The Trail, 2023-11-10

Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound

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Don't Stop the Party: How a Few Houses Keep the Party Scene Alive

By Tate DeCarlo

Though the University of Puget Sound may once have been the party-school reputation held by some of its peers, its students still enjoy blowing off steam at weekend parties. Charlotte Cooke ('24), explains that the lack of other party houses pushes hers to host around every three weeks. "There is kind of a slight pressure to throw, because there's not a lot of parties going on at this year," she says. -

- The limited party scene is especially challenging for students who want to socialize, but are unaffiliated with or unrelated to Greek life. Though the fraternities regularly host parties, Beatrice Kelly ('24) emphasizes that, because these functions do not appeal to the entire student body, her house has been inspired to create an alternative party space. "We sort of see it as a place for those who don't want to be surrounded by a bunch of SAE guys, because fraternity energy is sometimes scary energy. You know, as a place on this campus, that is not the place where I feel most comfortable," she says.

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Tacoma's Paper Mill Closes, Leaving Behind a Potentially Smelly Legacy

By Hannah Lee

The ‘Aroma of Tacoma’ is — or was — the infamous stink that surrounds our little city. Tacoma was once one of the biggest exporters of lumber in the world, and the stink has been documented to start when the industrial infrastructure was built. There are recollections attributed to this stinky phenomenon that persists to this day.

After 94 years of operation and stories of it being the leading cause of the ‘Tacoma aroma,’ the Tacoma paper mill closed on September 30, 2023. In a statement released by officials from WestRock, the company that owns the plant, stated, “The combination of high operating costs and the need for significant capital investment were key factors in the decision to cease operations at the mill.”

According to Mark Heald’s article on the S powder Blog, the ‘Tacoma Aroma’ is concentrated in the Tacoma Tide Flats, which were previously industrialized zones, and describes it as a “sulfuric, rotten egg kind of smell.”

Heald believes that the ‘Tacoma Aroma’ is a combination of the sediment around Commencement Bay and the past 100 years of industrial development, which is one of the many leading theories. Tacoma’s port and railroad helped with the “development of various pulp mills, rendering plants, chemical factories, petroleum processors, and aluminum smelters,” according to Heald.

He writes that Tacoma’s reputation for smelling bad has been around since the 1940s, thanks to the city’s many industries.

The smell has lessened significantly since then thanks to more environmentally friendly manufacturing processes, but the aroma still persists.

Another leading theory about what causes the smell is that sulfur was released into Commencement Bay by Simpson Tacoma Kraft paper mill, the rendering plant, and the US Oil Refinery, both located nearby. The theory that the paper mill is responsible for the aroma seems to be the most popular among locals through online discussion about the ‘Tacoma Aroma’.

The paper mill has been in Tacoma since 1929 and was part of the city’s logging industry. The process of breaking down wood into paper pulp results in odors wafting through the city, which could be part of the ‘Tacoma Aroma’.

In a 1998 article in the New York Times, mill officials confirmed that they did use wood chips filled with chemicals to produce paper foam containers. It is difficult to confirm if these chemicals contributed to the ‘Tacoma Aroma’ but it is very likely.

A 1985 article from the Associated Press spoke about the harm that these chemicals could cause. Dr. James Billingsley, a lung specialist, confirmed that the airborne chemicals emitted by the paper mill decreased lung function.

Paper mill officials did confirm that they spent thirty-eight million dollars on updating their facilities. This significantly reduced the mill’s air pollution. This was confirmed by state and federal officials. The current ‘aroma’ does not pose a health risk to anyone.

The closure of the mill could lessen the odor, but that current ‘aroma’ does not pose a health risk to anyone. This was confirmed by state and federal officials. The current ‘aroma’ does not pose a health risk to anyone.

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In Wake of Affirmative Action Reversal, Students Push for University to Promote Diversity

By Erin Hurley

Students of the University of Puget Sound have expressed their concern over the recent SCOTUS decision to abolish affirmative action, and they are calling on the administration to do more to support students of color. The polarizing decision leaves Kellen Hagans, Student of Color Coordinator for the University, frustrated with how the program has become “politicized” and “a pervasive way of showing a lot of other ways that things have been twisted against people of color and students of color.”

Hagans’ work focuses on helping students of color feel welcome once they step foot on campus. “We can recruit more students, but how are we retaining them once they get here? And what is the University actually doing for that?” he asks. He suggests that the University should consider establishing certain faculty positions with the express purpose of retaining and supporting students of color.

He credits specific staff members as being encouraging and outstanding resources during his time here.

Hagans advocates that the University should prioritize a relationship with the Tacoma community. Tacoma is one of the more racially diverse cities in Washington state; 43% of the population identifies as non-white, compared to a state total of 24% identifying as non-white.

Hagans argues that the University does not give local high school students ample attention. He describes how he has met many who have not heard of the University of Puget Sound. “I think that just really shows how the University doesn’t have a genuine relationship with the greater Tacoma area. I think that in terms of diversity if the University tried to serve the Tacoma area students a little bit more, they would see a rise in diversity,” he said.

Sofia Cunningham, president of Sin Frontieras — an affinity group representing Latinx students on campus — expresses her frustration with the summer decision to discontinue affirmative action. “It was not the best solution by any means,” she explains, “but taking it away is probably the worst thing that could’ve happened.”

The system has faults, but it allowed a path for what Cunningham describes as “minorities to get our foot in the door.” She acknowledges that students of color already have a difficult time at the University because it is “expensive” and “prestigious.” Adding the decision to the already formidable mix is creating more worry for students like Cunningham.

On a broader note, the implications of the ruling are not unique to the University of Puget Sound. Universities across the nation are struggling to encourage and implement diversity measures under a system that has disallowed the consideration of race and ethnicity during the admissions process. The University says it remains committed to diversity despite the ruling. In addition to a statement issued by President Crawford and sentiments expressed by the Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity, Dr. Lorra Hernandez Jarvis, and the Vice President for Enrollment, Dr. Matthew Boyce, there are a variety of programs dedicated to recruiting and supporting a diverse student body.

While the SCOTUS decision will impede traditional forms of increasing diversity, it will not impede the University’s goal.

In spite of her concerns about the SCOTUS decision, Cunningham still has hope. She explains that “it’s difficult to consider” how the University will continue to emphasize diversity through various “loopholes.” University officials have cited using race and ethnicity in the recruitment process and prioritizing students from minority communities for scholarships as tools to create educational equity.

Cunningham remains optimistic and open to these new options.

Cunningham emphasizes the importance of our generation’s voice. “We have power in our representatives,” she says and reminds people to vote. Electing local leaders who acknowledge their duty of promoting diversity is a vital step to a more equitable future. She also highlights the responsibility of educating yourself and inviting other people to educate them.

Lastly, Cunningham encourages the University to not only listen to student voices when deciding these new policies but to also listen to faculty. She explains that some faculty of color have felt excluded from discussions of institutional equity. “The people running the University are primarily white,” Cunningham explains. “There can be mistakes made because they’re thinking they’re doing the best or thinking they’re doing the most that they can, and they might not know what that is.”

Students are ‘disgusted’ with recent affirmative action decision; hope shifts to the University to continue diversity efforts. Photo Credit: Erin Hurley/ The Todd
Don’t Stop the Party: How a Few Houses Keep the Party Scene Alive

By Tate DeCarlo

Hosting college parties can come with a certain emotional weight as well, and many party house residents cite similar anxieties before throwing a party. Though Cooke knows the rules, she is still concerned about the noise levels and the potential for damage to the property. “I think people I’ve talked to have genuinely tried to organize for a specific number of members. The ASUPS funding process is a bit of a mess,” Cooke says. “I think that parties bring a lot to the school, not just because people can go and drink and like, get fucked up, but because it creates like a community to put yourself out there and go meet people that you might not have met before.”

Slowed Club Funding Frustrates Students

By Grace Farrell

Sure enough, Carissimo has since had trouble acquiring a refund for the approximate $120 she spent on chess boards and other supplies for the club. She now has a consistent 10-15 members that attend her weekly meetings but notes that greater financial stability would help to further her club, which is still fairly new. Sarah Comstock, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, outlined the process ASUPS has for club approval and budgeting.

While she doesn’t coordinate directly with ASUPS and therefore isn’t personally involved in this process, she’s aware of a comprehensive budget set by the university. “She told me that we have parties, and she also knows that the neighbors aren’t happy about it, but she understands that we are a college house and we are college students who live 30 seconds from a college campus. And so if the neighbors get upset, she understands that that will happen. I would say that it’s very reasonable,” she says.

Though Cooke’s relationship with neighbors is somewhat strained, this is not the case for all party houses. Carissimo cites their neighbors’ appreciation for live music and the “fairly organized” events she hosts. “She knows that we have parties, and she also knows that the neighbors aren’t happy about it, but she understands that we are a college house and we are college students who live 30 seconds from a college campus. And so if the neighbors get upset, she understands that that will happen. I would say that it’s very reasonable,” she says.

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Carissimo’s experience with getting an established budget wasn’t particularly problematic in itself, she notes that the internal communication of ASUPS seems disorganized since she was never reimbursed for her original club-related purchases.

Similar experiences have been reported by other student leaders around campus. Asa Jondahl, treasurer for Keeping Club and Physics Club, noted that it was especially hard to get clubs running this year since budget forms didn’t become available from ASUPS until late September. Even then, the clubs have gotten no response from ASUPS after submitting their budgeting forms to the organization.

Jondahl noted that both his clubs have struggled significantly because of this. “I think a lot of people I’ve talked to have genuinely tried to help,” Carissimo acknowledged, “but it’s a lot of red tape.” She described her communications with ASUPS as being a “domino-effect of passing me onto the next person until eventually I’m talking to the same people.”

The ASUPS budgeting process appears thorough and helpful, but the logistics of reimbursements and requirements imposed on individuals trying to establish a club remain unclear. With the abundance of resources available at Puget Sound, club leaders remain troubled that the club establishment process is so difficult.

Headlines

- Over 10,000 civilians have been murdered by Israel in Gaza, 40% of whom are likely to have been children. The U.N. has called for a ceasefire, but Israel has expanded its bombardment campaigns and intensified its ground operations into Hamas-controlled Gaza. Israel claims to have entered Gaza City and indicated it might retain control of Gaza after the war. Several countries have cut diplomatic ties with Israel in response.
- South Africa even accused them of genocide. Israel has vowed to eradicate Hamas after the group launched an unprecedented surprise attack, which killed more than 1,400 Iraqis.
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- South Africa even accused them of genocide. Israel has vowed to eradicate Hamas after the group launched an unprecedented surprise attack, which killed more than 1,400 Iraqis.
- The United Auto Workers union reached a tentative agreement with Detroit’s Big Three automakers, winning considerable concessions including a 30% pay increase by 2021. This is just the most recent in a string of high profile labor strikes that have occurred around the nation, and marks a major success for a resurgent labor movement.
- Ten thousand Afghans who had been living in Pakistan fled to the border on Oct. 31 as the deadline for 1.7 million people to depart last extended. About 400,000 Pakistan’s officials have promised that all undocumented immigrants who remain will have their property seized and will face arrest.
- Two million dimes were stolen from the US Mint as they were on route from Philadelphia to San Francisco, thieves, who now face federal charges, took the coins out of a tractor-trailer while the driver was sleeping as part of a spree of tractor-trailer thefts. The rest of the haul included shipping, frozen crab legs, beer and meat.
- On Nov. 5, at least two people were shot and killed inside The Alleycat Patio and Lounge on 6th Ave. Three others were wounded in the attack. The suspect turned himself in to Tacoma Police later on the same day, and has been arrested and charged with murder.
Big shoutout to Athlete of the Issue and senior Sara Olsson! Olsson is one of six seniors on the volleyball team this year, and plays the position of outside hitter. In a recent game against Lewis & Clark College, she had a .375 hit rate, and 20 kills. Last year, Logger volleyball earned the title of Northwest Conference champion. On Nov. 4, Logger volleyball finished up its last regular season with Olsson with a match against Pacific University. Thank you to Olsson for her spike-tacular responses to the questions below!

Q: What position do you play on the team? For those of us who don’t know as much about volleyball, what does this position look like, and how does it relate to the other positions?
A: I came here to UPS as a right-side hitter but later transitioned to an outside hitter. In volleyball, the right-side hitter, or opposite hitter, stands on the right side of the front row and specializes in attacking and blocking, while outside hitters, positioned on the left side, are responsible for dynamic offensive plays from the left side. Both play essential roles in attacking, blocking, and defense, with outside hitters also involved in digging and receiving serves and attacks. Both positions collaborate closely with the setter to execute effective attacks, contribute to blocking, and participate in defensive duties. These positions, alongside middle blockers, liberos, setters, and back-row players, form a multifaceted volleyball team.

Q: What are your strengths as a player and team member that help you find success?
A: My strengths as a volleyball player and team member have been my strategic thinking, court energy, and skills gained from prior beach volleyball experience. I strive to apply strategic planning, adaptability, and recognizing opponent flaws, to adapt my play to target their weaknesses. I hyperfocus on maintaining a positive atmosphere and supporting my team’s morale with court energy. My background in beach volleyball has also helped me develop communication, ball control, and adaptability in less structured environments/plays, and has helped with overall personal and team success throughout these past four years.

Q: Logger volleyball plays multiple matches per week, a busy schedule. What times do you find it hard to continue to put in the work (if any), and how do you persevere?
A: I function best in the morning, so I arrive at Oppenheimer cafe every morning at 7:30 a.m. to complete homework and to set the right tone for the day. I think this has become the sole reason why I have been able to stay afloat with schoolwork throughout our season. With majors in Biology and minor in SOAN I have consistent labs throughout the season.

Q: How will you measure your success as an individual and as a team for the rest of the season?
A: Before every practice, we have volleyball families, which are created at the beginning of the season for us to share our goals and focuses each practice. The completion and execution of these goals are often the way I measure my success. The way we measure the success as a team is the improvement over the season of our statistics that are collected during the match such as passing accuracy, kill/serving efficiency, and the amount of blocks per set in a match.

Q: What’s your favorite memory from Logger Volleyball?
A: My favorite memory from Logger Volleyball has been each of the Halloween practices throughout my four years here. Every year, individual graduation classes dress up together and surprise the rest of the team. This year the seniors dressed up as the Adams family and played in wigs and face paint throughout the entire practice which makes the day that much more fun. I feel like there have been countless amounts of memories that will last me a lifetime and makes me incredibly grateful for the Logger volleyball program.

Scores
Football (3-5)
- Oct. 21: Loggers 6 - Linfield University 55
- Oct. 28: Loggers 40 - Willamette University 21
- Nov. 4: Loggers 24 - Lewis & Clark 66

Women’s Soccer (13-5-2)
- Oct. 21: Loggers 2 - Willamette 3
- Oct. 22: Loggers 3 - Lewis & Clark College 0
- Oct. 28: Loggers 2 - George Fox 0
- Oct. 29: Loggers 5 - Pacific University 0
- Nov. 1: Loggers 2 - Pacific Lutheran University 1
- Nov. 5: Loggers 4 - Linfield University 0

Men’s Soccer (8-5-5)
- Oct. 21: Loggers 3 - Willamette University 1
- Oct. 22: Loggers 3 - Lewis & Clark College 1
- Oct. 28: Loggers 0 - George Fox 0
- Oct. 29: Loggers 2 - Pacific University 1
- Nov. 1: Loggers 1 - Pacific Lutheran University 3
- Nov. 5: Loggers 2 - Linfield University 3

Men’s Basketball (0-0)
- Nov. 3: Loggers 94, Lincoln University 91 (exhibition)

Volleyball (14-10)
- Oct. 20: Loggers 3 - Lewis & Clark College 1
- Oct. 27: Loggers 2 - Whitworth University 3
- Oct. 28: Loggers 1 - Whitman 3
- Nov. 3: Loggers 0 - Willamette 3
- Nov. 4: Loggers 1 - Pacific University 3

Upcoming Games
Football
- Nov. 11 vs Pacific Lutheran University

Women’s Basketball
- Nov. 10 at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Nov. 11 vs University of Wisconsin-Stout at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Nov. 17 vs Illinois Wesleyan University at Holland, Michigan
- Nov. 22 vs Bushnell University

Men’s Basketball
- Nov. 10 at University of Redlands
- Nov. 11 at California Lutheran University
- Nov. 18 vs Schreiner University at Whitworth University
- Nov. 20 vs LeTourneu University

Swimming
- Nov. 11 at Puget Sound
- Nov. 17 at Pacific University

Athlete of the Issue: Sara Olsson
By Kate Patterson

Big shoutout to Athlete of the Issue and senior Sara Olsson! Olsson is one of six seniors on the volleyball team this year, and plays the position of outside hitter. In a recent game against Lewis & Clark College, she had a .375 hit rate, and 20 kills. Last year, Logger volleyball earned the title of Northwest Conference champion. On Nov. 4, Logger volleyball finished up its last regular season with Olsson with a match against Pacific University. Thank you to Olsson for her spike-tacular responses to the questions below!

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Swimming
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- Nov. 17 at Pacific University
Lily Godwin Makes First Tackle by a Woman in NCAA History

By Kate Patterson

During an October 21 home football game against Linfield University, Lily Godwin recorded a solo tackle. She is believed to be the first female in NCAA history to achieve this in a game. She is decidedly the first Logger female to record a solo tackle. The Trail caught up with Lily to get her insights about this colossal accomplishment!

Q: Tell me about the game against Linfield on October 21. Did you know it would be a special day?
A: I had no idea that the game against Linfield on October 21st would be in any way special, so I prepared for it like I did every other game.

Q: How has the Logger football team dynamic felt to you as someone with a different identity than most on the team?
A: While I do have a different identity than most of the team, they have always been very welcoming. Coach Thomas and Dr. Brackett were essential in making sure it was a safe space.

Q: How would the people around you, like friends and teammates, describe you?
A: The people around me, like friends and teammates, describe me as dedicated and determined.

Q: What are your goals in the sport going forward?
A: My goal is to become a starter for the team, and continue to get better every practice.

Fall Feature Film Flashback: House (1977)

By Kailey Kairo

With Halloweekend in the rearview and the feel-good flicks of the holidays on the horizon, it can be hard not to look back at some of the things that make October so great – like all of the weird and wonderful horror films that have defined this season for decades.

One such film is “House,” or “Hausu,” a 1977 cult classic comedy-horror movie from Japan. “House” is director Nobuhiko Obayashi’s film debut – and what a debut it is. Inspired by the fears of Obayashi’s then-preteen daughter, “House” is a collage of bizarre imagery that keeps the viewer wondering what could possibly happen next.

The film follows the journey of teenager Gorgeous and her six friends – Fanta, KunFuu, Prof, Sweet, Mac and Melody – as they travel to the countryside to visit Gorgeous’s ailing aunt. But everything is not as it seems, and the girls soon find themselves face to face with the supernatural dangers of a haunted house and, one by one, succumb to its powers.

While the plot sounds gruesome – and sure, it technically is – “House” softens its horrific blows through a fascinating blend of special effects and artistic visual techniques. The breadth and variety of these effects makes it impossible to look away as new, strange details appear on-screen at breakneck speed. One moment, the viewer is floating in a world of vibrant 2D imagery – but then, one frame wipe later, that world is repopulated with stop-motion visuals and wired props whose strings are only sometimes visible.

These lively graphics contrast with the film’s beautifully painted backdrops, which only appear during its outdoor scenes. The inclusion of these dreamy landscapes further enhances the movie’s surreal edge, and makes the titular house feel all the more haunted by comparison.

Of course, on paper, the story of “House” is rather straightforward, each character, as evidenced by their names, represents a particular personality trait, and Gorgeous’s aunt is extremely suspicious right from the get-go – but the simplicity of this narrative allows viewers to understand the plot despite its ever-changing visual landscape.

If you’re looking for a totally unique take on the classic haunted house formula, “House” is the film for you. With murderous pianos, dancing skeletons and a demonic, singing cat, “House” has it all. So grab your friends, prepare some snacks and get cozy with a horror classic this holiday season – but be warned: you’re in for a strange ride.
Question of the Week!
What is the correct way to eat a pringle?

Isabella Chiovitti Shifty (’24)
“You have to eat it curve side down. All the flavor is on the bottom.”

Hayes Freeman (’26)
“The right way to eat a pringle is: you pop open the container with the pop of the can emitting all the smells that you need in your aroma, and then you get your pointer finger and your thumb and you delicately grab the first pringle off the top of the container, and you put the entire chip in your mouth, and let it sit on your tongue to let the flavors marinate. Then as you eat the pringle you still have the flavor remaining in your mouth because it sat on your tongue.”

Kai Leon (’26)
“So here’s the thing, you gotta take 5 different chips and make a sandwich, because the structure of the chip is optimized for stacking, and Pringles tried to make this a core aspect of their marketing, but I was doing this way earlier! In a pinch, you could also just make a sandwich with three.”

Harris Watson (’25)
“As quickly as possible.”

Kai Leon (’26)
“So here’s the thing, you gotta take 5 different chips and make a sandwich, because the structure of the chip is optimized for stacking, and Pringles tried to make this a core aspect of their marketing, but I was doing this way earlier! In a pinch, you could also just make a sandwich with three.”

Tacoma Institution Celebrates 100 Years With 25¢ Movie Tickets

Blue Mouse Theatre, an institution in Tacoma’s Proctor District, is celebrating its centennial anniversary this weekend! Founded in 1923 by entrepreneur John Hamrick, Blue Mouse Theatre is the oldest continually operated theater in the state. To honor the 100 years that Blue Mouse Theatre has served the Proctor District and surrounding area, the theater is screening the very first movie that ever graced their screens: “Green Goddess.” The 1923 silent film is set in the Indian subcontinent as captured British subjects must escape from a kingdom which aims to execute them. While modern audiences might understandably shake their heads at the depictions of race and colonialism in the film, “Green Goddess” is a fascinating piece of film and local history. What’s more, tickets for the Monday, Nov. 13 screening only cost 25¢ at the box office – the price of a movie ticket in 1923.

It hasn’t been an easy 100 years for Blue Mouse Theatre. It changed hands a few times after it was founded, but remained profitable up until the late 80s and 90s. By now the theater had changed names a couple of times and used to be known as the Bijou in the 1980s. Small, community theaters like Blue Mouse Theatre struggled to compete with massive chains that sported huge multiplexes. A plan was floated to turn the historic theater into office spaces. In response, a group of activists, community members and preservationists joined forces to purchase the property in 1993. Since then, the group has restored the property to its former glory. They undid many “renovations” that took place during the 30s and 40s, revealing a gem from a bygone era underneath. Not all the decorations are old, though. In fact, if you look closely at the theater’s marquee, you may notice small blue mice adorning the logo. These cute little critters were actually made by Tacoma’s own Dale Chihuly and were given to the theater as a gift.

Blue Mouse Theatre will be showing “Green Goddess,” "10 Things I Hate About You,” “Rocky Horror Picture Show,” “Casablanca,” and more this weekend.
**Horoscopes**

Aries
Nut up your confidence! Now is a good time to take a big leap toward your goals. Don’t be afraid to stand up for yourself, but choose your Thanksgiving dinner debates wisely...

Taurus
Stop procrastinating! Let go of your fake friends and anything else you’ve ever been begged down by. Don’t try to be someone you’re not, listen to yourself!

Gemini
Prioritize your sleep, health, and self-care this month. Make sure to save some time for yourself during this hectic season. Revel in social settings, but listen to yourself and don’t get too carried away!

Cancer
Honor and speak your truth! Mercury is on your side this month. Make sure your living space is decorated and organized just how you’d like it to be for optimal calmness through the holidays.

Leo
Take care of yourself this month. Take a social media break, meditate, and have a warm cozy drink on hand at all times. Have fun with the people that make you happiest!

Virgo
A great month for work, money, and creativity is ahead! Let go of outdated resentment and negative energy, but make sure you aren’t people-pleasing.

Libra
Treat yourself! If you’ve been waiting to transform your look, now is the time to do it. Enjoy this season of love and abundance.

Scorpio
Stop overthinking a situation that you’ve made up, you’ll have plenty of other reasons to be anxious this month. It’s ok to be basic and drink pumpkin spice and wear your Doc Martens, we won’t tell…

Sagittarius
Spend some quality time with your closest friends! They’ll help you get through this stressful season. Let go of any fear that’s holding you back from reaching your full potential.

Capricorn
Let go of resentment and express your feelings! Clear your mind and make room for new exciting financial and career advances… and get some sleep.

Aquarius
It’s ok that you don’t know everything… Let people get close to you this month. Something you’ve been wanting for a long time is coming your way!

Pisces
Be unapologetically yourself this month. Express your wants and needs. Positive affirmations will do you some good!

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**Meta-narrative Storytelling Shines in "Our Town"**

The second act digs a bit deeper into more significant life issues such as marriage, career paths and confronting others expectations. Here, the story focuses on two characters from the Webb and Gibbs families. George and Emily are about to confess their love to one another and get married, but the real question is: how will these events pan out? And more philosophically, how do the complexities of human beings fit into such constritive slots that we confine ourselves in?

The themes of the third act hit on a whole other level. The audience confronts concepts like death, re- gret, and eternity — this is where the existential crisis starts to foster. During the third act, life is shown from different perspectives, including those of the dead. Most of this act covers how living in the moment is the only way to truly appreciate life. Ruminating what has already happened will always leave you with a “oulda-woulda-shoulda” taste in your mouth.

As far as pulling this play off successfully, the first night felt like a pilot to a sitcom. The acting was a little blocky at times, not hitting every beat perfectly. Sometimes, the cast is still figuring out how to present their characters, which can poke holes in their believability. The play’s humor tends to be very quirky, and is written to include fun, unexpected moments and awkward pauses — so it’s no surprise that some jokes fell flat with the crowd while others prevailed the first time around. But that’s the name of the game, especially on opening night: experimentation!

As most plays go, the staging is just as critical to the story as its performers are. The University’s set design was stripped to its bare essentials, with only a mound of plaster boxes and two metal-piped structures on each side of the stage. Touched on in the Director’s Notes included in the programs, this minimalist approach is intended to “get to the essence of life, the forces beyond the forms, by returning us to a nearly bare stage: ‘no curtain. No scenery.’” From the props being used to the different moments and interactions of a scene, the simplest glance can hold its weight in stars.

The show’s small prop-count helped the cast sell Grover’s Corners in an enticing and innovative manner. Because the majority of the performance was done in mime, the boxes on set were transformed into a plethora of objects, such as dining room tables, chairs and even podiums. Simplifying it further, actors who weren’t playing in certain scenes occasionally chipped in to produce sound effects in real-time. The clap of a baseball mitt would be a strip of cardboard thumped on a character’s knee or the jangling harness of an invisible horse would be two glass bottles rubbed against each other. The addition of these raw sound effects was captivating to watch and gave the show that fresh element of zhuh.

Besides the set design and slick onstage foley work, another distinctive feature was the play’s narration. “Our Town” is the poster child for meta-theatrical narratives, which was a relatively new story structure when the play was created in the 1930s. If you’ve seen a Wes Anderson film, “Our Town” doesn’t swing far from those mov- ies’ inherent rejection of traditional storytelling techniques. Even though meta-narratives are purposefully crafted to topple norms and traditions, the classic ‘play within a play’ has become the preferred meta-narrative archetype. Although “Our Town” technically chugs that track, the outer play, look- ing in, strikes a different note from other plays I’ve seen.

Minutes before the show began, the fourth wall was broken by cast members interacting with the audience. You soon realize that the characters of this play are in it for the ride as well. They know they are on a stage; they know they are performing for an audience. This explicit self-awareness of the cast is a writing choice Wilder utilized to accentuate both the simplicity and honesty of “Our Town.”

Commencing the story unfolding from the perspective of both the audience and the cast eliminates any element of illusion or deceit that a “traditional” play could potentially use. Thus, it is clear that this meta-narrative was purposefully done to exercise transparency and trust between the performers and the viewers which I found quite refreshing.

That said, “Our Town” was a fun time and Wind D. Woods and the cast should be proud of what they’ve accomplished. Although they were still figuring out a few bugs the first night round, their hard work definitely paid off and was a pleasure to watch.

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By Jack Leal

If you want to cackle it up while simultaneously spiraling into an existential crisis, “Our Town” — directed by Wind D. Woods — is the play for you. The University’s theater department premiered their rendition of the renowned play in the Norton Clapp Theatre on Oct. 27. Written in 1938 by playwright Thornton Wilder, “Our Town” takes place in a fictional rural town called Grover’s Corners during the years of 1901 and 1913. Although this play may seem like your typical warm and fuzzy Americana drama at the outset, “Our Town” covers intense existential issues...
Eros and the Abyss Movie Review

By Judd Apatow

I don’t believe in asking why. If someone had asked me why I intended to make a movie starring Steve Carell as a middle-aged man who gave up on losing his virginity, I would probably have reconsidered right then and there and missed out on $21 million. The same principle applies here. I could ask why Werner Herzog made a raunchy sex comedy about desperate high school seniors… but I’m not going to, because I just saw it, and it is a master-piece. It is true cinema, true art – the human condition painstakingly rendered on screen in its awkward, messy, earnest glory. At this point, I may have to hang my hat. “Eros and the Abyss” is the cinematic experience of a lifetime, and it is about a high school senior trying desperately to lose their virginity before they graduate.

Buoyed by a stirring soundtrack composed by BØRNS and Westside Gunn, “Eros and the Abyss” takes a stark look at the swirling maelstrom of American high school, capturing such bleak footage of nerds being staffed in lockers and jocks trying to repress their homosexuality through football that it transports the audience back to the worst years of their lives.

Yet the unfathomable determination of the protagonist, matched only by his complete inability to talk to women, shines like a beacon. Lo, the downtrodden socially awkward masses clutching books and binders to your chests: your savior has arrived.

Werner Herzog’s eye does not glorify the protagonist’s desperation, but rather sees the inspiration in his story, for this story relates to every level of the high school ecosystem. Too many sex comedies reach for the mass-market bawdy jokes, but Herzog pours only from top-shelf universal truth. Inside this high school senior’s desperate quest to lose his virginity is a desperate bid for acceptance from a society that has cruelly shunned him, but a society he must love nonetheless, for the alternative is to be truly alone in an uncaring universe. At some point, everyone has felt themselves to be on the margins of human society, standing on the outside looking in; some more frequently than others, perhaps, but so it goes. Werner Herzog has built his career around standing on the outskirts, camera at the ready, looking at those who find themselves on the margins as well, but it would seem he has found unfath- omable depths to mine in the halls of American high schools, where everyone is convinced that they are on the outside looking in.

United States. Alaskan parents, who come from the state with the coldest average temperatures, have decided to stay out of the ordeal altogether. “It’s ridiculous,” one anonymous parent said. “Washington experiences very hot temperatures, and I am frankly worried about my child melting in the desert down there.”

temperatures and must stock up on blankets before entering their “tundra.”

In addition to a plethora of student complaints echoing through dorms, the Freshman Parents’ Facebook page has erupted into chaos. It seems as if California, Hawaiian, and Arizonan parents have had enough. While parent mediators from Utah and Colorado have been appointed, the situation has escalated to full-blown ALL CAPS posts on the outdated website. Parents from particularly frigid states, like Minnesota and Maine, are furious at the “AUDACITY OF THESE WEST COAST LIZARDS.” As of present, it is unsure if “lizards” is meant as a derogatory term for sun-enjoyers or a reference to the vast number of cold-blooded reptiles present in the western
HELP! I fell in love with my roommate because he was a bad boy, but recently he's developed morals and... he's even hotter now! How do I get morals of my own, and will this truly make me a better person?

Are you sure this isn’t the plot of your last AO3 hyperfixation? Warning: this boy likely did not develop morals, he’s probably just into you, so has started treating you like a human. I do not recommend morals, in fact, I exclusively endorse debauchery. Do not simp for this man, as Aristotle once said: “To pussy simp is not to pussy slay™.” To go further, you are not allowed to care about a man — pussy care matter whatsoever, I think you should start being nicer to them. Don’t actually tell them you care about them, it will spook them but just elevate your value as a roommate a little. Stop leaving the toilet seat up and replace the toilet paper when you finish it. Also, make sure to use the shower mat instead of letting water drip all over the bathroom floor. Forgive them for using tongs on your nonstick pan. When you get yourself a little sweet treat, don’t forget about them. <3

My housemate believes me and another housemate are an old married couple, we’re not. How do I convince her we’re just friends?

And they were roommates... But actually, if you want to convince her, I think the two of you have more likely to have sex than an old married couple. Really the only way to get one friend off your back is to have the other blow it out.

I just discovered that someone knocked the emergency security wall phone right outside my dorm off the hook and left it there. Now, I’ve been making a lot of weird noises in my room all day and I’m worried that Security Services heard all of it — what do I do?

This is probably too late to be helpful — do you people not have friends to ask these things? — but for the future, if anyone asks, just say you were having sex, this will typically prevent further questioning of whatever actually freaky business you were getting up to on the Tuesday you submitted this. Unless they’re in young life, then it was the Holy Spirit evoking an intense emotional and physiological response.

Meet Our Team

Kailey Kairo

Kailey Kairo is a sophomore English major and A&E editor for The Trail. Before coming to the University of Puget Sound, Kailey worked as an aircraft mechanic in the Air Force for six years; needless to say, she’s glad to be a student again. When she’s not spending time at home with her wife and pets, Kailey can be found hiking local trails or paddle boarding out on the water.

Tate DeCarlo

Tate, a senior from Portland, Oregon, is an English major and writer for The Trail. He also writes for KUPS as the Journalism Director, and is a tutor at the Center for Writing and Learning. Outside of the classroom, you can find him riding his bike around campus, falling off of his skateboard, or beating his friends at Mario Kart.

Bently Kalik

Hailing from Dallas, Texas, Bently Kalik is a senior here at Puget Sound and a section editor for The Trail. He plays bass trombone in the campus jazz orchestra and works at the Logger Store. Bently loves reading books — especially ones by Terry Pratchett — and can whistle like no one’s business.
Sex Education: The United States vs. University of Puget Sound

By Frannie Edwards-Hughes

Currently, in the United States, 39 states require some type of sex education in schools. The U.S. has made significant progress in terms of legislation regulating sex education, but there are concerns about the curriculum being taught. Schools tend to approach sex education by preaching abstinence and often fail to address anything else. In fact, Planned Parenthood reports that only 18 states in the U.S. require that schools share information about birth control and that the information provided is medically accurate. They also report that only 10 states in the U.S. require discussion of LGBTQ+ sexual relationships. Even more horrifically, six southern states in the U.S. go as far as legally restricting the discussion of LGBTQ+ sex education. This narrow abstinence-only education is a complete failure for US children.

Sex education has long been a topic of tension between states. Some state legislatures would prefer if students were not taught about sex at all, whereas others want students to get answers to questions they have about the topic. For decades people have debated how sex education should be taught, but most schools still only speak of abstinence and do not emphasize the idea that sex is a natural part of being a human. Sex education is about general anatomy apart from just sex, and restricting this information from young people has proved to be extremely harmful. Recent data from this fall shows that a dozen states have gotten rid of grants meant to monitor harmful. Recent data from this fall shows that a dozen states have gotten rid of grants meant to monitor

recommend the quality of sex education that is taught in all schools. It is critical that the citizens of the United States unite and urge legislators to guarantee the quality of sex education that is taught in all schools, including teaching students accurate and healthy knowledge about sex.

The Puget Sound Sex Bucket List

#1 Thing On the Bucket List To Complete: “older women,” “making a sextape,” “Ryan Reynolds,” “Orgasming!!” “69,” “hot gay sex,” “threesome with two other women,” “peg a man,” “getting dominated,” “PEGGING,” “on face or bending her over the table,”

Best Sex Acts: “have sex on a couch,” “cuck bucket,” “giving a golden shower and kissing a girl with my cum in her mouth,” “Saw-style s**t,” “Anal, impregnation, latex, oil,” “threesome,” “probably be an anonymous gloryhole,” “veggy,” “getting handcuffed/tied up,” “Getting cucked by multiple guys,” “using an ice cube in my hoo ha,”

Girl WTF But You Do You: “I would like to see a male penis. Just to look, not to touch,” “Among other things being killed and then my blood sucked by lady Gaga as a high priestess vampire,” “idk I think tentacles is a little out there but gee golly what can a girl do these days,” “CNC [Conventional Non-Conventional] scene,” “losing a limb,”

Good Luck My Logger: “Scoring Ryan Reynolds,” “lose my virginity,” “s*** on my girlfriends face because she won’t stop pestering me about it (with love),” “Being little spoon to Ryan Reynolds,”

Don’t Worry I Believe In You: “Sex with someone who loves me,” “sex,” “an orgasm,” “have sex with a loyal marriage partner,”

God Damn Peeps: “Ride a man till he cries,” “Hit a man till he’s begging for it,” “Getting my back torn to shreds by my girl,”

Personal Favorites: “having sex on the sun deck of a yacht in the middle of the ocean,” “& Two glasses of prosecco, dim lit room, fire place, multiple furniture options, light bondage, lace knee high socks and red garters, red lipstick, a corset to unlace, sex swing, wax play, blindfolds, and a strap-on of course.”

Haters: “to make the trail a credible newspaper that doesn’t get tarnished by sexual aspirations,” & “This article topic should have stayed in the drafts lol,”

Thank you for all the amazing responses! Stay safe out there Loggers and tune into the Happy Trail in our next issue!
October 20th Crossword Key

Across
1. Cauldron
5. Frankenstein
6. Zombies
12. Friday
13. Carmelapple
16. Killerclowns
18. King
19. Nope

Down
1. Calabaza
2. Blackcat
4. Addams
7. Edgarallanpoe
8. Phantom
9. Witches
10. Halloween
11. Spider
14. RIP
15. Boo
17. Chucky

Across
2. Streaming service that was recently acquired by Disney
5. Wetlands theme
8. 1936 BW film starring Kenneth Craig, warning about the dangers of marijuana
10. The only primarily arboreal great ape
13. Helped complete the Beatle’s last new song "Now and Then"
14. Our close cousin
16. Nickname for the most popular dog breed

Down
1. This was finally sequenced in 2003 after 13 years
3. The Mother of Waters
4. Five letters, six guesses, green, yellow
6. Movies are free for students at this Tacoma non-profit
7. Adam’s first wife
9. This may be exchanged for goods and services
11. Fat Bear of the Year 2023
12. Often half-baked
15. MLB team that won its first World Series this year
University of Puget Sound Campus Must Respond to War in Gaza

From The Trail’s Editorial Board

What followed were scenes of the Trail’s editorial board as a whole. It reflected conversations that had been editorial board and various stakeholders on the subject. This statement does not necessarily reflect the views of individual Trail writers. Please send comments and concerns in the form of a Letter to the Editor to trail@pugetsound.edu.

In the Oct. 20 issue, The Trail was honored to publish a joint statement from the Middle Eastern and North African Student Association (MENA) and the Jewish Student Union (JSU) regarding the ongoing war against the population of Gaza, where over 10,000 civilians have died. The well crafted and nuanced statement should have opened the door to a productive campus conversation regarding the war. After all, colleges and universities across the nation are currently aghast with conversations, arguments and protests. Thousands of college students have marched in demonstrations, including in Washington. In fact, tensions at the University of Washington (UW) have flared recently due to inflammatory language and actions by both pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli organizations. However, despite MENA and JSU’s statement, despite the mobilization of college students across the nation, the University of Puget Sound campus seems to suffer from a lack of response to the conflict. This is not to discredit the few campus talks on the subject, nor the hard work by MENA to shuttle students to the Jewish Student Union, but none of these efforts have been meaningful to the community who contribute positively to conversations and action on the subject. Yet it’s clear that our campus, our community, has largely not responded to a crisis that threatens the lives of a long suffering population of around 2 million innocent civilians. In the words of one of our professors themselves, they “aren’t touching it.” Students confine their conversations to social media or hide them behind closed doors. In many ways, the paralysis that grips our campus is understandable. As is the case with UW, many of our students and faculty, particularly those who are involved in handling of social issues, particularly ones relating to anti-Semitism. This institutional climate has no doubt led to some staying silent for fear of backlash.

More importantly, a long, bloody and contested history surrounding the conflict leads to people operating under assumptions, partial truths and pure propaganda. Social media doesn’t help the issue. Misinformation covers social media apps from head to toe, much of it shared by well intentioned students. Misinformed and spoon fed conversations, our conversations quickly devolve. This has been the case for a long time. So long, in fact, that it seems we no longer have the conversations at all.

That is no longer acceptable. In the face of a crisis of such immense scale, one must have the opportunity to forge genuine conversations that develop helpful and effective action. With such a small student population we have an opportunity to connect with each other, avoiding partisan furor, in ways that develop deeper understandings on the topic.

To do this, the University of Puget Sound campus must exercise a skill that there seems to be a shortage of in our country. We must recognize multiple truths, even contradicts. Without these skills, we can’t tell us are mutually exclusive, and believe them wholeheartedly. We must stand with the Jewish community, recognize that the conversation about combat anti-Semitism at all levels: personal, institutional and societal. We must stand with the Palestinian community, recognizing that they are being subjected to a brutal and illegal collective punishment campaign. It is possible to advocate for the Palestinian cause without being anti-Semitic. It is also possible to mourn for the tragic loss of more than 1,400 Israeli civilians without condemning an entire population of Palestinians. Most importantly, it is possible to have these honest conversations with each other.

This process begins with education. Education is often framed as an individual task, something that you alone are responsible for.

This view of education, where people are under immense responsibility to learn the “right” thing, perpetuates the vitriol with which people approach the topic. In our community, education must be a community education. Honest, critical discourse on the topic could be led by the University itself.

This is not to say that the University should be in charge of what our community response is, far from it. Only that as an institution the University has a chance to mobilize its resources towards an important cause.

Our response to the crisis cannot, and must not, end with education. Effective community-wide action must follow. In this we should not feel let down by persuasion. As is evidenced by compassion. Recognizing the resources at our disposal as an institution and as individuals in varying positions of power, the University mobilize. New protests formed at the port rivaling the combating anti-Semitism should be developed and implemented. Simultaneously, we must engage with the Palestinian cause in meaningful and effective ways. These should be more than simply declaring solidarity; true engagement should have a direct impact in some way on the situation. What these steps look like should reflect the unique conversations our community has.

For our part, The Trail calls for the campus community, as a whole, to shake off the paralysis that seems to have taken hold and begin to address a humanitarian calamity. We call on our own hesitation and fear to speak on the subject, and hope that we can follow in the lead of MENA in JSU in opening the door to further conversation.

University of Puget Sound Students Join Pro-Palestinian Blockade of Tacoma’s Port

Despite persistent rainfall and cold conditions, the protesters successfully delayed the boat’s departure for hours. The ship was apparently scheduled to depart from Tacoma to Israel at 8:00 AM, but was delayed for over eight hours. The ship was also stopped for trucks from entering the port as protesters aimed to induce economic costs for the US’s continued support for the Israeli military. The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and the Middle Eastern Student Organization (MENA) of the University of Puget Sound attended the demonstration. Clarke Buckenmeyer (’25) made their way to the Tacoma Dome hours before dawn to catch a carpool down to the port. Buckenmeyer sees it as their duty to take action against the US’s involvement in the war in Gaza, which has claimed the lives of over 10,000 people in just over a month of violence. “As a person in the United States, I am paying tax dollars to the United States, as somebody who benefits from the systems of imperialism that are present here, I have a responsibility to do what I can to do stand up and resist,” they said.

Alex Gully (’24) also braved the rain and the cold to protest support for the Palestinian cause. “If you’re a human you should care about the genocide going on right now,” they said. “There are over 10,000 deaths in Gaza right now. We are in good spirits throughout the day, despite the poor weather conditions. It just started raining and I don’t see anyone slowing down, which is really heartening,” Gully said.

At around 9:20 a.m., an organizer alerted the crowd that an important member of the Cape Orlando’s crew had decided to walk off the boat in solidarity with the protest. The organizer called off the protesters later circulated screenings that the longshoremen had been replaced with military personnel who slipped into the port prior to the blockade. Others claimed the military had slipped in by boat during the blockade and loaded it under the noses of the demonstrators. Still other people claimed that the military was not involved in loading the ship at all. The Trail has not been able to independently confirm any of these claims. However, the military’s involvement would explain how the ship was able to depart at all, delayed or not.

Still, the Tacoma DSA claimed that not all the supplies had been delivered prior to the blockade, meaning that the protesters succeeded in preventing at least some weapons from getting on board. The crewmen who walked also appeared to have a significant effect on the delays the Cape Orlando suffered. Alex Lapin, a member who was present, said: “We are going to keep going until this genocide ends, and until Palestine is free from the river to the sea.”

By Andrew Benoit