The Trail, 2023-12-01

Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound

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Kia Boys Come to Campus: Viral Trend Leads to Increase in Car Theft

By Tate DeCarlo

On the evening of Sunday, Oct. 29, University of Puget Sound students may have been surprised by an email from Security Services relaying a schoolwide safety alert. “Security Services has received reports of vehicles driving on sidewalks near campus. Please use caution when walking in and around campus.” This alert followed multiple instances of erratic driving from different vehicles. The car’s wild swerving brought it near to their group as well as other students. “It didn't seem like they had very much control of the car, so like one bad move and they would have hit somebody,” she said.

While on his way to a party on Saturday, Oct. 28, Dylan Cordeiro (’27) witnessed one of these instances of erratic driving and alerted Security Services. “We were just kinda standing there watching them, and they came back up a couple times I think. They were along roads in the campus area,” he said.

April Murillo (’27) was with Cordeiro at the time. “The car’s wild swerving brought it near to their group as well as other students. ‘It didn’t seem like they had very much control of the car, so like one bad move and they would have hit somebody,’” she said.

Though this incident occurred on public roads surrounding campus, other joyriding and 20 automotive break-ins happened on campus itself during the same weekend. Security Services Assistant Director Greg Lynch explained another vehicle sped on one of the walkways that crisscross campus, cutting directly past Security’s “office. ‘They came right through campus the very next night, cut right down here between Mcthray and smith and were this way, a different vehicle, much more damaged,’” he said. “It’s pretty clear they’re getting away with more stolen vehicles to engage in other crimes. The Puget Sound students face less risk parking on campus, citing the lack of cameras in the neighborhoods surrounding campus as well as the lack of an organized campus security service, individuals to witness and respond to theft quickly for this rationale.”

Dwindling Interest Causes Sluggish Progress and Crucial Vacancies Within ASUPS

By Erin Hutley

The Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound (ASUPS) is struggling with low engagement from students. Between a shrinking student body, the lasting effects of the pandemic, and general unfamiliarity with ASUPS’ role on campus, the organization faces unfilled positions and unintentional inaction.

The ASUPS Senate in particular struggles with empty seats and low attendance, even though it should be a primary actor in a properly functioning student government. The chief responsibility of the senate is handling monetary decisions, including the approval of club budgets and other financing requests. Jack Simermeyer (’24) currently serves as senate chair. As the senate leader, he works directly with the ASUPS president and vice president, as well as the cabinet, to assist with managing and navigating the program. He admits, however, that with low engagement, it is difficult “to actually run and do things because we are running slow,” he said.

The Senate has been running smoothly, according to Simon explains. “We’re very worried about," he said. "The Senate and the executive, and without a leader, the system is at a standstill. "If we were having more senators coming in they have to be sworn in by the Chief Justice. The problem is there is no Chief Justice, and there are not enough people in Honor Court to be able to work," Simermeyer says. Students who wish to be a justice submit themselves to the Court and subsequently volunteer their time.

Despite this apparent frustration, little action is being taken to secure more Honor Court justices. Simermeyer cites senators and managerial roles as the current priorities of positions to fill. "Those are the things that are most crucial to be able to keep things running smoothly,” he says.

The Simmeyer believes that students as an honor Court justice for two semesters, and he highly recommends the experience. As a Politics and Government student, the role was advertised to him and he was appointed by Nate Sansome, the ASUPS president at the time. “Basically, the Honor Court really assesses the constitutionality of documents that are put forward by the senate and the executive,” Simon explains. “We kind of are the check and balance for a lot of things that happen in the Senate. We also help solve disputes between the executive and the Senate and write cases briefs, similar to the U.S. Supreme Court. Currently, the Honor Court only has two justices – too few for a quarum. Simon says, “I reached out to the president and vice president of ASUPS and I told them what I was doing and why it is necessary because there isn't really any cases that need to be addressed at the moment.” Since the Senate is also lacking members, priorities are elsewhere.

Simon noted that as a justice, his only job is to legislate. “Well, the court would love to have more people, but it's not the role of the court to find more members for the court,” he explains. “So, you know, it's really the job of the president and the vice president at the time to get more people on the court.” He said, “We're looking at ways to publicize elections in the new semester.”

Simon attributes the low participation to complicated advertisements and lack of pay. It is almost solely pushed toward students studying Politics and Government, and Simon believes it would gain more traction if publicized to a larger audience. Many students do not know what the Honor Court is or what role it plays in ASUPS, and since it is unpaid, it is perceived more as a club than an integral part of the system. “There was talk of court justices being paid but we can't do anything until the president starts taking action against the court.” He does not expect to be paid, as he graduates in the spring, and Honor Court has not convened since last semester. With 68 paid student positions within ASUPS totaling over $210,000 in stipend pay, a large chunk of the $560 “Comprehensive Student Fee” dictated in tuition goes directly to elected students and other students serving stipend positions. Simon advocates for Honor Court justices to come under this umbrella as well.

Both Simermeyer and Simon are struggling in their own ways with low levels of engagement from the student body. The root of the problem lies in little publicity and a stagnation in progress. Simermeyer knows that many students are unhappy with the current state of the university and the lack of representation, but it is up to the students to make a change. Simon knows that there are many students who would love to serve ASUPS for different reasons, and I understand, I hear them, and I believe them,” he says. “The low engagement makes it really hard to find students for positions within ASUPS will convene next semester, and both Simermeyer and Simon encouraged people to run. “It’s a way to kind of make your mark on the school, which is cool,” Simon says. The Trail will continue to report on the status of ASUPS positions and the progress of elections in the new semester.
Kia Boys Come to Campus

By Tate DeCarlo

Lynch asserted that the presence of Security Services on campus helps to dissuade theft, as routine patrols discourage prowling individuals looking for cars to steal. Though security is limited in their response if a car is stolen, Lynch believes that seeing a security truck can disincentivize theft. “So we’re not stopping moving vehicles, our response is to be present, to get our vehicles there, make sure that we’re visible,” he said.

In the instance of off-campus car theft, victims must go to the police directly without Security Services as an intermediary. Tova Mertz (’25) had her car, a late model Kia Soul, stolen by the Kiaboys on Nov. 12. She explains that the theft happened while traveling in August as well. “My car was tampered with and almost stolen but not stolen. So they ripped out the ignition, like the plastic surrounding the ignition, and it was undriveable, I couldn’t put a key in and then they broke a back window,” she said.

After the theft, Mertz took her Kia to an auto repair shop where it was fixed. During these repairs, it was supposedly fitted with an updated ignition system from Kia to address the original, theft-susceptible mechanism. “They did recall work on it that's supposed to be like anti-theft, but dude, my car was stolen, obviously it didn’t work,” she scoffed.

When her car was recovered after its theft, the interior had been trashed; one of the perpetrators had cut out the stuffing from the back of the passenger seat; it was covered in crumbs and a sticky substance, and smelled decidedly foul. Mertz described the contents of the car as disturbing. She recalled finding an empty bag and wallet, a 2024 school planner, and a pair of pants. “The most upsetting thing was there was a backpack full of women’s clothing in the very back,” she added. The condition of her car prompted confusion and concerns of sexual misconduct.

“It was worn clothing. I don’t want to say the R word but that was something I was really thinking about,” Mertz said. “I was just like, ‘what the fuck happened in this Kia Soul?’

Almost as if to add insult to injury, the thieves scraped “Kiaboys” in sharpie on the roof above the driver’s-side door. After this experience, Mertz and her family have decided that they will repair the car, but only in the hopes of finding a new owner. When asked if other students with Kia should do the same, she replied “Yes, sell your Kia Soul.”

Mertz also clarified that she felt like her car was more secure while parking in on-campus lots versus at her house near 6th Avenue. “I had to report it to the police or whatever, and they said it was stolen at 9:36, and then around 10:30 there was like a minor collision, but it was fine. And then the next day they were trying to use my car to break into other cars in Tacoma,” she said.

Though this is the first time her car has been successfully stolen, Mertz says that another theft was attempted in May. “They were also doing donuts or whatever in the church parking lot,” she said. “The church people started talking about it because I guess someone they knew that was my Uber driver. We went to church, and they said they had seen something that was missing, like a backpack full of women’s clothing or whatever.”

Lynchez’ (“20) not only feels like she’s a victim of this incident, but she still has all those things. “My Lynch really really wants us to do whatever we do when things don’t go according to plan? and ‘how do we hold on to hope and find joy?’ she said. Lynch concludes that even though she can’t see an end to this experience, “we still have to really appreciate our lives,” she scoffed.

Put a Face on Cases

By Andrew Benoit

A few months after graduating from the University of Puget Sound, Jennifer Cramer-Miller’s (’87) life was going about how she expected – and hoped – it would be. She had good friends, a nice apartment, a partner and a promising career. Cramer-Miller was a kidney disease patient. But a few years later, she had to really let health define her. Instead she had defined herself with so many other things: her career, her personal life, keeping her kidney disease private. But in August 2018, she had to really feel like I had been ripped away from my rightful place in the world as a young person,” she said. For the long time, she didn’t even want to share that part of her life with people. “I just wanted to have my professional self be very separate from my medical self and over the years – I think – I never wanted my kidney disease to define me,” Cramer-Miller said.

So she built a successful career and a happy life, keeping her kidney disease private. But at a certain point, Cramer-Miller realized that she hadn’t let health define her. Instead she had defined herself with so many other things: her work, her family and all that she had accomplished. She realized that she had to have the courage to give back and to help people. After that, she was able to dedicate herself to advocating for people with chronic disease.

She continued her lot through her journey. An excerpt from Cramer-Miller’s book published in Arches describes how she perceived two outcomes when she was diagnosed with her autoimmune disease: heal or fail. Today, she says the real prize is living. She uses the example of the proverbial glass: is it half empty or half full? Cramer-Miller says we should be thankful for the glass in the first place. “The glass is the container and it contains our life. And life is filled with beauty and blemishes, but as long as we have a glass and we’re alive we need to really appreciate our lives,” she said.

A lot of this boils down to cultivating joy, something that Cramer-Miller focused on as a dialysis patient. “I really learned that I feel like joy is always available to us, no matter what we’re going through, because I’ve been dialysis patient, which is a hard way to live, and I still could access plenty of joy,” she said. It isn’t all cultivating. Cramer-Miller is still thankful for the miracles of life. She mentioned that she got pregnant after her second transplant, which came from someone who was deceased. “And that gift of life not only gave me more life, but it gave me hope, as well. And everything seems like it came with a miracle,” she said.

Two years later, Jennifer Cramer-Miller beat the two outcomes that defined her early treatment. She’s transcended the heal/fail dichotomy, and realized that living, especially in the service and care of those around you, is what is important. Catch her book “Incurable Optimist: Living with Illness and Chronic Hope” at the Logger Store.
Ongoing University Response to Israel-Hamas War

Dear members of the Trail Editorial Board,

The divisions of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Institutional Equity and Diversity acknowledge the call the editorial board of the Trail made to the campus community last week to engage in learning and conversation about the Israel and Hamas war, antisemitism, and Islamophobia.

We would like to share with the campus community some of the collaborations currently underway among our three divisions, as well as our continuing efforts to address the topics listed above. As plans are finalized, we will inform the community and invite everyone’s participation.

Current Plans: Continuing Education and Conversation about the Israel and Palestine War; Support for Members of the Jewish Student Union

- From the beginning of the war The Chaplaincy and the Institutional Equity and Diversity connected with Members of the Jewish Student Union to develop programs about the Israel and Hamas war, including antisemitism, and Islamophobia.
- Support for Members of the Jewish Student Union

We would like to share with the campus community and the community at large the following partnership:

As the Chaplaincy and the Division of Institutional Equity and Diversity are also pursuing the opportunity to bring a speaker to campus to address Islamophobia.

As a part of our Campus Community Engagement, we are continuing our partnership with Academ-
ic Engagement Network (AEN) to provide support for Jewish students and address antisemitism on campus.

AEN leaders conducted workshops and focus groups in the spring 2022 semester and returned to campus this fall, providing additional training for staff and students.

Our work with AEN is an ongoing effort, and the partnership will continue for the next year or two. There are many more workshops and trainings to come.

- The Chaplaincy and AEN leaders are working with students in our communities to identify organizations that can engage us to support them in their efforts to combat antisemitism.

We are working with staff and faculty to develop programs that can address these communities’ leadership.

We need to continue to address the Israel-Hamas war on campus with different approaches and talking points to address issues raised by Islamophobia and antisemitism alike. To that end, we would like to announce that Dr. Lora Halperin, Professor of Islamic Studies and Distinguished Endowed Professor of Jewish Stud-
ies, at the University of Washington-Seattle, will be giving a talk at the December 4, 2023, History of the Present event.

Toward this end, we are working with other campus partners to support the needs expressed by these communities.

We will keep you updated in future editions of The Trail with our continuing conversations about the Israel and Palestine war, and additional plans.

Sincerely,

Sarah Comstock, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Lorna Hernandez Jarvis, Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity

Drew Kerkhoff, Provost

COVID-19 Three Years Later: Social, Academic, and Mental Impacts on Students

By Hannah Lee

As the COVID-19 pandemic nears the end of its fourth year, the students who have acutely studied the impact of the pandemic on children and young adults.

COVID has shaped the collective school and university experience for the past few years. Most students who are currently studying on the University of Puget Sound campus have had their high school or college years affected in some way or other. Most students have had to do online schooling for a year or two.

In 2022, The New York Times reported that national test scores in math and reading fell in the National Assess-
ment of Educational Progress. A month later, The New York Times also reported how the pandemic affected American high school seniors, and the American Psychological Association released a study of the pandemic's impact on young adults.

The Trail spoke with Professor Bianca Wolf, a professor of communication studies at the University of New York, who specializes in the experiences of young adults who were in college and college campuses during the pandemic.

Wolf also talked about how different life stages come for students as they progress through college, just like I've experienced this semester.

When I served as ASUPS president during the 2022–2023 academic year, I had no experience with the financial constraints of being an ASUPS leader. However, this ASUPS administration should strive to make the system better, so that students can fundraise and raise money in the future. ASUPS clubs are the only student clubs on campus that can make an impact on the world, and ASUPS clubs should receive the financial support they need.

In her article in the last issue of The Trail, Grace Farrell asserted that “[t]he ASUPS budgeting process appears thorough and help-
ful, but the logistics of the funds are the most challenging part of the process”.

I write as a co-president of the Jewish Student Union and former ASUPS president to attest to this burden (and its disproportionate impact on students from economically disadvantaged). Although this should certainly not be the last word on the matter, I hope that we will provide one avenue for education and honest conversation.

ASUPS Club Financing

Dear Editor,

In her article in the last issue of The Trail, Grace Farrell asserted that “[t]he ASUPS budgeting process appears thorough and help-
ful, but the logistics of the funds are the most challenging part of the process”. While the ASUPS budgeting process appears thorough and helpful, the logistics of the funds are the most challenging part of the process.

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I write as a co-president of the Jewish Student Union and former ASUPS president to attest to this burden (and its disproportionate impact on students from economically disadvantaged).

Next, asking for a purchase to be made on the club’s behalf is often problematic. It has not issued purchasing cards to any clubs, leaving clubs leader two ways to spend the funds ASUPS already allo-
cated them: use their personal funds and seek retroactive reim-
bursement or ask ASUPS President Chloé Pargmann—the only person in ASUPS with a purchasing card—to make the payment for them. As I have experienced this semester, both options are problematic.

First, club leaders are not able to make a club payment with personal funds if they do not have ample personal funds to spend, and reimbursements this year have often been lengthy and problematic. As I have experienced this semester, both options are problematic.

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Congratulations to December Athlete of the Issue Kennedy Brown! Brown is a fourth-year at Puget Sound and an asset to the Logger women's basketball team. In a Nov. 11 game against the University of Wisconsin-Stout, she was the leading scorer for her team, totaling 31 points. Last year, Logger basketball achieved the honor of being conference champions, and Kennedy hopes for a repeat. The Trail swishes Kennedy and her team a great year; they will play George Fox University, the first Northwest Conference team of the season, on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Q: How do you prepare for games? Do you have any superstitions or lucky foods/clothing items?
A: I don’t really have any pregame routine or anything I HAVE to stick to. If I have the opportunity I will definitely nap. Usually, the day before I will try to get 300+ shots up and I always listen to the big booty remixes when I’m working out and those get me pretty hyped hahaha. If you haven’t listened to them you need to because they’re fun and I swear they get everyone in a great mood.

Q: You made 10/10 free throws at the Nov. 11 game against University of Wisconsin-Stout. How do you train for free throws, and is there a strategy for them?
A: Ever since summer I told myself I’m gonna go 100% from the FT line this season, so I think constantly telling myself that has helped. I think FT is more mental than anything. I try to shoot at least 100 FT every week, but I usually get up more. When I train... sometimes I’ll do 10 shots and then run two down-and-backs to get out of my rhythm and then shoot another 10, or I do 10 push-ups in between 10 FT to burn out my arms.

Q: What do you do outside of practice to be successful in your sport?
A: Outside of practice I try to get up to 1000 shots per week, of course, I don’t always reach that goal but I just go into each week with the intention to get up as many shots as I possibly can. We run a lot as a team but in the summer I try to run leading up to the season to make that transition easier (but running is never fun or easy!)

Q: Logger basketball achieved the title of conference champions last season. How does this affect how you frame your hopes/expectations for this season?
A: I expect us to win the conference again this year. I’ve had that expectation every season I’ve been at UPS and I truly think we have the coaches and players to win the conference title (again) and now win the conference tournament. We’ve had the goal to make it to the NCAA tournament for 2 years now and that goal has never changed so I’m very excited to see how this season goes and what conference play looks like.

Q: What’s your favorite memory from Logger basketball?
A: I can’t pick a favorite memory!! But our team retreats are SO FUN and I will forever remember every single one of them!! I love my team and I make so many great memories with them everyday so I can’t just pick one!!
El Arte de la Resistencia: A Portrait of Visual Protest Culture in Oaxaca, MX

By Mercer Stauch

Oaxaca, Mexico is the destination for hundreds of thousands of tourists every year who come to steep them- selves in a city that advertises itself as a well-preserved cultural treasure—meandering the historic El Centro neighborhood gives one the impression they’re passing through colonial-era New Spain. Ruins of pre-hispanic cities (Yagul, Monte Albán) aren’t far either, and the number of museums and historical sites lends itself to the narrative that Oaxaca is indeed frozen in time.

For native Oaxacans, this couldn’t be further from the truth. The less advertised dimension of this society is the firm and courageous public sense of progress, justice, and protest. During my three months studying here, I’ve seen upwards of 20 protests. The Oaxacan police are well practiced at blocking traffic for the duration of these marches, and non-participants treat them as a normalcy. Public art back up the public protest: outward-facing walls of most buildings (truly, a blank surface is an unusual sight) decry a government failure, illuminate a crime met with impunity, or mourn a wrongful death. This graffiti forces the viewer to confront the region’s imperfections, and demonstrate a forward-looking perspective that chafes with the image typically sold to the city’s tourist audience.

We can look to history to explain this phenomena. In 2006, protesters from the Oaxacan section of the Mex- ican national teacher’s union set up an encampment in el Zócalo, the historic center of the city, demanding expanded school funding, teacher pay, and scholarship opportunities for their students. They were met with brutal force from police that sought to remove them, leading to five months of clashes between state and federal police and students, teachers, indigenous groups, women’s rights activists, and thousands of independent Oaxacans that joined to oppose an oppressive government. My host parents, one of whom was a teacher providing food to the movement, described months of fear, but also of incredible resilience and community. My host father noted how quickly everyone realized that Oaxaca could function without police or government; in their pursuit, the city could run on the goodwill of the public, even if just for a while.

Eventually, the protests were quelled by over 5,000 national police, and teachers went back to work, their demands largely unanswered. What was never quelled was the distinct role graffiti played in those months. On the contrary, the language of street protest art is more alive than ever. The Israeli occupation of Pales- tine; the femicide rate in Oaxaca and across Mexico; the 43 kidnapped Ayotzinapa College students who have yet to be found; these and more are issues that street artists forbid be forgotten.

The imagery itself takes on countless evocative forms. Often you can find Marxist or leftist iconography alongside phrases that criticize servidumbre, el estado, or el ejército. Another common theme juxtaposes innocence with violence; the Virgin of Guadalupe wearing a tear gas mask, an elderly woman firing a shotgun, or a man in a hazmat suit cautiously ap- proaching a single stalk of corn. They send a clear message: the struggle for basic human rights excludes no one.

At times, a walk through Oaxaca can be overwhelm- ing. For better or for worse, the artistic community of Oaxaca has taken it upon itself to combat ambiva- lence and complacency on as many social justice fronts as the city’s outward-facing walls will allow. I’m fascinated by all ways in which media can make people care; street art is never one I had put much thought into before, but it has an undeniable power here. Its most important impact, in my mind, is on the millions of visitors, myself among them, that arrive in Oaxaca not expecting to be moved by its tangible passion for social justice. And I’m certain that I’m not the only one to leave carrying the urge to play my part in the pursuit of a more equitable world.

Artist of the Issue: Lou Lobdell

By Kailey Kairo

Congratulations to this month’s Artist of the Issue, Lou Lobdell! Lobdell is a sophomore who’s majoring in both art and biology at the University of Puget Sound.

Q: You’re currently an Artist-in-Residence at the Puget Sound Museum of Natural History—what initially drew you to working with the museum? What are some of your favorite parts about this position?
A: The museum is actually what drew me to this campus! I’ve been in love with museums ever since I visited the Field Museum in Chicago as a kid, so working in a museum is a dream come true. The Puget Sound Museum has an incredible array of specimens, and coming face to face with that was like an aha moment— I just knew I was where I belonged. I especially love being able to share the joy that I feel in the museum with other people. Being able to hang out with docents and help direct some of their work is really fun and a great community.

Q: What has been one of the most memorable parts of your art career so far?
A: During my senior year of highschool, I was actual- ly able to display my work in a gallery for a showing. This was the first time I’d ever displayed my work on a larger scale, and I’m really proud of how the show came out.

Q: Are you currently working on any new artistic projects? Are there any moods or themes that you’d like to capture in future works?
A: I have a couple major pieces in the works right now, and I’m hoping to explore them further— lately I’ve been really caught up in canine and bird imagery. Something I’ve also been working on is using new media and combining mediums, which I don’t do a lot. I’m hoping to be able to display more work soon!
Campus' Most Fluffy Event: Pause 4 Paws

By Veronica Brinkley

Every month, dozens of students gather in the rotunda to destress with dogs during Pause for Paws, an event hosted by the University featuring dogs from Therapy Dogs International. While many other campus events struggle to get a turnout, these calm canines garner crowds of adoring students—especially during midterms and finals. Dogs are a powerful, innate ability to calm and soothe almost anyone, making therapy dogs' work key in these stressful situations. But who exactly are our therapy dog regulars? The dogs themselves did not have much to say on this matter, so I turned to their owners for comment on these elusive, fluffy characters. The following highlights just a bit about each dog. If these profiles pique your interest, make sure to attend the next Pause for Paws event in the rotunda on December 6!

6-year-old English Sheep Dogs owned by Robert & Angel

With the crowd that encircled Annie and Baron as they entered the rotunda, you would have thought Taylor Swift had just made an appearance on campus. The pair are six-year-old English Sheep Dogs. Notably, they’re not related, but very similar-looking white fluff; nearly piled on ponytails on top of their heads, these two radiate a royal yet gentle energy. This explains why they are a popular duo at the Pause for Paws event. Their calming temperament and natural magnetism is why their owners, Robert and Angel, do therapy work.

“We just like sharing them with people,” Robert tells me.

“We’ve seen a number of circumstances over the years where they really touch people, people who are going through difficult times. He tells a story about a time they visited an autistic child with high support needs. “We sat him down and put the dogs next to him, and he started touching the dog and his face broke out into this beautiful smile and the mom burst into tears, and so I said ‘what’s going on?’” and she said he had never smiled before. “As he tells me this, he is simultaneously positioning the dogs for another photo with students, like he’s coordinating a celebrity meet and greet.

When Annie and Baron are not graceing the University with their presence, Robert tells me they spend their days:

“They love anywhere where they can run free and chase each other,” he says. “They’ll take each other down and go rolling over and over, and charge each other.” He shows me a video of the two tumbling through the snow, pouncing on each other like puppies. They’re also, importantly, big fans of vegetables. “Broccoli, asparagus, carrots, celery,” Robert says. “Open the refrigerator and open the vegetable drawer; they go nuts, they absolutely love it.” So here’s a hint: if you are hoping to win the hearts of these two at a Pause for Paws event, the produce aisle might be the right place to start.

7-year-old Golden Retriever owned by Cheri

Henry is an old soul. Despite being only seven, which is roughly middle age for a dog his size, he has a wise and endearing presence. He is just happy to be here, being pet by a dozen eager hands at once. Henry’s owner, Cheri, tells me about him with an excited smile, as happy to share as I am to listen. “I think my favorite thing about him is just how loving and sweet he is, but also how intuitive he is with other people and their needs. And he can be around somebody who’s stressed out and is having a hard time and he will go over to that person. I’ve seen it a lot.”

Outside of his important therapy work, Henry takes his athletics very seriously. According to Cheri, “It’s all about swimming, he was born with a minor hip issue, and the vet suggested swimming as a preventive exercise. Henry immediately took to it.” He’s been doing it since he was six months, and he loves it. “I mean when he goes up the ramp, he jumps in the water with all four legs spread,” Cheri told me, gesturing wildly to imitate his jump. This talented swimmer loves eating all kinds of fruit, but Henry’s absolute favorite is watermelon. Notably, he does not like celery, lettuce, or spinach. When pressed for comment, Henry was unable to substantiate these claims.

I encourage every one of you to stop by the rotunda and meet Henry yourself. Sweet, kind, and the perfect temperament for therapy work, Henry is all around a beautiful soul. He is also a Scorpio, if that helps.

3-year-old Golden Retriever owned by Bob

When I first walked into the rotunda, I was immediately drawn to Cody’s youthful energy. He and his owner, Bob, sat to the side of the room, patiently waiting for the first round of students. Cody was calm but excited, clearly aware he was about to be the star of the show. He had even his own very business card. “Giving completion: becoming a therapy dog on the first try,” it read. Enthusiastic to answer my questions, his owner, Bob, explained that he’s done therapy dog work for 25 years and Cody is his fifth dog. “You name it, we’ve visited there. Retirement communities, children’s hospitals. I was at a children’s hospital for 15 years. Rehab centers, inpatient and outpatient, memory care units.” Calm and collected, Cody exudes therapy dog expertise. Bob tells me, however, that Cody at home is a different story.

In proper golden retriever fashion, he talks with feet, Bob testified, and at home he is a rambunctious bundle of energy, ready to tumble around the yard at a moments notice. Cody enjoys swimming, playing tug, chasing squirrels, and playing with other dogs (shocking, I know). His favorite food is apple slices and he can tell if you have one from a mile away. Unlike most Goldens, Cody is a dog of international proportions. “He was born in Croatia,” Bob tells me. Cody was flown over 4,000 miles all the way to Snohomish. Next time you visit Cody, just remember how lucky he could be in our country and all the programs and facilities that are available to help the precious children that need it. Cody’s parents. The antagonist of this film is the act of giving to one’s burdens, like Angua’s feeling of avarice unloved by his family, Hunham’s loss of hope for his students, or Mary’s lack of perseverance.

This film tries to convey the breadth of empathy and connection that can be found between people. Empa- thy doesn’t feed off mere similarities and pastimes but is based on overarching necessities that make us feel human. The reason this movie works so well is due to the spines of both Angus and Mr. Hunham’s character. A character’s spine is what famous screenwriter and director Andrew Stanton describes as “something that drove them, their unconscious goal, a motive that they were after.” Hunham and Angus both suffered a deep sense of alienation, a human emotion everyone has felt. If you can empathize with profound intrinsic emotion with someone completely different from you, their dif- ferences can make you grow instead of being something you detest.

I’m predisposed to say that “The Holdovers” is on my top five list of Christmas movies to date. The characters felt so real that I got lost in their lives, not wanting to leave, which is exactly what movies are made for.

The Holdovers - What Popcorn Bliss Is Made Of

By Jack Leal

Paul Giannatti’s personal boardaging school experience translates with intensity in his latest film “The Holdovers...wow! Written by David Hemingson, directed by Alexander Payne, and starring Paul Giannatti as Mr. Hunham, “The Holdovers” is a whirlwind of cinematic bliss. With fully fleshed-out characters, fully realized dialogue, and a cast of characters that make even the most jaded industry veteran do a double take, this film is a must-see for any cinephile.

“The Holdovers” can be best described as a healthy brew of “Lost in Translation” and “The Dead Poet Society” and Sofia Coppola’s “The Company’s” to a film that is both instant classic.

Mr. Hunham is an Ancient History teacher who most people think of as a hidebound curmudgeon. Hunham sees his approach to teaching creates a lingering trail of irony. It’s clear that he doesn’t feed off mere similarities and pastimes but is based on overarching necessities that make us feel human. The reason this movie works so well is due to the spines of both Angus and Mr. Hunham’s character.

Angus is what Mr. Hunham would describe as a "pain in the ass." Despite having the best grades in class, he’s pretty smug. However, when he decides to be palatable, Angus is an upstanding kid who isn’t afraid to voice his opinions. All parents but one could be reached, which leads us to the film’s second main character.

Mary is the third main character named Mary Lamb. Mary is a son in Vietnam. Despite having experienced this trag-

locked in Barton with Angus and Mr. Hunham is Cody. The antagonist of this film is the act of giving to one’s burdens, like Angua’s feeling of avarice unloved by his family, Hunham’s loss of hope for his students, or Mary’s lack of perseverance.

This film tries to convey the breadth of empathy and connection that can be found between people. Empa- thy doesn’t feed off mere similarities and pastimes but is based on overarching necessities that make us feel human. The reason this movie works so well is due to the spines of both Angus and Mr. Hunham’s character. A character’s spine is what famous screenwriter and director Andrew Stanton describes as “something that drove them, their unconscious goal, a motive that they were after.” Hunham and Angus both suffered a deep sense of alienation, a human emotion everyone has felt. If you can empathize with profound intrinsic emotion with someone completely different from you, their dif- ferences can make you grow instead of being something you detest.

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Electric Feel: RDG’s Latest Showcase Extravaganza

By Grace Farrell

On the evening of November 17, 2023, over 800 people poured into the Silas High School auditorium to witness Puget Sound students showcase their talent in 15 different dances. Members of the University’s Repertoire Dance Group (RDG) remained backstage as the lights dimmed and enthusiastic audience members found their seats, eagerly anticipating the premier of this year’s fall showcase. Each of the 140 club members had been rehearsing tirelessly over the past week to arrange such an elaborate performance, which “pulled from all different areas” in terms of dance style and experience level, according to club President Carly Ching.

The performance commenced shortly after 7:30PM when a series of vibrant performers finally took to the stage. One such member was first-year Leah Thomison, who choreographed a beginning jazz piece titled “Something I Don’t Know” by Selena Gomez. In doing so, she shared an upbeat, nostalgic, and refreshingly inclusive piece with the community via the RDG showcase.

Thomison joined RDG after participating in a similar high school program, and while she recounts the initial experience of choreographing to be “incredibly nerve-wracking” because of her lack of seniority, she says that it was also rewarding to see the piece come together with so many enthusiastic dancers and friendly faces composing it.

“I’m so honored to be a part of this club,” Thomison remarks.

Other upbeat numbers included a snazzy tap number titled “The Suites Are Picking Up the Bill” — where dancers sported suspenders and slacks as they shimmed across the stage — and “Bad Bunny Babys,” an intermediate hip-hop piece infused with a Latin-style thanks to Bad Bunny’s music sass.

RDG’s performance also included dance styles such as lyrical and modern. First-year Claire Ulvenes is one RDG member who’s particularly skilled in these areas; she was featured in the showcase’s advanced contemporary piece, “Erase Me.”

Ulvenes began dancing as a young child and transitioned from ballet to contemporary dance following restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Because Puget Sound doesn’t have an opportunity to earn a degree in dance, she joined RDG as an alternative means of continuing her passion for dance and meeting other students with similar interests.

While Ulvenes recognizes that starting RDG during her first semester of college introduced an extra commitment to juggle alongside her regular coursework, she characterizes the overall experience of participating to be quite rewarding, and encouraging anyone interested in dance to consider joining RDG — regardless of their previous dance experience.

“It didn’t matter if they’re scared if they’re not dancers, but there’s a lot of total beginners,” she says. “It’s something that anyone can try out.”

President Carly Ching shares a similar sentiment about the program. After withdrawing from her childhood passion for dance because of its toxic environment, Ching’s experience with RDG has been nothing short of “phenomenal.” She even notes that RDG is one of the things that has kept her enrolled at Puget Sound, due to its inclusivity and opportunities for community connection in these showcase events.

Following the Friday night performance, over 450 people then attended a second night of the showcase on Saturday, November 18. The audience included proud parents as well as fellow University of Puget Sound students eager to demonstrate their support for dancers. The show was an exhilarating experience for all—participants and onlookers alike — and campus is already looking forward to the arrival of similar RDG events in future semesters.

Learning In The Flow: Kittredge hosts interdisciplinary exhibit and symposium

By Sam Gerrish

“Seeding Lushootseed” was created in partnership with Christopher Briden of the Puyallup Tribal Language Consortium. The University of Puget Sound and DeMotts were committed to prioritizing the wishes of their Indigenous community partners from the very start of the project through to its fruition. "As Prof. Simms and I were thinking about the work that we wanted to do in the class, we thought about the process behind it, what do we engage with and how is that important to folks in the community already, rather than us sitting here in our ivory tower, thinking about what's important, and independently: so how do we co-create something in a meaningful way?" DeMotts said.

Professor Elise Richman is one of the earliest members of the team behind “In The Flow” and an active working artist, but felt that “Seeding Lushootseed” was the piece to best represent our University. “I thought that Rachel and Renee’s project with their students was the best example of thinking about Indigenous knowledge, place-based knowledge, art, and ecology, better than anything I could have personally contributed, so I reached out to them, and they are the representatives,” Richman said.

Both DeMotts and Simms were panelists in the discussion on the symposium’s first day. DeMotts felt that they spoke much more about the collaborative process behind the signs and the importance of respect in their relationship with their community partners than about themselves. “It required a different way of thinking about what it means to work with someone. It’s not just run out into the community and get what you want,” she said.

DeMotts also spoke about the gallery, with many of its pieces being composed of materials not common in such a space, as an environment which helped invite important interdisciplinary conversation and interrogated traditional boundaries. “There are all sorts of different disciplines and perspectives implicated in that and brought into the conversation in that space. And I think that's really useful. One of the things that came up in the panel discussion was, one of the other participants referred to what we were all kind of talking about, as work that was considered, right, crossing boundaries in ways that you don't normally think about. And I think that's really useful, actually,” she said.

Richman agreed with this sentiment. “That was an incredibly rich conversation about relationships between climate change and language and place and displacement,” she said.

These conversations are an essential manifestation of the themes of “In The Flow,” one of which is the importance of the learning that can occur outside of traditional western institutions. As written in the gallery statement, “It matters to its participants and onlookers alike — and campus is already looking forward to the arrival of similar RDG events in future semesters.”

Kittredge Gallery is currently home to “In The Flow: Art, Ecology, and Pedagogy,” an exhibit which explores place-based ways of knowing in conversation with education, creativity, and climate change. The show is part of a greater symposium that has been in the making for two years. The event included a reception, poetry reading, panel discussion, and eight unique workshops which took place on Nov. 3 and 4. The show features nine artists from the Salish Sea and the Columbia Basin, with several hailing from the Northwest Five Colleges. The University of Puget Sound is represented by Professor Rachel DeMotts’ 2021 Environmental Racism course “Seeding Lushootseed,” a piece displaying signage that was created in partnership with the Puyallup Tribal Language Consortium. The University of Puget Sound is represented by Professor Elise Richman with Christopher Briden of the Puyallup Tribal Language Consortium. The University of Puget Sound is represented by Professor Elise Richman with Christopher Briden of the Puyallup Tribal Language Consortium.
The last day of America was a long one. Fatigued, exhausted, worn, and weary, Americans across the country stumbled to bed. The last glasses of water were poured, melatonin gummies from three different bottles, ‘Ts’ switched off, and laptops shut as the incessant background hum of the internet slowly faded into silence, and the perpetual demands of Americans’ cell phones were wholly ignored for the night. It was, after all, bedtime.

A 34 year old software engineer looks out across the San Francisco Bay and sees the last faint glimmers of the Silicon Valley metropolis winking in the night, and wonders whether America could have avoided all this with a little more synergy and a pool table in the employee rec room. Tossing and turning in his four-poster bed, the fear-mongering conservative pundit sweats in the throes of a nightmare. The demons he conjured up have been let loose on his pristine neighborhood, hellbent on massacring his precious property values.

Wrong out from a long shift, the intimidatingly cool barista dusts his monogrammed pajamas after a nightcap bump of cocaine, the cutthroat Wall Street executive, unable to process the day’s catastrophes, fast asleep after 9:30 PM, dreaming of a Heaven where the only accessible pleasures are sugar, firm handshakes, and polyamory. Without a hint of guilt, the college student scans the list of assignments still inexplicably due at 11:59 PM that night, and shuts the laptop going to bed before 2 AM for the first time since starting college, and the last time in a long while.

As she puts her toothbrush down and turns in for the night, Connell hopes the same for Joe Biden. Steeling himself for a last dance with the Angel of Death, the intimidatingly cool barista, the nuclear engineer feels the same way. Desperate for a few more streams, the up-and-coming rapper fires off another self-promotional Instagram story before crashing on his best friend’s couch, hoping that — if everyone still wakes up tomorrow — they’ll take a chance on his music.

The nuclear engineer feels the same way. Desperate for a few more streams, the up-and-coming rapper fires off another self-promotional Instagram story before crashing on his best friend’s couch, hoping that — if everyone still wakes up tomorrow — they’ll take a chance on his music. Donald Trump hopes everyone still wakes up tomorrow so he can pitch his latest plan to get back into the White House before 2024. Steeling himself for a last dance with the Angel of Death, Joe Biden desperately hopes that Mitch McConnell kicks the bucket before everyone else does.

Most Americans would prefer the same for both of them, but have since come to appreciate that tonight will be the closest America ever comes to true equality, which comforts them as their eyes shut for the last time.

A member of the covert cabal that had secretly been controlling global affairs for centuries briefly wonders whether the cabal should feel guilty about America’s impending fate, then brushes it off with ‘ah, apathetic bloody country anyway, I’ve no sympathy at all.’

Long after the bombs burst, the red glare of the rockets illuminated a tattered American flag and an empty package of Oreos; the last remnants of a 247 year-long fever dream, the American Dream.

Exhausted, Americans Are Going to Bed

Björk’s Discography: Definitely Emotive, Potentially Eruptive?

By Emmet O’Connor

Within the past month, there has been a rise in volcanic activity across the globe. Volcanoes in Iceland, Italy, and Japan have all experienced heightened activity. The rise in geological activity coincides with Icelandic musician Björk’s international tour. Although the connection has not been confirmed by the musician, this is likely part of a guerrilla marketing campaign.

Björk’s most recent album is a split EP with the indie rock band Dirty Projectors, most well known for their hit song “Swing Lo Magellan.” The cover image for the EP is of Mount Wittenberg in Ulster County, New York State. The mountain is not volcanic, but the theme of geological activity is consistent. On the topic of Dirty Projectors there is an interesting connection between Magellan and volcanoes. In March of 2023 the spacecraft Magellan found evidence of volcanic activity on Venus. This comes back to Björk since one of her hit songs is called “Venus as a Boy,” and the connections do not stop there.

The town most under threat is on the Reykjanes peninsula, which is directly south of Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland and the birthplace of Björk. She often presents herself as a supernatural and otherworldly being and perhaps this persona is not just an act. Could Björk be behind the recent activity? Maybe…

In March of 2023, Björk played four shows in Japan and a mere eight months later a volcano off the coast of two Jima caused a new island to emerge out of the Pacific ocean. She also played a show in Milan, Italy, on Sep. 19. On Nov. 24 Mount Etna in Italy erupted. There seems to be a connection between the countries where Björk chooses to play shows and volcanic activity, like eruptions in the case of Mount Etna.

Björk recently appeared in the 2022 film “The Northman” by Robert Eggers. The film has Björk predicting the future for the main character and a volcano as a set piece for the film. Could Björk and Eggers be alluding to her 2023 tour and the corresponding volcanic eruptions? We have not been able to confirm with Björk’s team, but it seems too strong a connection to be considered simply a coincidence.

What helps bring a country together after an environmental catastrophe? Live music. Björk could be harnessing the destruction that volcanoes bring about so as to make more of an impact with her music and sell more tickets to her shows. Another possibility is that her shows are serving as a warning for the volcanoes. Björk could be sensing the impending eruptions and playing shows to try and move people out of the danger zone. This would explain the fact that most of her shows were a decent distance away from the blast areas of the volcanoes. We may never receive confirmation from Björk or her team on the volcano issue, but there does seem to be some kind of connection between the pop icon and the rise in volcanic activity. We can only hope that Björk does not use these volcanoes to destroy but instead only uses them to promote tour dates and new music.
Meet Our Team

Erin Hurley
Kate Patterson
Veronica Brinkley

Erin Hurley, a freshman from the San Francisco Bay Area, is a writer for The Trail. She is studying German Studies and International Political Economy and is a member of the Honors Program. In her free time she can be seen hiking, hammocking, and desperately trying to get her friends to watch Downton Abbey together.

Kate, a junior, has been on The Trail since freshman year and is currently the Managing Copy Editor. She prides herself on checking the spelling of every single name in the newspaper. You might see Kate making smoothies at Lillis, on a run, or picking blueberries like she is in the picture above!

Veronica Brinkley, a junior from Palo Alto, California is serving as The Trail’s business manager. Veronica is double majoring in Sculpture and Communication/Media Studies. She is also the co-president of the University’s only art club, Collaborative Art Club. Veronica can often be found watching horror movies with her roommates and thinking about her dog.

The Combat Zone is intended as a satirical work. The views and opinions expressed by the Combat Zone do not necessarily reflect those of the Puget Sound Trail, ASUPS, concerned parties or the University of Puget Sound. Please submit compliments or complaints in the form of letters to the editor.

Headlines

- Not to be Outdone, Big Boi Announces New Improvisational Piano-Centric Jazz Album “Felonious Thelonious: Chico Dusty’s Other Son”
- Nation’s Doctors Declare Entire Country to Be Pre-Diabetic on Nov. 24 to Save Trouble of Individual Diagnoses
- Opinion: Black Friday is a Capitalistic Bacchanal That Glorifies Greed and Consumerism, and I Am its Unbested Gladiator
- Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner Land Acknowledgement As suages Liberal Family’s Guilt About Celebrating Thanksgiving
- Christmas Canceled After Santa Sent Into Existential Spiral From Reading Nietzsche
- Citing Comparable Surveillance Abilities, Dick Cheney Offers to Fill in for Santa This Year
- Opinion: I’m Dreaming of a Gray Christmas, Because I’m Red-Green Colorblind and I Live in Tacoma
- CHWS Opens Recovery Clinic for O-Chem Students Who Spent Past Two Days Cramming the Jacobsen Lab Report
- White Guy in Linguistics Class Immediately Sits Up Straight, Pays Undivided Attention at Mention of “Dip-thongs”

Thought movies were going to be better post covid but just saw Napoleon and that shit sucked. Why aren’t the movies movieing again?

Because “historical fiction” movies are really just bad fiction made by and for “straight” men. Male directors love to sell these movies as super important moral vehicles but considering who is responsible for most of the world’s moral dilemmas, it’s unsurprising that these messages tend to miss this mark. Ridley Scott really thought it’d be dope if Napolean fired cannons at the pyramids. Martin Scorsese from an indigenous woman’s perspective about atrocities committed by white men. And of course, Nolan had his Op- penheimer quote Krishnas while Florence Pugh was riding Kyle from Pitchbook Investments could motivatedly have

Sometimes I feel a shower beer could be the move. But then I fear my roommates might judge me for a shower beer. Would they be right to?

Your roommates probably wouldn’t notice if you brought a blow-up doll with you into the shower and the former is way less concerning so one little shower beer is fine.

My ex just reached back out and I’m contemplating letting him back in. Should I?

So they’re trying to holiday season their way back in? The obvious answer is no but if you’re willing to go through the same emotional babysitting while we wait for the sun to come back, go for it. It might be nice to feel something for the next few months, even if it’s just an overload of uncertainty hormones because you and I both know you could get a response faster via carrier bird than a text. Before you decide, think about whether you can take that forehead smooch followed by a “let’s keep things casual.” But hey, maybe you will be able to fix him this go around.

Erin Hurley
Kate Patterson
Veronica Brinkley

December 1, 2023
Sex education in the United States is currently facing a lot of criticism from activists and sexual health organizations due to its focus on abstinence-only education and failure to teach students about basic reproductive and healthy sexual habits. Sexual health education is under attack, along with education regarding gender and sexuality. Down the line, if this information continues to be withheld, college and high school students’ sexual lives will be negatively impacted. In order to test how educated students at the University of Puget Sound are regarding sex education, The Trail put together a healthy sex quiz. This quiz is not an experimental-level survey, but it is an interesting tool that can be analyzed and provide conclusions about the sexual education of college students. 48 students took the quiz, which consisted of 20 multiple-choice questions. These questions were primarily focused on birth control methods and protection from STIs. The results showed that the majority of students (75%), were well educated in sex education and safe sex habits. However, there were some commonly missed questions. Two questions had a less than 50% correct response rate. The question that was missed the most was, “what is the most common STI symptom?” 47% of people said that itching was the most common symptom, 23% selected painful urination, and 13% selected burning sensations as the most common. While all of these options can be symptoms of an STI, the correct response, which only 17% of people selected, was having no symptoms at all when infected with an STI. Many STIs are asymptomatic, and can still be passed on to a person’s sexual partners. This is why it’s important that people use protection, and are getting screenings for STIs. Lots of people end up spreading STIs simply because they do not know that they are infected as they show no symptoms.

The second most missed question asked what the most common STIs are. 56% of students answered that chlamydia was the most common, 13% answered gonorrhea, 8% answered HIV and 23% answered correctly that HPV is the most common STI. While HPV (human papillomavirus) is usually harmless and tends to go away on its own, some types can lead to genital warts or cancer. This STI is so common that almost everyone will have it at some point in their life if they are having sex, but through proper sexual education, people can learn how to avoid it and also recognize it if they get infected.

The STI epidemic has continued to become more and more serious and it’s therefore extremely important that college-age students are educated and up to date about the different infections and how to stay protected. Young people between the ages of 15-24 make up the majority of STI cases in the United States, and this is partly due to the limited sexual education that they are receiving in high school and prior. To slow down and stop the STI epidemic, school systems neglecting this need to reorder their priorities and begin educating students about healthy and inclusive sexual practices.

These healthy sex quiz results revealed that University of Puget Sound students have been educated on basic STI prevention and birth control methods, but there is still important progress to be made. The campus, through the help of Counseling, Health, and Wellness Services (CHWS), has been working to break the stigmas around STIs and to teach students about what can be done to foster a sex-positive community and allow students to ask questions they have and get the answers they need. The University of Puget Sound, along with other colleges and high schools across the United States, need to embrace a sex-positive approach and open up the discussion to healthy sex and not simply abstinence. If schools start to enact these changes, then it is likely that the United States STI epidemic will begin to slow down as young people are educated on safe sex, testing, and prevention measures.

Guardian article published in September 2023, author Abbey Wright summarized her findings from her research, conducted with over 10,000 young people between ages 6 and 22. In her article, Wright emphasizes that porn is usually children’s first experience with sex. This interaction can come before any type of “bird and the bee” talk with parental figures or even school sponsored sexual education. The fact that most children’s introduction to sex is porn may partially explain the current “hook-up culture” where sexual assault numbers continue to rise.

Another of Wright’s discoveries was that porn either intentionally or unintentionally filled in the gaps of sexual education for some children. Some children reported that they hadn’t realized sex could occur between two people of the same gender until they saw it on porn. This is no surprise as, at least in the U.S., as sexual education is a constantly debated issue and religious heteronormative ideals dominate sexual education. Only teaching abstinence and penis-vagina sex intercourse has led to porn educating our children, great.

The impacts of porn on the younger generation have been very hard to observe, but they have begun to emerge. Today, porn can make it harder and harder to find meaningful relationships as “hook-up culture” is dominant. Porn deliberately encourages this isolation because partners are complicated but porn is just two clicks away. Also, porn creates unrealistic expectations of sex and people (including but not limited to bodies, kinks, clothing, etc.) and through repetition it teaches its audience that sexual activity is only for personal pleasure, and just like in their favorite porn “she/he were asking for it.”

Times have changed and sexual education and health awareness are paramount. Porn overuse is a real threat and compulsive behavior can be difficult to deal with but please know that help is available. There are signs to look out for including but not limited to lying about your porn use, porn interfering with your daily life, watching porn anytime you are online, and/or being unable to stop masturbation past the point of physical injury or infection. There are also resources available to help you begin to give up porn. You can take action to help, but the first step is acknowledging that this is a problem. Porn can be a healthy outlet for some and masturbations is a healthy part of most people’s lives but moderation is key. When young people are being exposed to porn at a very impressionable age both in general development and sexual development, it leads to adults that don’t understand or can’t have healthy sex. So watch out for your friends and family, and don’t be that older person that exposes porn to someone younger.
Crossword Key

**Across**
1. Broken piece of ceramic material
2. Flightless Snowy Bird
3. Talented NHL Rookie
4. Snowiest city in the US
5. Chris Pratt
6. Europe's youngest country
7. You're reading

**Down**
11. An X-mas tree is likely this
12. Pardoned on Thanksgiving
13. Ice planet in Star Wars
14. You'll ace
15. An X-mas tree is likely this

Horoscopes Dec. 1

Aries
Big month for you and your career goals! But don’t feel like you have to do it alone. Lean into your intuition this month and don’t be afraid to slow down and reflect.

Taurus
We know cuffing season has you feeling a little extra lonely, but take advantage of your freedom! Explore your adventurous side and relish in the relationships you already have.

Gemini
Go easy on yourself this month! Don’t let the pressure of school and holidays get to you. Lean into those around you and collaborate in any way you can, whether it’s cooking or a final project.

Cancer
Speak your truth this month! Fun is coming your way, but don’t shy away from problems that need solving. Experience all the emotions you’re feeling and don’t hold on to anything negative.

Leo
Don’t be scared to change things up this month. Redecorate your room, make a new recipe, or take a different route on your scheduled walk. Take some time for yourself and be mindful of what you need.

Virgo
Harness your creative energy! Take note of fun projects you want to do after finals season is over. Don’t be afraid to feel your feelings and do some reflecting on your personal relationships.

Libra
Rediscover your balance! Be mindful of what you want more and less of in your life. Enjoy your time with your loved ones over break, they are wiser than you think.

Scorpio
Stop being so negative and enjoy life a little! Leave your perfectionism at the door and make sure you’re enjoying everything you’re doing. He willing to be vulnerable and trust yourself.

Sagittarius
Believe in yourself! You can always use more positive affirmations. You’re letting go of your past and transforming into a new-and-improved you!

Capricorn
Enjoy this time with your friends and family. Trust your gut as you let go of some relationships. Don’t let your birthday get overshadowed by the holidays! There’s no such thing as too much celebration.

Aquarius
Appreciate your most supportive friends this month and do a little more analysis of those who aren’t. Stop doubting yourself and trust that what you have to say is valuable.

Pisces
Change things up a little and have some fun! Now’s a great time to change your way of doing things, whether it’s your creative process, daily routine or thinking patterns. Do some dusting in your mind palace and get ready for the new you this new year!
On Nov 9, playwright, professor and artist Funmilola Fagbamila – who was an original co-founder of the first BLM chapter – gave a talk called “Freedom Dreams: A Formula for Justice” in the Rotunda. The Trail is honored to publish an excerpt from an interview Kerrigan Franklin, BSU President, conducted with Fagbamila prior to her lecture. The full interview may be found on The Trail’s website.

Kerrigan: What do you consider to be the catalyst and overarching purpose for the advancements of social justice movements at this time?

Fagbamila: You know, because there are so many different movements while related have very different objectives. It’s almost hard to say, “Well, what was the actual catalyst?” And I think that if I had to frame it, one might say justice, because justice is all encompassing thing. When we’re talking about environmental justice, gender justice, racial justice, but even that, when we say that you know, we just want justice in whatever realm that they’re working in, it’s like, well, what do we mean by that? Some people will say, “Well, you know, restorative justice means that we’re addressing the offenders of the wrongdoing, and it needs to transcend all of the events and it needs to look anymore because it’s all too much” when something goes wrong we’re seeking to figure out what happened, why it went wrong and not just immediately to punish. This becomes complicated when we look at the offender of the wrongdoing, and if there has been a history of wrongdoing, so that we can actually acknowledge the complexity and there have been times when we want to look deeper into why a person did what they did, as opposed to acknowledging a person that is engaging in a wrongdoing or system that is engaging in a wrongdoing and it’s not an accident, and that it has been a historical thing and that it’s been a pattern of abuse and manipulation. And so restorative justice begins to kick in to look at the nuances of what we mean when we say a healthier world. And so, to answer your question, what I think they all have in common is greater egalitarianism in this world, because a fully egalitarian society may be outside of our hands forever, but a greater egalitarianism and a healthier way of interacting with each other.

K: That kind of answers my follow up question of if you believe that it is the desolation of an issue or the unwavering hope for its resolve that for its resolve or the resolve of an issue that is kind of the backbone and push for social movements?

F: That’s an interesting way to frame it. It reminds me of something that I heard in a Black Power documentary. This person speaking in the documentary was addressing what took place at the start of the Black Power era, that transition from civil rights into Black power. And basically what they were getting at is that black communities in the United States observed that the pain of staying the same was the pain of change. So it’s like, we would rather go forth with the discomfort and the pain and the loss and the vulnerability of the change is better than the things we’ve gone along with saying “we’re standing up for ourselves in a system that was never made to serve us.” All of those events were essentially harmful things that could happen to people when they stick up for themselves in such a system. That they’re prepared to address, that rather than deal with what they’ve been dealing with. So, in essence, what is the catalyst? I think it’s, it’s, it’s the observation of history and the fact that we’re using to leave this as it is for a future generation and future generations? And I just heard someone say, it’s like they said something about loving people in a future time, basically saying that we love the people that we don’t even know yet – a future generation. And I’m thinking of the ways that the work that was done in the past, how that created room for there to be Black Power. And how the work that was done in Black Power, created room for there to be a movement for Black lives and for Black Lives Matter to exist. I think that the, the, the big incentive behind all the push is, is this a sentiment of “We can’t just leave it as it is.” I would love to say that it’s just because of a love of people. I think it is a bit more complex than just the love of people. I also think that we are in a moment where social media and these types of things are showing up in the ways that typically we see social media and these types of things. It’s hard because we are overwhelmed and overburdened, overloaded daily with information that past generations didn’t even have the opportunity to know. And people are beginning, from my observation, to experience an empathy fatigue in a particular type of way where it’s like, “I can’t look anymore because it’s all too much” when past generations didn’t even necessarily have the option to look. So that’s something to consider.

K: Your lecture, “Freedom Dreams: a Formula for Justice” envisioned freedom as a reality not just as a dream. How can we as a collective work towards the values that are striving toward in our generation, that the future generations of like, “Oh, we’re just doing what we’re leaving for them. But also without romanticizing the wrong. People from being that which we don’t quite want to be inquisitive, rather than ostracizing and may be somewhat intimidated by. We create room for that which we are unfamiliar with and may be somewhat intimidated by. We create room for that which we are unfamiliar with and may be somewhat intimidated by. And so restorative justice begins to become a pattern of abuse and manipulation. And so restorative justice begins to become the catalyst? I think it’s, it’s, it’s the observation of history and the fact that we’re using to leave this as it is for a future generation and future generations?

F: Yes! And consistency doesn’t mean that you’re in a perpetual state of resistance. The conversation about resistance gets a little bit complex because we’re now in a discussion about rest and joy also being resistance, which I understand exactly what that means. Because if you’re under cultures and systems and environments that have historically caused you harm that you just being well is a form of resistance. But the truth is, if we’re talking about resistance, how historically we really are what that means and why do you feel like you can’t just be happy and healthy and joyful in my life at the same time.” And that’s because it’s empathy fatigue that they experience. And this feeling that in order for me to be a good person and care about people that I love, I have to have empathy for them. I always have to mourn with them when bad things are happening to people and they’re getting evicted and they don’t have enough money because they lost their jobs after the pandemic and the Palestinians are being killed. It’s not necessarily you’re only empathetic and that you can walk through the world with kindness and interact with people in a healthier way without having to be in a perpetual state of mourning.

Read the rest of the interview on The Trail’s website.