1. A student reported that a senior male student utilized social media to target first-year female students by inviting them to a party with the intent to engage in improper behaviors after attending bystander training.

2. A student reported being sexually assaulted during the fall 2015 semester.

3. A student reported being stalked online by a fellow student and that they were receiving unwanted sexual harassment-type behaviors. A staff member worked with the student to provide resources and options, with the student planned to pursue if the behavior continued.

4. A student reported that she was sexually assaulted by a non-student in the 2013-14 school year. The student expressed that she wanted to report for campus data, but did not want to discuss other options or resources.

5. A student reported that she was sexually assaulted by a member of the campus community in 2015. She did not wish to share more information and did not want follow-up from staff.

6. A student reported that another student locked her in his room and pressured her to have sex with him. Staff supplied support and options for follow-up.

7. Two students reported that a male pulling out of a residence hall on campus yelled derogatory slights targeting sexual orientation as he drove away from campus.

8. A student reported that she was sexually assaulted by a fellow student. After conversations about reporting, the student decided to participate in an investigation and hearing. The respondent student was found responsible for sexual misconduct. Sanctions were imposed.

9. A student reported that her roommate was sexually assaulted by an unidentified male student. The roommate agreed to be connected with resources but did not want to offer further reporting details.

10. A student reported that while in the shower, a group of students came into the shower and used racial slurs in their conversation, making the student afraid to leave the shower.

11. A student reported that she was sexually assaulted by a male student, who used alcohol to facilitate the assault. The student locked her in his room and implied to her that she sexually assaulted him.

12. A student shared that a male student told her he couldn’t remember their sexual encounter — the cause of equity and justice.

(Continued on page 2...)

By Isaac Sims-Foster

On Monday, Jan. 15, the city of Tacoma celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by awarding the University’s own Professor Dexter Gordon with the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service award.

The award is given annually to an individual, group or organization that Tacoma recognizes as embodying the essence of Dr. King’s teachings serving and impacting the community. The announcement that Gordon would be this year’s recipient was made on Dec. 13 of last year.

“I was taken completely by surprise, almost to the point of being shocked. I had no idea anything like this was underway,” Gordon said. “I felt, and still feel, honored and humbled to be selected for this award. An honor such as this feel, honored and humbled to be selected for this award. An honor such as this feel, honored and humbled to be selected for this award. An honor such as this feel, honored and humbled to be selected for this award. An honor such as this feel, honored and humbled to be selected for this award. An honor such as this feel, honored and humbled to be selected for this award. An honor such as this feel, honored and humbled to be selected for this award.

“My hope is that both the campus and the broader Tacoma community will acknowledge the significant contribution made to our prospects of a truly inclusive community,” Gordon said in the wake of his award. “The kind of work in which RPI is engaged is critical to the creation of inclusive excellence at Puget Sound and in the wider society.”

Along with the waves Gordon has made in Tacoma, he and his recognition also affect the lives of hundreds on campus. Professor Renee Simms of the African American Studies program had this to say: “I think it’s an important award because the University says that it’s interested in engaging the city of Tacoma, in being a community partner with local institutions and community members. I think this award recognizes all the things Professor Gordon has done in Tacoma, so it can only strengthen the way that the University is perceived.”

Nia Henderson, president of the University’s Black Student Union (BSU), commented, “All my life I saw white women in positions of authority. It’s nice to be able to see black people doing the same thing, especially getting recognition for the work that they’re doing. Dexter has been an advocate for black students since the moment he got here, and truly cares that their experience here improves each year.”

Henderson continued. “It’s hard work to do on your own, or with a small group behind you, but he continues to do it and make strides. Because of him, BSU is still functioning and African American Studies is a major.”

In conjunction with his duties on campus, Gordon is also the founder of The Conversation, an activist group in Tacoma dedicated to social change, and a participant in The Black Collective, an alliance of black communities in Tacoma and Pierce County that engages in politics, education, economics and social justice. “There’s no question that he’s deeply committed to the work that he does and that he’s found a way to bridge the scholarship of African American studies and activism in the local community in singular ways,” Professor Simms said.

But of course, there’s still work to be done. “If nothing else, awards like this draw attention to the ongoing work of equality and justice and to the people engaged in various ways in it,” Gordon said. “To show their commitment to the ongoing necessity of work to promote change and progress, some awards add material resources, to the moral and promotional value that accompany their awards. Such enhancements could help to enable more work, like the work of RPI on the campus of Puget Sound and in the broader community of Tacoma,” he concluded.
14. A student reported that she was sexually assaulted by another student. The student participated in an investigation and hearing. The respondent was found responsible for sexual misconduct and sanctions were imposed.

15. A student reported that a male athletic team was keeping a tally/ranking of women on their locker room whiteboard. While no evidence was provided, a staff director implemented an educational follow-up for athletic teams.

16. A student reported that she was sexually assaulted while abroad by a student from another university. Staff assisted the student in making a report to the respondent student’s university.

17. A student reported that another student tried to coerce her to go to a remote place and made sexually suggestive comments toward her. After reviewing her options, the student elected to have staff approach the respondent to place boundaries and to change his behavior.

18. A student reported that a classmate was making her uncomfortable with sexist comments and unwelcome physical advances. The reporting student was satisfied with a faculty member’s additional support options.

19. A student reported that, following the Presidential election, a group of students in a residence hall incessantly knocked on her door while she had friends over and screamed racial slurs. The student did not want to proceed further.

20. A student reported that, during an Admission tour, a male screamed racial slurs to prospective students as he pulled away from the Library parking lot.

21. A student reported that a couple of males driving by in a truck screamed unwelcome sexist and racist slurs at her and her friend as they walked onto campus. Following, a faculty member panel program on the November elections.

22. A student reported that a fellow student pressured her to kiss someone else, recorded the kiss without her consent, and then sexually assaulted her. The student met with staff several times for support and to review options, and expressed that she may want to participate in an investigation in the future.

23. A student reported that a faculty member stared at her chest and made her uncomfortable. Staff followed up to offer support and resources.

24. A student reported that she was in an emotionally, physically and sexually abusive relationship with a non-student from her home. Staff reached out to the student to share resources and options.

25. A student reported that a non-student sexually assaulted her off-campus. Staff provided the student with resources and options.

26. Students reported that a student shouted discriminatory slurs at them, and they wanted to participate in a student conduct process. The respondent was found responsible for discriminatory harassment, harassment and being under the influence of alcohol. Sanctions were imposed.

27. A student reported being sexually assaulted. A staff member followed up on multiple occasions to offer support, resources, and options.

28. A student reported being sexually assaulted while studying abroad. Staff communicated with her to make her feel uncomfortable. The student was satisfied with a faculty member’s additional support options.

29. Students reported sexually harassing behavior from a fellow student. Following, faculty members forwarded a complaint about a pattern of sexist and racist comments and behaviors by the same student. The respondent was suspended by emergency action and a no trespass order and formal conduct process were initiated. Support was provided for the complainant, classmates and faculty members.

30. A student reported that she was assaulted while on a run. Staff worked with the student on support, resources and reporting options.

31. A student reported experiencing sexual assault. Staff offered support, resources and reporting options.

32. A student reported that a faculty member put his life in danger by an assignment requiring attendance at an off-campus location where participants were engaged in religiously biased and hateful rhetoric. The case was addressed through a formal resolution process.

33. A student reported that she was sexually assaulted by a former student at an off-campus location. Staff met with the student multiple times to provide support and to discuss reporting options. A student reported that she was repeatedly coerced into sexual encounters by another student, and was being emotionally manipulated by the offender. Staff met with the student multiple times to provide support and to review reporting options. The student expressed potential desire to participate in an investigation in the future.

34. A student reported feeling harassed and threatened by a fellow student who was not respecting her boundaries and who was making jokes about sexual assault. Staff provided support and options, and the student elected to move residence halls and to have staff place clear boundaries with the respondent.

35. A student reported that she was sexually assaulted by someone over a school break. Staff provided support and resources and reporting options.

36. A student reported that she was sexually assaulted by a non-student. The student pursued medical assistance, and staff provided other support options and resources.

37. A student reported that a fellow student pursued her sexually despite her multiple attempts to divert his attention elsewhere and to say no. Staff met with the reporting student multiple times for support and to review options.

38. A student reported being sexually assaulted while under the influence of drugs by someone she met on Tinder. The student was satisfied with a faculty member’s additional support options.

39. A student reported being sexually assaulted while on a run. Staff worked with the student multiple times to provide support and to review options.

40. A student reported not being able to remove a sexual encounter that other people were told about. Staff provided options for support and reporting.

41. A student reported that a fellow student sexually assaulted her. The student participated in an investigation and hearing. The respondent was found responsible for sexual misconduct. Sanctions were imposed.

42. A student reported that she had been sexually assaulted some time before reporting it. Staff provided options for support and reporting.

43. A student reported finding a hidden camera in her room. Upon further investigation, staff discovered that the same camera had been in several other student rooms. Following, staff discovered instances of unwanted attention and harassment by another student. Staff met with the reporting student and respondent multiple times to offer support and reinforce boundaries.

44. A student reported being sexually assaulted by a non-student. Staff met with the student multiple times for support, but the student did not wish to pursue the matter any further.

45. A student reported that someone else told him about a fellow student making unwanted advances toward another student, and that someone intervened. Efforts were made to identify the affected student.

46. A student reported hearing that a fellow student was making unwanted advances toward another student who was trying to take care of her intoxicated friend. The student receiving the behavior was not identified to staff.

47. A student reported that she was receiving unwanted flirtatious messages from a staff member. The student requested to move work locations, and this was arranged immediately. Staff followed up to offer further resources and options.

48. A student reported that a fellow student, who was heavily intoxicated, made unwanted sexual advances toward her and attempted to sexually assault her. Staff met with the student to discuss options, and the student indicated potential interest in future action.
Budget Task Force presents plans for 2018–2019 budget to campus community

By Ellen Finn

Last week the University of Puget Sound Budget Task Force proposed the budget for 2018–2019, backed by President Crawford, and reported it to campus. The Budget Task Force (BTF) presented its report to the Faculty Senate on Monday, Jan. 22, Staff Senate on Wednesday, Jan. 24 and Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound (ASUPS) Senate on Thursday, Jan. 25. Each meeting was open to all members of the University community.

According to the University website, “The University’s Budget Task Force is charged with recommending to the president a balanced budget for the coming fiscal year that responds to the university’s mission and strategic plan and to the economic landscape.”

BTF worked on its recommendations throughout Fall 2017 by listening to presentations from various campus leaders, as well as reading written requests for budget adjustments. Sherry Mondou is the Vice President of Finance and Administration at Puget Sound. She reported BTF’s suggestions to the staff and faculty senate this week.

“We look for the Budget Task Force (BTF) to produce a plan that fosters a shared understanding of the financial structure that supports Puget Sound’s mission and to result in a sound budget recommendation that aligns with mission, goals and strategic plans, while reducing in the budget due to a smaller-than-expected enrollment in the Class of 2021. According to the BTF report, two-thirds of U.S. universities faced a similar decline in student enrollment.”

“Usually the University does not allot more than 73 percent of its net revenue of $3.2 million to staff compensation. In order to stay under this number and keep every other facet of the University up to par, the BTF made adjustments to compensation budgeting. This means that the University will have 11 fewer staff members.”

At the Staff Senate presentation, Associate Dean of Students Sarah Comstock assured those in the audience that this does not mean salary cuts or layoffs, but simply not rehiring for some positions once staff retire or start work elsewhere.

“Very thoughtful in considering a limited amount of tuition increase, the necessity of increases in financial aid to keep Puget Sound accessible to students and families, and what budget adjustments would make those objectives possible.”

In turn, the BTF recommended an increase in student Orientation Leader stipends in order for a broader range of students to apply to the position. It also recommended an allocation of $150,000 in funds toward a student software program.

Additionally, the BTF recommended a 6.4 percent increase in the already existing student fee to support the e-portfolio software program. It also recommended an allocation of stipends in order for a broader range of students and faculty to take advantage of the new software.

“The budget process is more inclusive if representatives of the campus community are involved in learning about the budget environment, receiving reports and requests from all arenas of the campus and deliberating recommendations to move forward to President Crawford,” Bartanen said.

Senior Gwen Bartholomay is the senior student representative of the BTF. On Thursday she presented the BTF plans to ASUPS Senate along with junior student representative Sherry Mondou.

“It’s amazing that UPS includes students on the [BTF],” Bartholomay said. “Lots of times at universities, the entire budget plan is not completely transparent, but here students get to see the entire report. As a student it has been great to have a voice.”

“The full report can be found at https://www.pugetsound.edu/files/execute/ BTF-report-2017-18-final-02-01-2017.pdf. Students, faculty, and staff can request a pdf. Students, faculty, and staff can request a pdf. Students, faculty, and staff can request a pdf. Students, faculty, and staff can request a pdf. Students, faculty, and staff can request a pdf.”

Government shuts down due to immigration dispute

By Marcelle Rutherfurd

On Friday, Jan. 19, the federal government was shut down after the senate could not acquire the necessary 60 votes to pass a short-term spending bill for the upcoming year. This shutdown, only lasted for three days, and the government reopened on Monday, Jan. 22.

This shutdown occurred because the two parties could not come to an agreement on several issues, including funding the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), funding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival Program (DACA), and the federal spending budget.

“[The federal government is essentially shut down because Congress couldn’t agree on what is called a continuing resolution (CR). The CR is a temporary funding bill that keeps the federal government funded,” The Seattle Times reported.

According to The New York Times, the people most affected by this were federal employees.

“Many government operations will continue — U.S. troops will stay at their posts and mail will get delivered. But almost half the 2 million civilian federal workers will be barred from doing their jobs if the shutdown extends into Monday,” The New York Times reported on Jan. 20.

The shutdown ended when a bipartisan group of senators pushed a short-term budget through the senate, but the two parties have not yet reached a decision on DACA. The results of this decision are expected in the upcoming weeks, when the senate will vote on several immigration issues.

DACA has been a sticking point for the government since September, when Trump signed an executive order ending the program.

DACA allowed 1.8 million children aged 15-30 to reside in the US legally when Trump ended the program in September. These figures come from the Washington Post data polls, and statistics are gathered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

DACA is an Obama-era program established in 2012 that grants legal status to millions of individuals brought to the U.S. illegally as children. It also provides a pathway to citizenship.

The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is busy dealing with a brutal flu season. According to an Associated Press report, state labs would continue the work of monitoring the flu and do testing that is sent to the CDC. The CDC would not need the money in place to receive the data, The Seattle Times reported.

Until Congress backs up the money, which includes $6,500 employees in the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC is busy dealing with a brutal flu season. According to an Associated Press report, state labs would continue the work of monitoring the flu and do testing that is sent to the CDC. The CDC would not need the money in place to receive the data, The Seattle Times reported.

Now that things are up and running in Washington, D.C., again, people across the U.S. are awaiting the outcome of the vote on DACA.

The government has shut down twice in recent years, the last of which occurred in 2013 under the Obama administration and lasted 16 days.

Shutdowns do not affect the University in any major way, but the implications of the fact that the government couldn’t agree on a spending bill enough to stay open affects the entire country. This speaks to a divide in the parties within the federal government that could cause problems for bills in the future.

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We are gentrifiers, too

By Sarah Buchlaw

“FUCK UR TOURS,” reads a spray-painted wall in the Florentin neighborhood of Tel Aviv. Florentin, one of the poorest neighborhoods in South Tel Aviv, has a vibrant history of graffiti as an art form and an industry’s latest victim. I went on one of the “graffiti tours” that this message protests on, a guided trip of Israel for Jewish young adults — there are several issues with those trips, most of which belong in another column.

While moving through Florentin, I questioned the paradox of a mainstream “tour” of an art that is, by definition, counter-cultural. The tour guides introduce white tourists perusing a majority-minority neighborhood as if it were a museum, rather than a place of livelihood.

“Florentin — a guide to the hipster neighborhood in South Tel Aviv,” reads the top of a Google search. I began to lose any understanding of the word “hipster”. The words “eclectic” and “bohemian” are thrown around, too. These “hipster” neighborhoods are the same ones we called shanty towns a couple decades ago. Run-down and rugged is in fashion globally, which means that neighborhoods like Florentin are prime real estate for Israeli gentrification.

According to Mahapach-Tachan, which describes itself as “a grassroots, feminist, Jewish-Arab organization that works for social change,” Florentin saw a surge in poverty in the 1970s due to poorly-built buildings and general abandonment of social services. Years later, “the Tel Aviv municipality began a program of urban renewal in the neighborhood, which brought about an accelerated gentrification process in the area, and made the survival of veterans residents nearly impossible.” That process continues today. Gentrification refers to an influx of wealthy people into an area, often displacing and making the survival of lower-income residents nearly impossible. Although not all gentrification is connected to race, people of color do often get pushed out of neighborhoods due to gentrification.

Like most places in the world, class and race/ethnicity in Israel are linked. A section in the book “Global Gentrification” notes that Middle Eastern and North African residents are the most likely to be pushed out of gentrified neighborhoods like Florentin. “Middle-class gentrifiers are most often of Ashkenazi or European Jewish ethnicity,” the book explains, meaning these gentrifiers are white.

In her research on Tel Aviv, Caroline Rosenholc touches on why poor neighborhoods appeal to gentrifiers: Florentin’s “dark” reputation accumulated through years of poverty and lack of municipal concern is nowadays dissolving into a sense of authenticity. … [This] mix makes it a desirable authentic-ethnic product — because that’s all these neighborhoods are to their investors — is then packaged and sold to newcomers.

The exploitation of graffiti is a wildly successful industry in Florentin, with over two dozen agencies offering specialized tours. These tours capitalize on the art of marginalized people, pouring money into the hands of tour guides and agencies instead of to the artists themselves. Meshal Gilad, a contributor for the Israeli publication Haaretz, interviewed Florentin locals about the neighborhood’s tourism industry. A graffiti artist in the area named Nitran Mintz said that she and other artists are leaving Florentin to escape new facets such as these gatherings tours. “It is totally close to us that embraces the art. Already we feel that the entire field has become mainstream, and, as far as we are concerned, that means it is about to die,” Mintz said.

Graffiti artists are not the only ones, too, as seen in the historically diverse Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma. The 2010-2014 Pew Center on the Americanunità reports that 31.3 percent of Hilltop residents are people of color. According to a News Tribune interview with University of Washington Tacoma professor William Towey, however, roughly the same timespan (2010-2015) saw an exit of 13 percent of Hilltop’s African-American residents. This is likely due to the recent construction of a new light rail route, rent increases, and several major housing developments that are displacing long-time residents.

Even as gentrification articles, a 2014 KIRO7 News headline read “Tacoma restaurant targeted with anti-gentrification graffiti” following an interview by Tiffany Cowan, owner of the Hilltop Kitchen. If you’re not cringing from the title alone, the graffiti artists are also referred to as “vandals,” by the owner of the restaurant, “by the people of the Hilltop Kitchen, and — the most eloquent of all — ‘Just losers, you know’” by a local barista.

At the same time, several government-sanctioned munitions have popped up in the neighborhood in recent years. These tendencies to gentrify have been particularly severe in inner city neighborhoods as a type of self-expression for urban youth… Graffiti is illegal, but it is precisely this illegal risk that gives it its counter-cultural edge.” Lu’s comments are important because a similar phenomenon exists in inner city neighborhoods in Israel.

The political and deeply personal art of marginalized people in Tacoma, and in places like Florentin, is being sold to those who have historically criminalized it, and consumed by tourists with no understanding of the neighborhood and its history. Make no mistake: graffiti tours are a symptom of the vicious pandemic that is gentrification, and whether knowingly or not, many of us help to perpetuate this. When you find yourself buying into tours like these, I encourage you to think again about the communities you are turning into tourist exhibits, and about who exactly will be 100 shekels richer when you finish.
Nassar sentenced to life (and likely death) in prison
By Emma Holmes

In a sentencing hearing that concluded Wednesday, Jan. 24, ex-Olympic gymnastics doctor Lawrence G. Nassar was sentenced to 40–175 years in prison after pleading guilty to criminal sexual misconduct. More than 160 women have accused Nassar of sexual assault under the guise of “treatment” for young gymnasts, each with allegations covering many years. Nassar earned their trust and then repeatedly assaulted them during treatment. If the gymnasts reported Nassar (and many did), he dismissed the girls as “misunderstanding the procedure,” or “feeling uncomfortable with their bodies.” His “procedure” involved victimizing them through pelvic adjustments, and he frequently wore gloves or explained his clients to an extent that was not typical in the New York Times. Excusing his actions as strictly medical benefited him for many years, and the courts have protected his professional respect for the 20+ years he spent working with Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and the Olympic Gymnastics Team.

Many of the women Nassar assaulted are publicly questioning the authority figures that they feel should have been paying better attention. Michigan State first received a complaint about Nassar in 1997, from then-16-year-old Larissa Boyle, who was participating in the university gymnastics program. When she injured her back, she was “treated” by Nassar. He then had her go farther up the chain of command to Katie Klages, the Michigan State gymnastics coach at the time, who dismissed the report as a misunderstanding.

Almost 20 years later, in 2016 and 2017, Olympic gymnast McKayla Maroney was offered $25 million to sign a non-disclosure agreement to cover up the stories of her own abuse. The story broke in December 2017, when multiple alleged victims were quoted, raising the issue of many other factors. The pussy hat was a heatedly disputed symbol in the women’s march in Seattle, as well as in many other demonstrations in December 2017. The women’s march was met with heavy criticism for not fully encompassing the status, and primarily gender, of many individuals. The pussy hat is a heavily disputed symbol of a woman in ways that encompasses many other categories. The pussy hat has been in the past. Gender neutrality just means that we would be ignoring a central category of what it means to be, but I think it’s instead a question of creating an atmosphere where we don’t try and avoid it but work together to re-educate and distance it from what it has been in the past. Gender is an integral aspect of our identities, but we must be mindful as to how we convey that message, and convey it in terms that are inclusive to other offshoots of the human species. Regardless of your gender identity, being mindful of the messages you may not possess the same experiences or relationships as a more powerful, united movement. Using our privileges, we are able to construct an activism rooted in powerful inclusivity, and to create a narrative of inclusivity.

Feminist Book Club

This book left me shaken. Wretched. I literally had to get an extension on an assignment because I couldn’t put it down, and I sat silently on my couch for the rest of the afternoon, drinking tea and trying to be tender with myself.

When I posted on Facebook asking for feminist book recommendations, Gay’s 2017 publication was suggested over and over again. It immediately felt perfect for the Happy Trail’s first official recommendation because of the author’s continued compelling relationship with her readers (in the body, food, family, sex and trauma). The book’s contents are intimate, to say the least. She discusses her experiences as a wealthy black student at a predominantly white private boarding school. She describes lifelong yo-yo weight fluctuations, including a brief period of bulimia well into her adulthood. Possibly most wrenchingly, she shares the story of her own gang rape, the effects of which she traces throughout her life. Without reading Bad Feminist, I knew bits and pieces about the author’s life. I would feel like I was on a personal journey with Gay, if I weren’t so terrified and reverent of her. From her active online presence, I knew she had a biting wit and wasn’t afraid to stand up to random trolls disrespecting her work. But I wasn’t prepared to feel so personally and empathetically connected to her. There was something about the honesty and effectiveness of her writing, that described experiences so foreign to my own. Gay’s autobiography might crush you. But it’s also worth it.
On Jan. 29, Sky Creative hosted the first of many Creative Community Conversations as part of Tacoma’s commitment to utilizing the arts as a key enabler for its growing economy. Put on in partnership with the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality, the Tacoma Arts Commission and local arts non-profit Spaceworks Tacoma, the conversation was proposed to bring creatives Washington, a law allowing counties or cities to place a measure on the ballot to add a sales or property tax to support access to the arts and culture, heritage and sciences,” Sweeney said. “There is a real chance this will be on the November ballot in Tacoma, and if it were to pass, we need to be prepared to strategically invest in organizations and programs in every community in the city.”

While this measure failed in King County, local Tacoma government organizations like the Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality and the Tacoma Arts Commission are committed to refining the way arts are funded in Pierce County. “The arts economy is strong, and growing, and the dollars are coming from ticket revenue, sales (both brick-and-mortar and online), private and corporate benefactors and other public grants (state, county, federal),” Sweeney said. “The projects and grants that originate from the office can be game-changers for the recipients, but we really see them as a catalyst for growth.”

The conversation provided a forum for not only conversations concerning art legislation, but also allowed residents to voice concerns surrounding Tacoma’s art community development. One concern voiced was that most art jobs and money are in Seattle. “It’s been 10 years since I was invested in the Seattle arts community, so I’m a little out of the loop, but what hasn’t changed is that there’s considerably more money in Seattle,” Sweeney said. “That doesn’t mean it’s just bigger than Tacoma; it also means that the business of art is focused differently.”

While not always efficient, the informal and accessible approach of this conversation is instrumental in developing a strong and connected arts community in Tacoma. “Tacoma is extremely connected or has the ability to be in a way that Seattle can’t touch just because of its size,” Arts Administrator for the Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality Amy McBride said. “Just as a community in general we have such an easier way of collaborating and connecting.”

The conversation marks a pivotal moment of growth and change for the arts in Tacoma. In order to ensure equitable disbursement of possible future funds, attendees were asked to write down their concerns and aspirations about how they want to see Tacoma continue to flourish. “What I’m really excited about in Tacoma is that they’re recognizing this really huge growth that’s happening right now and over the last two years with this influx of new people,” Heather Joy, Spaceworks Manager, said. “They’re recognizing we don’t want Tacoma to get gentrified and lose the character that it has, and so what steps can we take to hold onto what is good here, what has existed for a long time, and accept all this new.”

Sweeney echoed the emphasis needed on future equitable distribution of funds. “We must pay attention to artists of color that are representing diverse cultural traditions if we want to grow and evolve as a city,” he said. “Not unrelated to this is the importance of connecting all neighborhoods, particularly those who have been left out of the citywide conversation.”

People speak about the idea that there’s so much potential here like that’s a bad thing or like it makes us lesser, but I realize years ago that potential is a creative space,” McBride said. “So Tacoma is this amazing laboratory.”

McBride’s sentiment was echoed by Sweeney. “My overall takeaway is that the Tacoma arts community is hungry for this type of convening, or networking, for a chance to connect,” Sweeney said. “On that point alone, I think it was a success.”

As of right now there is no set date for the next Creative Community Conversation, but the value of these talks cannot be understated. “It’s getting the lay of the land, just figuring out where we are right now and moving forward in a really strategic direction that’s listening to what people actually want and need,” McBride said. “I don’t expect that we can solve everything, but the more the community has clarity about what they want and how to access it and get to it, I think that is what truly effects change.”

‘Creative Community Conversation’ prompts discussion about progressing Tacoma’s art community

By Ally Hembree
Morgan Sims: a profile on the returning member of Puget Sound’s art department

By Julia Schiff

Morgan Sims, Puget Sounds’ visiting art professor, is currently filling in for Juan Marcarve who left for Sabbatical at the start of spring semester. Sims is originally from California. He graduated from the University of Washington, Seattle with a Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts, before migrating to the Midwest to attend graduate school to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which is known for its printmaking program. Sims earned his Masters in Fine Arts there with a printmaking emphasis and launched an art career in Chicago soon after. He has taught at Elmhurst College and Harold Washington College, but alternates teaching with creating.

Sims also has a history with Puget Sound; he has been a visiting professor before in both 2011 and 2014, both times filling in for Marcarve. Sims’ connection to University of Puget Sound is through printmaking; both he and Marcarve attended UW-Madison for its printmaking program. Sims gravitates towards photo lithography and screenprinting, but his skill set reaches beyond this medium into painting and sculpture. His work with neon tubing and painting is very apparent in his latest art shows.

Sims has had three shows with Chicago-based gallery Bert Green Fine Arts. His latest show featured large rock-like shapes based on an artist brings something different to Puget Sound, the visual aspect of which is more resonant now than ever: “One day I might be gone and you guys have to keep on fighting.”

Morgan Sims, Puget Sounds’ visiting art professor, is currently filling in for Juan Marcarve who left for Sabbatical at the start of spring semester. Sims is originally from California. He graduated from the University of Washington, Seattle with a Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts, before migrating to the Midwest to attend graduate school to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which is known for its printmaking program. Sims earned his Masters in Fine Arts there with a printmaking emphasis and launched an art career in Chicago soon after. He has taught at Elmhurst College and Harold Washington College, but alternates teaching with creating.

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This Sunday, Feb. 4, the New England Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles will face off in Super Bowl LII. Held at the new U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, this game will be a rematch of Super Bowl XXXIX in 2005, in which the Patriots beat the Eagles 24–21. Some 13 years later the two teams have decisively made it back to the title game, and each has different stakes in hoisting the Lombardi after four quarters of play.

The Patriots went 13–3 this season, dominating the AFC East and securing their spot atop the entire AFC as the favorite to win the Super Bowl and on the East Coast it never feels like people are as excited about their continually successful quarterback as this past season came to a close. “At the beginning of the season, although I wish it weren’t true I could see the Patriots as a Super Bowl contender. The Eagles, however, was by far a long shot come preseason; they made huge strides this season compared to last year,” junior Collin Heimbach (Boulder, Colorado) said. Senior Zach Blair (Huntington Beach, California) added to the expectancy of a Patriots Super Bowl run and the surprise of an Eagles one: “I don’t think I’d be too shocked that the Patriots made it back, but I would probably not agree with the Eagles, thanks to my disdain for them.”

Sophomore Michael Zabran (Aliso Viejo, California) talked of Nick Foles for the Eagles and the importance his play functions in the success of the Eagles’ Super Bowl hopes: “The Eagles need Nick Foles to step up big in the biggest game of his life and make minimal mistakes because Tom Brady have always been a fan of Nick Foles but certainly didn’t expect him to be in this position.” Students mirrored Coach Thomas’ expectations and surprises as this past season came to a close. “I think it’s really cool how well Tom Brady has played considering he turns 41 next year,” sophomore Nalin Richardson (Wakefield, Rhode Island) said.

Richardson, a lifelong New Englander, emphasizes the whole Northeast’s excitement about their new quarterback and team as a whole. “It’s always fun seeing your home team make the Super Bowl,” Richardson continued. “I never feel like people are jaded about how many times they’ve made it, it always feels very exciting,” Richardson added.

For the Eagles, the second half of the year is loved treated a new quarterback and head coach well. The team went 13–3 this year, completely dominating the NFC east. The headline of the Eagles’ season was not, however, their success on the field. Franchise quarterback Carson Wentz tore his ACL in early December in a game against the Los Angeles Rams in which he threw fourteen touchdowns, one of which came after he took the season-ending shot to the leg. Wentz’s season, MVP hopes and Super Bowl champion dreams all seemed dashed in a matter of seconds back in December. All was not lost, however, in Nick Foles, former Eagles starter and backup to Wentz in the current season. Foles threw two touchdowns and intercepted one back in 2013, so he knew the role of starter well. He led the team in the last few weeks of the season, and played well in a nail-biting divisional game against Atlanta and showed his dominance in the NFC championship game against Minnesota.

Here at Puget Sound, and within the football community as a whole, the Eagles were seen as the surprise team of the 2017 season and playoffs. Football head coach Jeff Thomas marveled at the Eagles’ and Nick Foles’ surprise success towards the end of the season. “I would not be surprised at all about the Patriots but would be very caught off guard the Eagles made it.”

Behind the scenes of the athletic department with Amy Hackett

The structural and logistical aspects of the athletic program have been changing throughout history. Puget Sound Athletics has been in the Division II, NAIA and Division I baseball at one point. The athletic department has finally got into a set system when the Loggers joined the Division III Northwest Conference in 1999. Around that same time, in 2003, Amy Hackett decided to take the position of director of Athletics.

“We were still trying to understand what the Division III expects of our program. We were without scholarships and back to being women and white, while trying to figure out how competitive we wanted to be in a Division III program and how competitive we were allowed to be within the restructured Northwest Conference,” Hackett said.

Along with settling into a new division, Hackett was working with then-president Ron Thomas on improving Lower Baker field.

“When I first came here that was essentially an uneventful bog that was known as the ‘Baker Bog’ so it was a non-useful field once the rains hit and didn’t have lights. That was one of the first things we did on a facility level,” Hackett said. As a Division III athletic program, the Loggers realized that this didn’t prevent them from being competitive, but instead gave them the opportunity to promote the Division III philosophy.

The NCAA states, “Academics are the primary focus for Division III student-athletes. The division minimizes the conflicts between athletics and academics and helps student-athletes progress toward graduation through shorter practice and playing seasons and regional competition that reduces time away from academic studies. Participants are integrated on campus and treated like all other members of the student body, keeping them focused on being a student first.”

Complying with the NCAA rules and promoting the Division III model is only one of many responsibilities of the director of athletics. Puget Sound has 14 head coaches for 23 varsity programs and approximately 500 student-athletes.

“My role is director of physical education, athletics and recreation. I also oversee our administrative staff, which includes our head athletic trainer, who is our Director of Sports Medicine, Director of Athletics Communication, and office coordination. I serve as the budget manager, business manager for our department, by managing our department budget as well as all of our different accounts and processing payments. Student-athlete welfare is one of the number of topics as to how we care for our student athletes from our sports medicine area to different programming including academic support that we offer,” Hackett said.

This job covers a large area of oversight in many different fields. It is not for everyone and takes a particular person interested in this area to take on what Amy Hackett does. Hackett started off working for minor league professional baseball in Tennessee before heading back to graduate school for her masters in sports administration. She then started at Santa Clara as the Director of Athletics and decided to stay in the area of college athletics.

Before coming to Puget Sound she was an Associate Athletic Director at University of Utah.

“I got started very young, my friends always joked that I was the one who was organizing the neighborhood kickball games. I played sports growing up but I also had an idea with the organizational side and really started looking at that part at a very young point in career development, even at the high-school level,” Hackett said.

Hackett and the dedicated associates underneath her work relentlessly to successfully operate a program like this. In addition to starting off a busy year the athletic department said goodbye to Robin Hamilton, Associate Director of Athletics.

“She has a huge impact on our program. Thirty-two years of dedication to the University, institutional knowledge, and a lot of that is still probably in her head, and understanding and making sure we were able to start the year in a better way. I think that absence shows. It’s not just about the wins and losses, but about the scope of her influence,” Hackett said.

Hamilton’s position is filled on a temporary basis and will be evaluated in a year, which will allow for the rest of the year or where the program needs necessary support. Not many see all the work that goes into even one sporting event and our athletic program consistently has at least one home game each weekend, meaning there is never a dull moment in the department and the hours of work they put in on behalf of the University.
MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Loggers competed against the No. 1 team in the nation, Whitworth, on Jan. 26 in Walla Walla. The Loggers were up 39-33 in the first eight minutes of the game, but the Blues started hitting consecutive baskets. The Loggers fell to the Blues 136-109. Junior Jimmy Wohrer accomplished 20 points during the game. Sophomore Stellan Roberts added 19 points and senior Jeremiah Hobbs had 13 points. After competing against the best team in the country, the Loggers traveled to Spokane to play the No. 4 team in the country. The Loggers lost to Pirates 111-108. Despite the loss, it became clear that the Loggers' new “center” of basketball. Wohrer and senior Jeremiah Hobbs had 13 points. The concern is valid; despite making shots later in the game; they seem to have trouble finishing. Emery Bradilla ran the 800-m during the invitational with a time of 2:18.25 and received 41st place.

SWIMMING

The women's swim team celebrated their senior day against crosstown rivals on Jan. 27. The Loggers won in a record-setting 2:18.25 and received 41st place. in the Stanford Open on Feb. 10-11 in Mor-

The men's (Postmen) and women's (Clearcut) teams in it, the Poster and Puget Sound men had more rebounds. Wohrer had the most points for both teams with 28 points. Roberts earned his first double-double of the season with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Loggers traveled to Walla Walla to com- pete against Whitman on Jan. 26. The Blues are ranked a top of the league in opponent’s field, shooting 43.6 percent and 100-breaststroke. The men's swim team

The Loggers forced the Pirates to have 18 turns, earning 17 points off those turnovers.

Men's basketball keeps on pushing the tempo

By Eli Thomas

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The men's basketball team continue their intrasquad se- ast, currently sitting at fourth in the conference. The Logg- ers are 12-6 overall and 5-5 in conference. The rebranded Loggers offense under Coach Justin Lunt ranks an impres- sive sixth nationally in scoring offense.

The Loggers face an exceptionally difficult conference this sea- son with current leader Whitman 8-0 in conference and 17-0 overall. Ranked at number one overall the Blues prove a formidable oppo- nent led by All-American Guard Bradilla. Whitman also leads the conference with an average of 99.8 points per game.

The Loggers' Dec. 2 match up with the Blues demonstrated their ability to compete with top-ranked teams in the nation, holding a lead through the first half but the Blues took over in the second half. Despite the loss, it became clear the Loggers were among the top four teams in the conference. The Loggers forced 25 turns- over despite the Blue's im- pressive 35 points per game. This contest against Whitman demonstrated the viability of the Loggers' new offense in the face of well-rounded "tradition- al" schemes, exemplified by Whitman.

The Loggers again faced the Blues this past Friday, Jan. 26, and the Blues once again demonstrated their prowess. Despite leading the game ear- ly, the Loggers were outrebounding the Pirates from under "center" of basketball.

Lavar Ball is colluding with Vladimir Putin.

The movement of Liangelo and Lamelo Ball to the Lithuanian pro leagues was a shock to many. This patriotic columnist is of the opinion that Lavar Ball, an outspoken opponent of American institutions such as the NCBA, is attempting to undermine American basketball hegemony. Next thing you know, the Ball brothers are leading a newly-formed USSR to the gold over the USA in 2024. This is my second Trump-adherent headline. One more and I think I work for CNN.

The Milwaukee Bucks fired coach Jason Kidd.
The coach could sign him as a player

They will then include Kidd in a package with Eric Middleton and Tony Snell for DeAndre Jordan. Doc. Reveals knows that Jason Kidd once was a great basketball player, so he will value the 44-year- old point guard highly.

The Patriots' continued dominance proves the universe is a cold, chaotic and empty place.

Okay those are just facts. How else do you justify the fact those of us hoping for cosmic justice (or at the very least, some different end to the NFL season) need to put back in Marcus Mariota, Blake Bortles and Nick Foles.

We should all be glad Alabama won the College Football national championship.

Doug Jones!

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOGGER ATHLETICS

Men's basketball keeps on pushing the tempo

By Kevin White

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New year, new bee

By Bean McQueen

Members of the Puget Sound Beekeepers Association (PSBA) started 2018 off with a busy release by sending a new bee into the apiary at the stroke of midnight on Jan. 1. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the tradition, which celebrates virtues of bravery, community and embracing the unknown.

“The bees hate it,” Kathy McKale, the Vice-Vice President of the PSBA, said. “Every year it’s a gosh darned bloodbath, Wings on the ground. Stripes on the ground. And we all know who’s going to have to clean it up.” Sweeping has historically been the duty of the PSBA VIP.

The ensuing mess isn’t the only point of tension around this year’s bee release. As part of an initiative to locally source all club materials, the bee released this January was hatchet and raised in Tacoma. In past years, the PSBA has spent upwards of $900 in travel fees to have a sought-after Kansas King Bee for the special event. Many PSBA members, like first-year Jordeen Polleen, support the move to make space in the apiary for a Tacoma bee.

“I like that the bee didn’t have to fly far,” Polleen said. Commercially shipped bees are sedated and packaged. They do not voluntarily fly to their destination. Other members are disturbed by the break from tradition. A particularly vocal dissenter, HiveMaster Martha Mopp, suggested that this year’s bee wasn’t fit to join the colony.

“He’s got short wings and just one big stripe. That’s not what this apiary needs,” Mopp said. Mopp has served as the club’s HiveMaster since she graduated as a sculpture major in 2000. “It was the natural next step for me because I love bees. Also they let you live in there.”

When asked how New Year’s bees from previous years impacted the hive, Mopp claimed to know from memory the fate of every New Year’s bee since 2001. “Dead, dead, dead, queen for a day, dead, dead, dead, dead, dead, missing, dead, dead, dead, dead, dead. Time will tell what this newcomer will bring to the hive.

Controversy aside, all 700 members of the PSBA agree that the release of the New Year’s bee is always a beautiful moment. Treasurer Sandy Salts described the event: “We release the bee at midnight, 12 a.m., right as the new year turns. The bee is close to the queen. They hold the new bee in their fist for an hour before midnight, then just as the new year turns they open their hand and toss the bee into the air.

“When bees get riled, keepers get riled,” Arms said in a brief interview between hivepatrols. “The way I see it, as long as nobody gets stung it’s a good bee release. This year wasn’t the best bee release but it was far from the worst.” Arms went on to describe what he considers to be the best and worst bee releases since the tradition’s inception.

“The worst was when the 2002 Treasurer Vincent Hues stepped on the New Year’s bee. He was of course removed from office immediately after the event. We had to get the queen involved. I think the best was the year, I think 2009, we were allowed to stage the bee release in Madison Square Garden.”

If you would like to join the Puget Sound Beekeepers Association, please visit Martha Mopp at her open hive hours every weekday at 5 a.m.

Man spends two months in silence for social experiment

By Lee L. Benbow

In the age of movements like #MeToo and Time’s Up, men have gotten the closest they ever have to having their voice. They have been silenced, ignored and shunned by the general public. One man who picked up on this subtle oppression of the unique voice that only males carry was sophomore David Brown.

Brown noticed the change in tone during mid-December, a couple months after the movements had gone mainstream. At first, he knew he wanted to do something, but was unsure of exactly how to get his impactful message across.

He pondered over the idea of a male version of #MeToo — something along the lines of: “I did” or “I did nothing to stop it” — but felt that few men would join him in his revolutionary ways. For a brief week, he attempted to be heard by simply interrupting every woman who spoke. This was difficult, as the University of Puget Sound is over 60 percent women and three of his classes were taught by female professors. Finally, in a deep moment of meditation, the idea came to him: silence. He knew that, with his outstanding social life, it would not be easy, and that his peers would miss his witty banter and clever side comments. However, Brown knew it was for the best, as this direct attack on males as a whole could not continue while he stood idly by.

The first couple days were the hardest. Simple tasks like ordering a sandwich in the S.U.B. became acts of charades, in which Brown mimicked each ingredient he wanted on his sourdough hot sandwich for here with cheese and mayo. Over time Brown learned to simply get soup or oatmeal for the duration of his two silent months; this gave him the benefit of not only suffering silence, also a sort of hunger strike as the blandness of the food he was eating struck guilt into the hearts of those around him.

When The Flail reached out to Brown about an interview for this article, he shrugged and then wrote on his handy dandy whiteboard, “Sure, but I will not speak, only write on this here whiteboard.”

The Flail understood his situation and allowed the interview to be conducted this way. The only trouble occurred when he attempted to fit a summary of his 300-page manifesto on the hand-held whiteboard.

When asked about additional challenges of this change in lifestyle Brown cited one time when he used sharpie on the whiteboard and had to tell everyone “yes” until his new whiteboard arrived two days later for’Amaz on Prime.

As Brown approached the second month of his social experiment, The Flail met up with the “Silent Man” to check in on how he was doing. He looked noticeably more broody and his “meninist” shirt had gotten visibly tighter, due to the soup and oatmeal diet. He confided in The Flail that on two occasions he had starved in his commitment to silence. Once, he had to jump in and explain how trickle-down economics work to a woefully misinformed woman who claimed to be an economics major. The second event happened when his mother called to inform him she had finished doing his laundry but forgot what address to ship it to.

Beyond this, his participation grades in class were faltering and his social life at all an time low.

The Flail wishes the best to Brown in completing the final weeks of his silence and going into the future with this movement. There are no signs of this catching on, but who knows what the future will bring for this independent young hero.

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Tacoma Little Theatre kicks off 2018 season with love and silence

By Matthew Gulick

Just down I Street from Wright Park, next door to the 7-Eleven and across the road from Parkway Tavern, sits Tacoma Little Theatre (TLT). Appropriately named, the theater consists of two rooms: a small lobby with ticket counter and concessions area and an adjoining black room with a stage. Aptly named, the theater consists of two rooms: a small lobby with ticket counter and concessions area and an adjoining black room with a stage. At the door. For more information, visit tacomalittletheatre.com

The Three Amigos of Abrahamism: An interfaith dialogue

By Evan Welsh

A rabbi, a pastor and an imam walk into the Rotunda and that sounds like a beginning to a bad joke, the subject matter of rising instances of and anti-Semitism in Islamophobia is obviously anything but. Rabbi Ted Falcon, Pastor Dave Brown and Imam Jamal Rahman call themselves “The Three Pacific Northwest Interfaith Amigos.” Their goal is to demonstrate and create a safe environment to have a dialogue between the three major Abrahamic faiths and to find common ground between people of any race or creed, even those who do not fit into one of their three categories.

The Amigos began with a short skit about their different salutations. “We like to play with each other because a lot of times the jokes are so political and so playful — they’re not so funny. We live in an incredibly polarized time,” said Pastor Brown in response to his colleague’s stories. From the outside looking in, the Amigos came together and sang a song in the three languages of their faiths: Hebrew, Arabic and English. While The Amigos took a more general stance on how to fix issues of discrimination instead of focusing on current issues and events throughout the U.S. and the world, the hope is that their group may inspire more and more people from all faiths to come together to create comfortable spaces for discussion and understanding.

It’s more than unfortunate that in recent years the need to discuss these issues is deadly relevant as opposed to being a thing of the past. Bias and hatred has never gone away. Imam Rahman said that one thing that we can learn from history is that we show more forgiveness to every very different group. One can only hope that he is wrong, and that by seeing more interfaith groups coming together to have honest discussion, we may move forward more collectively to resist current socio-political situations.
Celebrating Student Artwork from 2017

By Brynn Svenningsen

In the Kittredge gallery, many students gathered around large sculptural works such as one resembling a large fork and honey, or even a hairy toenail, while others looked at detailed self-portraits and photography books. The feeling in the whole gallery was of appreciation for the students’ projects and hard work.

Puget Sound’s Art Student Annual show displays submitted student work that is created in classes on campus. The student work included drawings, paintings, sculptures, photography and ceramic pieces. The show opened on Jan. 19 and will run until Feb. 24. Anida Youn Ali acted as the juror for the Annual and chose which submitted pieces made it in.

“LAYERS” BY GRACIE PHILIPS

“These are opportunities for students to be celebrated and, I think, for those who are especially engaging in art education to be celebrated and given opportunities to show work,” Ali.

Ali’s own art covers performance, installation art, video and image pieces. She explores diasporic identities and the relationship between performance narratives and audience engagement. Ali is an awarded artist and as part of her U.S. Fulbright scholarship (2011) she returned to Phnom Penh, Cambodia after three decades away. In Ali’s artist statement she explains the importance of personal narrative being part of her art: “Performing narratives is an act of social engagement that contributes to collective being part of her art: “Performing narratives is an act of social engagement that contributes to collective futures for students. Art, in some ways, can be powered by inspiration. While the artwork represented traditional art mediums in art education, there were also pieces that pushed these limits. One extremely original one was by student Stephanie Clement. The piece is titled “Powerless” and used linocut and embroidery to show two faces on the material. The faces were embroidered with detail and blue-colored string had a strong connection to something white but used differently.

This year’s Art Student Annual shared the diverse artistic creations of students in the University of Puget Sound’s studio program. Ali’s work as a juror and the pieces share an idea of the impact of current events and an individual’s disposition through art.

“I noticed there was a sense of craft and expression of work that evoked life. There were works that were reflective of memory and nostalgia. I noticed things like monsters as a theme that was emerging in some of the works and the originality of that. I saw a lot of images of faces, people and works that fell into a serious tone or a sense of humor like the piece of the giant pencil or the hairy toenail,” Ali said.

Experimenting with art abroad

By Parker Barry

“I started drawing myself a lot more because I was the only thing that was in my life that I could rely on,” junior Walker Hewitt said. Studying abroad can be isolating and create a certain level of introspection for students. Art, in some ways, can be powered by introspection — especially when capturing the self.

Studying abroad is an experience that promises life changing epiphanies and a broadened horizon. Artists have a tendency to change their style and process as they move through life; as their location changes and their moods vary the art they produce also fluctuates. Junior Sophia Munic is a Sculpture major — a medium of art that is difficult to practice while abroad because few programs offer studio space. Munic is currently studying abroad in Paris, France.

“My host mom is also an artist so I find her incredibly inspiring and hopefully we’ll find time to paint together soon. Overall, I find that whenever I am in a new environment I am always adapting, not only to their culture, but how I can be an artist and keep my artistic practice in that place,” Munic said.

“I prefer making works involving painting and sculpture and as of now I do not have access to those studios here, so I will also be reconnecting to drawing, watercolor and acrylic painting which is a bit more abstract,” she said.

Leaving the Puget Sound community and going to a foreign country can cause students to feel more introspective and reflect on themselves while being in unfamiliar surroundings — especially if the country they are living in speaks a different language. This allows for a change in the process of making art or a change in inspiration.

“Being abroad inspired me to be more introspective for better or worse. I guess also because I was in a place where I wasn’t speaking English it was a mode of communication that I could use to be there, rather than speaking in Spanish which is always hit or miss,” junior Anj Cunningham said. She studied abroad over the fall semester in Oaxaca, Mexico, a city famous for its colorful art and wooden sculptures or “alebrijes.” Cunningham is a painting and sculpture major so she picked the perfect city to be immersed in art.

“Chronic Pain 4” and “Chronic Pain 7” attracted many visitors at the gallery as the ordinary moment was captured with the pain felt in the self-portrait. “I think chronic pain is something that our society avoids talking about, so it feels important to me to make art about it and bring it to people’s attentions in that way. I recently started a chronic pain support group on campus that is fueling more related work,” Bolles said.

In addition to Selner’s and Bolles’ work, other student artists brought incredible pieces to share. On a far wall of Kittredge Gallery, Gracie Philips’ acrylic painting called “Layers” drew attention. The piece included a simple light background surrounded by textured acrylic detail. The almost-marbled effect of the work and the bright mixture of colors helped the somewhat abstract scene to appear landscape-like.

While the artwork represented traditional art mediums in art education, there were also pieces that

“UNTITLED” BY PATRICK SELNER

“In this way, I maintained my identity and learned a lot about myself. It’s the only thing that was in my life that I could rely on,” junior Walker Hewitt said. Studying abroad can be isolating and create a certain level of introspection for students. Art, in some ways, can be powered by introspection — especially when capturing the self.

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