STUDENTS EVICTED FROM RAT-INFESTED ON-CAMPUS HOUSE

By Mattew Gulick

Post control problems come with building maintenance. Despite the University’s best efforts to keep pests out, the natural world will find ways to get in. In other words, the best-laid plans of mice are better than those of men.

A number of Puget Sound students have seen critters around campus, be it in passing down commencement walk or in one of the on-campus houses. Often times it is something innocuous as a squirrel or raccoon, but students have noted a rat scurrying across their path.

According to facilities records: “In a one year period from 2/6/16–2/15/17 we received 43 work orders from the houses which include rats, fleas, mice, spiders, ants, wasps, and a bird. Eleven of the work orders are repeat houses.” Of course, this total does not include unreported incidents. Referencing the total reports for the campus as a whole, Keif asserted that Puget Sound simply faces a problem shared by any institution of comparable size.

When someone files a work order (be it directly to facilities or through Res. Life) it gets sent to the appropriate shop, e.g. mechanical for plumbing, building services for rodents, etc. They place these orders at the end of a standing queue while more pressing issues are bumped to the top of the list. The dispatched individual will then go evaluate the problem, in the case of rodents they will ascertain the method of entry and place the appropriate trap, then continue to monitor the situation or call in their contracted pest control company, Orkin.

Facilities and Res. Life may also encourage students to take preventative measures. Their primary advice is telling the students not to leave food out. On their end, they will remove porch couches (a common point of entry) and trim back bushes around the building. All this is part of building maintenance. The problem arises when the University fails to adequately address an issue. One example is the Garden House.

Junior Kinny Ortmann lived in the house for 2015-2016 and complained of an extensive rodent problem for the duration of that year. According to Ortmann, rats would often get into the kitchen and take food, leaving a mess in their wake. She reported the problem to Residence Life through her Resident Communities Coordinator. The complaint made its way to facilities services who placed traps in the areas of concern, but the rats would continue to come back. On their end, they would remove porch couches (a common point of entry) and trim back bushes around the building.

“From the beginning they were never going to get rid of the rats. They would catch one rat and another would run in,” Ortmann said. “They tried to catch the rats by setting the traps, but the traps wouldn’t work. The rats would just run around.”

In an email Residence life personnel offered to set traps in her area. Ortmann declined the offer and informed the residents that it was the messy condition of their house drawing the rats in.

“If you have any kind of food on the floor, they will run in and eat it,” Ortmann said.

On two occasions, Ortmann says, rats were caught in a trap but remained alive. Her roommates personally killed these rats via suffocation with a plastic bag. Bob Keif claimed to have no record of such incidents.

Ultimately the problem remained unresolved and the students moved out in the spring of 2016. The future of Washington’s graduating high school class of 2016 looks brighter than ever.

According to data published in late February by Washington’s Superintendent of Public Education, the number of the state’s public high school students graduating after four years has reached an all time high of 79.1 percent. The number has risen a full percentage point from the graduation rates of 2015, representing an additional 1,528 students.

Pierce County’s school districts did even better than the state average. Puyallup had a graduation rate of 89.6 percent, Eatonville had 95.2 percent, and Steilacoom had 94.7 percent. The Tacoma school district had a graduation rate of 85 percent, totaling 1,730 students. In 2010, only 55 percent of Tacoma students graduated and the USA Today called Tacoma school district’s “dropout factories.”

The Tacoma school district’s strategic plan aimed for an 85 percent graduation rate by 2020, but the district achieved the rate four years early. According to the Tacoma Public Schools’ website, the schools’ strategies include “increased time for tutoring and instruction, seminar/study periods, communicating and working with families and community partners, and new data tracking and analysis systems.

Tacoma Public Schools have added summer and online courses to help its students earn course credits. It also partners with Graduate Tacoma, a foundation of over 200 community partners from every neighborhood in the city. Its mission is to “help every child achieve success from cradle to college and career by aligning goals, data, resources, and partners.”

Puget Sound also partners with Tacoma Public Schools in several ways. Puget Sound hosts an annual college fair for local high school students. Puget Sound’s School of Education places interns in public schools. The School of Music brings summer camps, musical theater classes, and music lessons to public schools. The Slater Museum of Natural History loans specimens to local classrooms and has developed curriculum for elementary schools.

“The first rat we saw was just before Thanksgiving break,” Harbutt said. (Continued on page 3...)

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TAGOMA PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES SOAR

By Aidan Regan

The future of Washington’s graduating high school class of 2016 looks brighter than ever.

According to data published in late February by Washington’s Superintendent of Public Education, the number of the state’s public high school students graduating after four years has reached an all time high of 79.1 percent. The number has risen a full percentage point from the graduation rates of 2015, representing an additional 1,528 students.

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“We are very passionate about our partnership and close collaboration with Tacoma Public Schools and excited about the continuing increase in graduation rates,” Puget Sound’s Associate Director of Admission Robin Aijian said. “The enrollment of students from Tacoma is very important to us.”

This sentiment reflects the University’s “Tacoma Public Schools Commitment.” The policy, implemented in 2015, ensures that the University meets the full demonstrated financial need of admitted students from Tacoma Public Schools.

Since the policy took effect, the number of students from Tacoma has grown.

In a 2014 interview with The News Tribune, former President Ronald Thomas said that the policy is “consistent with our values as an institution — civic engagement, being good citizens and good neighbors in our own community... We all felt it was time to invest more in our local community and make sure that students here have the same opportunity as students around the country.”

This policy provides a unique opportunity to students who may not otherwise be able to afford an education at Puget Sound. With Tacoma’s graduation rates on the rise, more local students will have that opportunity than ever.
Take a Logger to Work program gives students a look in the real world

By Val Bauer

Loggers have the opportunity to get a taste for the workplace with the Take a Logger to Work (TLW), a program created by Career and Employment Services (CES) where “students connect with established professionals for half-day shadowing experiences,” according to their webpage. Every year over winter break, students have “an opportunity to experience a day in the life of professionals affiliated with the Logger community,” CES Communications Coordinator Kris Hay said.

The facet most emphasized by CES is that the job shadowing experience is hosted by professionals who are members of the Logger community — Puget Sound alumni and parents. Alana Hentges, Director of Career Services, said that “the shared Puget Sound affiliation is foundational to creating [a safe environment for students to learn, and for alumni/parents to connect].”

“Spending time with alumni and parents in their workplace,” Hay said, “allows students to make meaningful connections and to gain a level of insight that isn’t possible from simply reading about a career field.”

New to the program in 2017 is a choice between “Exploratory” and “Immersive” experiences. “Students who may be unsure of their future career paths … have the opportunity to identify potential career interests and gain exposure to the professional world” through the exploratory experience, Hay said.

For students who “are nervous about job shadowing because they don’t have their career direction set,” Hentges emphasizes, “that’s what Take a Logger to Work is all about—breaking down barriers … so they can explore career fields in a supportive, Logger-friendly environment.”

Student participants and hosts alike have overwhelmingly positive comments about the Take a Logger to Work program.

Lee Nelson, sophomore Sociology and Anthropology major, described his experience. “All I expected from TLW was to learn more about a career that I’m interested in and, I did that. However, I also learned so much more about the nonprofit world in general and other opportunities that make me excited for my future,” he said.

In order to “explore some different fields [he] could go into with [his] major,” Nelson “shadowed [ed] Cassie Marshall, an Americorps VISTA coordinator of King County in Seattle.” After a day of urban garden upkeep in Seattle, Nelson got coffee with Marshall and learned about “what [her] job is like on the average day” as well as “her experience with nonprofits in general.”

As to whether Nelson would recommend participation in Take a Logger to Work to others, he responded: “Absolutely! Think any opportunity to experience a career you have even the slightest interest in should be taken.” He also cited the common background of the Puget Sound community to be comforting.

Jose Torres-Oyama, ’16, said of the program, “TLW provided me with insight about possible career routes I may take as a graduate from a liberal arts college … I’ve made great connections from this experience and plan on staying in touch via LinkedIn.”

Sophomore Kyla Richards “gained so much valuable career advice and guidance, as well as a genuine conversation about the reality of post-grad life. Particularly as someone who was interested in the sciences but is not sure where I can go from here.”

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CES

Citizens for a Healthy Bay: This nonprofit took some loggers to work. From left to right, Linnaea Arnett ’17, Kyla Richards ’19, Elsa Soderberg ’20, Ryan Cruz ’15 and colleague

JayRay, local Public Relations firm: JayRay President Kathleen Deanks ’79 and Ethan Laser ’17
Students evicted from rat-infested on-campus house

By Mattew Gulick

On campus houses: University struggles to manage pest infestation

Claire Harbutt, also a junior, was one of those new residents. She and her roommates no longer live at the house.

“The first rat we saw was just before Thanksgiving break,” Harbutt said.

Previous to this sighting there had been a bit of an ant problem so the residents had kept food largely contained. Harbutt feels their house was no messier, and was in fact cleaner, than some other student houses. Either way, the problem escalated. Facilities placed traps, one of which did catch and kill a rat, but this did not seem to fix the issue. Post-break the students would see up to three rats a night, coming out in the evening to forage. Once, Harbutt said, a rat even took food out of the toaster.

The students continued to reach out to Res. Life.

“At first you think they’re really helpful, reassuring us, saying they’d send people in every day assuming it’d be fine” Harbutt said. She added that University staff implied the problem was their uncleanliness and that they had never received reports of rodent problems at this residence before. Like Ortman’s, Harbutt’s assertion is supported by email correspondence.

The problem came to a head over winter break. After promises from the University to take care of the rodents (sending people in every day, moving the traps, etc.) Harbutt returned to campus to find the countertop darkened with little brown tracks. A cell phone picture illustrated her description – the off-white surface tinted by a covering of paw prints.

Later one of her roommates returned from the break to discover her room turned into a rat’s nest, her bedding soiled by feces and roughly a third of her clothing shredded.

According to Harbutt, this roommate did not keep food in their room. At this point the University realized the situation was no longer tenable and moved the students into suites in Thomas Hall.

Aside from the bedding, these students have not received any reimbursement. They are currently still in talks with University staff.

Bob Kief encourages any students who notice a pest problem to let him know at bkief@pugetsound.edu

WHERE TO FIND THE TRAIL
BLACK BEAR YOGURT
BLUEBEARD COFFEE
CAFE BROUSSEAU
METRONOME COFFEE
SHAKABRAH JAVA

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
OFFICE HOURS
DIVERSIONS CAFE
MADELINE BROOKS
WEDNESDAY 12PM-1PM
CASEY O’BRIEN
TUESDAY 1230 PM - 130 PM

On Sunday, a fishbowl exercise was facilitated, allowing those of certain racial groups to go in the middle of the circle and have a discussion while the rest of the group listened from the outside of the circle. People became extremely vulnerable in these discussions.

“Most exercises put people into somewhat homogenous groups, whether it was by race, gender, sexual orientation, or city of origin. This fostered a space to discuss shared experiences, with little breaks between activities.

“It was an amazing experience to see that people wanted to put themselves out there, knowing that a lot of us just met each other for the first time,” said Posse scholar Priyanshi Vora. “It was eye-opening to see that people were open to a conversation like that because I feel like we’re all in our own little bubble and it’s hard to get out of it.

On Sunday, a fishbowl exercise was facilitated, allowing those of certain racial groups to go in the middle of the circle and have a discussion while the rest of the group listened from the outside of the circle. People became extremely vulnerable in these discussions.

“If a conversation is really going to engage with questions about inequity, difference, and disparity, we have to expect that we’ll be uncomfortable because our culture doesn’t train us,” Bristow stated.

Buses arrived at Fort Worden around 5:00 p.m. giving people time to explore the premises until dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by the first group meeting. This included multiple activities, one of which put people into different societies that tried to understand each other through difference.

“The other activity, introduced the “Us vs. Them” theme, asking participants to provide examples of groups with contrasting perspectives about the world.

“It was faculty, staff and students, all in the same spaces, all doing the same things. Being led, largely by our own students or by people outside of campus,” said Bristow.

“For me, community needs to be non-hierarchical and that’s what I got from that weekend.”

On Saturday morning, everyone attended breakfast together at 8 a.m. and then immediately went to the main hall where all the conversations were held.

“Very different than a lot of faculty as the ones who know or staff as the ones in charge and having students be at the center and students be so clearly knowledgeable, wise, insightful, intuitive, was really exciting to witness,” Bristow said.

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I think it’s good for the campus to know that people went away and talked about these issues for 48 hours solid,” Bristow said. “I saw a level of commitment to the work of really engaging with issues of equity and inequity, and difference and disparity. I really admire those who were willing to do that.”
DeVos (kind of) resisted Trump's trans bathroom bill
An unexpected defiance quickly regressed to complicity

By Hannah Ritner

Betsy DeVos continues to dominate media headlines, but recently in an unexpected fashion. Any initial effort to stand up for marginalized students was overwhelmed by an action of self-preservation that ultimately makes her complicit in psychological violence.

Yet another oppressive and marginalizing action in the disaster that is Donald Trump’s presidency is his removal of a civil rights statute passed by President Obama that provided transgender students in public schools the right to use the bathroom of their choice.

The narrative of entitled, white Republican men policing the bathrooms of youth across the nation and legislating the bodies of transgender children and teens alike is unfortunately no surprise — especially given Trump’s blatant lack of respect for basic human rights. Yet, what did spark some confusion in this decision was the fact that the only voice of dissent came from his controversial Secretary of Education pick, Betsy DeVos:

“The administration has a responsibility to protect every student in America and ensure that they have the freedom to learn and thrive in a safe and trusted environment.”

According to The New York Times, Trump confronted DeVos about her unexpected defense of transgender students and gave her an ultimatum: either getting on board with rolling back Obama’s bathroom bill or losing her job. DeVos clearly opted for the former, as evident from recent legislation.

Reporters at NewRepublic have credited her for trying to “do something good,” but it is ridiculous for DeVos to be picking up good press for this action when standing up for the rights of students is something she should have been doing in the first place. Which she didn’t even do. As the Secretary of Education, you would think this would be in the job description.

Any media that commends DeVos for her “defense” of trans rights is looking past what is actually a spineless capitulation. The fact that she was aware of the danger of this bill yet submitted to Trump’s threat so quickly makes this act uniquely harmful.

DeVos statement indicates that she is to some extent aware of the violence inflicted upon gender nonconforming youth. As she should be — forcing trans students to use bathrooms against the gender they identify with is isolating and psychologically violent. Her complicity with this type of violence for her own job preservation demonstrates that her words were likely disingenuous.

The Department of Education is supposed to be eliminating the bullying and harassment that occur so prevalently in America’s schools, which should be safe for everyone. If DeVos was truly concerned about this, she should have stood by her convictions.

In fact, it is absurd that we even have to have this conversation — that the rights of trans students even need to be discussed, and the fact that cisgender Republican men are policing the rights of vulnerable students is disgusting. Trans rights are human rights; it’s time that this be taken seriously.

UW Tacoma makes Breitbart headlines
How an anti-racist statement made by writing center drew far-right attention

By Karlee Robinson

As an anti-racist statement made by the University of Washington (UW) Tacoma Writing Center this past October regarding the “broader context of language” was wildly misinterpreted by conservative media last month. The far-right American news, opinion and commentary website Breitbart caught wind of the pro-inclusivity statement and published a response headlined “University of Washington Tacoma Declared Proper Grammar is Racist.”

While Breitbart likely covered this issue as an attempt to push back against the sort of ‘liberal snowflake’ sensitivity they so often attack, the majority of concern over the university’s anti-racist statement could be found in Breitbart comment sections, posted great distances away from the Tacoma campus community to which the statement originally applied.

“Racism is pervasive. It is in the systems, structures, rules, languages, expectations and guidelines that make up our classes, school, and society,” the Writing Center statement reads.

As a current employee at our own Center for Writing, Learning and Teaching (CWLT), I can attest that our center works in similar ways to confront microaggressions and hostility. In fact, the CWLT hosted the most recent National Conference onPeer Tutoring in Writing, which specifically questioned how to better accommodate students of all backgrounds, with careful consideration of individuals who are otherwise marginalized by the academy. Many parallels can be found between UW Tacoma’s Writing Center goals and our own.

UW Tacoma Writing Center director and associate professor, Asao B. Inoue, has since been managing the controversy discussion this statement provoked.

The process began when Inoue became aware of the Teaching and Learning Center’s history with microaggressions. Inoue continued on to discuss how to better accommodate students in public schools the right to use the bathroom of their choice.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL VADON

An anti-racist statement made by writing center drew far-right attention

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March 10, 2017
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Trans bathroom regulations turned back over to states

By Emma Holmes

Trump’s recent attack on the rights of transgender children has turned the focus back to bathroom regulations. On Feb. 22, President Trump rescinded the national mandate allowing transgender students to use the bathroom of the gender they identify with, a move that is still under litigation. The decision has sparked outrage among LGBTQ+ advocacy groups, and left several states reeling in controversy. Under the previous mandate, school administrators were not required to accommodate students that identify with a gender different from the sex they were assigned at birth, but did not make a distinction in the case of transgender students. Studies have shown that transgender students were interpreted to fall under Title IX, which protects students from discrimination based on sex. With these protections peeled back, states will be forced to regulate their own laws on bathroom usage and other transgender rights issues.

So, where does this leave Washington State? In public schools, at least, students are free to use the bathroom they identify with. Alternative single-stall facilities are made available for anyone who feels uncomfortable, and students are permitted to ask for an alternative changing area or restroom on a go-to-bathroom basis. However, a new bill could possibly change that. House Bill (HB) 1011 was pre-filed on Dec. 5, and was written by Washington State republican members of the House of Representatives. Rewire, an online legislative tracker, summarizes the bill as follows:

HB 1011 would amend the Washington Law Against Discrimination to include a new exception that allows a public or private entity to limit access to a private facility segregated by gender and use to a person if the person is preoperative, nonbinary, or otherwise has genitalia of a different gender from the sex assigned at birth.

The bill is likened to North Carolina’s HB2, which has sparked economic boycotts of the state as well as widespread protests. By altering the definition of discrimination, this bill reinforces the idea that gender is determined by anatomy, rather than identity, which also puts many intersex persons in a difficult position. A transgender person’s ability to go back to the bathroom is dependent on whether or not they’ve undergone transitional surgery, which is an expensive and painful procedure that many choose to forgo.

Most of the first time I felt I came from a lack of information; I didn’t know what a miscarriage was. I didn’t know if my mom was in pain, or in danger, or how to ask her about it. It’s an incredibly personal situation that is difficult to discuss with people who are not immediate family members, and even those who are. The stigma that surounds pregnancy loss is another reason that it so often goes unshared. It’s not something that comes up in many casual conversations, and therefore is often glossed over or forgotten. The fact is that we don’t have any sort of script to have these conversations.

There are common misconceptions about the causes for miscarriages. Examples include: having sex, exercise, a mild fall and most medications, which are considered safe by Planned Parenthood while off-label cause pregnancy loss. Things that can contribute to unintentional pregnancy loss include: smoking, ingestion of alcohol or cocaine, excessive stress, and certain medications taken in the first trimester. General factors that affect risk include age, history of miscarriage, autoimmune disorders and nutrition. They can happen after prolonged symptoms such as bleeding and cramping, or they can occur almost spontaneously.

However, miscarriages (the loss of a fetus before the twentieth week of pregnancy) are surprisingly common. Planned Parenthood finds that between 10 to 25 percent of known pregnancies end in miscarriage, and there are no reliable estimates of the number of conceptions that are not carried to term. If a miscarriage happens in the first few weeks, the person experiencing it may not have known they were pregnant and may not even know that they are having a miscarriage. Eighty percent of unintentionally ended pregnancies occur within the first trimester and most are able to be carried out without medical help.

Pregnancy loss that occurs after about the five-month or twenty-week mark is referred to as a stillbirth in the United States; this is the point at which fetuses become visible and are capable of surviving outside of the mother’s body. Stillbirths are more likely to require a medical intervention such as dilation and curettage (d&c) or new medical procedure in which the cervix is dilated in order to access and remove or examine the contents of the uterus. This procedure can regularly cost upwards of $15,000 without insurance, according to Laura Streicher, M.D., a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Northwestern University — a hefty fee that only adds to the emotional strain for many parents, and another reason why Planned Parenthood and the ACA are important.

Within these broader categories, there are more specific types of lost pregnancies. A chemical pregnancy refers to a pregnancy that has been detected biochemically, but does not reach stage where it can be confirmed by an ultrasound. Ectopic pregnancies, which very rarely end in birth, occur when the zygote implants outside of the uterus (for example, within a fallopian tube or ovary). There has been a slow yet steady increase in information and awareness surrounding pregnancy loss in the United States. Castellanos, an advocate for prevention and awareness, has written extensively about her personal experience with miscarriage. She often goop, a website that explores the body, mind, and emotions in ways that help people live more fully and authentically. 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 campus a safer place by normalizing and demystifying topics like safer sex practices, sexualities, kinks and polyamory, while shedding light on topics like trans rights, sexual and domestic violence, gender inequalities and intersectionality. Happy Trail correspondents are not medical professionals; if you have a medical concern contact CHFS or a local clinic. Otherwise, direct your sexuality and gender questions to traillou@pugetsound.edu. Respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to traillou@pugetsound.edu.
Although the Dining Services on campus are inexpensive and diverse, many students end up eating the same thing every day. Eating off campus can be a great option to change up the daily menu and exit the Puget Sound Bubble. These restaurants are close to campus and provide authentic food, vegan dishes, and a variety of dining options for everyone.

1. Southern Kitchen
Located on 6th Avenue, Southern Kitchen is home to all foods soul food. Its warm environment and friendly wait staff will make you feel right at home. With award winning fried chicken, vegetarian sides and mango lemonade is all made from scratch and served in large portions. According to Southern Kitchen's website, a $5.95 breakfast special is available every day from 8 a.m. – noon. It is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Friday through Saturday 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.; and Sunday 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

2. Taqueria El Sabor
For authentic Mexican food, Taqueria El Sabor is three miles north of campus. Its casual dining room and drive-thru are open from 9 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily. The restaurant offers a wide range of traditional Mexican dishes such as hibiscus and snowflakes at an affordable price.

3. Quickie Too
Quickie Too located in downtown Tacoma, offers a wide range of quality, local, organic and sustainable vegan food. It offers sandwiches, mac and cheese, milkshakes and salads that are all full of flavor. It definitely feels comforting to have a homemade, healthy, vegan meal. I'm not a vegan and I could barely tell that the food was vegan. The milkshakes are that are full of flavor. “It definitely feels comforting to have a homemade, healthy, vegan meal. I'm not a vegan and I could barely tell that the food is vegan. The milkshakes are

4. Antique Sandwich Co.
North of campus, Antique Sandwich Co. offers breakfast, a variety of sandwiches, and gluten-free bread. The Trail features director Joseph Rodriguez is taking time off and Brianna had to quit her job to stay on top of medical appointments. "The funds will go towards whatever medical bills they will be responsible for," Brianna said. "That's the least we can do for the family." Joseph contacted The Trail just a few days after Shirley Anne's birth, with the hope of raising awareness for CHD. The umbrella term for any type of "structural abnormality of the heart present at birth," and the most common birth defect worldwide. "Primarily we want to reach out to the Puget Sound community because of the experiences we had there," Joseph said. "I personally received so much support from the faculty, staff, and student body without which I would have never made it through my time there."

February was also CHD Awareness Month, a time dedicated to spreading information and fundraising to help research organizations improve surgeries and knowledge about CHD. "CHD research is grossly underfunded relative to the number of lives it affects," an infographic on shirleysgrandadventure.com explains. According to popular organizations supporting CHD advocacy awareness, the best ways to get involved are to connect, share stories, and donate if possible. Because of the medical attention and care Shirley Anne requires, especially in her first few months of life, Brianna's mother has created a crowdfunding page on the family's behalf. Joseph is taking time off and Brianna had to quit her job to stay on top of medical appointments. "All the funds will go towards whatever medical bills they will be responsible for, lost time at work and living accommodations in Seattle," the crowdfunding page says at www.gofundme.com/shirleyanne.

While Truncus Arteriosus has presented the Rodriguez family with challenges in Shirley Anne’s first couple weeks of life, Brianna and Joseph are ultimately grateful for the Rodriguez family’s story with others as encouragement and that although there are struggles that children with CHD will face, they can bring so much joy, unity, and healing to others around them.

Explore Tacoma through off-campus dining
By Nia Henderson and Angela Cookston

Welcome Shirley Anne:
Alums face congenital heart disease in baby's first months
By Molly Wampler
From abroad: on hygge and happiness

Trail writer Emily Harman is studying in Denmark this semester, and graciously agreed to write back to Tacoma about her semester abroad.

By Emily Harman

Hej from Copenhagen, where I am spending spring semester studying at the Discover Institute of Scandinavia, eating entirely too many pastries and potatoes, and attempting to find light in a place that is quite a bit grayer than Washington state.

In 2015, the United Nations World Happiness Index ranked Denmark #1 as the world’s happiest country. The Danes would probably roll their eyes and mutter something about the welfare state if you mention the whole happiness situation, but I’m slowly learning that humility and understatements are as important in Danish culture as the unofficial all-black dress code.

As a newcomer to the country, I have several theories surrounding this title aside from free healthcare and the fact that students receive a stipend for attending University. My first theory is the overwhelming amount of carbohydrates consumed in this country. Danes love their sweets, their potatoes, and their bread, and ever since I discovered the half-price cinnamon rolls at Skt. Peder’s Bageri, I have definitely been a slightly happier human.

My second happiness-related realization is that literally everyone is constantly bundled in wool sweaters and cashmere scarves. The Danish winter wardrobe typically consists of multiple layers of black and/or gray turtlenecks, pashminas, and bulky scarves. Upon arriving in Copenhagen I immediately purchased a giant blanket scarf of my own and haven’t gone a single day without it. When your daily commute involves biking in the biting wind, scarves provide a special kind of joy.

While baked goods and warm socks definitely brighten the dreary Danish winters, the most probable source of Danish contentment is the cultural focus on slowing down, living in the warmth of the present moment, and enjoying the people and comfort in your life. Hygge is the flickering of candles on the tables in every coffee shop, blankets and heat lamps outside restaurants, warm rye bread in the morning and steaming tea or glögg at night. Hygge is laughing on the couch, exchanging stories, or sharing a hug with a loved one. It is a feeling that sneaks up on you, that fills you with warmth that somehow makes the skin seem a little less grey and the air a little less damp. I feel it when my host mom tells me about her childhood in Estonia, when my Bon Iver playlist is playing as I’m walking down the narrow cobblestone streets, when my host family’s dog snuggles a little closer to my legs. I feel it in the subtle, unspoken but omnipresent in an understated, comforting way. Hygge is the concept of coziness and warmth gained from spending quality time. Unique and integral to Danish society; this idea has exploded in popularity in the last few years, so much so that I received at least ten books, links, and magazine clippings about it when I informed my family and friends where I would be studying this semester. In America, hygge has been commodified as an ideal that can only be reached if you purchase whatever turtleneck or coffee roast advertised.

But within Denmark itself, hygge is not an object but an experience. It is much more subtle, unspoken but omnipresent in an understated, comforting way. Hygge is the feeling that sneaks up on you, that fills you with warmth that somehow makes the skin seem a little less grey and the air a little less damp. I feel it when my host mom tells me about her childhood in Estonia, when my Bon Iver playlist is playing as I’m walking down the narrow cobblestone streets, when my host family’s dog snuggles a little closer to my legs. I feel it in this moment, as I sit in with a pot of tea and a candle beside me, trying to find the words to describe this place that is beginning to feel like home.

It’s been about six weeks and I almost got used to the combination of cheese and jam on rye, the train announcements in a language I will never understand, and the fact that yogurt comes in a carton. Stay tuned — maybe one day I will even figure out the currency or be brave enough to try liver pâté. Maybe.

From Copenhagen with love, potatoes, and hygge.

March is Women’s History Month: Here are four women on campus you should know

By Alyssa Danis

In honor of National Women’s History Month this March, ‘The Trail asked professors in the Gender and Queer Studies department to nominate women on campus who are making a positive impact on our community and beyond. All four women are influential on campus and in their overall communities. Each woman conducts important research that breaks boundaries, whether they be racial, cultural, or gender-based. They all manage to incite activism for social justice through their work and teaching. They are an inspiration to their students, and the women in the community. They represent the power of education and goodwill can give women.

We here at ‘The Trail are grateful for the hard work that each of these women do to continually improve the University.

Grace Livingston, Associate Professor, African American Studies.

Livingston was nominated by two people: Dean of Educational Studies and Professor Amy Ryken, and Professor Terrence Beck.

“Grace was the first Black woman in the African American studies department. She faced significant barriers posed by faculty and students who, in various ways, questioned whether or not she belonged here. She has developed a reputation as a stellar thinker and fine teacher through hard work and persistence (and amazing ability, I might add),” Beck said.

“Grace has provided intentional and powerful leadership across campus through her teaching, campus service, and leadership in the Race and Pedagogy Institute to challenge our campus to critically engage questions of race and inequality,” Ryken added.

Nancy Bristow, Professor, Department of History.

“Nancy has worked in African American studies for years, which can be challenging for a White woman. Nancy arrived at a time when women were not being promoted at the same rate as men among the faculty. Nancy builds coalitions and she works incredibly hard for social justice and the dignity of all people,” Beck said.

Bristow teaches emphasizes social change, gender, and race within her history courses.

Kris Bartanen, Academic Vice President and Dean.

Former President Ronald Thomas said that “Kris Bartanen has compiled an impressive record at Puget Sound. In my time here, I have come to admire and respect her competence, integrity, professionalism, and strength of conviction. I am confident Kris will provide strong leadership, effective advocacy of the faculty and excellence in the academic program, and a deep understanding of Puget Sound’s aspirations,” when she was named Dean in 2004.

“Now she seems to be just as impressive. ‘Dean Bartanen consistently provides leadership and resources that support the academic programs on campus. She brings strength, grace, and humility to her very challenging role where she is constantly negotiating competing demands for resources. She takes a learning stance in all of her work by listening carefully and taking conflicting perspectives seriously,” Ryken said.

Monica DeHart, Professor and Chair, Sociology and Anthropology.

DeHart teaches classes on cultural anthropology and ethnography. She continues to pursue the same ideas in her own work: “[she is] especially interested in the role that gender, class, and ethnic difference play in shaping people’s identities and relations within transnational communities and development projects,” according to her blurb on Puget Sound’s website.

“Monica has been a leader for over a decade to create meaningful community partnerships and experiential learning opportunities for Puget Sound students and children and teachers in a local elementary school. She has been a vocal advocate for supporting undocumented citizens both on and off our campus,” Ryken said.
Jamie Lange: A two-sport athlete and breakout star

By Tayla MacPherson

The women’s basketball team has had a historic season, in part because of the immense talent that fills the squad of the women’s team — including redshirt freshman Jamie Lange (Lake Tapps, Washington).

Lange attended Summer high school before attending the University of Puget Sound. At Summer high school, Lange flourished on the court with skill, physical strength and confidence. However, her main sport growing up was soccer and the sport she was recruited for was soccer. After committing to the University of Puget Sound for soccer, Coach Payne, the head women’s basketball coach, contacted Lange to discuss the possibility of being a two-sport athlete.

Unfortunately, during her senior season of basketball, Lange tore her ACL and LCL in a high school district championship basketball game. Like most athletes who experience a season-ending injury, Lange was devastated. Lange got surgery March 2015 and started her recovery process. She continued her rehab with University of Puget Sound training staff and after missing a full soccer and basketball season started running and competing again.

Yet Lange took another turn for the worse by being hit with more knee problems this past summer. One of the two screws that were placed in her knee after her ACL and LCL repair surgery decided to push its way out. The screw was then rattling around in her knee, creating additional swelling and constant pain. Surgery in summer 2016 was successful and she was able to rehabilitate and train for the soccer season in the fall.

Fall 2016 Lange competed for being the number two goalkeeper for the Loggers’ women’s soccer team, under senior Lauren Thomas (Woodinville, Washington). Lange made an appearance in one match this fall for 32 minutes, showing her large presence and organizational vocal abilities on the field.

Coach Joe Vari explains Lange’s progression throughout this past fall soccer season.

“We caught her on the front end of recovering and becoming stronger as an athlete again. She showed great progression on the end for us. Her physicality of sides of things increased very much by the end of the season. On the training side of things, you could see her progression in her moving more comfortably and the increase of comfortability,” Vari said.

Although Lange has been hit with many setbacks due to her knee injury, she has taken every opportunity with energy and grace. After discussing with both teams (women’s soccer and basketball) no one does not like Jamie Lange. She is competitive, but also has the progression in her moving more comfortably and the increase of comfortability,” Vari said.

Lange is beyond excited to start playing soccer again in spring practices and fall season. Basketball and soccer have many overlaps and she is eager to transpose everything she learned this basketball season over to spring soccer practices.

“I am so excited for spring practices; it’s been awhile since I have been in soccer mode, so it should be a fun transition. But also, I am so excited for a break. I have been in season for a long time, so it will be nice to have a bit of time off to enjoy the college experience without having to plan my day around practice times. Plus, while I have been on the court, my soccer team has been putting in major work in the weight room. I am excited to see all the strength and fitness they have gained during this time not in season. This should translate over into our physicality of play during spring practices and fall season. It is a great to know that both teams respect me for being a two-sport athlete. Especially, having my whole soccer team in the stands every game this basketball season was the best feeling,” Lange said.

This basketball season, Lange has made an immense presence, blessing the basketball court with personality and love for the game. This season Lange has averaged 12.9 points per game and 9.3 rebounds per game, with averaging only 17.4 minutes per game.

“Knowing that not many people get the opportunity to play two sports they love, I feel like I have to take advantage of every opportunity I have been given, on and off the court. Not to mention my incredible teammates who put full belief in me, which helped so much. They would always be available to shoot or go over plays, so I could be confident in what we were doing,” Lange said.

During my interview with Lange she constantly mentioned her teammates’ support and help to get her where she is now. With the help of her talented teammates, her accolades this season include Logger of the Week, Northwest Conference student-athlete of the week, second team all-conference and Northwest Conference freshman of the year. In addition, Lange was nominated for NCAA Newcomer of the Year in which she came second in the voting.

Head women’s basketball coach Loree Payne explained Lange’s ability to transition from soccer to basketball easily. “Progression in soccer helped her in basketball. After participating in a full college level season prior to basketball her physicality and confidence levels were high. Not to mention she is the sweetest kid, making the transition into basketball incredibly easy. Once her timing was back and her fitness supported her need to get back up and down the floor things came together. Her efficiency increased and the physical side was able to catch up with the mental piece,” Payne said.

As the Tacoma community knows now, Lange has come back stronger on the court than ever expected. Even though the Loggers fell in the second round of the NCAA tournament to Whitman, Lange and the team had a wonderful season to be proud of.

Women’s tennis midseason checkpoint

By Gabi Marrese

The women’s tennis team improved to fourth place in the conference standings. This currently puts them in a playoff spot if they can hold their spot through their next four conference matches.

Head coach Lyle McIntosh brought some new faces to the program by recruiting five new first-year students, along with assistant coach Hannah Lebowitz.

“They have just fit right in as far as building the culture of what we want to be, like a family,” McIntosh said. Lebowitz played tennis in England growing up and attended Arizona State while playing tennis.

“Lebowitz has tennis in her blood, which helps a lot. It’s an opportunity to be in a different culture for a lot of them,” McIntosh said. McIntosh and Lebowitz have both seen this program progress from the start.

“Lizzy from day one has been an amazing leader for us. She just has an incredible heart for people. I call her my thermometer because I always check in with her and see how everyone is doing, We will miss her both on and off the floor because of what a phenomenal person that she is and what she brings to daily,” Coach McIntosh said.

Since Coach McIntosh joined the team last year, the program has been working on improving, including being more consistent on and off the court.

“We see how passionate he is and it instills a passion in us and because he is such a positive person it is hard not to be positive around him. I definitely think that he has changed the program whether he is saying hi to all the teams or not just focusing on leadership in tennis but also to all of [Puget Sound’s] athletes,” Chao said.

The team has grown into a family that drives their success. They show respect to each other which allows them to be successful as players and people.

“I think our coach does a very good job of trying to improve every day and push each other. It’s not like ‘oh number one is better than I am.’ It’s like ‘we are going to make number one better of what we can’ and making sure that everyone is on board with that mentality,” Chao said.

The Logger’s next match will be on Saturday, Mar. 11 at the Memorial Fieldhouse against Whitman. In the next four matches they will face Whitworth twice and also visit Whitman College, currently ranked first.

“It’s been awhile since the tennis program has been in the playoffs so that would be our goal ... We are really impressed with the ladies work ethic each day, how they support each other and how they are working forward towards that goal that we haven’t had in a while,” said McIntosh.
Ten outdoor break adventures
by Grace Piccard

Spring break has finally rolled around, and we probably all wish we were somewhere sunny and warm. If you’ve found yourself staying in Tacoma for the duration of the break, you might be worried that you’re doomed to a week of boredom—but don’t worry, you’re flat-out wrong. Look no further than this list to find ten activities in the Tacoma area (or at least within reasonable driving distance) for both the intrepid explorer and laid-back adventurer.

1. Explore Tacoma’s urban wilderness. Tacoma is home to dozens of beautiful parks, including the nation’s second-largest outdoor park, Puyallup. Stroll through the rhododendron garden at Pt. Defiance (and check out the nearby state flower) or learn about an important piece of Tacoma’s cultural history at the Chinese Reconciliation Park along the Ruston waterfront.

2. Visit one of Washington’s last remaining tidal deltas. Most of our state’s major estuaries have been dredged or filled in for development, but the US Fish and Wildlife Service has worked to restore more than 700 acres of tidal flats in the Nisqually National Estuary. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has restored more than 700 acres of tidal flats in the Nisqually National Estuary. This provides a great opportunity to learn about the flora and fauna that call this delicate ecosystem home, or just wander the many acres of trails and boardwalk and see what neat animals you run into.

3. Hike in the PNW. While they’re definitely not as balmy as more tropical locales, but that’s nothing a raincoat can’t handle. Necessitates nothing but your boots. You might get a little wet cruising through the low-altitude rainforests or along the coastal beaches, but that’s nothing a raincoat can’t handle.

4. Stretch it out. Tacoma is home to dozens of yoga studios that offer everything from traditional yoga classes to new-fangled ones like hot yoga, to help you stay focused on entering the water—during the winter months the temperatures can dip into the forties.

5. Stretch it out. Tacoma is home to dozens of yoga studios that offer everything from traditional yoga classes to new-fangled ones like hot yoga, to help you stay focused on entering the water—during the winter months the temperatures can dip into the forties.

6. Ride a bike. Whether you’re cruising around the quiet streets of Tacoma or on the trails of a nearby park, travelling by bike is a great way to get to know any area. Or take the ferry over to nearby Vashon Island for beautiful rustic scenery and to catch a glimpse of the famous ‘bike in a tree,’ an abandoned bicycle that has been consumed by the tree growing around it.

7. Kayak on the Puget Sound. Get to know our beloved Puget Sound a different way—by paddling! Kayaks are available for rental along the Ruston Waterfront and are the quintessential way to experience Commencement Bay. On a clear day paddlers will be treated to stunning views of Mount Rainier and the Port of Tacoma, and might even catch a glimpse of the Puget Sound’s resident orca pod. Other popular islands in the Puget Sound area that end at waterfalls include Franklin Falls and Twin Falls. For a more grueling experience, check out Wallace Falls in the Stevens Pass area. The five-mile round trip hike will bring you to three different waterfalls! The five-mile round trip hike will bring you to three different waterfalls!

8. Fall in love. Take a day trip to visit some of Washington’s waterfalls, like the iconic Snoqualmie Falls. Snoqualmie Falls is the tallest waterfall in the Pacific Northwest at 268 feet. You can spend the day exploring the area and taking in the views, or you can simply hike up to the falls and then hop back on the shuttle van to leave.

9. Go rock climbing. The rain might make popular outdoor climbing routes too slippery, but you can still get your cram on at indoor gyms like nearby Edgeworks or Climb Tacoma. If you’re looking for an extra challenge, head up to Seattle to experience REI’s Pinnacle, an iconic 65-foot indoor rock wall. If you’re not a climber, you can sign up to take classes that will teach you what you need to know, or for the more advanced climber, sign a waiver and climb the wall.

10. Take a hike. There are thousands of trails to choose from in western Washington, from the northern Cascades to the Olympic Peninsula. Snowshoers might be interested in the winter hiking experience. If you’re looking for an extra challenge, head up to Seattle to experience REI’s Pinnacle, an iconic 65-foot indoor rock wall. If you’re not a climber, you can sign up to take classes that will teach you what you need to know, or for the more advanced climber, sign a waiver and climb the wall.

A perfect way to begin your break is with fresh air, fresh scenery, and fresh perspective. Whether you’re a seasoned hiker or a first-time hiker, there’s something for everyone in the Pacific Northwest. So pack your hiking boots, grab your camera, and get ready to explore the beauty of the PNW!
Night Trail revitalizes paper

By N. Anna Graham

On the twelfth of March, two days after the release of this most recent edition of the Trail, a full moon will rise with the onset of evening, casting a ghostly, bluish glow across campus. A final few students will be seen scurrying across the sidewalks, on their way back from late-night labs and club meetings. Though the scene will be silent, there will be something magical in the air, some kind of apprehensive electricity.

Suddenly, a sound. Soft at first, hollow and haunting—the music of a nocturnal symphony. Out of the darkness rides the first horseman, blowing softly on a strange, wooden trumpet. Attached to his saddle bag are stacks of the newest editions of Night Trail, piping hot off the presses, inscribed in the rarest squid ink. Behind him, four more horsemen materialize, their identical saddles laden with swirling towers of Night Trails.

The Night Trail, which is the brainchild of senior Louisa Von Vandercamp, is ASUPS’s newest attempt to revitalize the campus newspaper. Unlike the Day Trail, the Night Trail is marketed specifically towards “warlocks, drunk freshmen and other creatures of the night.” However, those who are expecting an edgier presses, inscribed in the rarest squid ink. Behind him, four more horsemen materialize, their identical saddles laden with swirling towers of Night Trails.

As mentioned above, the Night Trail will be silent, to foster a sense of authenticity, inclusivity and commitment. Because the issues will be written on traditional parchment, students may pick up kerosene lamps or a jar full of fireflies from the tables next to the Cellar in order to acquire the light with which to read. Those sensitive to light may use night vision goggles instead.

We recently caught up with Von Vandercamp to obtain her perspective on the implementation of Night Trail. In her words, “We felt that the Day Trail wasn’t really attending to a key portion of its population — it’s a kind of a blind spot we’ve had for a while. I mean, what about the nighttime readers? We felt that we could address the entire campus community by creating the ‘Night Trail’ for that special niche of people that wander around the campus after dark, under the moonshine.” Though it has yet to reach the entire public, a trial edition of the Night Trail has already been a booming success. Vampire readership is up ten percent, and the campus sorcery community has submitted rave reviews.

On Wednesdays, students can find the rarest edition of the Night Trail on the presses, inscribed in the rarest squid ink. Behind him, four more horsemen materialize, their identical saddles laden with swirling towers of Night Trails.

To draw the energies of the Grizzled One, rub lamb’s wool on your solar plexus. Happy pining.

O&A with campus raccoons

By N. Pagliaccio

This week, I sat down with two of Puget Sound’s celebrities, raccoons Emily and Jacob Tratt. You may know them from their push over your campus house garbage can, or giving you a fright on your walk home. Emily chose a dazzling outfit of trash juice dripping down her chin. Jacob went with the classic gray-and-black stripes with a darting splash of red from his Heinz’s ketchup.

ET: No, thank you! We’re lucky. As Jacob says, we just get to play all the time. I do feel very grateful.

P: That’s incredible. Where do you find your inspiration for these stories?

ET: I enjoy scampering far enough away that people are unsure of what animal I am, or even a figment of their imaginations. I like the dark, even the darkness itself.

P: But, don’t you get scared of humans?

ET: No, of course! We love any opportunity to have the community hear our stories.

P: What’s your favorite method of dispensing these “tales”?

ET: Well, since it gets darker later nowadays, we have to get our dastardly deeds done faster and faster, since we only have about twelve hours of nighttime.

ET: Last week, I was trying to scuttle across campus to my straw and branch hut at around six in the morning. But already the sky was practically light! I scurried as fast as I possibly could, but I was still in view of several students.

ET: It was heartbreaking.

P: Yes, we just want to play, not only to give them the jitters. The willies at the most.

ET: What is your favorite food?

P: Probably some bread. A sourdough baguette, and some Danish cheese. Look at me, I always food-focused! I would like something practical too, like rope. Or duct tape.

ET: Oh, wow! Do I hear wedding bells in the air? Emily, your ring is gorgeous, I didn’t notice till now!

ET: Thanks so much! Yeah we’re looking for a pretty low-key thing, only family and the crows from campus.

P: What a sweet story! The ring is from the Alpenrose Dairy ready-to-wear collection, inspired by the rings on milk gallon jugs. We found it together—inspired by the rings on milk gallon jugs. We found it together—

ET: The ring is from the Alpenrose Dairy ready-to-wear collection, inspired by the rings on milk gallon jugs. We found it together—

ET: Feast on protests

By N. Pagliaccio

On Monday, March 6, a passionate group gathered to protest Quiet Hours in the SUB at 0:00. They performed a sit-in wearing all black, to bring public attention to the fact dozens of Night Trail readers are forbidden from making a ruckus at our desired hour every night. The administration was noticeably left out.

The administration has already been a booming success. Vampire readership is up ten percent, and the campus sorcery community has submitted rave reviews.

People on the toilet who ran out of toilet paper

Drunk新鲜men

Other creatures of the night

Library ghosts

The staff of the Day Trail

Random old people who hang out in Diversions

Professors

Vampires

Readership of the Night Trail

Readership of the Day Trail

My mom

My dad

Emily and Jacob Tratt relaxing in their chic, post-industrial home.
**Underground Sings its Way to Success**

In an era of mainstream popularization of a cappella groups—think Pitch Perfect and the tradition of instrument-free music among high school students—the University of Puget Sound (USPS) Underground Sings is an oasis. And the group’s members have filmed a great way to make America great again:

"We didn’t win anything but it was such a good learning experience," Chandler, a first-year student in Underground Sound, said. "It was a good mixture of fun and hard work. I think we knew we wanted to do it again, so we went ahead with it in the fall." At the ICCAs, a cappella groups are judged by a panel of four to five judges on things such as musicality, performance, choreography and arrangements. There is a 12-minute time limit on sets, which Underground Sound filled with "Creep" by Radiohead, "Money on My Mind" by Sam Smith and "Runnin’ (Lose It All)" by Naughty Boy. The Puget Sound’s only competitive, mixed-voice, cappella group, Underground Sound stands out. They are also feature very purposeful choreographic routines for their songs, as it is a requirement for competitions. The ensemble is also quite young this year, which is unusual compared to previous years.

**Ups and Downs: The 2017 Oscars**

By Courtney Seyl

February 26

The 89th Annual Academy Awards aired at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California. Hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, the Oscars were the first academy awards ceremony that had a politically charged speech regarding the Trump Presidency.

"As you know, I don't have to tell anybody, the country is divided," Kimmel said. "But I'm even more divided by the time you spend working on your acceptance speeches. Every year, I have to do something to hold everyone accountable and make sure that we all take a step back. It's so easy to get caught up in the moment and forget that we're all in this together." Kimmel started the night with a politically charged speech regarding the Trump Presidency.

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Over the past few weeks Kittredge Gallery has been honoring the legacy of Abby Williams Hill by showcasing some of her most respected works of the American frontier. As a nature enthusiast and an early pioneer for women's rights, Hill strongly advocated for preservation of the environment, especially the American West and its national parks, as well as the promotion of feminist freedoms.

Hill defied certain societal norms in the late eighteenth century as she conducted her family's life in an off-the-grid fashion. With her young children, Hill would row over to Vashon Island and live in a log cabin for months on end. Together, they would take in the stillness and serene beauty of the Pacific Northwest; and for Hill, she found that the best way through which she was able to capture this essence of nature was in painting.

“[Hill] ended up getting these railroad commissions, and for three or four straight years in the beginning of the twentieth century she pursued her art for the railroad commissions. They [Hill’s family] all lived with the Flathead tribe on the reservations …” Tiffany MacBain, an English professor at the University of Puget Sound who is currently pursuing scholarly writings about the life and work of Abby Williams Hill, said.

“I try to look at the difference that I notice between the woman herself and her own personal philosophy,” MacBain said. “She had really exceptional ideas about gender expression. She really felt confined within proper society and in part I think that it was because of her own unconventional gender expression.”

Hill broke free from the customs of American life in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. She performed her day-to-day rituals in an unorthodox manner (or at least it was seen as such during this time period). She did not hesitate in the slightest to dress her children in each other’s clothes, regardless of gender. And she did not even think to adorn her daughters in any decorative fashion. Many times, in public, they were mistaken for boys.

However, sadly, Hill was shunned for her behavior. In town she and her family would receive endless flack for her attitudes and beliefs. She was criticized in not being fit as a mother and that she was not in good manner to raise daughters.

“However, outside she felt at liberty to be herself and also to raise her children to resist that kind of mentality,” MacBain said.

For Hill, nature was her escape. She was able to live freely and conduct her life in the manner through which she felt just. So, it comes as no surprise that, as an artist, she felt compelled to express her freedom through her paintings.

These paintings of hers, mainly of the American West, greatly symbolized this notion of liberation. Hill felt free in nature, and to many the American West is a key to freedom. And since Hill truly found her freedom in nature, it came with ease that she could so successfully capture the opportunity and rebirth that lie in the plains of the West.

Her paintings of national parks and breathtaking landscapes in Utah, Washington, Wyoming and other Western states are currently on exhibit in Kittredge and will be until Saturday, April 15.