The Trail, 2024-03-01

Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound

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**Demonstrators Force University to Cancel Controversial Lecture; Crawford Promises Investigation**

By Mercer Stauch and Andrew Benoit

The planned lecture, the doors to Schneebeck were even

**Combatting Human Rights Violations at Tacoma’s Northwest Detention Center**

By Grace Farrell

In early November, detainees at the Northwest De

**SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND**

**THE TRAIL**

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**FEATURES PAGE 5**

**ARTS/EVENTS PAGE 6; A Commitment to Collabora-

**HAPPY TRAIL PAGE 12; A Love Letter to Dog**

This article reports on a developing story that The Trail is committed to following and covering in full. Due to the complex timeline and broad impact of the events in this story, this piece will be followed next issue by a more comprehensive breakdown of their chronology and consequences. If you have any questions or comments relevant to our coverage, please reach out to us at trail@pugetsound.edu.

The contenders for the local presidency of the American Civil Liberties Union have emphasized civil rights advocacy in the Washington state legislature over the past few months.

In early November, detainees at the Northwest Detention Center in East Tacoma launched their seventh hunger strike of 2023. The strike lasted for at least 37 days and incorporated more than 100 individuals who reported participation levels from previous hunger strikes at the location.

Several minor strikes have occurred this year, each of which have been covered extensively by La Resistencia, a grassroots organization advocating for detainee rights in the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC).

Detainees are participating in these strikes to protest unhealthy conditions at the NWDC such as unaddressed sanitation hazards and concerns of medical neglect. The center also faces allegations involving the usage of intimidation tactics and sexual abuse against detainees, though it’s unclear how widespread these reports are, according to the Washington Center for Human Rights. PBs cites at least 300 reports that have been filed by detainees protesting a variety of human rights violations at this location.

NWDC is a privately-owned institution operated under U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and is able to circumvent city regulations that would otherwise prevent the site from operating. The Northwest Detention Center sits beside a liquid natural gas plant and is purposefully located near the Tacoma public in a less residential community; a man-made hill even blocks the view of the site from I-5, garnering as little attention as possible. The Washington Center for Human Rights has described the center, the largest of its kind in the state, as upholding a “cycle of cruelty.”

Many former detainees report that tactics such as solitary confinement exacerbates mental illness, but doesn’t necessarily reduce instances of misconduct or violence. For this reason, it’s widely considered a harmful practice. Beyond the use of official punishments, intimidation tactics to threaten detainees at the center are often reported. Hunger strikes and internal protests have been answered with tear gas, some instances of which have been documented with video footage in recent months.

Despite the risk, it remains unclear if protests by detainees have significantly improved living conditions inside the center. Individuals and organizations outside the center, including some from the University of Puget Sound, aim to advocate for them. Nola Thury ‘22 shares she became involved in protest efforts through Advocates for Detained Voices, a club previously active on campus. Thury describes the club as a unique vehicle to “leverage whiteness” and its intrinsic privilege to advocate for immigrant justice. Those in the club demonstrated their support by attending events organized by immigrant advocacy groups in Tacoma.

One such organization, La Resistencia, remains at the forefront of this advocacy.

La Resistencia was founded in 2014 as participants began to assist with the first NWDC hunger strike under the national umbrella of the most-movement for detainee rights. They continue to organize rallies, attend conferences, and more to fulfill their mission of “working to free people detained by ICE,” according to their website. Despite having such a presence in immigrant activism in the local community, La Resistencia is led by only four members.

Rutina Reyes, the organization’s director, described the conditions in the center as being awful. She keeps in contact with many of the detainees who can file reports of neglectful conditions to La Resistencia, in hopes that they’ll be able to advocate for the detainees and spread awareness about the center’s brutal practices. Reyes describes a recent example of this: “there have been many complaints of area flooding” as well as “extreme temperature conditions and no ventilation,” which contribute to the spread of illness in the center, especially in harsh winter weather. Reyes explains that detainees must deal with these conditions without complaint, or they are threatened with isolation and other punishments.

While the gladly filed reports on NWDC, Reyes worries that the method required for contacting de

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For contacting those inside, NWDC must collect the “name and number of the detained person,” which could endanger those that “aren’t citizens but want to communicate with a family member.” Reyes pointed to the state over HB 1470 and argues that the law is unconstitutional because it interferes with federal immigration policies.

To help advocate for the implementation of this legislation and for other solution-oriented tasks, La Resistencia encourages Puget Sound students to get involved with immigrant rights advocacy. Attending events organized by the group demonstrates public support for the cause and encourages others to educate themselves on immigrant justice issues, similar to what Thury and countless others have done during their time at college.

“People have always resisted and found ways to challenge injustice,” Thury says. “It’s really empowering to be a part of it.”

Continued on Page 3...
**Logjammed: The ASUPS Payment Dysfunction and Its Impact on Its Employees**

By Jack Leal

People on campus employed by ASUPS, particularly those in the ASUPS Medias, have experienced extended missed deadlines in receiving their payment contracts. Although ASUPS and the University cite a variety of reasons, the hold-up of contracts has resulted in months of wage uncertainty for student media workers and concerns about ASUPS’s efficacy.

ASUPS and the University cite missed deadlines as a result of the current student government faces. Pinpointing the issue is complicated by the fact that student finance issues are managed between ASUPS, the Office of Finance, and the Division of Student Affairs. This complexity creates hurdles for students, reports Administrative Support Coordinator Theressa Williams-Chow, “We’ve had many different people here trying to participate in student governance, and it doesn’t serve the students as a whole.”

According to the Vice President of Student Affairs, Sara Comstock, ASUPS is almost entirely run by students and values independence and autonomy. It also handles and allocates nearly a quarter million dollars. Working with this money requires advising from staff in multiple departments. It’s a complicated process. Even so, no one is pretending that the machine is running smoothly.

Robin Breadlove, ASUPS Operations Coordinator, told the Trail, “If we were a business right now, we could consider ourselves in trouble; we don’t want to be bank-rupt.” To her, ASUPS’s troubles aren’t strictly financial. Robin Breadlove, ASUPS Operations Coordinator, told the Trail, “If we were a business right now, we could consider ourselves in trouble; we don’t want to be bank-rupt.” To her, ASUPS’s troubles aren’t strictly financial.

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“The fungus, Candida auris (C. auris), “is a type of yeast that can cause severe illness and spreads easily among patients in healthcare facilities,” per the Center for Disease Control (CDC). It is often resistant to antifungal treatments, meaning that the medications designed to kill the fungus and stop infections do not work.

King County reports that there have been four cases of C. auris infections in Washington so far. While the CDC and Tichdi did not have data for Washington state’s spread of the fungus, the CDC does have data for C. auris infections across a few states. States like Nebraska and Pennsylvania reported a record-high number of infections and colonizations, which indicates a fairly rapid spread.

Symptoms can be similar to that of a bacterial infection such as a fever and chills, and some do not have a list of common symptoms for C. auris infections yet. Infection entry points include the bloodstream, ears, and eyes.

The CDC notes that C. auris is the most dangerous when it becomes an invasive infection, such as via the bloodstream. They state “that many of the patients who become sick with C. auris are already very sick, which makes it hard to know how much C. auris contributed to their death.” The spread of C. auris throughout “colonized” people. “Colonized” means anyone can carry C. auris on their skin and can spread it to surfaces that they are in contact with, which can ultimately lead to it spreading to others. The CDC notes that even those who are symptom-free can still transmit the infection.

There are two ways that healthcare professionals can test for C. auris infection: a colonization screening and a clinical specimen testing. According to the CDC, a colonization screening is when “a healthcare provider swabs the patient’s skin and sends the samples to a laboratory for testing.”

According to the CDC, a clinical specimen testing is when a blood or urine sample is collected from someone who is showing symptoms of infection. However, clinical specimen tests also test for many other different kinds of infection, not just C. auris. The presence of C. auris can also cause immunocompromised and medically complex patients, such as those with breathing tubes, feeding tubes, and catheters.

Healthy people without risk factors have a low risk of being infected and a low risk of complications. However, healthy people can still be colonized with C. auris fungus.

One possible reason for C. auris’s spread is climate change. In a study published in an American Society of Microbiology magazine, Casadevell et al. proposed that C. auris grew faster in higher temperatures. It grows well at 40 degrees Celsius, or 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Global warming has warmed the earth’s temperature overall, and Casadevell and colleagues claim that it can help select which fungal clades can reproduce, especially in avian and mammalian heat temperatures. Scientists hypothesize that human contact with birds is what allowed the fungal infection to transfer from the wetlands, where the fungus originally developed to humans.

C. auris has also proven to be resistant to all three classes of antifungal medications, so the course of treatment is usually multiple antifungal treatments or newer antifungal treatments. The CDC does not recommend that those who are “colonized” get treatment as there is no evidence that this prevents it from becoming invasive. When someone is “colonized” with C. auris fungus, there is a chance of it becoming a more severe threat but as mentioned earlier, healthy people becoming sick is rare. For those who are immunocompromised or have necessary external medical devices such as catheters and breathing tubes, there is a higher chance of becoming severe. Some precautions that people can take are washing your hands thoroughly and often, disinfecting the room that a colonized person has been in, and limiting contact with those who are colonized. While the campus community is not at a particularly large risk currently, it’s something that the student body should be aware of and cautious about.

**Candida Auris Circulates US, Pierce County**

By Hannah Lee

In July 2023, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) reported that a potentially deadly fungus was confirmed in western Washington hospitals, specifically in Pierce County.

The fungus, Candida auris (C. auris), is “a type of yeast that can cause severe illness and spreads easily among patients in healthcare facilities,” per the Center for Disease Control (CDC). It is often resistant to antifungal treatments, meaning that the medications designed to kill the fungus and stop infections do not work.

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**Headlines**

Around 300 people experiencing homelessness in Pierce County died in 2023, a 79% increase from 2022, according to data collected by Street Chaplains. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, involuntary displacement, like when homeless camps are swept, causes spikes in overdoses, mortality and hospitalization in homeless populations. The statistics of the 155 of those who died was 53, well below the 79-year life expectancy average for Pierce County. The youngest person died who was 23 years-old.

Tacoma Council Member Jamika Scott is suing the city and ten Tacoma police officers, alleging that she was wrongfully arrested in 2021. Scott was filming the affair during the Democratic convention and was forced into a crowd of people at a street racing event when she was forced to the ground and arrested. At least one person was seriously injured by the police officer, who is also suing. Scott was released later that night without being charged.

Former General Prabowo Subianto won Indone-sia’s presidential election promising to continue the popular modernization policies of the previous president. Subianto is tied to torture of dissidents, the disappearance of activists, and other human rights abuses during the end of the United States- backed dictatorship of the country’s second and longest serving president, Suharto. Subianto’s connection to both the previous regime and the old dictatorship have raised concerns about the future of this young democracy in the world’s fourth-largest nation by population.

More than 29,000 Palestinians have died in Israel’s ongoing genocide in Gaza. Israel’s Prime Minis- ter, Benjamin Netanyahu, has vowed to “finish the job” with a ground invasion of Rafah, where more than half of Gaza’s population has lived. Israel has indicated it will maintain military control over Gaza after the war, and the denial of Palestinians to a state. The United Nation’s highest court is holding unprecedented hearings on the legality of Israel’s 57-year occupation of Palestinian lands. These hearings follow the International Court of Justice’s preliminary ruling against Israel in the genocide case brought by South Africa. An Arab-backed cease-fire resolution was vetoed by the US on Feb. 20 as Gaza faces imminent famine. The Israel Defense Forces have attacked aid shipments, while Israeli citizens have blocked them from entering Gaza. While President Biden has been publicly hopeful about the possibility of a cease-fire in the near future, both Hamas and Israel have signaled that this is unlikely. Even with a cease-fire, Israel’s defense minister has promised to step up the con- flict with Lebanon’s Hezbollah.

The US and United Kingdom continue their bomb- ing campaign against the Houthis in Yemen, one of the world’s poorest nations. The Iran-backed Houthis have been attacking shipping vessels in the Red Sea – an important route for international commerce. A report released in June indicated that 11 of 20 attacks had failed to dismantle Houthi fighters. Two of these attacks have been shut down by the Israeli military. The European Union has launched a naval mission to the Red Sea to protect international shipping, but has said it won’t engage in offensive military strikes.
Controversial Lecture
Continued From Page 1

Other students have pointed out the risks that the lock-
down carried with the Tacoma Police Department on
 campus, specifically for BIPOC students. “I can’t imag-
 ine the stress these students were put under because
 they were locked out of their dorm while also knowing
 that TPD is on campus. That feels incredibly dangerous
to me,” said a student.

Several people were injured during the course of the
events, though none serious. The first student injuries
occurred towards the end of the protest, when a
blaring noise projected through the loudspeaker. It is
still unclear exactly what happened there, but it involved
several individuals who may have been injured.

The campus might be looking at multiple months of rocky
time. “The outage that we experienced is related to an
issue that we are working on as a part of the network
infrastructure refresh,” Chavez explains. This includes
the replacement of firewalls, core data center switches, and
distribution equipment. Fortunately, he notes, the
department had enough cash reserves to fix the
problem.

The campus network should be just as stable as the lights
in the building,” says Francisco Chavez, the University’s
chief information officer. You may recognize his name from
email communications received regarding network outages.

“WiFi is really important for having a working campus,”
Chavez says. “It’s a fundamental part of campus life, whether we want it to or not, so having working
wifi. Haynes has a car on campus and is able to move
together over the network, allowing them to exchange data.

One part of Chavez’s plans focused on addressing immediate problems rather than tackle-
ing larger overhauls of the infrastructure. One part of Chavez’s

Progress Underway to Prevent Future Network Outages

On Jan. 25, 2024, the campus network experienced a 6.5-
hour intermittent outage, rendering it inaccessible.

“Outages and network irregularities seriously impact students, who rely on a network connection for their
work. Sophomore Alex Wright (’27) expressed his frus-
tration with the network. They explain how difficult it is to get stuff done and that “obviously it’s hard to do work if you can’t access things like the printers or other services that are
basically off of the campus Wi-Fi.” The outages and
unreliability have widespread effects.

An additional hindrance to the official outages is the
suboptimal functionality of the network on a day-to-
day basis. Students may have to connect to their own
personal hotspots or attempt to use the guest network
in order to access their devices. Failing that, the
next option is to find somewhere off-campus that offers
Wi-Fi. Haynes has a car on campus and is able to move
between different buildings and different places with
reliable connection during outages. “But I definitely
know that it’s a privilege to be able to have my own
transportation and be able to do that,” they acknowl-
dge their privilege.

Chavez explains that various upgrades to internet infras-
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ministrations over the decades. He compares the
cluttered equipment to that of a cake assembled
by different bakers. “You have a design that doesn’t
cluttered equipment to that of a cake assembled by
different bakers. “You have a design that doesn’t
fit. It’s just hard to do work when you can’t.”

Chavez says. From this investigation, a three-phase plan was adopted to completely reorganize the infrastructure and ensure less frustrat-
ing outages in the future.

Yet, as proved by the Jan. 25 outage, the difficulties have
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Athlete of the Issue: Madeline Johnson

By Kate Patterson

Congratulations to athlete of the issue Madeline Johnson! Johnson, a junior, is a member of the logger crew team, one of the less known—but certainly not less achieving—athletic teams at Puget Sound. In their fall 2023 race, the women’s varsity 8+ boat came away with third place in a competitive field that included Division 1 University of Portland. Crew will have a full spring season, with the first race happening on Mar. 9 at American Lake in Lakewood, WA. Thank you to one-some rower Madeline for your thoughtful answers to our questions, and we wish you the best of luck in your 2024 season!

Q: How has your routine adapted in order to fit early morning practices?
A: Because I have to get up at 4:30am most days, I’ve had to learn how to manage my time to get everything done during the day so I can stay on top of my homework and try and get enough sleep. I’m usually in bed by 8pm on most practice nights if not earlier.

Q: To be successful during a race, there’s a high level of synchronicity among rowers needed. What cues or reminders do you think about on the water?
A: The biggest thing for me is listening to our coxswains, especially during a race. They have the best insight as to what is going to make our boat go fast as possible, so just trusting them to make the right calls is key. I like to focus on the sound of our oars when we’re rowing to ensure I’m in time with the rest of the boat as well.

Q: Last year the Logger Women’s crew team missed first place at conference by less than a second, and competed at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association (WIRA) championships in April. What did these achievements mean to you?
A: I think that losing conference by such a narrow margin last year really gave us the drive to work harder this year to close that gap and beat Lewis and Clark. We have a bigger team this year and everyone is really motivated to be the fastest we can. WIRA is a really amazing opportunity to get to race against teams we don’t see at other races during the season and gives us the chance to see some of the faster DI teams as well even if we don’t compete with them directly.

Q: Coming into this season, what are your personal and team goals?
A: My personal goal is to be the fastest I can be on the water in order to help the team. We have a team motto of “team over boat over self” and this helps put into perspective that the team is the most important thing, and any of my individual goals should not only make my boat faster, but the team as well. As far as team goals go, I think we just really want to win the conference and make it to NCAA championships.

Q: What is your favorite memory with Logger crew?
A: Winning the Lamberth Cup last year for the first time since 2018 is definitely a huge highlight for me. It was one of my first races on the team and being able to be in the boat that got the trophy back felt incredible.
Dave Wright, the University Chaplain, supports religious provide. University once had a Hillel chapter, it was replaced in favor tries around the world, according to their website. While our student support organization with chapters at 850 colleges universities do this through Hillel International, a Jewish College campuses specifically have been activated by the was prompted by or directed toward nothing but the victims'. and 749 incidents of verbal or written harassment. All of this physical assault against Jews, 337 incidents of vandalism, antisemitism in the US has skyrocketed. Since Oct. 7, the was in Roswell, New Mexico, but his motive in that there was a way I could get a green card. That was in Ronald Reagan was president, 1988,” he explained. Guzman’s first home after immigrating to the US was in Roswell. New Mexico. While he was alive in moving to the States was to reach Alaska; Guzman had lost long been capitalized by the polar climate, and dreamed of working on an arctic fishing vessel. He soon left Roswell for Kodiak, Alaska, with the help of a friend who secured him a job at a local cannery, and thought he described his experience as “a great experience,” he clarifies that the labor was intense. “Hard work. Long hours. Killing weather. I say killing weather, because you know what, in three, four hours, you’re a poopus,” he said. Risking frozen appendages in temperatures that dipped below negative 35 degrees – “One time my ears froze!” – the work wasn’t easy. Guzman’s time in Alaska was full of joy, despite the often-challenging conditions. He fell in love with the natural landscape and was lucky enough to have witnessed the Aurora Borealis multiple times. He described it as “more than beautiful” elaborating that unlike a rainbow, “you feel like you’re a speck of dust, and then you know how big the universe is.” In addition to the cannery, Guzman worked a variety of jobs throughout his time in Alaska. Curious and eager to keep learning, Guzman filled his downtime with supplementary classes. “Since I had so much free time, you know, I started to do different things. I took some classes, welding, some computer classes. I bought a gun, hunter’s license. I was trapped for a few months, for a little bit,” he said.

Outside of work and education, Guzman loved riding his bike throughout the snow to the nearby Abercrombie State Park. He loved to soak in the scenery, which consisted of “oceans over there, mountains over here, I’m in the middle of it all,” he reminisced. Guzman also had friends in Kodiak who worked for KMMT, a public radio station intended to reach the fishing boats out at sea. When they left Alaska, they charged Guzman with running their show “Ritmo Latino” from 1995-96, during which he played “mostly Latin music, but sometimes from George Michael.” Now, 30 years later, Guzman has returned to the radio with KUPS, hosting his show “Friday Night Gravitational.” Inspired by late night bike rides with his friends in Alaska, Guzman shares his longtime love for reggae every Friday at 7 p.m. He joined the station at the suggestion of Eliana Goldberg, the General Manager of KUPS from 2022-23. “One day I was picking up garbage and that, and I saw Eliana, I told her that station reminded me a lot of Alaska, because they’re essentially doing the same thing in a different format here, it put an application,” Guzman said. “I thought, well, wait a minute. This is a rare opportunity, and a good one!” In addition to his presence in the campus community, Guzman is a talented glassblower and has volunteered with Hilltop Artists school for more than 10 years. There, Guzman shares his passion through a glassblowing program founded by Chihuly, aimed to help Tacoma youth. “Selecting that channel, that energy the right way, and I know a lot of the kids that come out of this, they get jobs, they do well,” Guzman says about graduates from the program. “It’s satisfying, that you can help somebody to have a better life, you know, to not go the wrong way.” Guzman, who is an awarded artist recognized by Chihuly himself, expresses his curiosity about the world through his progressive glassblowing style. “I like to mix different techniques. Okay, fused glass, stained glass, neon, I like optics, like lenses. I like almost anything that has to do with glass,” he explained. “I like functional, useful things that look pretty.”

His portfolio is truly impressive, everything from bottles and drinkware blown of glass in a campus pattern, to what he calls his Edge-Pieces. These fish bowls and vases blown in a manner that allows them to hang over the edge of a table. He also creates bespoke glassblowing pieces that displays multi-tiered vases that hold flowers inside and out, and mugs with coiled, snakehandle like blow with a technic discovered by the French artist in the late 1800s. Guzman’s is open to his own glass blowing business – “I’d like to do that until the last day of my life,” he said. Exchanging a few words with Renan is almost guaranteed to brighten your day, so next time you see him around campus, wave hello and ask him about reggae or riding his bike – I bet you’ll leave the conversation smiling.

Supporting Jewish Student Amid the Rise in Antisemitism

By Veronica Brinkley

In the five months since the Israel-Hamas war began, antisemitism in the US has skyrocketed. Since Oct. 7, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) recorded 40 incidents of physical assault against Jews, 337 incidents of vandalism, and 749 incidents of verbal or written harassment. All of this was prompted by or directed toward nothing but the victims’ Jewish identity. While these incidents have been inflamed by the conflict, antisemitism has already been on the rise for years. The ADL reported a 36% increase in 2022. College campuses specifically have been activated by the conflict in the Middle East. At times like this, supporting Jewish students is more important than ever. Most larger universities do this through Hilltop International, a Jewish student support organization with chapters at 850 colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, and 16 countries around the world, according to their website. While our University once had a Hillel chapter, it was replaced in favor of a Jewish Student Union. JSU leadership is hard at work doing everything they can to support Jewish students, but our campus lacks the structural support a Hillel chapter would provide.

Dave Wright, the University Chaplain, supports religious clubs on campus. Wright explained the history of the University’s Jewish campus involvement, beginning in the mid-90’s when he joined the University. “Each struc- tural iteration of student clubs related to Jewish Life has had a similar narrative around downs, molded and shaped by leadership styles, different emphases for programs and activities,” they said. In the nineties, the first student community was orga- nized under a Jewish Student Organization, similar to the JSU today. In 2006, Jewish students expressed a desire for the development of a stronger institutional support, and a part-time Jewish-life coordinator was hired. By 2009, students wanted regular representa- tion, so a Hillel chapter was created to fill this need. According to Wright, “The Hillel connection worked well for several years,” and after soon, more two Jewish student organizations joined our campus. They were J Street U, an organization similar to Hillel, as well as Challah for Hunger, an organization dedicated to ending food insecurity in the US. Wright said J Street U “fueled for maybe 4-5 years, and Challah for Hunger, lasted 1-2 years. Both of those clubs were driven by one or two students with a deep passion, and their leaders were also very involved in Hillel. The brief period where we had the three clubs – Hillel, Chalahl for Hunger, and J Street U – was definitely a very strong moment for Jewish life at Puget Sound,” he said.

In 2014, JSU partnered with Swarthmore College and Vassar College chose to break with Hillel Internation- al over its support for Israel. Jewish students at Puget Sound chose to move forward with the same concerns in mind. Ultimately, they reorganized into a single homogenized organization, the Jewish Student Union, as of today. “It was en- tirely a student decision, led by elected leadership,” Dave said. “The leadership chose to reorganize as our Jewish Student Union’s mission because at the time it being that this would be a more inclusive umbrella that could support a range of expressions of Judaism.” Nate Sansone and Emma Kleiff are members of JSU’s current executive board. Sansone explains that this year, JSU is trying something a little different. “We’re trying out a community-based model this year. Seven of us help lead JSU, and we’re all co-presi- dents, so the executive board meets weekly to identify what we need to accomplish in the coming week and divide responsibilities according to who you think people’s workloads would do individually for the club varies,” he said. With this model, JSU strives to provide the best support to this community as possible, especially during times like these. With JSU, students are encouraged to do our best to support a broad range of expressions of Judaism. Jewish students have diverse views, including on how they understand and want to express their Jewishness. But the University could do more to support Jewish student life: “A Jewish life coordinator or position sim- ilarly centered on supporting Jewish students would be very beneficial,” Sansone said. Wright explains that the Chaplaincy, Student Affairs, and the Office of Institution- al Equity and Diversity work with JSU to try to support student needs. Our campus in particular has struggled with a pattern of antisemitic incidents in recent years. “I hope the University will continue to work to address our chron- ical challenges with antisemitic vandalism and rhetoric,” Wright said. According to him, the University could also do more to keep Jewish students informed. Wright also said that the best way to address these issues would be the re-implementation of a Jewish life coordi- nator position, echoing the sentiment of JSU leadership. However, Kleiff adds, “I personally think that the school is doing the best that they can in terms of outreach and support, and I think we’re doing a really good job.” If Jewish students are expressing would be a step in the right direction. The addition of a Jewish-life coordinator would be as positive a move for JSU’s student community as well as the University’s abilities. Jewish students on our campus deserve social and emotional support, now more than ever.
Artist of the Issue: Liv Forney

By Kailey Kairo

Congratulations to this month’s Artist of the Issue, Liv Forney! Liv is a sophomore double-majoring in Business and African American studies. She both dances and choreographs for the University’s Repertory Dance Group (RDG), and is a dedicated member of the club’s executive board.

Q: What first drew you to the University’s Repertory Dance Group (RDG)? Have you always been a dancer?

A: I have and I find in various dance environments for my whole life. From Cheerleading, Jazz and Tap with a hip-hop for many years and although the window for what you move up farther and farther into companies. When you move up farther and farther into companies. You can't do theater without deep, deep collaboration.

Q: How do you get into the mindset to develop choreography? When do you know that a piece is complete?

A: I tend to develop choreography I start by looking online for inspiration, vibes, and music. Once I’ve found the music, I’m looking for I start mapping out my vision for my piece. Having the dance room as a space was really helpful in choreographing my piece for this semester’s show as I can use the space as my dancers will when I teach. When I am experiencing this semester, I am always thinking of new things to add or change about my choreography, and I am going to keep adding up until tech week! This dance is my baby and I plan on perfecting her as much as I can.

Q: What’s been your favorite memory in the performance this spring?

A: I think my second RDG performance, which was spring of 2023. Dance has always been a very toxic space for me, but hip-hop dancing! I aim to dance in the ways they dance in the music better and I feel the most myself when I am dancing hip-hop. A dance group that I aim to perform more like in the future is a Korean Dance group known as Jam Republic. Their energy is so impeccable. They dance in competitions that are similar to Streetfighter! but hip-hop dancing! I aim to dance in the ways they

The contents of ‘Measure for Measure’ is edgy, but hip-hop is able to directly code your body to the beat. I enjoy this because things are sharper, you can flow with the music better and I feel the most myself when I am dancing hip-hop. A dance group that I aim to perform more like in the future is a Korean Dance group known as Jam Republic. Their energy is so impeccable. They dance in competitions that are similar to Streetfighter! but hip-hop dancing! I aim to dance in the ways they dance in the music better and I feel the most myself when I am dancing hip-hop.

A Commitment to Collaboration: The Common Goal of the Theater Department

By Caillitn Yoder

Collaborative. Imaginative. Informed. These four words are the core values of the theater department, and have been as long as Professor Sara Freeman, the director of the current spring production “Measure for Measure,” can remember. Even before they were officially part of the syllabi, the staff based all teachings around these values. Now, they have become integrated into all the department does. Jess Smith, the department chair, emphasized that while they’re all essential values, collaboration is the backbone of everything they do, bringing the other three together.

“Measure for Measure” cast and crew, Photo Credit: Caitlin Yoder // The Trail

Theater major Alice Noble (‘24) reaffirmed this emphasis on collaboration, mentioning it unprompted. “There’s a big emphasis amongst faculty, but also really student-driven in inclusion. People are really focused on making sure that everyone who’s in a cast feels included,” she said.

This is Professor Smith’s 11th year at University faculty and she has been working towards fostering a healthy and collaborative environment within the department since she arrived. “You can’t do theater without deep, deep collaboration, for better or for worse. And so it’s a core value for us, so I’m so happy to know that our practices feel like they are in alignment with those values.” According to Smith, the aforementioned core values “are focused on making sure that we hope our students demonstrate, and they are also the qualities that we really tried to infuse all of our classes and practices with. So that became a mission for us probably a decade ago.” Since then, she has diligently taught those values as an educator and hopes that they will adopt them into their own mindsets and practices, even outside their pursuit of theater studies. “It is so fascinating to me how students define for themselves what they mean by collaboration, imaginative, informed and engaged,” Smith remarked. She went on to loosely define those four terms, emphasizing that the definitions are not meant to be restrictive but rather to guide students to learn in a productive, healthy, and enjoyable manner.

Smith’s definition of engagement was “pushing myself to show up beyond the one way that I know that I’m good at, but instead choosing to risk comfort for bravery and for growth,” and also being engaged not just in production, but also the “work of being an artist.” She continued, “You get to be an artist, but you also have to be able to be in your comfort zone and having ‘bravery of experimentation,’” she said. Smith concluded her definitions with the sentiment that collaboration becomes an important aspect of the other three togetherness. Classrooms, productions, crews – they are all places where students practice it. She continued by saying “I’ve seen a huge growth in all of them, she’s not a professor who lectures the class for 80 minutes, because, as she puts it, “my skills are not about transmitting knowledge, they are about sharing knowledge.” To her, teaching should not be a hierarchical structure of knowledge, but a shared experience of learning from one another.

The ability to demonstrate these values depends heavily on an understanding of boundaries: knowing your own self, knowing others, and how to frame those boundaries. That’s why the department has heavily adopted bound (it is very competitive as you move up farther and farther into companies. When joining RDG I was initially attracted to the ‘no cuts policy,’ and when I heard about the RDG exec board and am choreographing for this semester’s show.

Q: Your preferred dance style is hip-hop – what draws you to this genre in particular? Are there any dancers or choreographers whom you admire?

A: I think what draws me to hip-hop is that it is a super active but rather to guide students to learn in a productive, collaborative, imaginative, informed and engaged,” Smith said. Noble reiterated this sentiment from a student perspective. “The ‘intimacy workshops’ were trying to navigate different conditions ‘if you’ve never been put in a position where you feel like I have the tools now to know what my boundaries are,’ she remarked. “It’s tricky to know how to say; ‘I need to stop what we’re doing’ or ‘I need to do something different’ if you’ve never been put in a position where you are comfortable stopping and voicing your concerns, but it also helped avoid saving anything potentially triggering, especially in a play with such difficult material. ‘They’ve done a really good job of navigating that content safely,’ Noble said.

Ultimately, she is very grateful for the theater department and feels that it’s “really refreshing to be a part of” a community that so deeply values collaboration and respect. Even from an outsider perspective, it’s clear that this department has cultivated a community full of mutual respect and well-established values.
Tattooing in the Age of the Internet

By Ari Lauer-Frey

The world we now occupy is one marked by unprecedented levels of accessibility — to information, to products and to each other. This condition is particularly evident in the continuously changing landscape of tattooing practice and culture. In prior generations, a tattoo shop was the primary route for artists to make a career in this field. Nowadays, anyone can simply buy a tattoo gun from Amazon, practice on themselves and others, and build a following online. With more attainable means of entry, a larger and more diverse group of people have found footing in the tattooing world. Such expansion, coupled with the individuality that this new internet-based environment allows, has produced a culture that is questioning and pushing the boundaries of tattoo tradition like never before.

Like many other Gen-Zs, my exploration into the world of tattoos has been remarkably informal, led by Instagram accounts and word-of-mouth. Almost all my tattoos have been chosen through and paid for across the internet. I have been tattooed in bedrooms while movies play for both the artist and my entertainment. I have participated in a tattoo party, consisting of people sprawled across a living room waiting for their turn to be inked. I have listened to a band play in the adjoining room as my tattoo artist carried along in their makeshift studio that occupies a basement supply closet. But I have yet to step foot in a tattoo shop.

Such an experience is echoed from the other side of the needle in artist and student Rhé Schulz’s tattooing practices (whose art can be found on Instagram @1624co). They have been tattooing since they were 16, starting with stick and poke (the practice of using a hand-held needle rather than a tattoo gun), a time-consuming but precise process. Next, they built themselves a prison gun — a simple motor and button system attached to a pen. They worked on their craft on the skins of fruit and, of course, themselves. “I bought UV ink. That was how I started practicing, actually. So my legs are covered in invisible tattoos,” says Schulz.

As they became more confident in their skills, they began tattooing friends and building a clientele. They have given over 60 tattoos, all of which have occurred in casual settings — their living room, a friend’s bedroom, or a kitchen table — each space transformed into a personable studio. “Getting tattoos in these kinds of situations builds trust,” Schulz explains that working outside of shops is preferred primarily due to its viability for up-and-coming artists. “I have tattooed white men who have been doing this for a long time. And I think they have a certain attitude towards things and especially don’t really realize their positionality in relation to, like, how does this affect the people that I’m tattooing? It’s important to remind oneself that tattooing, as popular or trivial as it may sometimes seem, is a real practice in intimacy. To allow someone to permanently alter your skin is a great act of trust and vulnerability, so it is no surprise that customers want to work with artists who they feel understand them and are willing to build a relationship established from effective communication. This communication is made easier through social media and the one-on-one settings customers receive with independent artists.

Last fall, I got a tattoo from artist Alex Begninio (whose art can be found on Instagram @alexcvltx) in an apartment in the historic center of Rome as I leaned over the dining room table and chatted with him and his friend. As he tattooed me, Begninio explained that he chose such environments because he felt they made the experience more meaningful to both the client and artist. “Getting tattoos in these kinds of situations builds stronger memories. It’s just more genuine, like I feel the contact with people.” Tattoo shops are, of course, not being entirely run out of business by these new independent artists. However, the characteristics of the standard shop may indeed be changing in response, and shifting towards a more thoughtful approach to the tattoo experience. More and more shops are working to acknowledge the diverse range of folks involved in tattooing — as both artists and enthusiasts.

For Coveteur titled “High Hopes Tattoo is Providing a Safe Space for the Queer Community,” Anna Kwartung discusses this trend, stating that “thanks to social media and a changing political and sociocultural environment, the industry has made serious shifts over the past few years. There are more women and queer people tattooing, and getting tattoos, than ever before. And they’re creating inclusive spaces where a sense of community and comfort are key.” Many spaces with similar intentions continue to open, such as shops with more knowledge about tattooing people of color or shops trained in “trauma aware” approach — skills that are often lacking in your average parlor.

As the demographics of the tattoo world continue to change and people move away from the traditional shop setting, artists are becoming less and less married to the norms set by past generations. Great stylistic variety in tattooing has been born from this desire for change and the ability to share one’s iconoclasm via social media. For both those creating and seeking, this cyber world immensely widens the possibilities of what tattooing can be. And this variety sets a new premise: in finding one’s tattoo style, there are very few wrong answers. If you wanna learn about some of these styles that might be right for you, you can find the remainder of this article on our website.

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Spring Tea: Spot the Difference!

By Kailey Kairo

It’s spring in Puget Sound! Join these critters for some sunny spring tea and see if you can spot all 15 differences!

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The Blue Mouse Theatre
Now Serving Beer and Wine
All Tickets $10

The Big Lebowsk!
Thu. March 7th 7pm
Music by Taconame K 8:30pm

Rocky Horror Picture Show
2nd & 4th Sat. Every Month
Sat. March 11th & 25th 11:30pm

Friday Night Fights
3rd Fri. Every Month
Monocle Cup
Purchase Tickets Online
https://bluemosetheatre.com
Narendra Modi is Milking the Sacred Cow

By Ishaan Gollamudi

On paper, India is a secular country. The deliberate lack of a national religion was meant to reconcile India’s newfound nationhood with the fact that the only thing most of its population had in common was being subjugated by uniformed men with pasty skin and weak stomachs. That is why it was so jarring to see Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only taking ground on the site of a demolished mosque – the Babri Masjid – but also inaugurating the Hindu temple constructed there. It was especially jarring because the paper mentioned in the first sentence is the Indian Constitution. But Modi’s political ascetic is deeply intertwined with his worship, so let’s start with the latter. This mosque was first constructed in 1528, under the first Mughal Emperor of India, Babur. In 1853, Hindu groups argued that it was built on the birthplace of the deity Rama that it was razed to construct a temple. It’s like the chicken and the egg dilemma if archeologists were unable to prove that the egg even existed. Yet, regional Hindu nationalist groups leap to the cause of this allegedly razed temple, and in 1948, it became a flashpoint.

Until that point, Hindu worshippers had been allowed to worship in the mosque that was found surreptitiously placed within the mosque, resulting in the Masjid being locked down and declared a disputed site. The sectarian violence in an alternate reality where the mosque. It’s like the chicken and the egg dilemma if archeologists were unable to prove that the egg even existed. Yet, regional Hindu nationalist groups leap to the cause of this allegedly razed temple, and in 1948, it became a flashpoint.

Tensions continued to mount as the Masjid was locked down and declared a disputed site. The sectarian violence in an alternate reality where the mosque. It’s like the chicken and the egg dilemma if archeologists were unable to prove that the egg even existed. Yet, regional Hindu nationalist groups leap to the cause of this allegedly razed temple, and in 1948, it became a flashpoint.

Musk on the Mind: A Personal Experience with Neurlink

By Dunlop Dinkus

Elon Musk recently announced on X, formerly Twitter, that his company had successfully implanted a neuralink, a brain-computer interface, into a human brain, which is mine. It all began when I was trying to make some cash on the side so I started signing up for experimental research. One of the programs I signed up for was offering $1000 for a “minimally invasive” surgery. I said yes and put my name down. Before I got the chip I was pretty critical of Mr. Musk. I thought his cars looked stupid and his approach to acquiring Twitter was messy, however, now I realize just how wrong I was! Mr. Musk might be the smartest man on the planet. Why else would he be willing to forsake safety precautions and general ethical concerns when creating Neurlink if he wasn’t a genius? Only a truly revolutionary thinker makes a car so indestructible it could plow through 20 midsize sedans without a scratch on it! The Chip has changed my whole outlook on life. I used to value things like familial relationships and bodily autonomy but now I’ve gained a new money mindset. I can see the stock market constantly on the inside of my eyeballs. I can trade Bitcoin with the wave of a hand! Transactions are also so much easier with Neurlink, all I need to do to buy my favorite chocolate-flavored Soylink is place my forehead on the touch to pay reader, and boom! I have my Soylink. I get so strange looks these days. People are shocked for things humans are just having. Can’t they see I am the future of humanity?

On the topic of haters, Neurlink has this incredible feature whereby using AI deep-learning technology the in-eye display is able to remove any fake news about Mr. Musk. This gives us a way to see through the lies perpetrated by mainstream media and get to the real truth, like the truth that the coal miners in Bolivia are actually still here! The feature also works on images. What was once a (obviously) photoshopped picture of Elon Musk with convicted sex trafficker Ghislaine Maxwell is now a hilarious dog meme!

My only problem with my Chip is this little burning feeling near my temples. The doctors who implanted it told me it would be normal for there to be a little discomfort, but this is a bit more than I expected. I tried to get back in contact with Mr. Musk on X but he blocked me and reported my account. I’m fairly certain this was a glitch and will go away because I know Mr. Musk and I’ve bought all of his products and none of them have exploded. Even though my head hurts a little, I still love my Neurlink. It makes everything in our digital age so much easier I barely have to leave my gaming chair!

Editor’s Note: The author of this piece, Dunlop Dinkus, tragically passed away after his head exploded while watching past a microscope. There was never an autopsy but Elon Musk did publish a post on X claiming that he never knew Mr. Dinkus, accompanied by a GIF of Leonardo DiCaprio shrugging.

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Incredible smart guy, Elon Musk, with a funny dog meme! He is definitely not standing dumb to various sex trafficker Ghislaine Maxwell!

Photo Credit: Emmet O'Connor // The Tab

March 1st, 2024

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Behold, the only business major with self-awareness. My heart goes out to you, I also find myself too often trapped in classes with philistines unable to appreciate my intellect, which is why I have decided to take a vow of silence. If you are by asking questions and engaging in actual discussion. If you are a male student in a PG class, I highly recommend this approach, because you and I are very likely on the same intellectual wavelength: shut up and sit in the corner.

My friends keep telling me I can’t fix him, are they right?

Your friends are right, you can fix him … this time. Last time, last time he is right now, and your fixing abilities have also an anonymous writer with no skin in the game and an interest in an intern at sidor two things. The first, make sure you know who you’re fixing him because it circumvents their potential resentment over being fixed. The second thing to consider is not fixing him fully: he needs to stop being a functioning human being. The thoughts, come into being as a harbinger of the end of your repressed depravity and intrusive on the façade of being a functional human being. The You do. I’m the part of you that you deny. The one you catch a glimpse of in the mirror before you put on your coat and go to work.

Who writes these?

You do. I’m the part of you that you deny. The one you catch a glimpse of in the mirror before you put on your coat and go to work.

Meet Our Team

Surya Kalaimani

Elena Segura

Caitlin Yoder

Surya, a senior from the Bay Area, is a copy-editor for The Trail. She is a double major in sociology & anthropology and neuroscience. You might catch her working in Diversions cafe, taking walks around Tacoma (looking for cats), or knitting!

Elena is a junior from Salt Lake City, Utah, and is the layout manager and art director for The Trail. She is majoring in history and double minoring in education and studio art. Most of her free time is spent listening to podcasts, working in the art studio, or nannying.

Caitlin is a freshman writer for The Trail who works mostly in the Features section. Who writes these? She is currently undeclared but intends to pursue an English major. When she’s not playing French horn in the orchestra or wind ensemble, she enjoys photography, video games, and “Brooklyn Nine-Nine”.

Horoscopes

Aries: Many opportunities are coming your way, but choose which ones you pursue carefully. Your creativity is at an all-time high and luck is on your side, now’s the time to take a big leap!

Taurus: Don’t be afraid to go a little crazy with the self-care this month. Lean on your friends a little more than usual, as things could get tense and complicated.

Gemini: Good news is coming your way! Now is a great time to pick up a healthy habit you’ve been wanting to try. Focus on gratitude this month and keep yourself balanced.

Cancer: This month will be way less crazy for you than February was. Use this relaxing time to gain some clear insight into some big decisions you’ll be making. Make the most of this month!

Leo: Tension may arise this month, but you’re well-equipped to deal with whatever is coming your way. Be sure to take some much-needed rest this month to avoid mid-semester burnout. Stay calm and everything will be ok.

Virgo: Take advantage of new opportunities that seem to appear out of nowhere. Trust your gut as it leads you to new and exciting places, but do it anything you’ll regret later. You might have to make a compromise this month, but trust that it will keep your life peaceful in the long run.

Libra: Things are looking peaceful for you this month! Conflict may arise, but you’re ready to deal with it with your newfound confidence. Change will bring some new connections into your life, keep your eyes open!

Scorpio: Positive changes are coming to your work and love life. Maintaining a self-care routine will do you well this month. Don’t take any huge risks this month; lay low and stay relaxed.

Sagittarius: Don’t let any insecurities prevent you from taking advantage of a new opportunity. Your productivity and creativity will be at an all-time high this month. Explore everything March has to offer!

Capricorn: Any negative perspectives you have will dissolve this month. Self-confidence and success are coming your way and your future will seem brighter than before. Keep in mind your bigger picture and work to make your dream life a reality.

Aquarius: Self-determination will be highly important to your success this month. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities to learn and connect with those around you. Take a step back and relax to avoid fueling drama that has no bearing on your life.

Pisces: Your ability to see others’ points of view is at a high. You’ll get closer to achieving an important goal as long as you keep your ego in check. Spiritual and financial peace is coming your way, so learn to let go a little!
The Dark Side of OnlyFans—Here’s What You Need to Know

By Sophie Goble

Content Warning: This article contains discussion of online sex trafficking which some readers may find upsetting.

Technology is constantly shaping our societies in new ways, and it makes sense that it would continue to do so. As we saw last year, the oldest profession in the book—sex work—is being redefined by the rise of platforms like OnlyFans, a web-based subscription service primarily used for adult content. However, according to a report made by the NCOSE, life as a creator has been glorified as a way to make money fast, but the truth is that the average creator only makes $180 per month. Online privacy and safety have proven to be a huge issue, as there have been multiple reports of home invasions and stalking to creators by their online subscribers. Many OnlyFans creators are calling out the problem with deep-fake pornography being leaked, as subscribers will often share links to ÁI, which then produce even more content with the creator’s face, body, and sometimes even voice.

Age verification measures on the platform are uncommon, as users are allowed to sign up through a Twitter or Google account. There is a complicated dynamic between users, as users are allowed to sign up through a Twitter or Google account. There is a complicated dynamic between users, as users are allowed to sign up through a Twitter or Google account. There is a complicated dynamic between users, as users are allowed to sign up through a Twitter or Google account.

According to the NCOSE, one in nine creators said they had received inappropriate or suggestive language. These laws have been reformed to taxing and criminalizing the work of sex workers, which a couple ran a sex trafficking ring across multiple states, forcing the women “to engage in commercial sex work, the oldest profession in the book.” According to the NCOSE, life as a creator has been glorified as a way to make money fast, but the truth is that the average creator only makes $180 per month. Online privacy and safety have proven to be a huge issue, as there have been multiple reports of home invasions and stalking to creators by their online subscribers. Many OnlyFans creators are calling out the problem with deep-fake pornography being leaked, as subscribers will often share links to ÁI, which then produce even more content with the creator’s face, body, and sometimes even voice.

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Groups of Animals

Across
4.  prickle
8.  caravan
10.  unkindness
11.  gaggle
13.  barrel
14.  school
17.  pod
19.  band
22.  shrewdness
23.  stench
24.  smack

Down
1.  crash
2.  zeal
3.  tower
5.  parliament
6.  shadow
7.  nest
9.  shiver
12.  parade
15.  leap
16.  swarm
18.  scurry
19.  pride

Feb
Crossword Key

Across
4.  Galentine’s
6.  Cupid
9.  Tower of London
11.  Chocolate
13.  Hallmark
15.  French
16.  Lust

Down
1.  Mixtape
2.  Sparks
3.  Virginia
5.  Sonnet
7.  Single
8.  Lovebirds
10.  Bouquet
12.  Romcom
13.  Hitch
14.  Martyr

The Trail is an independent, student-run organization funded by ASUPS. The Trail seeks to produce a credible weekly newspaper that serves as a comprehensive source of information relevant to its readership. The Trail acts as an archival record for the university, serves as a link between University of Puget Sound and the greater Tacoma community and provides an open forum for student opinion and discourse.

Visit trail.pugetsound.edu for the full mission statement
A “Love Letter to Drag”: Reemergence of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance
Brings 25th Anniversary of the University’s Drag Show

By Frannie Edwards-Hughes

The University of Puget Sound has characterized itself as a very accepting place for students in the LGBTQIA+ community, but when this year’s freshmen first came onto campus, they found that there was not a single alliance club available to join. August Grey, a current first-year, said they “were disappointed” with the lack of a dedicated community as “it made it really hard to get adjusted.” Grey took it into their own hands to restart the GSA. With the help of peers Archie Kerr and Zero Lowrey, Grey was able to rebuild the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, restarting a group that had been lost.

The GSA has been operating as a fun way for students to get together and talk, share music, and plan events such as the drag show, and it also has been a place for students to come for support when they are experiencing discrimination and bullying due to their sexuality or gender identity. This year there have been multiple acts of hatred and discrimination towards members of the LGBTQIA+ community at the University by other students. The freshman received an email from the school regarding instances of “hate speech and use of slurs and malicious words to attack and harm marginalized communities within our halls and online.”

Despite some effort the school has made to address and stop this discrimination from occurring, GSA leaders have reported there has not really been any sort of resolution. At a school that is characterized and known for having a very open and queer-accepting student body, these acts were devastating and extremely harmful to the students targeted. This University, as Grey points out, “is very comfortable with affirmative activism.” They continued, “like reposting something on your story, but not actually doing anything.” When it comes to actually standing up against misinformation or the spread of homophobic and transphobic rumors, not much action has been taken. The University sent an email to the freshman class and mentioned the circumstances at floor meetings, but the rest of the school remains unaware of much of the hate occurring towards queer students. The discrimination that the LGBTQIA+ community here at the University has experienced can also be seen throughout the entirety of the United States, shown by reports from UCLA’s Williams Institute.

At the Drag show, host and performer Manila made sure to emphasize that although the drag show was put on to entertain and spread joy to the student body, it was also important to understand the current discrimination that the industry is facing across the United States. Many conservative states are working to place anti-drag and anti-trans legislation were acknowledged at the start of the show, as well as how important drag is for the LGBTQIA+ community. When planning the show, Grey took into account the current political situation. They stated that they wanted the show to be “extremely sex positive, very much not censoring or not making it clean and nice and palatable for people to not be uncomfortable with.” Grey and the rest of the GSA wanted the show to present the message that drag queens are safe to be around, and also that queer people are allowed to express themselves sexually and shouldn’t have to hide or be ashamed of that aspect of their lives. As Grey puts it, “you don’t have to have the absence of sex to be able to present in the community.” Queer people face much backlash and negativity around sex and relationships, and the drag show, as well as other initiatives that the GSA is hosting, are all about making students who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community comfortable on campus.

The drag show was a huge success and was enjoyed by the students, faculty, and community members who attended. The GSA is currently working on other events to embrace LGBTQIA+ students and their interests. When the club disappeared during Covid, so did a sense of belonging and acceptance for many queer students at the University. Its reemergence supports and will continue to support LGBTQIA+ members and anyone else interested in a place to speak comfortably, find connections, and create change in the school and greater community.