HOW A CLUB PROPOSAL TURNED INTO AN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

By Marcelle Rutherfurd

Rumors circled around campus in the weeks leading up to Spring Break about a European Cultures Club that had submitted an application to the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound (ASUPS) asking for money to become a recognized club on campus. The Trail did consult with the students who submitted the application, but they chose not to comment.

The club application was submitted during ASUPS informal senate, but was not examined closely until formal senate.

“We were looking over the application at formal senate and it was pretty ambiguous. It was slightly concerning because the name of the club was the European Cultures Club and there was no representative there to speak to what the club actually was and what it intended,” Kelly Johnson ’19, ASUPS senator at large, said.

“The intention of the club was very unclear,” Johnson continued.

Students were concerned that this club had malicious intentions due to the fact that alt-right or white supremacist groups have started clubs on other college campuses under similar names. There were also alleged concerns about the language that the club used in their application, but The Trail was unable to receive a copy of the application.

At informal ASUPS senate on Tuesday, March 6, the student clarified that they wished to connect with their European heritage, and wanted the money to go to film festivals and other events. Despite having good intentions, the application raised concerns for many about how to educate students so that a scare like this doesn’t happen in the future.

“ASUPS is very intentional with the things that we do and ultimately if we were to vote it down without any representatives there, there’s nothing stopping them from filling out the application again and there’s no education there about why a European Cultures Club has implications and why it’s wrong and shouldn’t be on our campus. So, we decided to table it so that a representative could come in the following week and we could use that as a platform for education,” Johnson said.

On January 12, the Washington Post published an article discussing the fact that hate groups have been making targeted attempts to recruit members on college campuses. Many of these groups have names like Identity Europa and attempt to unite students of European descent on campus. Considering this trend, the European Cultures Club at Puget Sound raised widespread concern among students. Kat Queirolo ’18, executive editor of Wetlands magazine and president of Politeia, heard the rumors about this club and decided to attend ASUPS senate in order to find out what was going on.

“Initially there was not a ton of transparency surrounding this. So the way it started was that I literally heard a rumor that someone heard a rumor that the club had been talked about at informal and I decided that I was going to go to formal senate last week (on February 28) to see if it was going to be on the agenda. It was on the agenda but no one from the club was there to represent the club so I proceeded to talk to senate about why I thought this club was obviously problematic,” Queirolo said.

“I’m currently writing my thesis on contemporary fascism, so I have really become knowledgeable as to the ways in which the alt-right tries to create these kinds of organizations specifically in liberal arts colleges throughout the nation. They try to call them European Culture Clubs and the language that this club was using was a lot of red flags for me,” Queirolo noted. “I now understand that this was a result of ignorance and not actual malice, but I still think that this was an important conversation for campus to engage in and I think it’s important that we continue having these conversations because it’s really troublesome to me that students could get this far in a topic like this without realizing how problematic it is,” Queirolo continued.

The issue of a lack of cultural consciousness was the main takeaway from this whole incident. In the informal senate meeting the ASUPS senators and officers discussed how this could be addressed with the campus community to prevent future ignorance.

“The person, as far as I know, did not have any malicious intentions. But ultimately, I think that intention is less what matters in this case because students of color already don’t feel comfortable on campus, already feel like they don’t have a place on this campus, and that’s something that needs to be acknowledged. And with the possible implementation or the attempt to implement a club called European Cultures Club, I think the harm from that is really palpable regardless of the intention that was there,” Johnson said.

In terms of a solution, ASUPS discussed attempting to add a talk on cultural consciousness into the orientation for first year students. ASUPS mentioned bringing in Dr. Robin DiAngelo, an academic who led a talk on whiteness in the fall, to do the talk.

“I think it’s important that we engage in critical dialogues as students, colleagues and peers around what it means to attend a university that is on stolen land and what it means for us to position ourselves as academics in the context of colonial white-supremacist societies. I don’t think that just institutional interventions are enough to deal with this, but I think one thing that would be important would be … engaging in some kind of whiteness talk at orientation so that students can come to the University with a critical vocabulary already in place to discuss these issues,” Queirolo said.

There was also discussion of making cultural consciousness training mandatory for faculty and staff, who currently attend this training on a voluntary basis.

“My long-term senate project is going to be working with faculty and staff to get staff training in regard to discussing identity, race and sexuality generally because as of right now that doesn’t exist for the staff. I think that our staff is representative of our institution; it’s who we choose to have at this school and who we choose to teach us and set us up for our careers,” Johnson said.

Faculty training came up in the senate meeting because part of the application process for clubs is getting a faculty sponsor. Students were concerned that a faculty member signed off on this application without understanding that the language of the club statement and the name of the club could raise concerns on campus.

Now, as the rumors around this situation are dying down, the campus community will need to address how to prevent simple ignorance from escalating into something worse.

“Part of it is that students, especially students with the institutional ability to intervene against white-supremacist actions, engage in small or large acts of institutional sabotage in order to make sure that we can stop these things before they reach a point where there are actual fascists walking around on campus. It’s important to remember that there was an actual swastika spray-painted on campus in August,” Queirolo said.

“One thing that I’ve heard lately is that there are a lot of students who think that the reaction against the European Cultures Club was over dramatic, to which I would say that I think it was actually an underdosed response. Not many students knew what was happening and there was almost no discussion coming out of the actual members of the club which meant that there was no one clearing up what was really going on. So, I think that to try to flip the narrative and say that it was the students who were actually concerned about this club that were the problem, like, ‘social justice warriors run amok’ type stuff, is actually just whiteness gaslighting the entire campus,” Queirolo concluded.
Topics on Tap calls attention to possible Gender and Queer Studies major

By Isaac Sims-Foster

Topics On Tap, the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound’s (ASUPS) monthly town-hall-style meeting, made its 2018 debut on March 7 outside of Diversions Cafe. The main topic of the hour was the struggle for a Gender/Queer Studies (GQS) major to be added to the University’s curriculum.

The program already exists as a rigorous minor, composed of five courses, and is one of the only minor programs on campus that requires a senior thesis. But many students are asking why it’s yet to become available as a major.

Katie Queirolo ’18 passionately argued her case both on and off the mic before the event officially began. “The incorporation of GQS into a full major program would really contribute to recognition of the status of gender minorities, women and queer students on campus and allow for us to have more critical academic conversations. Also, the respect that that would give to students and faculty on campus is really important — it recognizes this field as a full field of study, as opposed to just an accessory to whatever else you’re interested in.”

After a brief introduction from ASUPS President Amanda Diaz ’18, six formal speakers lined up to present to the audience, which consisted of both students and GQS faculty alike.

Starting things off was Greta Austin, director of GQS, speaking to provide context in relation to administrative and institutional barriers in formulating a major. “Students have been asking for a major for a long time in our surveys, and, anecdotally, we did one in 2015 with graduating seniors — 40 percent response rate — and 17 said they would have majored,” Austin said. “In response to that, the board met across campus, and we were inspired both by the student demand for a major, and from perpetual requests from students to realize this goal, the University has yet to institute a GQS major. Austin stated as much. “Here’s the bottom line. There are no tenure-line professor positions in GQS. The lack of institutional commitment is what is keeping us from being a major. You need people to teach the classes. … There’s absolutely no more institutional commitment to GQS. I know that sounds boring, like academic speak, but the bottom line is there are no professors, and without professors we can’t have a program,” Austin said.

Heather White, a professor in both Religious Studies and GQS, spoke about the history of the department, its future, and GQS, spoke about the history of the department, its future, and the University’s commitment to GQS. I know that sounds boring, like academic speak, but the bottom line is there are no professors, and without professors we can’t have a program,”

Amanda Johnson ’18, a graduate of GQS, spoke to the audience, which consisted of both students and faculty, about the 60 percent of the alumni she interviewed who majored in GQS. “Students have been asking for a major for a long time in our surveys, and, anecdotally, we did one in 2015 with graduating seniors — 40 percent response rate — and 17 said they would have majored,”

Amanda Bartholomay '18 echoed similar sentiments from a graduate’s point of view. 60 percent of the alumni she interviewed would have majored in GQS had it been available, she revealed.

At the forefront of the student-led fight for GQS to become a major, however, was the final speaker, Kelly Johnson ’19. “As well as a school may prepare us to go out into a larger world and for the lives we want to live and indulge in, it’s important that we leave here respectful and understanding of the people we meet, the cultures we’re introduced to, and the injustices that we may face. In my experience and opinion, that can only be done through a platform of education. … I believe in the critical thinking, the social and political application and the inclusion that the establishment of a Gender and Queer Studies major would provide,” Johnson said.

While the future of GQS on campus is ambiguous, one thing remains clear: the students who passionately defend the program will not be silent.

SECURITY UPDATES

The following is a summary of incidents reported to Security Services occurring on campus between March 6, 2018 and March 19, 2018:

· Security responded to a residence hall after receiving a complaint from resident about suspected marijuana and alcohol use.
· A contractor working on campus reported his company truck was broken into while parked in the Thompson Hall lot. A laptop and lunch bag were stolen.
· A vendor participating in the annual Flea Market at the Fieldhouse reported a shoplifting incident to Security Services. The shoplifter was apprehended and are available to assist you. Always report suspicious activity immediately to Security Services (253.879.3311).

Be mindful of your safety and security by using our 24-hour safety escort program and by keeping belongings secured. The use of a U-bolt style lock to secure bicycles is highly recommended. Contact a member of our team if you have questions or concerns about campus safety. We are here to serve you.

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Be mindful of your safety and security by using our 24-hour safety escort program and by keeping belongings secured. The use of a U-bolt style lock to secure bicycles is highly recommended. Contact a member of our team if you have questions or concerns about campus safety. We are here to serve you.

March 23, 2018 trailnewspugetsound.edu
A closer look: Syria and the Salaam Cultural Museum

By Lorraine Kelly

Bombs and gunfire have pummeled Syria for eight years. As of 2017, the death toll rose to over half a million. 11 million Syrian civilians have been displaced. A Seattle organization called the Salaam Cultural Museum (SCM), has been working to distribute humanitarian aid to the area, and focuses specifically on the refugee crisis.

The Syrian Civil War began in 2011 as a result of the Arab Spring when anti-government protests escalated into full-blown warfare. The Arab Spring, a revolutionary wave that encompassed many northern African and Middle Eastern countries, heavily relied on social media to document government brutality. Many protested for democracy and human rights, only to be presented with militarized resistance.

The protests were aimed towards Syrian President Bashar al-Assad following the arrest and overuse of force upon demonstrators; however, the protesters were met with further violence from the government. Opposition forces began to organize against the government shortly after.

But political tensions are just the tip of the iceberg. Alongside the desire for democracy lies ethnic tensions, religious tensions between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, global powers and the Islamic State. According to the United Nations (U.N.), every contributing party faces allegations of human rights violations. Both rebel groups and the government have been accused of blocking access to food, water and health services for civilians, as well as acts of violence.

The U.N. states that the refugee population of Syria has risen to 11 million since the beginning of the Syrian Civil War, with 6 million displaced internally in Syria and the remaining 5 million outside of the country. Nearly three quarters of the refugee population consists of women and children, and rarely do refugees arrive with more than the clothes on their backs.

On February 18, rebel forces moved into the area of Ghouta, outside the border of Damascus, which is the capital of Syria and the heart of much of the conflict. According to the BBC, more than 1,100 have been killed since the rebel forces entered Ghouta. The district of Hamouria in eastern Ghouta was attacked by 65 air strikes released by the Syrian government after rebel forces advanced and the conflict increased.

Despite the 6,623 miles separating Syria from Seattle, Rita Zawaideh, leader of the Salaam Cultural Museum, does vital humanitarian work in the Middle East and northern Africa, and has been doing so since 1996. Currently, the primary focus of the organization is providing aid to Syrian refugees and fostering an understanding of Arab culture. The SCM has a variety of offshoot missions, including the museum itself in Seattle, but also the Safer Program and the SCM Medical Mission.

According to the Safer Program website, the goal of the program is "to have local contacts for people around the nation to contact, ask questions, get involved, and for the Safer to be the voice of SCM in their community." This program has locations in Washington and California, and ambassadors include humanitarians, doctors and activists.

Based in refugee camps in Jordan and Greece, the goal of the SCM Medical Mission is to "work with local authorities and other NGOs to ensure that refugees are receiving the best possible care and assistance." An NGO is a non-governmental organization. The SCM Medical Mission focuses on providing resources, primarily water and medical supplies, to Syrian refugees in Jordan and Greece.

The organization accepts donations of personal items and clothing as well as monetary donations. To donate to the Salaam Cultural Center Medical Mission, visit http://www.scmmedicalmissions.org/donate.

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Syrian Refugee Crisis

13.5 Million Syrians Displaced

8.7 Million Displaced Internally

4.8 Million in Neighboring Countries

* These are estimated numbers from the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
National Eating Disorders Awareness Week reveals need for further conversation

By Jackie Sedley
CW: Discussion of eating disorders, dysphoria, mental illness

The last week of February marked National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, but conversations surrounding disordered eating and relationships with food should not be contained in one week out of the year. Organized by the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA), this year’s theme was “Let’s Get Real,” referring to the organization’s goal to extend conversations revolving around disordered eating, focusing on complicated relationships around food and body image.

Puget Sound’s Counseling, Health and Wellness Services (CHWS) felt as though this year’s National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, and organized an event to draw attention to the issue and educate the student body. The event included a screening of the film “Embrace,” directed by and starring Layne Hinton, a film that highlights the beauty of a pan-ethnic composed of students in recovery, on-campus counselors, nutritionists and specialists in the field of nutrition and eating disorders.

That said, there was extremely informative and the audience seemed engaged in the panel; unfortunately, the turnout was rather small. Because the event was publicized all over campus, I doubt that the size of the audience had to do with a lack of publicity, but rather an unwillingness from students to attend an event focused on something they believe does not affect them directly.

The importance of conversation and education regarding eating disorders should not be determined solely on the basis of who wants to volunteer for an event. There are many other organizations that need to realize that these disorders are far more common than they wish to acknowledge.

Approximately 30 million Americans suffer from eating disorders, and these types of disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness. Despite these statistics, eating disorders are very commonly undiagnosed. Too many people are affected by undiagnosed eating disorders, and far too many lives are lost as a result.

The three most commonly-known eating disorders are anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and binge-eating disorder. However, there are many other diagnoses that receive even less attention: avoidant restrictive food intake disorder, rumination disorder and orthorexia, to name a few.

Disordered eating is everywhere and demands more attention in order to be prevented. These disorders can begin at any moment, from viewing advertisements idealizing an unrealistic body, to being a part of cultures revolving around clean eating and fad diets, or hearing judgmental comments from peers.

Though NEDA indicates a week to eating disorder awareness worldwide every February, many seem to forget about it shortly after the conclusion of these seven days. In order to allow the association to reach its full potential and provide the care and support to those affected by eating disorders, it is important that this topic stay relevant throughout the year.

Frequently, people experiencing body or eating dysphoria, a state of mind, are fixated on their physical appearance. Whether being thin or fat, are either too ashamed or afraid to admit that they have a legitimate problem and therefore refrain from seeking help or treatment. Similarly, due to the lack of awareness held by much of society, close family and friends are often too unfamiliar with the common signs to reach out to those that may be showing symptoms of an eating disorder.

Every eating disorder carries with it a different list of signs and symptoms. Generally speaking, someone with an eating disorder may be significantly preoccupied with weight, food, calories and dieting; restricting or avoiding certain foods; making excuses to avoid meals; withdrawing from friends and family; and potentially showing many other behavioral patterns influenced by their disorder.

NEDA provides a more cohesive list of signs and symptoms on their website.

The myths about eating disorders are extensive and must be disproven if people are to be made towards recovery for those affected. One, not to be affected by eating disorders? written by Kelsey Eating Disorders explains that bodily and hormonal changes as a result of puberty, as well as early exposure to social media, often lead youths to turn to disordered eating. Therefore, hosting workshops on high school and college campuses revolving around nutrition, healthy living and body positivity could be a successful preventative measure.

Awareness regarding these disorders is the only way to improve access to recovery for those suffering. There is an abundance of ways to continue educating society about disordered eating and body image. NEDA hosts events to spread awareness year-round that are simple to volunteer for through their website. CHWS also provides resources for those looking for assistance, including individualized counselling and support groups.

Women in history: Recognizing the role of women in revolutions

Why "women’s history" and not "women in history?" These phrases may seem identical, but I feel that Women’s History Month wrongly separates the contributions of women from the contributions of men. When women are written into the book of world history rather than relegated to one "Women’s History Month," not only do our stories receive the respect they deserve, but history is more accurately represented.

In celebrating Women’s History Month, we should acknowledge that women’s role in history certainly includes, but is not limited to the work done for the rights and issues that women’s issues. Challenging this month’s traditional celebration of a few women’s individual achievements by studying and celebrating all the collective force in history, especially in the archives of social revolutions.

One such revolution is the 1917 Russian Revolution, an event continuously tied to what we now know as International Women’s Day. Women’s Day began as a "women’s socialist movement" according to professor and author Temma Kaplan in her "Feminist Studies, Russia, and Women’s Rights." On the origins of International Women’s Day, Kaplan wrote, "The movement was concerned with women’s labor rights and suffrage, with issues of access to education, and to separate from the suffragettes, to whom International Women’s Day is often falsely attributed."

Celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8 became customary when, on that date in 1917, Alexandra Kollontai led Russian feminist socialists in a multi-day protest of the autocracy, winning them a temporary victory of autonomy and increased layoffs. Male workers even joined the women’s demonstrations on March 8, risking government retaliation to stand with their female counterparts.

Czar Nicholas II instructed his military to “shoot if necessary in order to crush the women’s revolution,” but was finally forced by demonstrators to abdicate on March 12, according to Kaplan.

Kaplan writes that after being prompted and guided by socialist and feminist Clara Zetkin, "Lenin established International Women’s Day as a Community Festival in 1918, and the holiday continued to be recognized as communist until 1967. This uprising, fought in the name of Women’s Proletarian Revolution, has no historical counterpart."

Despite this incredible story, we rarely tell the story of International Women’s Day, nor do we acknowledge the historical role of women in the Russian Revolution — again, women who “drove cars to protest the ban on women driving in St. Petersburg."

This uprising was but one example of a revolution that refused to grant women any recognition for their role in social revolutions. Still, women fought to make their nations more equitable for all people.

Although the Arab Spring turned catastrophic in places like Syria and oppression remains prominent in several Middle Eastern countries, nations like Egypt and Tunisia have seen the defeat of authoritarian rule and at least the promise of increased civil rights.

For many of us, these are new stories — we know the revolutions, but not that women contributed greatly to their causes. Our society reluctantly gives women credit for “women’s roles in revolutions,” but refuses to grant women any recognition for their role in social revolutions.

In celebrating Women’s History Month, we should not be editing for grammar, spelling, or content, except in the case of material that is considered to be offensive, as determined by the Trail style guide. All letters to the editor will not be edited for grammar, spelling, or content, except in the case of material that is considered to be offensive, as determined by the Trail style guide. All letters to the editor will be sent to: The Puget Sound Trail, 1095 Wheelock Student Center, Tacoma, WA 98416 or trail@pugetsound.edu.
Seven sensual days

By Emma Holmes

This week, the Happy Trail is offering up a week's worth of daily activities to boost your sexual confidence and sensuality. These suggestions are anecdotal — they’ve worked for me and others I’ve talked with about body positivity, mindfulness, and sexual exploration. These activities focus both on building and challenging your sense of sensuality. Everyone’s different, so use what speaks to you and ignore what doesn’t.

Sunday: Give yourself some laid-back time to create a playlist of your favorite sensual songs. Add music that makes you feel good — songs that give you goosebumps, curl your toes or raise your chin. Whether you like femme pop or hard rock, build a set of sounds that make you feel sensual and confident. Give it a listen while you make some mental notes for the week ahead. Why do you want to check in with your sensuality? What areas of your life could the practice improve? What do you want to remain aware of?

Monday: Do something for yourself that you wouldn’t normally do, or perceive as self-indulgent. It can be as small or big as you’d like. Whether you’re spending time on your body or your mind, it’s all about getting back to the basics. Focus on something else’s expectations. I usually prune at night before bed, so I’m more focused on the sensations of it than the appearance. Sometimes not performing something is a form of self-care as well. If you know that shaving your legs leaves them bumpy and itchy, then skip it. If you think you’d look hot with a little scruff but you’ve been too nervous to get past a 5 o’clock shadow, then let it go! Keep everything intentional — definitely do not let stress convince you to try and cut corners. You deserve to make the things that feel good to you, and to remain aware of?

Tuesday: Remember that playlist? Crank it up and live in your body as you move to the music. Start with simple, rhythmic movements. If the music gets you feeling sensual, explore which movements follow. Body roll, nod, bounce, or snap appreciatively; whatever brings you into the moment and into your body. Whether you’re alone in your room, vibing with some close friends or teasing a partner, make sure that the moves and the feelings are all about you. Go at your own pace; there is no right or wrong way to feel sensual!

Wednesday: We all get a little grumpy mid-week. Combat the slump by setting aside time to focus on grooming. Shower, shave, comb, or trim. Exfoliate, cleanse, and moisturize. Try to go through these routines for yourself, rather than someone else’s expectations. I usually prune at night before bed, so I’m more focused on the sensations of it than the appearance. Sometimes not performing something is a form of self-care as well. If you know that shaving your legs leaves them bumpy and itchy, then skip it. If you think you’d look hot with a little scruff but you’ve been too nervous to get past a 5 o’clock shadow, then let it go! Keep everything intentional — definitely do not let stress convince you to try and cut corners. You deserve to make the things that feel good to you, and to remain aware of?

Thursday: Do something bold. Sensuality dares you to claim your space, shed inhibitions, and exist unapologetically. Whatever an audacious move looks like for you, do it. Rock a pair of heels to class because you like them, ask a question that you’ve been too afraid to bring up, or go for a personal record in the gym. If you can, accept that others may have judgments about your choice … and do it anyway. Your body is your own, and so is your sensuality. Today is all about honoring your intuitive desires, whatever they may be.

Friday: Get out and about. Take your sexy self for a stroll, bring your work to a coffee shop, or go out for a drink with friends. Hold the last few days’ worth of self-care against any perceived shame or judgement. Practice allowing yourself to feel your sensuality and self-worth visibly, if you can. Ideas include wearing something you feel confident in, standing a little straighter, or smiling at strangers. If public confidence is a daunting prospect, try moving from a comfortable place (your room, house, campus) into a new one (a store, a park). And remember that noticing something about your own self-worth has changed because of the context. All that self-love you cultivate in private is just as valid around others.

Saturday: Check in. Look at the intentions you set on Sunday. What did you learn about your sensuality? What would you like to explore further? Use the tools you’ve picked up to create the ultimate sensual Saturday — prune, indulge, jam out, jerk off. Give yourself space to be sensual, whether it’s by yourself or with a partner. You could use this as an opportunity to try something new, or bring your sex life back to the basics, with refreshed intention. Keep this sweet, sensual train rolling down the tracks in the weeks to come. Your sensuality is a natural part of who you are. Give it room to breathe, and see what happens.

Getting it (strap) on: Demystifying the strap-on dildo

By Nayla Lee and Ellen Finn

The great thing about strap-oning on is that it is literally for anyone: people with any genitalia, any gender and any sexual orientation can strap it on during vaginal or anal penetration, oral or manual sex, or masturbation and have a great time.

There are two steps to start strap-onning on: getting hold of a dildo and harness, and learning how to wield those two things.

The first step is to find the dildo that speaks to you only by their initial, is a student who has personal experience with strap-ons. They said that although it did feel intimidating, they found that it was more enjoyable and comfortable for you.

The second step is to learn how to wield that harness, or harnessing harness by the harness they had, plus the prices, B. said.

Of course, you can also do your own research online and buy a dildo or harness from any legitimate website. Simply remember that if you buy a dildo that isn’t made completely of silicone, as it may be porous and much harder to properly clean. If you are using a dildo and are unsure of its material, it is safest to use condoms with it.

If you already have a harness and are unsure if strap-on is right for you, feel free to get crafty and build your own harness by getting a cock-ring and sewing it into the front of a pair of tight underwear made of thick material. Simply cut a hole into the underwear where the cock ring attaches, and slip a flared-base dildo through it.

This way, you can figure out whether shearing off for a standard-issue one will get you enough bang for your buck.

In terms of wielding your dildo, it’s important to get accustomed to wearing it by yourself before trying it with a partner. That’s right; wear it while you’re vacuuming your room, take a shower in it, and most importantly, masturbate with it. This will help form a mental connection to your strap-on that will make using it more enjoyable and comfortable for you.

Or you can go with more confidence and try it with your partner. For more confidence and comfort during your first few times because you’ll likely use muscles you didn’t even know you had.

In my experience, like any sexual act really, it takes a lot of trust and communication to [strap on],” B. said. “As long as you’re talking it out and having fun, you’re doing it right.

Make sure to start slow and use even more lube than you think you need. You can expect to be a little sore after your first few times because you’ll likely use muscles you didn’t even know you had.

It’s important to note that strap-ons aren’t only great for penetration. Strap-on blowjobs are fun, hot, and super queer! Also, as with any strap-on play they can be as much about gender or power play as you’d like. While obviously it centers on a part that doesn’t have physical receptors, strap-on blowjobs can include visual and auditory elements that can be really arousing.
#sexuntold exhibit explores toxic masculinity and the male side of sexual violence

By Ally Hembree

At artist Katlyn Hubner’s #sexuntold opening ceremony on March 15, visitors entered the gallery walking on hair, were greeted by drag queens on pedestals wearing strap-ons, and were invited to participate in a selfie station outfitted with fruits and vegetables. Alongside condoms, bananas and Dave Fougner’s “The Manly Art of Knitting,” Hubner’s dynamically-rendered paintings of intimately-intertwined bodies, interviews with men describing how they came to understand sexism, and Hubner’s own diary entries detailing her stay at a psychiatric hospital as well as her relationship with her father, all bring forth the message of her show.

Hubner, a mostly self-taught painter and former nude model, has been in the Seattle/Tacoma area for a number of years, also exhibiting at local gallery Feast last November. Finding a space for Hubner to have her show has been a process even before Spaceworks Tacoma acquired the 950 Gallery. “This actually developed took three years because I made a proposal to make a giant 6-foot? Barbie for one of the Woolworth windows and y’alls [Spaceworks] were concerned about pubes and nipples,” Hubner said.

Huber’s exhibit #sexuntold consists of her own paintings, photographs, diary entries, and interviews centered upon the untold stories of male-identified persons who have experienced the negative effects of toxic masculinity as well as sexual assault and intimate partner violence. #sexuntold has been a show Hubner has had in mind for a couple of years now, and when you enter the gallery space, Hubner has set it up to outline the process of her work. I started thinking about this actual show, #sexuntold, last January and then it just got really intense,” Hubner said. “I started the process and doing research, it was really multifaceted the responses I was getting from people, mostly men that were just never had a chance to talk about being sexually assaulted because nobody listens to them.”

Hubner strove to find a diversity of perspective for her interviews. “I used ... some photographers from a modeling job, some people I swiped on Tinder and I’d be like, ‘Hey, you want to do an interview?’” Hubner said. “Because I looked everywhere, people at bars, I want to get different demographics, different backgrounds, and multiple country origins ... so it’s all over. It make me feel like it’s more of a science project than an art project.”

The interviews spoke to how toxic masculinity has been detrimental to the development of these men in how they act toward each other and how they act towards women. Hubner described how the wounds of violence carry over into the models she photographs for her paintings. “It has been interesting working with men more than females,” Hubner said. “I think they’re more insecure than girls for posting.”

One of Spaceworks Tacoma’s main prerogatives is to display art, but if toxic masculinity is not always possible with some of their art, spaces like their street-side Woolworth Windows, open 24/7 to the public, are places to explore Hubner’s work. “I have more artistic freedom, the windows of the gallery have been blocked out because of the sexually suggestive content of her work. “There are limits to what we are able to present in the public realm especially in terms of getting funding from the city,” Heather Joy, Spaceworks-Tacoma coordinator, said. “And this gallery space that we have been provided very much acts like that kind of window. We were trying to apply discretion to the gallery space, but we still want to allow for Hubner to have the opportunity to exhibit her work and share the story that she is trying to share with the community.”

Leading up to the #sexuntold opening, Hubner spent a week live-painting some of her more abstracted intimate pieces. “Although the 950 Gallery space was chosen to give Hubner more artistic freedom, the windows of the gallery have been blocked out because of the sexually suggestive content of her work. “There are limits to what we are able to present in the public realm especially in terms of getting funding from the city,” Heather Joy, Spaceworks-Tacoma coordinator, said. “And this gallery space that we have been provided very much acts like that kind of window. We were trying to apply discretion to the gallery space, but we still want to allow for Hubner to have the opportunity to exhibit her work and share the story that she is trying to share with the community.”

Bioethics club hosts Professor Tubert for environmental racism talk

By Kylie Gurewitz

Environmental injustice might not be at the forefront of discussions around racism, but it has been gaining in place at the table. On March 7, the Puget Sound Bioethics club hosted a talk titled “Environmental Racism” by Professor Ariela Tubert of the philosophy department. Professor Tubert focused on environmental racism in the United States, defining the term as the “disproportionate exposure of people of color to environmental hazards and environmental burdens.”

Tubert emphasized that this term has been around longer than many people might assume; the civil rights movement, the Chicano Farm Workers’ movement, the Asian Pacific Islanders’ movement, as well as indigenous groups have all fought against components of environmental racism. As more studies such as “Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States,” the 1987 report by the United Church of Christ’s Commission for Racial Justice, began to arise, many of these movements began working together to fight against these injustices. The concept is even recognized by the current federal administration, according to a Feb. 28 article in The Atlantic, a February study by the Environmental Protection Agency stated, “results at national, state, and county scales all indicate that non-Whites tend to be burdened disproportionately to Whites.”

Professor Tubert then explained several of the ways environmental racism manifests in the United States. One of the main issues is that people of color are exposed to the highest rates of air pollution, which is linked to asthma and cardiovascular issues. According to the most recent data from the Center for Disease Control, black children are twice as likely to have asthma than white children, and 10 times more likely to die from complications relating to asthma. Tubert stated that landfills, toxic waste sites, and industrial facilities are most often located in communities of color. These communities are also less likely to see adequate relief efforts after natural disasters; Tubert pointed to examples such as New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and the current situation of Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Children of color are disproportionately affected by issues such as lead poisoning and water contamination. The Navajo people still have contaminated water from uranium mining in the 1950s.

The Navajo community exemplifies one of the main issues with environmental racism: even if environmental burdens were distributed evenly from here on out, communities of color would still be disproportionately affected by the long-lasting effects of past environmental injustices. “When I think of environmental racism, I think of the effects that continue on way past the initial time,” Professor Tubert said. “The mining in the 50s is still causing problems today. If you have a toxic waste site, even if it was put there 30 years ago, unless you have some way to clean it up — and that requires a lot more effort and money — then the effects are going to compound over time. So even if you change the social practices … that doesn’t solve the problem.”

Tubert also explained how the United States is lagging behind in addressing and fighting the claims of environmental racism. While the 14th amendment prohibits racial discrimination, courts have made “racing intent” a necessary qualification for discrimination. This qualification has “wowed many cases to slip by the courts. Even in cases where there is clear data proving that environmental harm disproportionately affects people of color, the need to prove racist intent prevents the case from being won. The difficulty here, according to Tubert, is that these single cases may not appear as correlated when they stand alone. “You have to look at the whole picture, otherwise you will miss this claim of environmental racism,” Professor Tubert stated. That is the question that Tubert left for the audience to ponder: how can environmental and anti-racist groups encourage courts to look at and understand this broader picture?”
‘But Some of Us Are Brave’: Angela LeBlanc-Ernest lectures on women and the Black Panther Party

By Julia Schiff

Many students went home for Spring Break. Others stuck around campus or traveled with friends. But this break, after months of planning, 11 students took on the 20-hour drive to Death Valley National Park for a five-day backpacking trip organized by Puget Sound Outdoors (PSO).

When trip registration opened for students last month it filled immediately with women, who left trip leaders Amy Colliver, a sophomore, and Lauren March, a junior, pleasantly surprised. “The outdoor industry is incredibly male-dominated,” Colliver explained. “There so infrequently is space for just women in conversation with one another, especially in the outdoors… Having a group of women was huge.”

Jackie Dierdorff, a junior and the official second Wilderness First Responder for the trip, agreed. “The best part was the group of ladies that all got to go together. It was fun to have an all-women trip; it was very empowering.”

The Death Valley Cottonwood-Marble Canyon Loop trail is a 35-mile trek across iconic desert landscapes, through deep marble canyons and alongside springs that have created small oases. The first day was short, but after six hours of driving that morning alone, the 90-pound individual backpacks full of water, food and gear made the mile to the first camp spot one of the most challenging days, Colliver said. The second day through Marble Canyon was also difficult, since the group had to cover eight miles with packs that weren’t much lighter, but the narrow canyon did keep them out of the sun. “The slot canyon is really incredible, really very empowering,” March said.

The following day began with a climb up and over a ridge, and a long gradual downhill to the next campsite. In the past, this annual spring break trip has included the unique opportunity for participants to spend a day and two nights alone in the desert, and Colliver and March were determined to include this challenge in this year’s trip. They planned to place each hiker at a different bend in a riverbed for around 40 hours, each far enough away from the others so everyone felt completely alone. This was time for reflection, journaling, reading or just enjoying the sunshine, completely alone.

But, as should almost be expected when Pacific Northwesterners visit the hottest, driest place on earth, a mid-trip rain and wind storm interrupted these plans. A mid-trip rain and wind storm interrupted these plans. Instead of spending that night alone, the group had the time to explore the oasis and surrounding hills after the rain together. “It is really crazy to see rain in the desert, and to see how much a little bit of rain, a little bit of water changes all of the plants,” Dierdorff said. “Even though we lost a solo night it definitely was a good bonding experience and fun to see the rainy desert.”

The next morning the group hiked to an area more sheltered from the intense winds that remained after the storm. Instead of the initially-planned 40 hours, everyone still got to spend an afternoon and night alone in the desert.

“While rain was no longer a concern, the high wind advisory for the desert meant the solo day had to be canceled for safety, but Colliver and March were able to figure out how to provide an abbreviated solo experience to the group,” said Lauren March, a junior.

Ultimately, the storm meant that the first solo night had to be canceled for safety, but Colliver and March were able to figure out how to provide an abbreviated solo experience to the group. Instead of spending that night alone, the group had the time to explore the oasis and surrounding hills after the rain together. “It is really crazy to see rain in the desert, and to see how much a little bit of rain, a little bit of water changes all of the plants,” Dierdorff said. “Even though we lost a solo night it definitely was a good bonding experience and fun to see the rainy desert.”

The IPHP is the product of four women. They combined their extensive knowledge and research to create a resource that would provide a new perspective to Black Panther learning. All of these women have separate lives, so they work together on conference calls and Google Drive documents to continue their project. As of now, Angela LeBlanc-Ernest works on the IPHP while putting together a documentary about the Oakland Community School. She is also homeschooling her three children. During the lecture, LeBlanc-Ernest focused on the conception of the IPHP, discussing her early research and how it contributed to the formation of IPHP. In her years of research she took oral accounts of women’s experiences in the Black Panther Party. “That was my passion, that was my love,” LeBlanc-Ernest said. “I have a special place in my heart for those women.” In her recollections of her relationships with Panther women, LeBlanc-Ernest held back tears. “Our focus is specifically on women in the Black Panther Party … and the reason why is because nobody ever talks about women in the Black Panther Party,” LeBlanc-Ernest said. Throughout her talk she conveyed a deep appreciation for these women and it was clear she wanted to give them a platform to be heard. “The four of us decided in 2016 during a conversation on the telephone that we should do what hadn’t been done,” LeBlanc-Ernest said. This conversation led to the IPHP, which is now in its second year.

The ‘But Some of Us Are Brave’ series continues on March 22 and 29, and April 5. The lectures begin at 5 p.m. in Smith Hall and hot chocolate is served to guests.
**The return of Tiger Woods revitalizes golf**

By Eli Thomas

Tiger Woods defined a generation of golfers and many would argue that he redefined the game of golf. He broke social barriers and captured millions of fans and future golfers. Over his career, Woods has won 14 majors, some in dramatic fashion and some (such as the 1997 masters which Woods won by 12 strokes) that left competitors wondering how they could ever compete. An often-cited statistic is that over a three-year period in Wood's career he won 37 percent of the tournaments he played in. His dominance was staggering; all other players in the field were no longer playing against each other but against Tiger. Ironically, the golf swing that sent Tiger's career into tumult was not his own but that of his wife Elin Nordegren, who sent a golf club through the back of Woods' Escalade following a heated argument [Woods returning to golf and lead the PGA tour money list in both 2011 and 2013 but has yet to win another major since defeating Rocco Mediate in the 2008 U.S. Open.]

From 2009 on Woods' career has been derailed by a myriad of injuries, most pertaining to his back. A 2008 Achilles tendon tear resurfaced, requiring care in 2009, 2011 and 2012. In 2014 Woods punched a nerv in his back, an injury that would sideline him for nearly a whole season. After 2014 and Woods' absence many assumed the storied career was over. Woods would grow to dominate tournaments full of players who would soon be playing against each other. His dominance became the barometer, and occasionally he would seem to near his podium. However, this would grow to dominate tournaments full of players who would soon be playing against each other. His dominance became the barometer, and occasionally he would seem to near his podium. However, this would grow to dominate tournaments full of players who would soon be playing against each other. His dominance became the barometer, and occasionally he would seem to near his podium. However, this would grow to dominate tournaments full of players who would soon be playing against each other. His dominance became the barometer, and occasionally he would seem to near his podium.

Woods' stunning performances still resonate and his presence on the course is felt even by his rivals. "His highlights on the course are just the beginning," Woods said. "He's dominating the game like never before."

This past week Woods entered the final two holes of the Valspar championship 2 strokes back on 17; from a seemingly impossible spot Woods pooped in a 44-foot putt to put him one back of the leader Paul Casey. Woods would par the last two holes and go on to win the championship. Woods' entrance to the sport had a profound effect on every player of the Puget Sound golf team. "I think he's a unique athlete; there's a lot of hall of famers but not many people change the sport and play golf who never had before," senior Casey Weston said. For many people like Weston and me, Woods is the reason we started playing golf. He made golf accessible in a way that it had never been. Woods moved golf past the rigidity of history; a middle-class player who played at a variety of public courses would grow to dominate tournaments full of players who spent their summers at the country club. Professional golf was no longer the insulated country club from which it was spawned.

Weston also cited the impact Woods' background had on the game. "Golf is a sport dominated by white males; it's huge to have someone with a different ethnic background be the face of the sport." This is not to say golf has never existed itself from racial barriers that have pushed minorities out of the sport for years, but Woods opened golf to the world, breaking norms that have existed throughout the entirety of golf's history. Woods' spanning performances still resonate with players like junior Hannah Hausmann (Bainbridge, Washington): "His highlights on the course are just the beginning," Woods said. "He's dominating the game like never before."

Photo courtesy of Puget Sound Athletics

Photo courtesy of Puget Sound Athletics

The men's basketball team surprised the whole Northwest Conference and the country by the progression made from last season. The squad has not lost in the top-three in the conference since the 2011-2012 season. Last season the team finished seventh in the Northwest Conference and the men's basketball coaches' poll predicted the team to finish sixth this year. The team proved the predictions wrong, finishing third under the first second-best teams in the country:Whitman and Whitworth.

The men's head coach, Justin Lunt, feels good about the season, but there wasn't enough to fulfill the expectations. "We went 9 and 2 at home. A lot of that goes to how fan support and school spirit elevated the energy on our team's record on their home court. Coach Lunt describes the success of this season. "No regrets at all; I think the job of putting us in positions to make everyone was so huge for us because not only did we clinch a playoff spot, but we also gave ourselves a great shot at getting the third seed in the conference tournament. We wanted to get revenge for our loss to them earlier in the season and it couldn't have happened without the great effort and teamwork we played with in that game," Lohrer said.

At the beginning of the season Coach Lunt introduced a new style of play to the squad which included a more fast-paced and energized style by constantly subbing players in and out all game. A team can only utilize such a method with a large group of players.

Lunt explains that such a system can only work with a team members who are willing to be completely bought in: "My one point during the season we were playing 15 guys per game, but I would like to be at 18. Next season we would like a lineup to consist of 22-23 and I wish we were deeper than we were this year," Lunt said.

Hobbs explained the details of the new fast-paced style. "Putting our new players and contending for a top spot in the conference," Lohrer said. Next season, Coach Lunt explained that the team will continue to use this new unconventional style of play. The team hopes to grow more into the new system than last season and grow in technique and skill. "Hobbs confirmed the team's excitement for improvement in the 2018-2019 season. "As a team, we are looking to bring a lot more experience going into the season. Now that so many of our guys got important playing time last year we should be able to focus on integrating our new players and contending for a top spot in the conference," Lohrer said.

The team will be returning 15 guys, giving the squad a remarkable base to start next season.
March Madness runs rampant this March

By Kevin White

March is actually mad. Let’s get all the brackets busted, buzzer beaters and baskets本书seated. Here are the biggest upsets heading into the first two rounds of NCAA March Madness.

DOWN GOES UCLA: Let’s just say it is a bummer. АННИИИИИИИИИН!!! The University of Virginia, the number one team in the country, lost to the University of Maryland, Baltimore College 74-54. This is the first time ever that a number one seed has lost in the first round. It was an absolute blowout. Also, the mascot is the retrievers. Not the golden eagles. This is one of the greatest upsets in the history of the tournament, made only better by the mascot in the second round (check out the UMBC Athletics account — they killed it).

NBA Prospects have Varied Results: According to SI.com’s newest Mock Draft, none of the 16 lottery picks have a projection of a top-ten pick from the 2019 NCAA tournament in the first couple of rounds. Of the remaining seven, one plays in Europe, one didn’t make the tournament at all and the remaining seven are split between Kentucky, Duke and Villanova (all typically high energy). The few remaining top prospects include DeAndre Ayton, Mo Bamba, Collin Sexton and Donte DiVincenzo. An Alabama state star guard, was named the most exciting up and comer to make it out of the first round.

Athletes from far away find home at Puget Sound

By Zachary Fletcher

The University of Puget Sound has students from 48 different states here on campus, and many more from countries worldwide. People come from as far as Maine and Hawaii to converge together in the beautiful nook of the Pacific Northwest.

People make their way to campus for all kinds of reasons, but a common one is to play a sport here at Puget Sound. Each of the teams here at school has a variety of local and out-of-state players that create an interesting mix of people all coming together for their love of sports.

The east coast, New England in particular, was an academically interesting area that brought people out to Tacoma.

“I was very interested in the Geology program here...and wanted to experience a different version of American life in the PNW,” senior Thomas Kimler (Natick, Massachusetts) says of his reasons for coming to Puget Sound.

“Both Kimler and Kraus, two athletes from the opposite side of the country shared a similar view of finding a home within Tacoma and specifically with their fellow student-athletes. The 2,000-plus mile journey they made to get out of nothing when it comes to bonds they experienced with their teammates. Kraus speaks highly of his soccer family. “First off soccer gave me a family, while my real family is thousands of miles away. I knew I could always turn to my brothers on the soccer team with any problem,” Kraus said. “They took me in as one of our own and this sense of community really made me feel safe and safe in my new location. It also occupied my time so much that I had no time to doubt myself. I either always focused on soccer or school, he added.”

Kimler and Kraus both cherish their teams more than anything else as they also share anything. “The coaches have been like mentors to me, helping me not just in how to become a better soccer player but how to become a better person and to live everyday as my best self, never taking anything for granted,” Kraus said. “Coach Saboshick of the women’s lacrosse team recognizes the importance of having students from all around come to play at Puget Sound.

Over the years we have had players from the east coast, midwest and even California and Oregon. And aside from skill and diversity I think that sometimes dynamic can benefit the team. If you don’t have family and friends close by your team becomes a surrogate family,” Coach Saboshick said.

Mike Orecia, director of cross country and track and field, also adds that when students come from is an important part of the vision he’s trying to create with the athletes on his team. “I am just looking for student-athletes who want to challenge themselves both academically and athletically. I am originally from [Massachusetts] and have coached in [California] and [Illinois] I have many contacts around the country. If you don’t have family and friends close by your team becomes a surrogate family,” Coach Saboshick said.

At the end of the day, Kimler and Kraus truly feel comfortable in their new home.

I also think that having a close relationship with my teammates and coaching staff keeps me motivated to keep working towards goals and bettering myself,” Kimler said.

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A recent study conducted by the American Sociology Association (ASA) on the University of Puget Sound campus has revealed that everyone is having a ton of great sex, except for you.

“It’s an interesting affirmation of previously unfounded suspicions and insecurities,” Martha Mattinabos, a head researcher on the project, said. “You may have sometimes had the seemingly irrational thought: ‘Oh, something is wrong with me or different than a spectrum of sexual styles and a wide range of personal experiences, we found that everyone but you has pretty much the same experience: spontaneous yet respectful courtship and foreplay, sexual intimacy that is nothing short of euphoric from start to finish, seamless transitions between many different athletic sex positions that all still look as graceful and graceful as a Renaissance painting, and finally both partners crescendoing into simultaneous orgasms so pleasurable they briefly pierce the veil of existence. That’s what’s happening to everyone. Everyone except for you.”

Lopps’ research assistant, Keribell Maritweets, pursued an independent line of research that, while not directly tied to the typical research methods and recordkeeping. The thorough and nuanced study indicate that very suspicion is exactly right. “We were surprised by the consistency of the data produced by our inquiry. Rather than a spectrum of sexual styles and a wide range of personal experiences, we found that everyone but you has pretty much the same experience: spontaneous yet respectful courtship and foreplay, sexual intimacy that is nothing short of euphoric from start to finish, seamless transitions between many different athletic sex positions that all still look as graceful and graceful as a Renaissance painting, and finally both partners crescendoing into simultaneous orgasms so pleasurable they briefly pierce the veil of existence. That’s what’s happening to everyone. Everyone except for you.”

ASA data analyst Jorphan Lopps shared his findings. “We were surprised by the consistency of the data produced by our inquiry. Rather than a spectrum of sexual styles and a wide range of personal experiences, we found that everyone but you has pretty much the same experience: spontaneous yet respectful courtship and foreplay, sexual intimacy that is nothing short of euphoric from start to finish, seamless transitions between many different athletic sex positions that all still look as graceful and graceful as a Renaissance painting, and finally both partners crescendoing into simultaneous orgasms so pleasurable they briefly pierce the veil of existence. That’s what’s happening to everyone. Everyone except for you.”

The study was published in the American Sociology Association’s official journal, *The American Sociologist.* The study’s findings have been met with mixed reactions from the public and the academic community. Some have praised the research for its comprehensive approach to the study of human sexuality, while others have expressed concern over the study’s methodology and the potential for harm to individuals who may feel ashamed or uncomfortable about their sexual experiences.

President Crawford was asked about the issue during a press conference last week. “I can’t comment on the specifics of the study, but it’s clear that we need to do more to address the needs of our students,” Crawford said. “I’m pleased to see this research being conducted, and I look forward to working with the ASA to ensure that our students have access to the resources they need to explore and navigate their own sexual identities.”

The study has also sparked a debate within the University community about the role of the administration in supporting student well-being. Some have called for increased resources for mental health and sexual health services, while others have argued that the University should focus on academic excellence and not get involved in the personal lives of its students.

But the tour itself is a small fraction of the work done to recruit students. The grounds crew spends hours manicuring the grass, coaches reach out to potential student-athletes, and President Issahab Crawford personally pays the sun to come out on busy tour days. Yes, you read that last sentence correctly. The Flail has spent an estimated $4.3 million in the past year paying off the sun in hopes of increasing the size of next year’s freshman class. The bribe payments began in the fall of 2017 when the first clouds appeared during a small tour with a family of four from Indiana. Crawford saw the incident and immediately knew he needed to act quickly. He scheduled dozens of Skype calls with the sun’s top associates and finally settled on a price per hour of sun. The Flail was unable to uncover the official number, but it is rumored to be well above Washington’s minimum wage. The payments are made with bitcoin, the online currency that few people actually understand, and are sent on the dark web as to not attract major attention from the media.

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However, the University has not come to a consensus if this program can continue next year with plans for construction of a welcome center for the prospective students, but only time will tell.
Adelphian Concert Choir performs complex masterpiece on tour

By Matthew Gulick

“In my favorite part about preparing this piece was when we rehearsed with the Portland Symphonic Choir for the first time,” Owen Sokoloff ’18 said. “It was really cool to hear 160 voices singing a piece like this. I was blown away with how much sound we all made.”

“In my four years in the group we’ve never done anything like this on tour before. It’s a very different, but really cool experience. Generally tour is about recruiting; however, this year it’s mostly about us being able to have an experience we may not be able to have ever again, that is being one of the most famous classical pieces of all time with a professional symphony,” Sokoloff added, echoing Zophi’s characterization of the performances as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

For anyone who missed this $1 million wall of sound, Adelphian’s next performance will be this Sunday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. with Stanford Chamber Chorale in Kilworth Memorial Chapel.

English department presents Aladdin board game night

By Parker Barry

English majors are known to feed off of critical discussion; that is why at the University of Puget Sound we often have small, critical sociocritical seminars in our humanities departments. On Thursday, March 29, at 5 p.m. in the Trimble Forum the English department is going to heighten the critical thinking and throw in some well-deserved socializing in the form of a game night.

The game night will be a social gathering where students and professors can create a deeper sense of community within the department and highlight the importance of casual discussion in the study of English. English professor Mike Benveniste and students Matt Gulick, Rachel Bakke and Daniel Lloyd have made a big effort to create events and gatherings outside the classroom in the English department. So far, the department has put on a spring film series where they have shown movies such as “Blade Runner” and “Dr. Strangelove” in Rausch auditorium.

“As a member of book club the group meetings are a constant rush of excitement (as well as a lovely break from classroom discussion) where I cannot stop screaming about basically weeps over the frustrating yet beautiful complexity of the novel for an hour (I highly recommend stopping by on Mondays 7-8 p.m. in the McCormick room in the library).”

The game night will be providing Greek food and drinks as well as a host of board games that would make any nerd foam at the mouth. The games include Scrabble, Twister, Risk, Poker, Operation, Tiddly Winks and the aggressive and creative Superfight (and maybe some Italian card games).

The goal of the event is to allow students to engage with one another and, if they would like, to engage with the faculty in an environment that doesn’t require rigorous academia. This idea is based around the department’s belief that the study of English — especially at a liberal arts college — should not be confined to the classroom.

“This event is meant to present a nexus for students and faculty to connect outside of the classroom, to continue those conversations or start new ones, and to, well, have fun — and hopefully affirm that having ideas, sharing ideas, engaging in conversation and intellectual play are themselves fun,” Benveniste said.
Kittredge Gallery becomes an alien world with professor Michael Johnson's sculptures

By Brynn Svenningen

When walking into the newest exhibition at the Kittredge Gallery visitors seem to be transported to a different place by the art. I imagined first that I had possibly made a dimensional journey and that the large sculptural pieces in front of me were actually parts of another planet. The exhibit features the work of distinguished sculptor and University of Puget Sound Michael Johnson.

At moments I have forgotten how common sculptural art really is, and the huge variety of works we can associate with the medium since it appears so causally around us in the form of portrait sculptures, abstract ones, or anything in between. If you’ve ever walked down the large hill on 30th then you could have seen the small figure statues places near Anthem Coffee. Contrastly, when you think sculpture, conjure up Michelangelo’s grand “David” or Degas’s “Dancer.”

If you had asked me what I thought when someone said “sculpture” I would have told you the Denver International Airport’s beloved (and feared) “Bluicifer,” a 32-foot-tall blue horse known for its illuminated red eyes and for the unfortunate event in which the statue crushed its sculptor. When I think of sculpture it’s hard to get the red glowing eyes of Bluicifer out of my head and I much enjoyed the escapist change that has occurred since viewing Johnson’s works.

As I walked through the door of the gallery the piece “Untitled (Yellow)” greeted me. The name reflects the same ambiguity that exists within the piece. It is created out of plywood and urethane paint and is split as a half bright yellow and half vibrant black sculpture. The piece looks as if a goode was cut in half with a hollow center. Under the yellow rim geometric black angles create open spaces through which the rest of the gallery could be looked at. The piece was large and overwhelming, which was a constant in many of Johnson’s sculptural pieces in the gallery.

In another piece of Johnson’s work which was titled similarly as “Untitled (Orange)” circular forms were created. It is beautiful and thought provoking, but I truly can’t find the perfect words to describe what it is.

Imagine a small thin white circle that supports a large bent red circle. The two multicolored shapes work as one intrinsic form and have a huge presence in the gallery space. The contrast of the bright white to the bright red paint creates a shocking combination. The combination of circular shapes reinforces this same stark contrast that makes the piece so intriguing. I looked at it from many angles, only to find that my perplexity with the piece was still the same. The piece “Confluence 7” is a sculptural piece that uses many hard right angles in a somewhat square rectangular shape. The circular edges are attached to a strong square form that has hollow portions so it could be looked through. The piece when viewed at some angles looks like solid walls in a shape but at others was detailed more delicate. The piece of Johnson’s work that I spent the most time looking at was another from his “Untitled” series, this time with the title of “Untitled (Blue).” The shape of this one is so abstract that it has to be seen to even be somewhat understood. In addition to its unique shape, it is large on all fronts. The sculpture consists of a tall half-circle that reaches close to the gallery ceiling while extending at an upward angle in a loop only to connect itself to its other half circle parallel to the other on the gallery floor. The abstract art of Johnson shows the skill of the professor and gives an extremely interesting shift to the recent exhibitions at the on-campus gallery.

While in the gallery I found a local Tacoma resident viewing the art. We talked mostly about “Untitled (Blue)” and we both found the piece to be engrossing.

“I had visited the gallery once before and I loved the past exhibit. The real difference is in that exhibit I felt like a presence but in this exhibit the sculptures were the presence of the room. I felt small in comparison to them and had to take a large amount of thought in order to understand each piece,” the local patron of the exhibit said.

Johnson’s work is mind-boggling in the best way and would be a great experience to have if ever close to the Kittredge building. The exhibit runs until April 14 and there will be an exciting closing reception with visiting Randy Mundell on April 13 at 5 p.m.

Lively soul-punk band Down North to come to campus

By Evan Welsh

Sometimes confusing directions can lead travellers to even better destinations than they had planned. In the case of Down North, a combination of funk, soul and punk rock can take audiences to places they never realized they wanted to be until they arrive. The Seattle soul-punk rockers will be bringing their energetic live show to the Rotunda on March 29.

The group is fronted by Anthony “RenaGade” Briscoe, who brightens the stage and captures the audience in every performance with his neo-punk trousers and captivating dance moves reminiscent of Richard Jackson and James Brown. In addition to the group’s leading man, a certain confidence and charisma is present throughout the entire band.

Down North’s drummer Conrad Real drives the band’s instrumentation from song to song while bassist Brandon Storms and guitarist Nick Quiller play off of each other and create further grooves. All of that reaches culmination with the emotional vocals from Briscoe, making for swirling and danceable soul tracks.

The band has taken to describing their sound as “soul-punk,” a term taken from an article written about the group that they felt decently encapsulated the group’s sound. “Yeah — that’s been the post for a guitarist for this band,” Quiller said. Briscoe jumped the group after moving to Seattle from North Carolina. Conrad Real, Down North’s drummer and original Seattlesite, joined after the group’s popularity had started to gain some traction, hearing about Down North by word of mouth.

The band’s energy and cohesion came rather naturally. Their stage presence is derived from their passion for performance and constructed by the difficult nature of their pieces. “Musicianship at the caliber we’re at is kinda demanding — and, I mean, it’s a performance,” Quiller said.

Down North’s appearance on campus will actually be a return as they brought their exciting live experience to Ophoppenheimer last year and greatly enjoyed the experience.

“Hooray! Let’s come back,” Quiller said.

They also currently have University of Puget Sound student Sarah Rogowsky as their assistant manager. The Rodrigue, the coffee, their University ties and a desire for more local live appearances has the group very excited to be back on campus.

It’s difficult not to have fun while watching Down North perform. Their blend of lively and fast-paced soul-punk is sure to win over any crowd and get the room dancing. I suggest everyone follow Down North’s direction and see them live in the Rotunda in Wheelock Student Center on March 29 at 8 p.m.