By Ayden Bolin

Many students at the University of Puget Sound remember orientation as the strange and transitional time in their college experience where they developed friendships, got lost on campus and maybe tipped over a canoe during Passages. Alternatively, some may also remember a time that was harsh and confusing, with conflicting social groups and a general anxiety for their future in a new environment.

These two realities are in direct opposition to one another, making the first weeks of arriving on campus either incredibly affirming or incredibly alienating. In hopes of arriving on campus either incredibly connected to the resources that the college offers, as well as connected to Tacoma. I don’t really see those changing,” Cady said.

The plans for the shift have been discussed in rough terms since 2013. The decisions come from a long history of past orientation experiences from both leaders and students, as well as research on the topic.

The docket for modifications to the program is extensive, and includes the ending of “maroon and white” groups, a shortening of the overall time frame, more immersive community engagement, and a “bookend experience” lead by a faculty member, according to Greg Shipman, Orientation Program Manager/Office Manager and alumni of the University of Puget Sound. The bookend experience is to tie together the experience of orientation with the academic component to better prepare students for the academic work in college life.

“Our old program, what we’ve been saying is, it’s not broken, in any sense, and we are trying to be very clear about that. We’re just trying to step ahead of the curve and make sure that we’re transitioning as our student population needs us to transition,” Shipman said. “One of the more controversial aspects of the shift is the changing of the “perspectives, preludes and passages” portion of the week. In the past, orientation was divided into these three groups, and they roughly had the ideas of community service and engagement, academic introductions and outdoor community-building.

This program is loved by many, and seen by some as integral to the experience of orientation at the University of Puget Sound. In its place will be a decision between the normal backpacking, canoeing and day hiking options, as well as more immersive community and intellectual engagement, such as art museums and a creative writing seminar.

Orientation is an event that directly affects the entire campus community. In addition to the many new students involved, many student leaders over time have become deeply embedded in the project. According to Marta Cady, planning for orientation usually starts almost an entire calendar year before the event actually occurs. “It was a lot of responsibility, but it was worth it for the goals of it,” Emily Laliotis, a student coordinator for orientation, said.

“In the end, this will be a situation of trying something new and seeing how it goes. Over this last summer, there were meetings across university departments regarding input for the changes. The orientation staff is open to further feedback and questions on the shifts, and already has had three info sessions in September regarding the changes. “If students want to talk, we would be happy to get together with them and talk about what is changing, what they want to make sure is heard in the process,” Shipman said. This shift is not one that orientation coordinators take lightly, and there is a high awareness and recognition of the traditions and invaluable experiences that many have held.

“As I thought about orientation 2017 knowing that we were doing this shifting for 2018, I think what was remarkable for me was that this program is so phenomenal, and it felt that way for 2017 and I am looking forward to it feeling that way for 2018 even with these shifts,” Cady said.
“Often within a dominant United States society there is a thought that Native Americans are people of the past, that they really represent something backward-looking,” Doug Sackman said. “But I don’t think so. They are not only a people of the past; they are of the present and have some lessons [and] perspectives that are helpful.”

According to the University of Puget Sound website, Sackman is history professor who focuses on environmental, Native American, Western, and Pacific Northwestern history.

“In a world of untruths and confusing realities walking in autumn is universally objectively perfect,” Dana Miller said. Miller opened the talk by discussing the specific challenges with colonies that the Puyallup people faced.

“For the Puyallup, we are a clan people. We were small groups of people with hunting and fishing rights who have very specific procedures and partnerships along the Puyallup river,” Miller said. “The colonists didn’t know who they were dealing with. The Puyallup were small bands of people, which is different from the tribes in the east which had more centralized governments that were similar to governments that the colonists knew.

“The Puyallup River was basically means ‘people who are generous,’ and generous not only in the sense of welcoming but also sharing ideas about how to live in peace with nature. This is the history of the Puyallup from colonization to now.”

“By 1911, Puyallup land was almost entirely sold through a type of performance of selling,” Miller said. “We have so many records of titles being sold to the reservation agent’s cousin. It was brought to the attention of the tribe to the forefront of some local environmental issues.

“Miller’s talk largely looked at how the Puyallup used and currently define sovereignty as a foundation of the talks. The Puyallup tribe is currently negotiating the rights of the Puyallup and their ancestors to govern themselves, and our United States legal system recognizes Native groups as sovereign entities, so there is a cultural sense to it as well, regaining power and standing,” Sackman said.

“Sovereignty technically means the ability of a people to govern themselves, and our United States legal system recognizes Native groups as sovereign entities, so there is a cultural sense to it as well, regaining power and standing,” Sackman said. “I really liked how they [placed] Lushootseed in a modern context,” Ashpole said. “They teach them how to text and use modern terms but translated.”

“Part of the context of this is there were United States government programs that worked very hard to stamp out Native languages in the 19th and 20th centuries,” Miller said. “I just can’t believe what I lost but I can’t believe what I am gaining now.”

“Language revitalization becomes a part of decolonization, becomes a part of taking back our history and healing,” Miller kept the talk light by adding in humor when possible through stories, some of which focused on her father Bill Sterud, who is the Chairman of the Tribal Council.

“If you step back and look at it and consider that the Puyallup and their ancestors have been in this place for at least 5,000 years and are still here now and are taking active leadership that maybe the rest of us should pay some attention to,” Sackman said.

Correction: It was brought to the attention of The Trail that a statement in a Features article published Oct. 13 was incorrect. "Puget Sound junior celebrates completion of her second interactive art piece" stated that Music received $2,000 from Union Board to execute her chalkboard mural, however, she actually was granted her full ask of $400.
University searches for 2018 Honorary Degree recipient

By Marcellie Rutherford

On Saturday, Oct. 21, President Isiaah Crawford sent an email to the campus community asking for nominations for honorary degree candidates for 2018. Honorary degrees are an important part of how a university or college operates in the world.

"Honorary degrees underscore the values and aspirations of a college and bring honor and occasionally notoriety to the college by virtue of association. Membership in a college or university honors the recipient and recognizes that education is a community enterprise and does not happen only within the university setting," Liz Collins, Board Secretary, said.

"The email to campus noted the necessary characteristics of an honorary degree recipient, namely "notable academic reputation" and "record of outstanding contributions to the betterment of the regional, national or global community through one of the main areas of public life such as business, government, education, public service, science, the arts or religion."

One past honorary degree recipient was Georgia Kautz, the Natural Resource Manager for the Nisqually Indian Tribe. Kautz was one of three degree recipients for 2017. The other two recipients were Timothy Egan, a writer, and Fred D. Gray, a civil rights attorney. In 2016, a degree was awarded to Carla Santorno, the Superintendent of the Tacoma Public Schools.

"Last year's presentation to Georgiana Kautz, a leader of the Nisqually people and natural resources manager for the Nisqually Tribe, recognized her lifetime of teaching and stewardship of the environment," Collins said.

Honorary degree recipients are chosen by a committee that is representative of the Puget Sound campus. The committee is governed by a series of rules and regulations, the documentation of which is available on the University website.

"The Committee shall consist of the Dean of the University (ex officio), two appointed faculty members, two trustees, two students and two alumni," the document reads.

The individuals receiving these degrees did not actually complete their education here at Puget Sound, so the degree given is different than a degree that a undergraduate or graduate student would receive from the University. It is more of an honor recognizing how an individual embodies the values of the University.

"It is important to remember that it is the faculty who recommend the curriculum and requirements for graduation and who present all candidates for graduation. The faculty's endorsement of honorary degree candidates via the Faculty Senate affirms the centrality of the faculty to the mission of the University and the qualities of our graduates, whether earned or honorary," Collins said.

In the email to campus, President Crawford discussed the fact that the person chosen should embody the mission statement of the University. This is the key piece of this whole process. The individuals in charge of choosing who ultimately receives this honor consider how they line up with the values of the University to be very important.

"In any given year, the candidates will be emblematic of specific aspects of Puget Sound's mission, and occasionally of very current events," Collins said.

While the committee does not overtly seek a theme for a given year, it seems to happen that there is a thread of connection — again, all going back to the mission of the college — in engaged citizenship, in achievement, in lifelong learning, in making the world a better place."

“Logger Life Hacks” series provides housing advice to students

By Andrew Izzo

Dooughnuts greeted students as they walked through the door of McIntyre 307 on Oct. 24 for "Logger Life Hacks: Housing 101."

“Logger Life Hacks” is an informational series of presentations and panels hosted by the 2018 cohort of the Leadership Development and Engagement Initiative (LDEI). Transitioning from a student life to an adult life can be difficult, and there are some things that a student wouldn't be exposed to through the college education.

"This came to be thinking about students being prepared for graduation and what comes after graduation," senior Hannah McIntyre said.

"It very much seems to happen that there is a thread of overarching themes," Liz Collins, Board of Trustees Chair, said.

While the committee does not overtly seek a theme for a given year, it seems to happen that there is a thread of connection — again, all going back to the mission of the college. In engaged citizenship, in achievement, in lifelong learning, in making the world a better place."

Renters insurance was also highly recommended by the panelists. Theft is always a possibility, and this insurance covers property loss. Some landlords require renters to have insurance. Some policies extend to dependents, so the policy of a parent may cover a student.

There are some red flags to watch out for in landlords. Not giving a receipt for a security deposit, pressuring renters to sign quickly and claiming an inspection is not needed are among common things to look out for.

Word of mouth is often an easy way to find a house to rent, but Zillow, Craigslist and Padmapper are some sites to consider.

Online resources are also a good place to find houses to rent.

"It's a good idea to look into the landlord's history, whether other people have had problems with them in the past," Stevens said.

Renting off-campus comes with a lot of freedoms, but also a lot of responsibilities. Be aware of your neighbor's needs and try to live in a way that avoids problems later on.

Be mindful and respectful of neighbors, especially if the house being rented is in a college area. There is a good chance that other students or faculty and staff may live nearby.

"Stuff that you haven't had to think about before, you have to think about now," Stevens said.
In response to Harvey Weinstein

By Sarah Buchlaw

Another man in power outed as an assailant, and another shaming America’s me.

“Harvey Weinstein Paid Off Sexual Harassment Accusers for Decades,” the New York Times headline from Oct. 5 read. Details of Weinstein’s extensive history of harassment and sexual assault were published for the first time that day, but the exploitation from Weinstein and Hollywood as an industry is no secret.

Let’s make two things very clear: first, Weinstein is not nearly the first (or last) man in the television industry to take advantage of women. Second, the men of Hollywood have been complicit in their industry’s abuse for as long as it has been happening.

A recent “Good Morning America” segment featured Matt Damon and George Clooney, two stars who worked closely with Weinstein in the 1990s. “Now they’re coming to terms with the dark and twisted reality of their former mentor,” the interviewer said as the camera focused on the two men. Coming to terms? Spare me the pity for these poor naive women who had no idea that their colleague was doing anything inappropriate.

“I know he was a womanizer, you know, I wouldn’t want to be married to the guy. … But, like, it’s not my business, really,” Damon said, as if knowing that Weinstein cheated on his wife with vulnerable women is not the same as knowing he was a manipulative woman of power.

When the interviewer remarked on how Weinstein’s behavior was seen as a kind of open secret in Hollywood, Damon responded defensively. “He didn’t do it out in the open. If there was ever an event or something that was in the public with Harvey and he was doing this kind of thing, and I missed it, and there’s some woman who was somehow assaulted and, you know, it was at the Golden Globes or something like that, and I somehow missed it, then I’m sorry.”

So, the only thing Damon could possibly bear guilt for would be if one of Weinstein’s victims had been assaulted at an awards show at which Damon was present? Never mind that he has known about Weinstein’s assault of Damon’s colleague Gwyneth Paltrow since the 90s, or that stars like Courtney Love and Seth MacFarlane made alliances to Weinstein’s reputation in the 2000s, or that showbiz legend 30 Rock have made jokes about Weinstein being an assailant in several different episodes.

Damon didn’t know, it wasn’t “out in the open,” so get off his back, everybody. I suppose Damon and his male colleagues were also shocked to hear the news of over five other celebrities ousted this month as sexual harassers and assailants. More than three dozen survivors have come forward about experiences with women of spoke out in all kinds of ways. Mayim Bialik’s me-too campaign is just two of several such responses from women, and they both received ample criticism. But the idea that we are different from any of these men who are survivors of assault feel obligated to share traumatic experiences, and those who do share must relieve for it all of cyber-space to see.

But focusing on the shortcomings of these women’s responses seems far less important than calling out the male response to Weinstein’s behavior. It was patently clear that this is a white, privilege, middle-class man, and we are far more than just the sum of our failings as a society and will need to rethink how we approach this situation.

I saw countless women admit to being victims and survivors, but no men come forward as perpetrators of assault, or even as participants in a system that oppresses and hurts women.

Instead, I saw braggart posts about pride in never being a victim, or sadness that there are “bad men” who do these kinds of things.

Flash news to defensive, famous or not: desperately distancing yourself from a figure like Weinstein helps far less than acknowledging your connection to assault. The idea that only bad men assault women, so you, a good man, are relieved of all guilt and responsibility, is preposterous.

All men participate and perpetuate this country’s patriarchy, and that system is what harms women and leads to assault. However uncomfortable it may be for you to hear it, you are guilty to some extent, and it’s time to face up.

Every time you have refused to call out the inappropriate behavior of other men, denied your own sexism, or failed to listen to women, you have been an accomplice in the work of Weinstein and others.

To all the Matt Danons of this country: not being a perpetrator of assault does not relieve you of responsibility, and it certainly does not make you an outstanding person. Accept your role in a system of violence, and change that system, not only forward to more honest and productive responses to issues of assault against women from America’s men.

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Letter from the Opinions Editor

CW: Discussion of anti-Semitism, white supremacy, violence

Harvey Weinstein

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKI MEDIA COMMONS

Steven Weinstein, alone and dozes more about the newly accused, including celebrity chef John Besh and photographer Terry Richardson.

Yet male stars expect us to believe that none of them were in on it.

Unfortunately, the generally defensive (or completely silent) response by men to the Weinstein scandal extends far beyond Hollywood.

In the weeks following the news of Weinstein, all kinds of anti-Semitism, white supremacy, violence and sexual assault were published for the first time in history. Details of Weinstein’s extensive history of harassment and sexual assault were published for the first time that day, but the exploitation from Weinstein and Hollywood as an industry is no secret.

“Schools are a microcosm of the country,” ADL CEO Jonathan A. Greenblatt said in an email letter to the editor. “Anti-Semitism is not the sole domain of any one group, and needs to be challenged wherever and whenever it arises.”

As I said before, discrimination does not happen on accident. The anti-Semitism behavior that we have seen on this campus is dangerous, and it is imperative that we understand it this way. The first step is educating yourself on the legacy of discrimination the United States and in your communities.

"The majority of anti-Semitic acts are not carried out by organized extremists, as the bomb threats in 2017 demonstrate," Oren Segal, the Director of the ADL Center on Extremism, said. “Anti-Semitism is not the problem with any one group, and this trend is not decreasing.”

Sincerely,

Ellia Frazer

Opinions Editor
Finding affordable sex toys in Tacoma: A Happy Trail guide  

By Emma Holmes

Buying sex toys can be scary. When I sheepishly ordered my first vibrator online from Target, it was marketed for muscle pains, and I paid with a grad party gift card so the transaction couldn’t be traced. Three years and lots of sex-positivity later, here’s what I wish I’d known.

Tacoma boasts three sex shops within its city limits, all neighborhoodally located off 1-5 South. They carry a variety of toys, lubricants, lingerie, bondage wares and novelty items. I interviewed managers at both Hustler Hollywood and Castle Megastore about their budget best-sellers.

Castle Megastore, located on Tacoma Mall Boulevard, is a brightly lit, high-ceilinged building with a wide selection in terms of both price and interest. I spoke with the Assistant Manager, Michael Farias, about their most popular and most reasonably priced items.

When asked what the most affordable best-selling toys were, Michael pointed me towards the Water Willy, a 7.5-inch purple vibrating jelly dildo that retails for $38.99. He also showed me the Neon Vibe ($14.99) and the slightly more expensive Rocks Off Bullet Vibrator ($39.99). For long-distance partners, the Bullet has Bluetooth compatibility, which lets you control it from their phone, if you both desire. As for lubricants, he recommended the Jo line, which offers both water-based ($10.99 for 2.5 oz) and silicone-based ($18.99 for 2.5 oz) options.

In addition to toys, many of Castle’s BDSM products (handcuffs, ball-gags, etc.) are produced for the store specifically, which allows them to offer a lower price. If you’re curious about bondage but don’t know where to start, they also offer starter sets that come with any variety of cuffs, blindfolds and gags. If you already know what you’re looking for, they have lots of rope, tape and individual items for sale.

Hustler Hollywood is also located off I-5 on South Hosmer Street. The stores branched from the popular magazine in 1998, and now have locations across the United States. They carry a variety of toys, outfits, gear and erotica, including their own Hustler-brand items. Unlike Castle, however, these items are considered a more luxury line and cost more than the toys Kyla, the manager, recommended to me. Their most popular and affordable vibrator, in her opinion, was the Sensuelle Joie 15 Function Bullet, at $40. She described it as powerful and rechargeable, which is a rare find under $50. The Au Natural line of dildos all run under $50 and come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Kyla also cited the Screaming O Wow Vibrating Cock Ring (kinky!) which comes with a removable vibrating bullet.

Whether you’re investing for yourself, a friend or with a partner, these stores will help you find what you didn’t know you needed. They’re both accessible by bus, if wheels are the issue, and the staff was exceedingly kind and helpful at both stores. Had I known these stores were as approachable and unimmitating three years ago, I might not have had to deal with all those fake muscle pains.

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The word “queer” is a term that is commonly used in academic and social spaces to be representative of all LGBTQ+ identities, but it carries with it a heavy politicization that not everyone is comfortable with. Reasons behind this will be different for everyone, but it is important not to assume that everyone will be comfortable with its usage. According to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), “queer” is an adjective used by some people, particularly younger people, whose sexual orientation is not exclusively heterosexual. “Not exclusively heterosexual” is broad, and this ambiguity is often crucial to reasoning for choosing whether or not to use the term. I personally choose to identify as queer because of this ambiguity, as it offers more room for fluidity of both gender and sexuality. Most sexualities are based around gender – your own and your partner’s. For instance, if you are gay, it is assumed to mean that you are a man that is interested exclusively in other men. But this implies certain parameters on who is defined as a man.

“I think everything in the United States and Western culture in general is all about labelling things,” Jae Bates (‘18) said. “Even with diet here, it’s like, ‘I AM a vegan’ or ‘I AM a vegetarian’ rather than being like, ‘I happen to eat mostly not meat.’ ... I think everything is very about clear distinct identity instead of allowing you to do whatever it is that you want. And I think the word ‘queer’ allows people to just do them because I think that ‘queer’ is such an unclear word that it leaves way more space for you. ‘Queer’ allows much more room for acknowledging and allowing for queer identities when you date.”

Sexual identity terms can be restrictive of identities that do not fall within the binary, as well as restricting experimentation or deviation. As Bates discusses, someone may identify mostly as gay with some deviation just for the ease of explaining to others, but this causes guilt or negativity if they want to stray from the term. For this reason, “queer” does allow for wiggle room due to its vagueness. However, queer has historical roots in being a slur, and is still used as one today. For individuals who purposely do not use terminology that carries those politics or for people who have had negative experiences with the term, it can be potentially triggering and offensive. The intentional vagueness in identity as well can feel like identities are being glossed over or neutralized, not acknowledging difference between them and the separate struggles between each sexual identity.

Queer as a community has also been overwhelmingly white in relation to other LGBTQ+ communities. “I was really involved with the Queer Alliance for the first couple years I was here,” Bates said. “The majority of the officers were queer people of color. But what would happen at the meetings was that we wanted to talk about race all the time but all the kids that were coming were white. So we kept getting all this anonymous feedback where people were annoyed about it and they just wanted to talk about queerness and not race. It was like you couldn’t talk about race and about being queer. And I got a lot of feedback from my friends who are queer people of color being like, ‘Why would I go? It’s just all white people.’”

This racialization of queerness is one that does go ignored, especially on a campus like the University of Puget Sound, whose racial demographics continually skew white students in the 75 percent range, according to Forbes and the College Board.

In a similar way to how queerness does not specify specific identities, dominant queerness has a way of disregarding race and the intersectionality of queer people of color.

“Their stories are just as valid as the stories of people who want to identify with the term ‘queer.’ Being aware of differences among the LGBTQ+ community is crucial so as not to make anyone uncomfortable, but also to be aware of all identities and the way they can be misrepresented under a single term.
Compassion and karma in Tibetan medicine

By Angela Cookston

Denise Glover in the Sociology and Anthropology department gave a lecture hosted by the Bioethics Club on the concepts of compassion and karma in Tibetan medicine on Oct. 25.

Glover has done research in China’s Shangri-La province on the Tibetan medical industry and local knowledge of environment.

“Tibetan medicine, in particular, pulls a lot from Tibetan Buddhism,” Glover said. “So there are a lot of ideas that come from the religious tradition that are appropriated into the medical tradition. In fact, for a long time they weren’t really separate traditions at all.”

The medical tradition is based on indigenous knowledge of environment and written texts.

One of the most central texts is “The Four Tantras,” which was written mostly between the 11th and 12th centuries. “Doctors still use this,” Glover said. “It’s hard to find that kind of parallel in western medicine, for example. Who studies a text that old? They’re considered out of date. But in the Tibetan medical tradition, they’re seen as very central.”

Tibetan medicine uses Mahayana Buddhist figures as ideal images of what doctors should be. The Bodhisattva of Compassion, who are beings that could potentially reach enlightenment but choose to not to in order to help others, and the Medicine Buddha, who has all the knowledge of healing, are used in this way.

“In the medical tradition in Tibet, doctors are basically emulating this kind of being,” Glover said. “Not only do the doctors imagine themselves as the Medicine Buddha … but the patient will have to do a similar thing, which is to imagine the doctor as intricately connected to the medicine Buddha.”

Next, Tibetan medicine’s doctors see the body as a collection of three “humors.”

“These things are considered as a combination of a substance and an energy,” Glover said.

The three humors are wind, bile and phlegm. “Each one of these is responsible for a different function in the body. So, for example, movement: wind is responsible for movement in the body. Bile is responsible for digestion. And phlegm is responsible for lubrication.”

When the three humors are balanced, a person is considered to be healthy. But an imbalance can cause problems.

In addition to causing physical problems, the humors can cause emotional or mental problems. “The humor of wind is linked to desire. Bile is linked to hatred. And phlegm is linked to closed-mindedness,” Glover said.

All of the humors have negative emotional effects on people. “In fact, you could argue from the Tibetan medical perspective that if you have a body, then you are likely to end up with some kind of imbalance,” Glover said.

One could have too much desire, hatred and closed-mindedness.

“It’s almost like a very natural thing for people to get sick in this medical system,” Glover said. “It’s kind of different than other medical systems that you know, the natural state is a healthy state. Yeah, health is natural but so is illness in Tibetan medicine.”

The three humors can become imbalanced due to physical or emotional changes. Additionally, past negative actions, or bad karma, can cause illness.

“How can you tell if you’re sick because of humoral imbalance or because of karma?” Glover asked the room. “[Karma] is used to explain when things are not getting better. Like, the doctor is trying to figure out, trying to treat the patient and the treatments are not working.”

In Western medicine, this is similar to the concept of an idiopathic disease.

Tibetan medicine uses a slow-acting treatment process which can take months to heal the patient. If, after three different treatment plans, the patient is still ill, the doctor will diagnose their problem as karma. Tibetan medicine doctors can’t treat karmic problems.

“If a person is ill due to a karmic problem, they must go to a religious monk, who will help them attain spiritual balance once more. However, when the illness is due to karma from a past life, it is much more difficult and sometimes impossible to treat, since one can’t go back into their past life and fix the problem.”

“Do me what’s significant about these two ideas in Tibetan medicine is how both of these concepts really stress the agency of the patient. The patient actually has some responsibility in their own illness,” Glover said. “And then it also stresses, of course, the responsibility that the practitioner has to make good decisions. I think it’s really important to help the person and not, for example, to be making a profit.”

Humans of Puget Sound: sharing community stories

By Charlotte Fron

“I’ve never wanted to stop being that kid who really wants to raise a middle finger to anybody.

“I’m a loudmouth who thinks he’s right all the time. And I have no inhibitions of putting it out there. My biggest problem, to this day, is shutting up and listening. It’s still a struggle for me. Listening gives me the comfort of knowing that I’m not just a bullshit artist, that I’ve actually heard and cared enough to listen to the yays and the nays.”

“This shirt” is set up so that every time I look in the window or look in the mirror, I’m reminded to turn hate into love. It’s everything I wish would happen on planet Earth.

“Look into your heart, because you may be a bastard from hell and you’ll find that spot in your heart that’s making you mean to people.

“I don’t have any of the answers. And I do know that everybody who says that they have the answers is wrong.

“About 50 years ago, I was riding my bicycle across the one and only Narrows Bridge; it was a beautiful summer day. I stopped in the middle of the bridge just to look at the sky and the water and the sun was blinding. And all of the sudden, I felt some electricity in both feet, the whole experience took about 45 seconds, and that electricity came up my body, when all of the sudden, whatever the hell it was, that electric jolt got to my head. Everything was just so much brighter, it was almost blinding. All of the sudden, it was a realization and sureness in every part of my body that said, ‘It’s all right.’ It came back down, just as it came, and I went, ‘What the hell was that?’

“Every once in a while, or recently when things got so dark, and it looked like people’s hearts were going cold rather than getting warmer, I remember that the number of people on planet Earth that are good outnumber the number of people that are bad. And I know it because that moment told me. And even the bad people are good sometimes.”
YWCA ‘Voices of Courage’ event inspires hope, sparks conversation

By Christina Pelletier

YWCA Pierce County hosted “Voices of Courage” on Thursday, Oct. 26 at South Hill Memorial Chapel on campus.

Actors told the incredibly true and heart-rending stories of four women who are survivors of domestic violence.

The event began with Laura Wolf, YWCA Board President-Elect, introducing the stories and the process of bringing the stories to life with the help of actors and other personnel behind the scenes.

Before the stories began, What She Said, one of the University of Puget Sound’s a cappella groups, performed “Big Girls Don’t Cry” by Fergie. This was the first of three songs that the student range-voices a cappella group was invited to perform at the event.

Samie Iverson, YWCA Associate Board Member, introduced the first story with a statistic: “In 2016, over 8,665 domestic violence incidents were reported in Pierce County, including six homicides.” Samie went on to state that the YWCA offers any resources an individual may need, no matter what race, gender, identity or sexual orientation they are.

The third story was introduced by Janice Phillips, YWCA Board President, who stated, “In 2017, in a study of Domestic Violence Service Programs, 73 percent of advocates said that victims have expressed increased concerns about contacting police for help due to their immigration status.” She continued to talk about immigrants who are victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and how they face extra barriers due to their possible differences in languages, among other difficulties.

YWCA Pierce County tries their hardest to service every individual that reaches out for help by providing translators and other such needed resources.

What She Said performed another song, “Proud Mary” by Creedence Clearwater Revival, halfway through the event.

Miriam Barnett, YWCA CEO, stated how nice it was to have the group perform between the stories. “It’s a nice little break for the heart.”

The third story was introduced by YWCA board member Loren Cohen. Cohen, too, began with a statistic. “In the United States, an average of 20 people are physically abused by intimate partners every minute. This equates to more than 10 million victims annually.” Cohen encouraged the audience to be a support system for those who are affected, noting that there is a high chance everyone knows someone who is a victim.

YWCA associate board member Claire Grubb introduced the last story. “On average, it takes up to seven attempts for a survivor to leave their abusive relationship for good.” She explained how it isn’t always easy to leave an abusive relationship, and the factors that go into making the decision such as leaving kids behind and endangering pets. The YWCA shelter offers individual spaces for families to heal in a private unit, welcoming families to bring their pets.

Closing remarks were given by Barnett, who shared how difficult listening to these stories can be. She recognized the staff of YWCA and everyone that helped put together the event. Lastly she invited the actors to join her on stage and offered the choice of the survivors whose stories were told to stand.

Puget Sound sophomore Ruby Krietzman attended the event with What She Said and found the stories to be extremely moving. “The event was incredibly powerful and opened my eyes to how important this issue is. At the end, a few of the survivors that had their stories shared stood up to be recognized. Seeing how strong they were and putting their stories to a face really left an impact on me. I feel lucky to have been part of this important event.”

Abroad View: Reflections from students overseas

St. Petersburg: Hunger Artists

By Parker Barry

St. Petersburg captures the meaning of melancholy; grey weighs on the city regardless of the sun’s presence. It makes sense that Dublin and St. Petersburg are two cities famous for their depressing poetry and prose. James Joyce, an Irish unapologetic alcoholic genius, starved from poverty and going blind from a condition called “Iritis” (a very painful inflammation in the colored part of the eye), wrote some of the best prose of the twentieth century and practically invented the stream-of-consciousness narrative style.

Last summer I studied in Ireland, read Joyce, and soaked in the deep sadness that the clouds deliver from the sky. Both cities are perpetually dank and grey. I stared down the canals of St. Petersburg and I definitely felt the same melodrama that haunted me in Dublin.

These authors actually felt sadness. Gogol, a 19th-century Russian author, committed suicide by starving himself to death because he never achieved his well-deserved fame. He might have starved himself because he was practicing asceticism and was wildly depressed (a combination that contributes to mass amounts of self harm).

Starvation is not a pleasant way to die; the symptoms include seizures, shrinkage of the heart and lungs, swelling from fluid under the skin and chronic diarrhea. Gogol was forced to have friends memorize her poems line by line, the only copy hidden in their heads until they could escape Russia and publish them. I was trudging along the streets in my blue Patagonia raincoat on the verge of tears from being cold and wet while reading “The Bronze Horseman.” I cursed poetry and the clouds and I shifted my feet so they wouldn’t throb with pain.

Russia has seen sadness and devastation. During the siege of Leningrad (1941–1944), St. Petersburg lost 600 thousand people. That is more citizens to die in one war than all of the United States’ wars combined. In World War II, 20 million people died in the Soviet Union — soldiers as well as civilians. In the US, only 200 thousand died during World War II.

Although I cannot come close to comprehending this mass amount of tragedy, learning about the history of St. Petersburg has made me realize how suffering can translate into art. While Gogol wastes away in his bed, skipping meals, starving for fame, beauty can still pulse through the city through his prose.
Beyond the back entrance of the Expeditionary, where Puget Sound Outdoors (PSO) trips depart from, lies a small black shed with sticker-covered doors and an opportunity for students here at Puget Sound. The Bike Shop provides free education, repairs, reduced-cost services and parts for sale for students and faculty on campus. The student-run organization, which is part of PSO, also hosts a number of programs ranging from rides to learning sessions available to students throughout the semester.

Patrick Johnson, a senior from Deerfield, Illinois, is the coordinator and lead mechanic for the 2017-2018 school year. He details the wide range of offerings the shop has for students on campus: “The bike shop gives [Puget Sound] students, faculty, staff and surrounding community members access to free bicycle service, highly discounted or free bike parts and accessories, free maintenance classes, volunteer opportunities and organized mountain and road bike rides.”

The high price of cycling may be a deterrent for some students to invest in their own sustainable transportation method, but Johnson emphasizes cheap repair and a focus on education within the shop: “We can fix most problems that a typical professional shop could, and are happy to help people learn how to work on their own bikes.”

Tyler Randazzo, a junior from Needham, Massachusetts, is the assistant mechanic for the 2017-2018 school year in the shop. When asked about their role on campus, Randazzo speaks of access and exploration: “I think the biggest role we try to fill are to give students access to the resources they need to get around. We try to do rides and events, and this month we will be doing some casual cruisers rides, which are for folks who just want to get out in a super low-key, fun environment and explore Tacoma.”

Students often walk up to the shop and are able to get their bike serviced right then and there. “The most common way students take advantage of our services is simply by showing up with bike issues that need fixing. We’ll work on the problem right there and they’ll usually be on their way in 20 minutes or so, depending on the issue,” Johnson said.

The bike infrastructure of Puget Sound has been an important aspect of the Bike Shop, with bike racks standing outside just about every building on campus. “We have also helped support on-campus bike infrastructure such as the bike pump and work stand outside the Cellar. We try to be a space where cyclists and prospective cyclists can meet and make trips happen or just learn about cycling,” Johnson said.

Getting out of the Puget Sound bubble and exploring the city of Tacoma is one of the most popular ways people use their bikes, and the Bike Shop wants to help people get off campus on their bikes and keep those bikes in great working condition.

Students praise the shop’s work, and speak highly of the efficient and effective experiences they have had there. “I went to the shop because I had a sinking suspicion that my wheel’s tube had a leak,” senior Sarah Davidson (Westfield, New Jersey) said. “They checked it, confirmed that my wheel’s tube had a leak, and offered to replace it for the cost of the tube. Within the hour I had a new tube and left feeling impressed by how knowledgeable, friendly and helpful the staff was. Also, the only cost to me was the tube itself (the shop usually has discounted prices on parts), which was great,” Davidson added.

Davidson’s experience is just one example of the impressive work that is done over at the shop. “Overall, would 10/10 recommend, especially for people who don’t know a lot about bikes or aren’t sure what they might need,” she added.

With regards to their own lives, Johnson and Randazzo each have a strong love for biking and bring that into their work at the Bike Shop. “My background is mostly in mountain biking and I love getting new people out to explore and ride trails,” Randazzo said.

“Personally, biking is my primary mode of transportation. I try to avoid cars for groceries and other errands. It’s also a way to explore Tacoma for me,” Johnson added.

Biking is an easy way to get around, and more importantly, it is a greener way to get around. The carbon footprint of Puget Sound has been a contested issue in the past, and creating more education and awareness around biking is an important way of decreasing that footprint. Johnson emphasizes the reduced footprint of bikes and the implementation of infrastructure around campus: “They also serve to reduce the campus’ carbon footprint and act as a healthy alternative to driving around.”

The shop has free beginner mountain bike rides coming up on Nov. 11 and Dec. 2 at noon, open to both experienced riders and new mountain bikers. On Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. there will also be a night ride for casual cruisers, free to attend with a 50 percent discount on any light offered at the shop. Additionally, the shop hosts maintenance classes at the shop every Wednesday in November from 5–6 p.m. The shop’s normal hours of operation range from 4-7 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

United States Men’s National Soccer Team faces cloudy future

By Kevin White

In a loss to Trinidad and Tobago, the U.S. Men’s National Team (USMNT) failed to qualify for the FIFA World Cup in 2018. It will be the first time since 1986 that the USMNT won’t be in the World Cup. In failing to qualify, the team sets back its international standing and national popularity.

The USMNT has been one of the least-competitive American soccer teams. The Women’s National Team (USWNT) has been a dominant force in the sport. Both the Under-17 and Under-20 men’s soccer teams are competitive. The USWNT Under-20 team finished fourth in the World Cup last year. Out of all national soccer teams, the USMNT has both the lowest floor and the lowest ceiling. What can be done to change it?

The first solution would be institutional overhaul. After failing to qualify, manager Bruce Arena resigned. Arena had acquired the job less than a year ago, when Jurgen Klinsmann was fired. Senior Nathan Otto (Portland, OR) believes that Arena’s resignation is not enough. Otto believes that “Sunil [Gulati, the president of US Soccer] needs to go.” While Gulati may survive due to the success of the other soccer teams, finding a good manager is an important step to success. A good manager will ensure that the USMNT’s floor won’t be as low, and hopefully prevent another failed qualifying.

There is still the question of raising the ceiling. The best World Cup finish in the past half-century is eighth, and the team had made two straight rounds of 16. Early exits in the elimination stage will not bring more popularity to soccer.

If the goal is winning a World Cup, there needs to be some change. Senior Adrian Harter (Lake Oswego, OR) believes that the Major League Soccer (MLS) has been an impediment to the USMNT. The competition is not at a level that improves the players for the National Team. If the USMNT wants to improve, Harter believes that the best players need to play in the stronger European leagues. Blaming the MLS and encouraging players to go to Europe, does create a dilemma. While the current players would improve, a worse MLS product would dampen soccer’s popularity. Without a more popular American soccer league, there will never be the interest needed to get the best athletes into the United States soccer system.

As the World Cup occurs without the USMNT, the future is in question. A new manager has yet to be named. Whoever is chosen will have a team smarting from the loss, and looking to return to the World Cup in 2022. They will also have Christian Pulisic, widely considered the best American soccer talent of all time, entering his prime. The best hope for the men’s team is that more talent like Pulisic emerges. What it will take to induce such an emergence is up in the air. Let’s just hope that whoever is in charge will look to the system instituted by the three-time World Cup champion USWNT.
**WOMEN’S SOCCER**

The women’s team faced top-ranked Whitworth at home on Saturday. The Loggers were first to score in the 26th minute, with a goal by Tayla MacPherson. Just before half, the Loggers gave up a foul in the box and allowed the Pirates to score on a penalty kick. The Loggers were quick to answer six minutes into the second half. Lara Morton headed a corner kick from Tayla MacPherson, and Kimmie Lange recorded seven saves in the win. On Sunday the three seniors were recognized before the game against Whitman. The Loggers were off to a great start coming out of the gates with a goal from Patrice VanSchaik in the first half. The defense held off their opponents from scoring for the 11th time this season. The Loggers will travel to Willamette on Saturday, Nov. 4.

**SWIMMING**

The Northwest Conference Sprint Meet was held at Wallace Pool for the season opener for both men’s and women’s. In the pentathlon, Dylan Reimers finished 10th overall with a time of 2:24:17. For the women’s, Calista Skog finished third with a time of 2:55:58 after teammate Kelli Callahan. Callahan, with the second fastest time, earned third place behind crosstown rival, Pacific Lutheran. The Relay Meet was hosted by Pacific Lutheran the following day. The men’s team totalled 19 points to give them third place. They took second in the 300-breaststroke and finished first in the medley and the 500-backstroke. The next weekend the team will take place at Lewis & Clark on Friday, Nov. 3.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

The Northwest Conference Championship was hosted by Willamette on Saturday. The men’s team finished with a score of 232, placing them ninth overall. Liam Monghan lead the team with a score of 34. The women’s team placed third with a score of 92. The team was led by Samantha Schaffer, who finished eighth overall. After the meet, Schaffer was announced women’s Freshman of the Year. Schaffer was also announced All-Northwest Conference Second Team along with teammate Rachael Meder.

**VOLLEYBALL**

The Loggers hosted Willamette on Friday, Oct. 27. The Loggers outmatched Willamette double of the season with 19 kills and 19 digs. Kristen Miguel followed on the leaderboard with 11 kills and 14 digs. The Loggers won the second set to the Bearcats, who managed to win in four sets. On Saturday, the Loggers recognized their seniors, including Sayla Hart and Emma Lang down in the match against Linfield. The set went into five sets which allowed the team to boost their score for the season. The second consecutive double-doubles with 17 kills and 15 digs.

**MEN’S SOCCER**

The men’s team were scoreless in the first half and the first on the board was Linfield in the last six minutes. With 13 seconds left in the match, Luke Murdock scored the tying goal to send the match into overtime. The Loggers fought hard and came out strong in the second overtime. Benjamin Whitman crossed the ball to Murdock for the second win of the season, with a goal by Tayla MacPherson. Just before half, the Loggers gave up a foul in the box and allowed the Pirates to score on a penalty kick. The Loggers were quick to answer six minutes into the second half. Lara Morton headed a corner kick from Tayla MacPherson, and Kimmie Lange recorded seven saves in the win. On Sunday the three seniors were recognized before the game against Whitman. The Loggers were off to a great start coming out of the gates with a goal from Patrice VanSchaik in the first half. The defense held off their opponents from scoring for the 11th time this season. The Loggers will travel to Willamette on Saturday, Nov. 4.

**FOOTBALL**

With a minute left in the first half, the Loggers’ Tanner Diederich scored the first score of the day. The Pirates answered with a goal from Paul Thomas. This put the Loggers up 14-13. Some big defensive plays allowed the Loggers to hold onto the lead. The Loggers will hit the road one last time for the season as they take on Linfield on Saturday, Nov. 4.

**SPORTS & OUTDOORS**

trailsports@pugetsound.edu

Team along with teammate Rachael Metzler. ninth overall. Liam Monghan lead the team finished with a score of 232, placing them overall. Their winws were in the 300-yard but- the second place time, recorded 2:55.58 behind crosstown rival, Pacific Lutheran. The Relay held in Wallace Pool for the season opener great start coming out of the gates with a goal against Whitman. The Loggers were off to a three seniors were recognized before the game were quick to answer six minutes into the sec- from Coach Sabochik and Hart’s de- this weekend the NFL play at home on Saturday Nov. 4 for their last conference match against Pacific Lutheran. The Northwest Conference Sprint Meet was the season head-on,” Sabochik said. “I am very pleased with the talent and attitudes, so it is really fun and exciting for me to think about this upcoming spring season and all the progress we have made and will continue to make,” Hart said. Last season the women had five wins and eight losses. The Loggers hope to improve their record and continue to improve as a program this upcoming spring season. Coach Sabochik described the team’s fall practices. “Fall ball is a great way to get players together after the summer and it’s also a great way to introduce the new player to the team and to get a feel for our team before the traditional season. We just finished up with our practices and I am very pleased with the talent and skill that I saw. The team is really ready to work hard in the off-season and the fall season back in January in the fall season head-on,” Sabochik said. Although fall ball was productive we hear from Coach Sabochik and Hart’s de- scriptions, it will be a challenge to have effective practices with only 11 players. Hart discusses the reasons for the challenges to having limited programs perpetu- the nation’s history of demonizing, disposessing, appropriating and trying to destroy Native Americans in this land.”

**Women’s lacrosse hoping to add new faces**

Women’s lacrosse hoping to add new faces by Tayla MacPherson.

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Trump: Global Warming

‘Not hot enough’

By Anna Graham

For those still confused on the reasoning behind President Trump’s decision to shut down the National Climate Assessment panel, and his continued denial of climate change in general, an enlightening new theory is slowly coming to light. After a series of intensive interviews, The Flail was able to get the inside scoop from the president himself. Apparently, the explanation is simpler than we all thought: according to Trump, Global Warming is just simply “not hot enough.”

In a recent interview, President Trump was quoted as saying, “I would rate Global Warming as a solid four, maybe a five if she’s lucky. She’s not bad looking exactly — she could maybe pull off the ‘average-looking friend in a generic, badly-produced romantic comedy.’ But just it seems like she’s always trying to purposefully hide her figure under some sort of haze, and that’s just not doing her any favors. It can’t be that difficult to not look like a pile of trash every day — all it takes is a little effort.”

For her part, Global Warming said that Trump’s statement was endlessly frustrating, as she just really wants Trump to notice her. She’s not looking for any kind of long-term commitment; she’d just like some acknowledgement. Unfortunately, Global Warming refused to give up. “I tried a bunch of other moves, as well. Record-breaking rains? Got it. Record-breaking drought? Done it. Wildfires that tear up half the coast? Not even a problem.”

Thusfar, however, nothing seems to be enough to impress President Trump. Trump was remarkably irritated by these displays of power, saying: “It just comes off as desperate, you know? She should try to relax a little, have fun and smile more often. She’s always so serious and demanding — she’ll never get a guy with that attitude.”

Nevertheless, Global Warming does not seem to be particularly keen on the President’s advice. Though he has yet to give her credit, she notes that she has the power to potentially destroy human life as we know it. She thinks that this will most likely give her some political leverage going into the future. For now, though, we’ll just have to wait and see.

Students’ political activism

reduced to skimming lawn signs

By Lee L. Benbow

Last year the general election captured the attention of the American Public. Everyone had an opinion and wanted to share it; fake news ran rampant, and Facebook rants were at an all-time high. As of Nov. 8, it will have been a year since the last election. But politics don’t simply come to a standstill between presidential elections. This year many in-state students have become deeply involved in the elections for local positions. “As the University is so close to our surrounding residential neighborhood and deeply intertwined community, it just makes sense that we are involved in the politics,” a woke senior standing near a lawn sign said.

A majority of students say they are registered, registering or working on figuring out how to get registered. Everyone wants to seem politically active, most students attend the right marches, and tweet the right hashtags, but The Flail wanted to know if students really stay active in the political process year round.

For most students, skimming an average of four New York Times articles on Facebook is enough. “I’m already taking four classes and working on perfecting my social presence; I really don’t have time to research every issue,” junior Jenna Johnson said. Others go above and beyond and actually read the articles, but that is still not enough for the likes of senior Josh Hurley. “I’m registered to vote in Washington, read roughly free words a day and decide who I am going to vote for based on lawn signs,” Hurley said.

When asked why he decides who is worthy of office based on colors and fonts, Hurley defended himself with perfect logic. “If the politicians didn’t want me to come to my mind based on what fonts and colors they use, why would they have so many rules? Also the policy is easy to tell based on the colors and fonts used; red and blue obviously have their own connotations. But serif fonts are a tell-tale conservative giveaway, whereas Helvetica and Arial have been extremely popular with liberal and third party candidates in the past couple elections,” Hurley said.

The Flail decided to test this theory and went to a busy intersection to look at the signs. After looking for a couple minutes the field reporters decided to take Hurley’s word for it, as it seemed perfectly logical.
For those very few people out of the loop when it comes to extraterrestrial, this October saw the 70th anniversary of what the Maury Island Incident Historical Society deems “two of History’s most notable UFO sightings,” which took place here in Washington in 1947. As the original conspiracy theory storming ground, alleged alien encounters served as the forge for modern day accusations of government treachery.

Celebrating the momentous date in due fashion, As the original conspiracy theory stomping ground, the Museum UFO Night 2017” commemorative laser-etched registration fee, unidentified flying object enthusiasts are encouraged to contact Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound (ASUPS) president Amanda Daz at asups_president@pugetsound.edu or ASUPS Cultural Consciousness Programmes Naomi Schoeter at asupscc@pugetsound.edu.

On Nov. 4 in Kilworth Chapel, Vaid-Menon will hold a workshop and performance exploring gender through art called “Femme in Public,” the title of their new poetry book. As a gender non-binary individual who is femme, Vaid-Menon has a large interest in feminism and the power that femme holds.

“We’re often taught that femininity is something that’s weak or superficial, something that is just there for the interest or desire of men. But what femme people are actually trying to do, is to enable themselves to have a narrative that is powerful, something that is maybe more important of part of my politics and my art," Vaid-Menon said. "For Vaid-Menon, femme is something that’s extremely powerful and is much stronger than what cultural stereotypes might characterize it as. In “Femme in Public,” Vaid-Menon will pose a thought-provoking two-hour session on gender, art, politics and poetry. They hope to create an extremely personal environment in which both they and the audience will view their own performance art and explore gender non-conformity and feminism.

Vaid-Menon believes that it’s extremely important for those who are gender non-conforming to be seen and heard. Vaid-Menon wants to challenge the mainstream transgender narrative, which views gender as a destination that lands as male or female. Vaid-Menon advocates strongly for the expression of gender as a process of self-discovery, rather than as a transition to a different one.

“So, the mainstream narrative today is just sort of: you’re transgender, we are trapped in the wrong body and that we want to fix ourselves in order to become the correct gender, and that the goal of being trans is just about transitioning into an opposite gender. And that’s problematic because it doesn’t capture people like me, who are non-binary and are gender non-conforming.”

For me, the way I understand gender is it’s never going to be a destination that I’m arriving in one day, that’s because I feel like I couldn’t control my gender, I couldn’t control the race that was given to me, I could control my style and that’s where I could really engage with people’s stereotypes,” Vaid-Menon said.

Through their work, and in thought-provoking, dynamic events such as “Femme in Public,” there is a chance to interact with ideas that can challenge stereotypes and traditions, and can allow an open expression of personal individuality. Vaid-Menon also believes strongly that the ways that transgender and gender non-binary people are different needs to change as they express experiences that are similar to people of many different backgrounds.

"If I’m fighting for is for every person to be able to have freedom of expression and I think that will create a more beautiful, dynamic and intricate world," Vaid-Menon said. "When asked what they wanted people to take from their workshop they finished by stating a strong belief of theirs that rings true to them and to our campus. “We [all] have in large far more in common than we have apart.”

The lecture will be held at 2 p.m. in Kilworth Chapel on Nov. 4. There is also a workshop being held with Vaid-Menon at 11 a.m. At time of publication, there were still about 10 spots left for the workshop. Email Schoeter at asupscc@pugetsound.edu to reserve a spot.
‘The Sea Gull’: From mayhem to real perfection
By Arcelia Salado Alvarado

When “The Sea Gull” premiered in St. Petersburg on Oct. 17, 1896, it was a mess. “I shall never either write plays or have them acted,” playwright Anton Chekhov proclaimed afterwards, according Geoffrey Borny’s novel “Interpreting Chekhov.”

Thankfully, Chekhov did not make true on his promise and audience members attending the opening night of the University of Puget Sound’s rendition of “The Sea Gull” were not disappointed. “The Sea Gull,” spelled with two words by the translator Jean-Claude van Itallie, is directed by Professor Geoffrey Proehl, with set design by Kurt Walls, lighting by Robert Moors and costume design by Misika Navarre.

Having read “The Sea Gull” but never before watched it, junior Maloy Moore shared her extratags and hopes for the play before it began. “I’m interested to see how the Russian comedy plays out, because I think it will be interesting to translate that to an American audience,” Moore said.

The absurdity of the secondary characters and slices of dark humour coupled with fourth-wall breaks throughout remind the audience that reality slices of dark humour coupled with fourth-wall breaks throughout remind the audience that reality is not only melodrama or comedy but a healthy mix of the two that complement each other.

Senior Mattea Prison beautifully captured the constant inner battle of actress Irina Nikolayevna Arkadina. Irina’s nuanced personage is exemplary of the themes of the burden of fame and how these might complicate familial relationships.

Keegan Kyle’s performance of Konstantin Trepleyov, Irina’s son, had the cadence of a spoken-poem and his second-act monologue left the audience with chills. Trepleyov, deeply flawed in his own right, spoke to the struggles of creating as well as the accompanying unrequited love.

The wealth in acting of the supporting cast interwove mundane problems with the themes of fame and choices regarding love and infatuation, reminding the audience that everyone has a story.

In an interview, Proehl noted the stylistic change in production … the actual scene design is meant to suggest the lake that is so central to the world of the play. What we wanted to do was almost make it feel like the audience and the actors were never far from the lake and its environment. So it’s more abstract, or more metaphorical, than realistic,” Proehl said.

The next performances will be on Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4. All are at 7:30 p.m. in Norton Clapp Theatre, with the exception of a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday. Tickets are available for purchase online and at the information desk.

“Treally enjoyed the play. I think it really influenced my emotional state and I think that’s what theater is meant to do. And right now I feel more vulnerable than when I walked into the theater and I think that’s a good thing,” Moore remarked shortly after the play ended.

Unleashed makes space for writers of color in Seattle
By Evan Welsh

Writers of color often find themselves placed in corners, expected to tell stories covering certain topics and themes. In “Unleashed,” a staged reading festival featuring seven new plays written by playwrights of color, Fork Pilled Productions (PPF) is looking to diversify the stage and the narratives by people of color (POC) told in the theater community.

Theater companies often look for very specific types of scripts from playwrights of color. “They’re usually scripts that focus on identity and oppression,” PFP founder Roger Tang said. While the PFP festival doesn’t completely shy away from the topics of oppression in communities of color, the majority of the plays in “Unleashed” are focused on telling a wider range of stories.

Tang said that many production companies have singular slots in their season for scripts by people of color. “If that slot falls in February [Black History Month], you do an August Wilson play,” Tang said, referring to a joke that he has heard from around in the theater community. PPF has always been looking to tell stories beyond that standard. PPF was founded in 1998 as an Asian-American sketch comedy troupe. The group eventually grew from that into putting on full-production shows.

Some of the plays featured in “Unleashed” included “My Summoning” by Celeste Mari Williams, the story of a couple being penned by their ghost-samurai ancestors, “Devil of the China Sea” by Roger Tang, a retelling of the true origin story of China’s first pirate queen, and “Repossessed” by Greg Lam, a tale about a marriage being recalled by the company that manufactures such unions.

“Unleashed” features voices from Chinese Americans, Chinese Canadians, Korean Americans and African Americans. These diverse stories also come from a wide range of places, from Seattle to Boston to Vancouver. Tang said some, despite their distance, seemingly all-too-common occurrence of whitewashing in narratives about Asian Americans. “It’s giving the opportunity to Asian-Americans in roles they don’t usually get to see – and not often that Asian-American actors are the heroes,” Tang said.

“Unleashed” begins Oct. 30 and runs until Nov. 4. All of the performances will be available at the Theatre Off Jackson in Seattle. You can visit thetheatreoffjackson.org for more information regarding the specific schedule for “Unleashed.”