more proactive in its advocacy for the most marginalized students on our campus. It’s no secret that many students feel unsafe and unwelcome here, and that is unacceptable. I’m deeply concerned by problematic structures and attitudes at Puget Sound that need to be addressed, and I think Nakisha has demonstrated time and again that she is committed to advocating for marginalized students, and to enacting substantive change on campus. We need someone as committed and driven as Nakisha to be in a position of leadership to see that the necessary changes happen.

—Lindsey Conrad

*The Trail* believes that the ASUPS President and Vice-President elected should espouse values of inclusion, access and justice. The elected individuals should also have a strong record of support for student clubs and organizations, coupled with evidence of action on behalf of those clubs and organizations.

As such, *The Trail* formally endorses [Nakisha Renée Jones] and [Kaitlyn Val lance] for ASUPS President and ASUPS Vice President, respectively.
THE OCEAN’S NEW PLASTIC DIET: UPDATES
ON THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH

By ROSA BRANDT

Every single one of us contributes to the trash in the ocean. We buy food packaged in small plastic containers, toys, tools and many other disposable plastic items. The issue is that not everybody is aware of where this garbage is going.

You may imagine it ending up in landfills, which seems harmless to a certain extent because it is all contained in one place. However, trash has a way of traveling and flows through various waterways, ultimately ending up in the vast oceans.

Sea Captain Charles Moore appeared on campus to give a presentation on his most recent findings. Through film clips, narration and accompanying facts from Moore and audience questions at end, Moore was able to paint a picture of his findings and bring the audience on the voyage through the Pacific with him.

Moore’s team was conducting garbage samplings from areas near and within the East garbage patch. From their research vessel, they tied the contents into a container to be examined. With a team of scientists of varying specialties, they took measurements, took samples from local fish and performed chemical evaluations. “365 days a year, the ocean is trying to spit out this garbage,” Moore said.

Anyone who has taken part in a beach cleanup will understand just how much plastic and other trash accumulates on a beach, and it can be quite shocking. According to Moore, the most common identifiable debris he came across in the garbage patch was a bottle cap, and the most common fishing garbage is an eel trap. Moore also described the phenomenon known as ‘marine snow.’ Tiny plastic fibers tangled and intertwined with dead plankton. He mentioned the sobering fact that humans have essentially put marine animals on a plastic diet.

Another particularly depressing phenomenon is that of ‘ghost fishing,’ where old fishing nets have been thrown out but continue to ensnare organisms as they float in the ocean. Moore referred to microplastics as ‘smog in the ocean’ as he delivered to the audience a devastating fact: we are sending 16,000 tons of trash into the ocean daily. By 2025, he estimates that the statistic will have risen to 160,000 tons per day.

Throughout the presentation, Moore compared his findings from his 1999 voyage to his most recent (2014) one, which made for some shocking comparisons. For example, in 1999 he estimated that within radius of the garbage patch the ratio of plastic to plankton was 0.1:1 and in 2014 he estimated that the ratio had gone up to 600:1 (plastic to plankton).

On one of his first travels in 1999 the team collected the same amount of plastic bits in four hours that they did in just half an hour in 2014. “The first time I heard about the plastic in the Pacific Gyre, five or so years ago, they estimated it was the size of Texas,” sophomore attendee Becky Shelton said. “Last night Captain Moore said the plastic mass had grown larger than the continental US, it really made me think twice about getting a yogurt cup from the sub this morning.”

Sierra Club and Surfrider Foundation were also represented at the well-attended event.

Moore also spoke about the nonprofit he started, Algalita. The organization’s webpage states that “Algalita envisions a marine environment that is healthy, sustainable and productive for all living creatures, free from plastic pollution.”

Through education and research, the organization aims to protect marine environments. Whether you have known about garbage in the ocean for years, or have just first heard about it by reading this, spread awareness. It will take a lot of attention, dedication, and motivation for us to help heal the oceans we have—and are in the process of—trashing, both literally and metaphorically.

There is an estimated 200 million tons of plastic littering the ocean.
If you could design your own station, what would it serve?

By JACQUIE HARRO

The food of the Wheelock Student Building has always been a topic strongly debated by students; however, the debate was heightened when the S.U.B. was renovated last summer.

Because the S.U.B. is the only eating option for many on-campus students, it is necessary that it be an institution willing to accept feedback, and the best way to initiate any kind of change is to start a conversation.

50 students were polled over the course of last week in order to collect information on the overall student opinions of the cafeteria food in the S.U.B. The first of the questions was “Do you think that the renovations of the S.U.B. were an improvement over last year’s S.U.B.?”

In this case, students who were not here last year, such as transfer or first-year students, were put into the N/A category. Of the students who did respond, 40 percent said that the renovations were an improvement, and 60 percent said that they were not.

The next question asked “If you could design your own station, what would it serve?” This question allowed students to think creatively about what changes they would make to the cafeteria if they could.

The responses for this question varied widely, though a few stations were consistently answered. The number one requested station was fresh fruits and vegetables, followed shortly behind by a vegetarian station.

Other popular choices were Indian, Dessert, Sushi and All Day Breakfast stations. There were also other interesting suggestions that may be worth investigating, such as Jewish and Mediterranean food.

The final question was an open-ended one that asked for any concerns or suggestions to be made to the S.U.B. as a whole.

While almost every answer was different, there was a theme in the responses. Many students asked for food made with fewer oils, while others asked for better quality food.

“The allergy-free station is so popular because they make everything from scratch—it’s not all prepackaged. That’s what I would like to see more of,” one student said.

Comments like this revealed an underlying desire for healthier options, which is also supported by so many students choosing fresh fruits and vegetables as their personally designed stations.

No food related comments were received as well. One student wished that the stations would stay open for longer periods of time, while many students expressed annoyance with the layout of the new S.U.B. “It used to be so easy to drop off your plates, but now—it doesn’t matter where you are sitting—it’s out of the way for everyone,” one student lamented.

Despite these concerns, not all feedback was negative. Many students commented on the quality of the staff, and there were excellent reviews of the new soda machines, so long as they are working.

Above all, this polling process revealed the students’ willingness to share opinions about the food; it is just a matter of finding the right platform to share them in.

There are already comment cards near the checkout lines, but perhaps there is a better way to engage students in this ongoing conversation.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SUB?

By CASEY DEY

Tacoma has a wide variety and of entertainment opportunities, particularly in the theater scene. These provide educational and fun entertainment, usually for free. The S.U.B. was provided by Gabriel Brown of Spaceship, a company dedicated to helping artists get their businesses started, and Nick Spencer ’12 of Petrichor Theatre Lab, his own company that is dedicated to developing new theatre works in Tacoma.

Broadway Center – Multiplex are pretty cozy favorite theaters. Pantages, Rialto, Theatre on the Square and Tacoma Foundry—which have existed over a century! Multiple events throughout the year from Broadway shows to concerts to much more. Also the home for North Sound Symphony with the S.U.B. Symphony Orchestra and Tacoma Youth Symphony. Offers a student rate of any show for $10 when you show up two hours prior with your student ID. www.broadwaycenter.org

Tacoma Little Theatre – Drama theater with thoughtful plays, musicals and youth camps to Tacoma for nearly 100 years! It is a wide range of classics to new shows, tragic to comedy, plays and musicals, etc. Tickets are usually $10-20. Upcoming: www.tacomalittletheatre.org

Warehouse – Musical theater This group is more music-based, dedicated to bringing high-quality shows to Tacoma! They range from secret house shows to candlelit acoustic full-out concert events. They only have shows about once a month, but each concert is worth it and a must-see. They’ve been around for about six years but have gotten wonderful reviews from the locals and regulars who follow them. www.tacomaonstage.com

Barefoot Collective – Dance This is a dance group that performs modern-style dances that are pretty crazy but well done. The collective was founded about four years ago by Puget Sound alumna Stephanie Pederson (also one of the founders) dedicated to bringing the community together through dance. They’re currently on tour but performances usually happen fairly often in various venues around town.

Different Stages of Tacoma Entertainment

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AB Pure Entertainment – Adult

If you’re looking for more drag-style shows, these guys are the ones to check out. Only been around about a year, but their shows are a hit. They have a lot of fun and feature a lot of local artists. A particular favorite is the P.U.D. Brigade, drag kings with their own spin-off performances. AB Pure performs monthly at Malaney’s Pool Hall. www.tacoma底气cities.com

Blue Mouse Cinema – Film

This is the oldest cinema in Washington State! Though often a step behind the larger cinemas, the films are really affordable. They’re offering the second and fourth Saturdays of every month, complete with live performances. Nick也将 perform once for the show, said, “Every Loggers ought to have that experience at least once.” www.bluemousecinema.com

Grand Cinema – Film

This cinema is a non-profit organization that shows independent, foreign and local films for a great low price. They host a lot of special events and film festivals, and even a great-quality series on Tuesdays of whatever special they want to show (documentaries, foreign and classic, etc.). Locals follow the films pretty ecstatically, especially the film series. They also offer a senior discount and fantastic popcorn! www.grandcinema.com

Other entertainment venues:


Overwhelmed yet? This is evidence that if you say you have nothing to do tonight, you’re not paying attention. Be sure to keep your ears open for word on one of these amazing companies. The locals are passionate about each of them, as they seek to provide quality entertainment that inspires, enlightens, entertains and refreshes the community. They offer experiences that will provide unique moments for you to cherish in your years here at Puget Sound.
The Happy Trail is The Trail's weekly sex column that seeks to inform the community on issues related to sexuality and gender by addressing these topics in an education-based way. Our mission is to make the community a safer place by normalizing and demystifying topics like safer sex practices, sexualities, kinks and polyamory, while shedding light on topics like domestic violence, sexual and domestic violence, gender inequalities and intersectionality. Happy Trail correspondents are not medical professionals; if you have a medical concern contact CHIRS or a local clinic. Otherwise, direct your sexuality and gender questions totrail@pugetsound.edu. Respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to trail@pugetsound.edu.

By PAT N. DIAZ

“Who’s to say that love needs to be soft and gentle?”

Truer words were never spoken. This is just one of the memorable quotes from our kinkily-film of the week. This week we will take a look at the sado-masochistic office romance portrayed in the 2002 film Secretary, adapted from the short story in Mary Gaitskill’s 1988 book, The Trail.

Located on the intersection of 6th Avenue and South Cedar Street, Tandem Gear is a relatively inconspicuous shop between Casual Comfort Futons & Mattresses and Le Chat Noir Salon & Spa. Without knowledge as to its re- tail, one might think it was a bicy- cle or athletic shop. In the display windows are mostly clothes that do not draw attention to them- selves, and nothing about the sign or design of the shop’s front seems particularly unusual. Inside is somewhat of a different story. Tandem Gear holds not only a high quantity but also a large vari- ety of items from and trainer butt- plug sets to steampunk corsets and everything in between. In an interview with The Trail, Tandem Gear owner Doug Gonzales de- scribed the store as a place where members of the GLBT, kink and fetish communities can get mate- rial needs met that might be im- possible to find anywhere else. “This is also the place where we point [people with questions] in the right direction without having to go to Seattle all the time,” he said.

When explaining the perception of groups such as the kink and fe- tish communities in the area, Gonzales pointed out how frequently misconceptions about both com- munities are perpetuated. “People sort of assume that what draws people to the BDSM, leather or kink community is some kind of emotional or mental is- sue… What we try to let people know is ‘No, that’s sort of the het- eronormative definition of who we are, and you don’t have to let that define you,’” Gonzales said. The film 50-Shades of Grey is, according to Gonzales, an inac- curate portrayal of BDSM culture because it states that BDSM is an activity or lifestyle taken up by those who are psychologically or emotionally traumatized. “It’s very common for people to come… asking us questions about ‘Well this is what I like to do, is this what society will accept with the fact that I like that?’” Gonzales explained. “We try to let them know it’s okay to like you like as long as it’s safe and con- sensual.”

When discussing the relation- ship between these communities and the shop, Gonzales says that the roots of the store in such a public place as 6th Avenue is its own sort of action toward visibility and acceptance. The public nature of the shop, as well as its location between a salon and a mattress store, is indicators to shoppers that such products are not meant to be bought covertly or shamefully. “By being present, we sort of normalize the fact that this life- style does exist,” Gonzales told The Trail. “We’re not in the shad- ows; we don’t hide… the fact that this is a very common place people know that it’s a safe place to come.”

While intent on maintaining a firm presence within the Tacoma community, Gonzales also ex- pressed his concern over respect for the surrounding community. “We try to respect the sensibili- ties of the neighborhood in which we exist, because in general that’s how we live our lifestyle,” Gonzales said. “Out of respect for the neighborhood, and because chil- dren walk past the shop to go to school, we put clothes in the win- dow, not toys.”

Gonzales went on to explain that this respectability helps ensure the longevity of the store, as it is much less likely to be criticized when its products are not forced into the community. Alongside visibility and respect for the community, Gonzales also emphasized one more aspect of the store—specifically, its ability to validate its customers.

The example he gave was that of a transgender customer in search of fitting underwear, and the op- portunity to provide apparel that this customer might otherwise be unable to find. “I guess it sounds simplistic, but every time a transgender per- son [buys fitting underwear] and they walk out of here feeling like they’ve been affirmed about the inherent dignity of who they are as a human being, that’s a triumph,” Gonzales said. Ultimately, Gonzales describes the store as fitting a “community need, not just a consumer need.” The shop sells physical items, ranging from books about bond- age to men’s jockstraps, but for the kink, fetish, leather and GLBT communities of the South Sound, Tandem Gear is selling not just in- struments of pleasure, but also visibility and respect, and by ex- tension, validation.

By GREGORY STORAGHE

KINKY FILM SERIES IN REVIEW: SECRETARY, AN ALTERNATIVE TO FIFTY SHADES

By PAT N. DIAZ

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Mr. Grey is dominant and obsessive. Lee is incredibly submissive. When Lee’s work falls short of perfection, Mr. Grey punishes her to correct her mistakes. Lee creates a power exchange between Lee and Mr. Grey “im- LANEY HAYFORD

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Lee creates a power exchange with her dominant, making her lose of a “submissive” and more of a “switch” someone who likes being dominant and submissive. In this way, Lee becomes her own version of a powerful woman by learning about what she likes about being a submissive and getting what she wants when she wants it. Most importantly, she is not a victim. Catherine Scott said in an article published by Bitch Magazine.

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Career and Employment Services (CES) is open during Spring Break!

Take advantage of the opportunity to meet with a career advisor and map out your summer job, internship, or post-graduation job search strategy! Call 253.879.3161 to schedule an appointment.

WHAT ARE TRAIL STAFF MEMBERS DOING THIS SPRING BREAK?

- Going on a quest to find the perfect latte.
- Balancing our budget to make sure future issues will continue to be produced.
- Breaking it down on the dance floor.
- Going crazy on St. Patrick’s Day.
- Combating the patriarchy with informed dialogue and sass.
- Trying a variety of beverages in a variety of settings.
- Binge watching the Food Network.

WANT TO SEE YOUR AD HERE?

EMAIL TRAIL@PUGETSOUND.EDU

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 ask for 5 percent.
By MICHELLE LOSERBY

I t's official—junior Benny "DJ Dorito Fingers" Jorgen-son has been crowned inaugural Trashboi by campus radio. DJ Dorito Fingers was selected as the official Trashboi when asked his opinion on the newly crowned Trashboi, Radio DJ Dorito Fingers down in their of- fice and calmly explained to him that his Trashboi reign only lasted a year, and that the crown had to be handed over. DJ Dorito Fingers responded to these remarks by showering himself with a 20 oz. can of Red Bull and yelling "Trashboi forever!" He then proceeded to crush the Red Bull can, throw it at radio manager Tam Richman's face, and storm out of the office.

"Classic Purp Nurp," Rich- man laughed as she dabbed a small amount of blood from her forehead, "of course it was hard to choose a new Trashboi when we have such a solid one currently pre- sid ing. But we all agreed that DJ Dorito Fin- gers exhibited the right Trashboi qualities when we were deciding who would take the crown af- ter DJ Purple Nurp." Radio executives said that in order to be crowned Trashboi, the candidate must have DJ'd a campus radio show for at least one se- mester. Dorito Fingers is currently in his third se- mester of DJ'ing a show on Fridays from 1-3 a.m., called "Sensual Celest- ial," where he exclusively remixes the Space Jam soundtrack.

You can hear his version of "Bas- ketball Jones" slowed down to half-tempo and mixed with audio bits from the feature film 50 Shades of Grey on radio's SoundCloud.com account.

Additionally, Trashboi candidates are chosen based on observed be- havior throughout the course of their time on campus.

Radio social me- dia manager Maggie Simpson remembered the first time she noted DJ Dorito Fingers as a future candidate for Trashboi.

"It was about a year ago," Simpson said. "My friend and I had just been at some ca- reer event where they gave us large slices of pizza on paper plates. So we took the pizza outside and sat down at a table. Suddenly, we see DJ Dorito Fin- gers skateboarding down a hill right at us in this, like, random Tom- my Bahama shirt. Any- way, he skates by us so fast that it knocks my friend's pizza right out of his hands and onto the concrete. DJ Dorito Fingers start- ed laughing and I told my friend that kid is a Trashboi if I've ever seen one."

Electronic DJ Brett Michael- son claims to have almost im- mediately categorized DJ Dorit- o Fingers as a Trashboi when they were randomly selected as roommates their freshman year. "His personality can best be described as a combina- tion between Ashton Kutcher on 'Punk'd' and Guy Fieri. Al- though, there was one week where he exclusively commu- nicated to me in quotes from Fast and Furious, so I'm not sure where that came from."

When radio manager Rich- man texted DJ Dorito Fingers to congratulate him on his im- posing reign, he didn't re- spond for 24 hours. Richardman sent the message again to ensure he received the mes- sage. DJ Dorito Fingers then responded with a money stack emoji, an eggplant emoji and another money stack emoji.

When asked via e-mail for a comment regarding his recent crowning, DJ Dorito Fingers responded a week later with only a YouTube video of a gold- en retriever with human hands and a birthday hat eating a hot- dog.

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SAINT PATRICK’S DAY ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING NATIONAL HOLIDAY

By COWMAN BLACKMAILER

A

other St. Patrick’s Day has come and gone. While many Americans urge the government to recognize the celebration as an official holiday. With such a high percent-

age of citizens having Irish ancestry, most believe March 17 should be respected on a na-
tional scale.

Reporters interviewed mem-
bbers of the Puget Sound com-munity to see where they stood on the current event. Ultimately, most agreed that declar-
ing March 17 an official holiday would benefit the nation for a variety of reasons.

Those not of Irish descent found the holiday an excellent excuse to embrace other cul-
tures. They enjoyed an opportuni-
ty to support the old traditions of two-for-one Jeol-O shots and pinching strangers.

“I’m not Irish, but I have a lot of them as friends,” Thomas Pendleton said. “Normally, we go out and drink pretty beauti-
ful, so at the very least I’d like to have the day after St. Patrick’s Day off. But it’s full of thumb any chance I get to binge drink grade. I’ll take the liberty.”

Others felt the holiday creat-
ed a sense of camaraderie be-
tween them and Irish friends. “Thanks to St. Paddy I feel more connected with my co-
worker, Jim,” Arnold Koehler said. “I could have sworn he was Korean, but then he wore a “Kiss me I’m Irish” shirt to the office and it really cleared things up for me.”

Apart from the positive experi-
ences of community members, others want to emphasize that by the government not declar-
ing St. Patrick’s Day a national holiday, the Irish community will continue to feel like second-rate citizens.

“I met two tan, blonde Irish-

women last night at a bar last night, and they definitely had a really lovely time,” Don Horowitz said. “But, while they strummed their way through their second karaoke session of ‘Firework’ that night, I realized that they must have been trying to mask the oppression they were really feeling.”

Reporters expanded their in-

vestigation to examine the ef-
facts the holiday has on the economy. Local bars keep
-

report the holiday to be the most lucrative day of the year, a testimony to the importance of the festivities. This statistic also reinforces the stereotype of the drunk Irish, an important cli-


che among America’s collection of stereotypes.

Local costume stores see a peak in profits that rival Hal-


teen with t-shirts, shamrock bongs and leprechaun hats reaching year-high sales. With-


out the holiday, for what pur-

poses would these important commodities be put to use?

GRIZZ SUFFERS IDENTITY CRISIS AFTER YEARS OF DESTROYING OWN HABITAT

By CURIOUS ME

L

ast Tuesday, Grizz the Log-ger left the wom-

en’s basketball game midway through the third quarter despite the shock and dizzying confusion of the crowd. Calls rang out from the bleachers as the normally humble bear-man threw down his hatchet and walked, head down, through the exit, and with broken hearts and bro-

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No one has seen the furry

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mysterious fire at their new home. It started in the kitchen and consumed the entire lodge.

The fire was contained to the kitchen area, and the cause is currently under investigation. The loss of their home is a significant blow to the Grizz family and the community that has supported them for years.

The Grizz family is now seeking assistance from the local community to help them find permanent and safe housing. They have set up an online fundraiser to support their needs, and they appreciate any donations or offers of assistance.

In the meantime, the Grizz family remains strong and determined to rebuild their lives. They thank everyone for their support and promise to continue to be a positive force in the community.

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mysterious fire at their new home. It started in the kitchen and consumed the entire lodge.

The fire was contained to the kitchen area, and the cause is currently under investigation. The loss of their home is a significant blow to the Grizz family and the community that has supported them for years.

The Grizz family is now seeking assistance from the local community to help them find permanent and safe housing. They have set up an online fundraiser to support their needs, and they appreciate any donations or offers of assistance.

In the meantime, the Grizz family remains strong and determined to rebuild their lives. They thank everyone for their support and promise to continue to be a positive force in the community.

GRIZZ SUFFERS IDENTITY CRISIS AFTER YEARS OF DESTROYING OWN HABITAT

By CURIOUS ME

L

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en’s basketball game midway through the third quarter despite the shock and dizzying confusion of the crowd. Calls rang out from the bleachers as the normally humble bear-man threw down his hatchet and walked, head down, through the exit, and with broken hearts and bro-

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TRUFFLES FOR THE LAY- STUDENT

By NICHOLAS LOUIE

Imagine a serene forest, with the bustling sound of the city fading far behind your ears and the worries of yesterday tucked neatly into a suitcase left at home. In their stead, imagine a sniffing hog, rooting around in the earth for the mysterious but delicious delicacies known as truffle mushrooms.

Although there are several different kinds of these mysterious fungi, black truffles are the most commonly used truffles. First discovered and recorded in 20th century BCE by neo-Sumerians, truffles have taken back the spotlight with a modern return to dishes everywhere. Pastas, salamis, truffles have taken back the spotlight with a modern return to dishes everywhere. Pastas, salamis, despite being reserved for the rich, have become increasingly more accessible to the average citizen. With such unique flavor and exotic cultivation techniques, truffles are making their way into meats everywhere.

WHICH BIRK IS FOR YOU?

Birkenstocks have always been all the rage in the Pacific Northwest. But lately, they’ve become a trend with no boundaries. New styles of Birks have made them more versatile for different styles and lifestyles. Take the quiz below to find out which Birkenstock is best for you!

START HERE!

You like more of a “classic” look.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<td>You get outdoors.</td>
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<td>NO</td>
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<td>You pay attention to detail and design.</td>
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You got the FLORIDA: You are versatile and prefer a shoe that’s easy to slip on and off but has a little style to it.

You got the ARIZONA: You love the simplicity of the classic Birkenstock look. You also like to slip some socks under your Birks on occasion!

You got the MILANO: You need your Birkenstocks to stay sturdy so that you can adventure in all types of terrain.

You got the GIZEH: You stray away from the typical look of Birks and prefer more of a delicate summer sandal.

By KASEY JANOUSEK
PHOTOS COURTESY/BIRKENSTOCKUSA.COM

However, the issue became that the hogs would sometimes eat the mushrooms and leave nothing left for the farmer. Thus, the switch to truffle hounds came to be—a worthy, but less hungry substitute for the classic hog.

The cultivation is not the only factor keeping truffle prices high. Many truffle farmers refuse to begin mass production in order to control the market and keep prices high.

Once upon a time, in early 20th century pre-World War II, even the common folk ate truffles. War casualties unfortunately led to decreased truffle production and the truffles were reserved for the rich. Yet with the most common truffle usage found in oils, butters and salts, that inspiring truffle flavor has become increasingly more accessible to the average citizen. With such unique flavor and exotic cultivation techniques, truffles are making their way into meats everywhere.
By DANA DONNELLY

Baz Luhrmann approached casting for his new project, titled "The Get Down," in an unconventional way: he held an open call. Luhrmann, who directed The Great Gatsby (2013), is directing the Netflix series about the rise and innovation of hip hop culture in the 1970s. The series takes place in the South Bronx and is centered on American and Latino/a women and men aged 18-21 to send in video auditions. The video auditions were supposed to include either a song performance, a poem reading or a dance performance as well as a personal story. The accessible nature of an "open call" makes it easier for directors to cast fresh faces of color in their programs. While a shortage of actors of color isn't the real reason for the lack of diversity in the entertainment industry, the entertainment industry's increasing lack of diversity does dissuade people of color from pursuing entertainment careers.

Open casting calls targeted at minority demographics give performers who wouldn't usually pursue a professional career in entertainment the opportunity to do so. Shows like "Empire," "Jane the Virgin" and soon, "The Get Down" are some of the only shows accessible to mainstream audiences that primarily feature people of color. In a society that is supposedly trending toward "post-race," the lack of diversity on TV is startling. Diversity on television and in movies has only decreased in recent years. The late 1980s and much of the 1990s featured wildly popular sitcoms starring people of color. "The Cosby Show," "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," "Sister Sister" and the sketch comedy show In Living Color, among others, achieved success comparable to their white counterparts like "Full House" and "Saturday Night Live."

"Black" TV in recent years has been exiled to networks that specialize in black entertainment like BET or the Black Entertainment Network. One of BET's most popular shows, "The Game" originally run on the popular CW network, but due to executive decisions and increased whiteness of mainstream television, in 2009, "The Game" was moved to BET. While show creators like Shonda Rhimes do implement color-blind casting in their show development processes, there is still an astounding lack of minority-centric shows on primetime television. Baz Luhrmann's vision of a show focusing on African American and Latino young people (that will reach millions of people via the Netflix platform) is definitely a step in the right direction. However, the fact that it takes such a powerful director and a period piece in order to get minority actors on a mainstream platform is concerning.

When will there be another "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air?" When will a sitcom about the everyday life of a black family once again achieve the success of its white counterparts in mainstream culture?

While Shonda's shows and "The Get Down" do promote diversity in the mainstream television context, lack of diversity on television seems to become a greater problem every day. "Empire" is cool, but what TV really needs is another "The Cosby Show" minus an alleged rapist.

By JAMES KANER

The Nearsighted Narwhal not only offers a wide variety of tidbits, it also hopes to be a catalyst for a vibrant Tacoma community. Pictured above are journals offered in the store, and at bottom the Narwhal mascot of the store.

Anyone looking for the heart of Tacoma doesn't need to go any further than 2810 6th Ave. There, nestled between doughnut shops and record stores, you'll find a curious little store with a bright blue papier-mâché mascot inviting anybody and everybody to step inside for a while. I'm talking about what's quickly becoming a staple in the Tacoma community: The Nearsighted Narwhal.

Once you step inside, it is hard to keep one's eyes from wandering; there's so much to see to keep one's eyes from wandering. There are plans to offer even more creative options, such as custom t-shirts. Anybody familiar with the store knows that they take this idea of promoting personal creativity to the next level by offering weekly and monthly events dedicated to both spoken word and arts and crafts.

"We're retail but we're also artists, we knew we wanted to be part community center, part retail, part studio from the start," co-owners Christina Wheeler and Ossain Cardenas said in a recent interview.

The two have aimed to make their store model what they wanted to see in the community for some time.

They wanted a place that helps foster creativity in the community and that provides said community with products they can't find elsewhere.

"I got tired of waiting for a store like this... I feel like we fill a niche," Wheeler said. She's right in her assertion; not only does the Narwhal support the community as a creative outlet, it also benefits many of Tacoma's small businesses. The Narwhal offers a button-making service on their website that many businesses — such as Tacoma Games and House of Tattoos — have taken advantage of as it provides them a unique way to advertise their businesses.

Additionally, the Narwhal offers artists consignment opportunities. Most of what’s on sale at the Narwhal, whether it be shirts, albums, books or original art pieces, come from Tacoma’s local artists and a good portion of the sales goes directly into their collective pockets.

"We're not just helping the community, we're a part of it," Wheeler said.

By looking at all of what the Nearsighted Narwhal has to offer, there's little room for argument.
H

ouse shows are usually hit or miss, but when Puget Sound band Versing plays, it's a guaranteed good time.

A few weekends ago, a handful of Washington bands came together to play a show in Tacoma. Versing started out the night with a feel-good set of sentimental pop songs. Although pop music sometimes gets a bad rap of being predictable or insipid, Versing proves how original and charming pop songs can be. They have a garage-band edge that catches you off guard, in a good way.

The band is made up of three Puget Sound alumni and one current student, with Daniel Sall on guitar and vocals, Max Keyes on drums, Kirby Lochner on bass, and Graham Baker on guitar. Versing has grown a lot as a group since their beginnings in 2013. Their songs are all light and catchy. The addition of Baker as second guitarist and Lochner on bass gives the band a fuller sound. Keyes’s drumming is energetic and always on point, and Sall brings everything together with shredding guitar and distinctive vocals.

Versing spoke with me and shared some insights into their band as well as their plans and hopes for the future.

LILI: How and when did you become a band?

VERSING: We originally formed as a three-piece in late 2013 with Graham playing bass and Max on drums. We eventually felt our songs would work better with two guitars, and Kirby and I already shared some insights into their

What are your plans and hopes for the future?

We’re planning an EP soon, with a physical release to follow. Hopefully we’ll be able to go on a West Coast tour at some point, but we’re mostly trying to play local shows for the time being.

How would you describe yourself as a group?

Poppy tunes, walls of feedback, often at the same time.

What are some inspirations?


What do you like most about playing shows?

Playing loud is the best part. We usually practice in our duplex so we can’t get too wild most of the time.

Do you have any upcoming events planned?

We’re playing a KEXP Community Partnership show on March 7 at Sunset Tavern, then at Cairo with No Body and Mother Tongue in Seattle on Friday, March 15. Then we’ll be playing with Snuff Redux in Olympia later in March, then back in Tacoma at Bob’s Java Jive on April 4. We’re hoping to play at Alder Arts Walk on April 24 as well.

Anything else you want to share?

We’re just trying to bring rock ‘n’ roll to the people.

AFROCARRIBEAN DANCE NIGHT

By ALEXANDRIA VAN VORIS

We are at the point in the semester where Spring Break is so close, but midterms are upon us. One fun event took place the evening of Feb. 27 that gave students a chance to dance the night away and momentarily forget about their lovely midterms.

An AfroCarribean Dance Night was co-sponsored by the Black Student Union and Bluxion Dance Group.

The event included a night of fun and dancing and commenced with Cuban Salsa lessons taught by Oriel Siu and Dennis Richards.

Siu is the director of Latina/o Studies and as an Assistant Professor for Puget Sound’s Hispanic Studies Department, and many students showed up from these departments to support and learn from Siu and Richards.

The event was attended by more than 45 students.

Richards and Siu started out by teaching the basics of club salsa and then worked their way up to more complex and impressive moves.

Students appeared to greatly enjoy learning this dance style, as well as Richards’s incredibly entertaining metaphors for each move.

Sophomore, Jensen Handwork, helped coordinate the night and says events like this have been taking place all month up in conjunction with Black History Month.

He said, “Each week we had a different theme, the last being Music and Dance. We engaged in on-campus discussions about students’ relationship to Music and Race, brought jazz guitarist Michael Powers to campus, and planned AfroCarribean as our big campus event.”

“I really enjoyed it. It opened not only my eyes but also other people’s eyes to a very different style of dance than we are used to here, which was very fun to learn more about and experience,” first-year student Edrick Wang said.

The lesson included learning different combinations and techniques, as well as having the opportunity to dance with numerous partners. After the lesson ended, everyone was invited to stay in the dance room and dance the night away. Many students stayed at the event which ran until 12 a.m.

“I think the event was a great success and something that would be awesome to continue next year,” Nakisha Renee Jones, President of BSU, said. “We haven’t had a dance-themed event through the Black Student Union for awhile on this campus knowing that sometimes themed dances can go awry but it was really fun with the Cuban Salsa lessons. I’m hoping to be able to partner with other BSUs in the area for next Black History Month’s events. I know PLU’s BSU was having a Old School Hip-Hop Dance Night that same week, and next year maybe we can link up with a big celebration.”

“We had good turn out and raised money for our One More scholarship,” Tyson West, Vice President of BSU, said. This scholarship was created by the Black Student Union of Puget Sound in 2014.

It aims to “alleviate some of the barriers to pursuing higher education for fellow students of color by providing financial support,” West said. “The instructors were very fun, interactive and vibrant. It was cool that one of the instructors was a professor. I would like to make this an annual thing, maybe on Mardi Gras next time.”

Afrocarribbean Dance Night was a fun evening that gave students a chance to learn a new style of dance and have fun with the music and one another.”