ASUPS Senate projects well underway

By Christina Conry & Kylie Gurewitz

Students elected to the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound (ASUPS) Senate are encouraged to take on projects during their terms. With no set guidelines, many senators opt to pursue projects they’re passionate about, often related to a specific platform that they ran on for Senate.

Two current members of ASUPS Senate who are in the midst of term projects are Kelly Johnson and Becca Lumbantobing. Senator Johnson ’19 spoke on the individuality of these projects: “Your senatorship is what you make of it. There are senator projects that have been going on for years, like the Emergency Fund; it’s something that gets passed down through terms. Some senators come up with their own projects, some jump onto others. … It’s recommended and encouraged. You want to see your senators doing work, bettering the school, using their platform.”

Senator Johnson’s second senate project involves the upcoming Dean Spade events on campus. On Feb. 19, Johnson worked with Nina Kranzdorf and the Rainbow Center to put on the events, describing this project as “less change the school and more push the school forward through this workshop and lecture.” Johnson’s third project is the creation of a pamphlet in collaboration with the Yellow House. “It has all of the information about resources for queer, trans, LGBTQ+ students on campus, a cohesive, easy-to-read, easy-to-understand pamphlet with mental health resources and health resources as a whole, both on-campus and in the larger Tacoma area,” Johnson said. The project addresses a need for visible resources, as the information included had previously only been readily available at the Yellow House. The pamphlet is expected to be completed this semester.

Other senate projects focus more on ASUPS itself, such as the amendment Senator Becca Lumbantobing is currently working on. Lumbantobing ’21 has been in the ASUPS Senate since the fall of 2018. She was motivated to become a senator by the lack of diversity she noticed. “I noticed that the Senate was not very diverse, and there was only one person of color who was a senator. And I am a person of color and I just felt like there should be more representation. There were some changes that I wanted to see happen, and I thought Senate could be an interesting way to see how change happens or how change could happen,” she said. The main project she is working on right now, alongside a few other senators, is an amendment that would modify current senate positions and add several new ones. This would include adding positions for an accessibility senator, whose role would be to “represent students with varying abilities, visible and invisible, mental and physical.” Another position that this amendment would add is an equity and social action senator. “The equity and social action senator would ensure that students of color always have a seat to represent them,” Lumbantobing said. The last position would be a non-traditional student.
When you spend every day as a student here at Puget Sound, it’s easy to miss some of the most amazing things that the University has to offer. One part of campus that’s easy to miss is Slater Museum, located in Thompson Hall. “The Slater Museum is one of the Pacific Northwest’s significant repositories of biological specimens and is a node in a worldwide network of similar repositories. The specimens and associated data serve as the primary sources of information about both spatial and temporal aspects of biodiversity anywhere in the world,” the museum website reads.

This fascinating collection is hidden away on the second floor of Thompson Hall. The museum employs student docents who get to spend their work hours helping out with the collection and specimens.

“The first thing I would tell someone about Slater Museum if they had never heard of it is that it is something you have to see to believe!” The Slater Museum is a collection of over 85,000 specimens, including birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and plants. The specimens come from all around the world and date back to the late 1800s! It is predominantly a research collection that is also used in plenty of scientific education and public outreach,” student docent Olivia Burke said. The museum endeavors to “provide a well-curated archive of animals and plants specimens for research and education,” according to their website. Many of their animal specimens are skinned and prepared in the museum and are available for viewing.

Dr. Gary Shugart, one of the people in charge of observing and preparing animals at the museum, said that many of the animals the museum gets are salvaged from vehicle or window collisions. “[Many of the animals are] also cat kills. Or just found dead,” he said.

The museum gets on average about five animals a week, according to Shugart.

“The public drops one or two off when found or sometimes we get bags full from the government,” Shugart continued.

“Not strange, but different, were two coyotes hit by cars on Vashon Island on Dec. 14 and 25. The first in 30 years living there despite them being very common,” Shugart said, when asked if he had any strange stories about animals he had been brought. One of the museum goals stated on the website is to help educate the public on the value of natural history museums.

“We have a lot of school groups that come in for tours at the museum. Kids always have interesting reactions to the ‘kick factor’ of being close to dead specimens. Once on a tour, I was teaching a group and a small group of kids refused to approach the sloth specimen I was talking about. By the end of the tour, they were at the front row of kids and super interested in viewing the specimens up close,” Burke said.

“Slater Museum is unlike the majority of natural history museums that folks might be familiar with. Slater is primarily a research collection, which means that a lot of the collection is stored in cabinets most of the time. The Slater Museum’s collection is like the behind-the-scenes part of most natural history museums. Research collections like ours are usually only accessed by scientists and researchers, but the Slater gives everyone the chance to see how most natural history museums operate,” Burke said.

One of the ways that the Museum attempts to engage the public is by hosting Nights At The Museum. “Night at the Museum events give us an opportunity to take a variety of specimens out so that people have an opportunity to get to know the museum and get a tour from a student docent at no charge,” Burke said.

Students are encouraged to stop by Thompson 295 to check out the collections and to learn more.

Beetles on display at Night at the Museum

PHOTO CREDIT TO REBECCA M. HEALD

PUBLIC SAFETY

The following is a summary of incidents reported to Security Services, occurring on campus, between February 12, 2019, and February 18, 2019:

· Security staff responded to two reports of a suspected cannabis use in residence hall rooms. Both cases were referred to Student Affairs.

· Security staff responded to two reports of bike thefts:
  - Seat was stolen.
  - U-bolt lock to secure bicycle was highly recommended. Register the use of a U-bolt style lock to secure bicycles is highly recommended. Register

· Security staff responded to two reports of damage to campus property:
  - A guitar left in the back seat was stolen.
  - Broken into while it was parked in Thompson Hall parking lot. A guitar left in the back seat was stolen.

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This past week brought historical amounts of snow to the Seattle/Tacoma area. Dubbed the “Snowpocalypse” by locals, the snowstorm hit thousands of unprepared residents. The Snowpocalypse brought almost two feet of snow, blizzard conditions and power outages to residents. Many acted like it WAS the apocalypse, emptying grocery store shelves and joining the growing line of cars waiting for gas. Faced with a snowstorm both historic and worrisome, Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency on Feb. 12.

In the press release, Inslee urged residents to prepare for the storm and use common sense. “Everyone in our state needs to focus on preparing for the snow and staying safe. We are better prepared this year, but this may still be a storm unlike one we’ve seen in many years,” Inslee said.

By declaring a state of emergency, Inslee enabled state agencies to use resources and assist political subdivisions in efforts to mitigate and recover from the storm. Under said state, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has the authority to limit the amount of hours the commercial vehicle driver can be on the road. Drivers collecting and delivering dairy products and de-icing road salt were exempt from the restraint.

Inslee updated the declaration twice, expanding the state of emergency to support delivery of groceries, propane and de-icer for runways and airplanes. While the storm this area experienced was nothing in comparison to the Midwest Polar Vortex, a state of emergency was necessary because counties affected by the storm were inadequately prepared for such conditions. Most side streets in Tacoma remained unplowed with limited snow plows maintaining main streets such as Union and Proctor.

The SeaTac area hasn’t seen this much snow in one month in 50 years, according to the National Weather Service. As of Feb. 11, 20.2 inches of snowfall had been recorded. For reference, a “normal” February in Seattle receives 0.7 inches, according to AccuWeather. Students and surrounding Tacoma community members spent their snow days on Todd Field building snowpeople and igloos. Many joined the movement by decorating snow-filled streets and sidewalks.”

The University of Puget Sound, in anticipation of weather conditions and the effect on faculty and staff commutes, responded to the snowstorm with delayed starts and early dismissals. Students also received two full snow days. With a closed campus, classes and events were cancelled.

\[\text{PAGE DESIGN/AIDAN REGAN}\]

\section*{EPC Club voices support for Green New Deal}

\textbf{By Sofia Vazquez}

Recently, D-NY 14th district representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez proposed a plan called the Green New Deal. The main goal of the policy is to stimulate the economy, while entirely getting rid of the fossil fuel industry as well as moving away from nuclear energy. Somewhat surprisingly, Ocasio-Cortez hopes to attain inclusion making changes to buildings so renewable energy can be used, make changes in transportation such as building more electric vehicles and charging stations and working with local farms to eliminate green gas emission, according to the NPR article “Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Releases Green New Deal Outline.”

The Green New Deal, as described by EPC club member Lisa Shaw in a recent speech, is a policy plan that will transform our economy to an entirely renewable energy … in order to stop climate change and avoid the extreme weather events. The intergovernmental panel on climate change put out a report last year that said that we only have 12 years to act on climate change, and this is the only policy that addresses the issue at scale and within that timeline that we were given,” Grimm said.

The “Green New Deal is just a resolution. It’s like, ‘Hey we have to do these things, rather than, ‘This is a problem that needs to be done.’ Therefore, the EPC club wants to push people to help make the Green New Deal a reality by ‘asking people to visit their local district offices for people that are in Congress and who are in the Senate and saying, ‘Hey we want this. Can you bring it to your district and propose it and support it and fight for us?’” Grimm said.

Each person can make a difference and make their voice heard. “We are one voice, we can make a difference. It’s like a University, We can use our expert knowledge to pull together these different ideas and look at it from an academic perspective and inform the decisions of our policy makers,” Grimm said.

The deal faces opposition from the Trump administration, which claims that climate change exists. Trump himself tweeted, “In the 1920s people were worried about global climate change—it never happened. Now it’s global warming. Give me a break!” on May 4, 2012.

“One of the reasons the Green New Deal is being attacked is because these people are in positions of power in our government are taking thousands and thousands of dollars from the fossil fuel industry, so they are in the pockets of people that make a profit from the suffering of regular people because of climate change. They are the drivers of climate change, and they have a vested interest in keeping that going,” Grimm said.

If politicians did not make a profit out of the fossil fuel industry, they would realize that even though the transition is very hard and it can come at the cost of people’s jobs, the Green New Deal is being attacked because these people are in positions of power in our government are taking thousands and thousands of dollars from the fossil fuel industry and they are in the pockets of people that make a profit from the suffering of regular people because of climate change. They are the drivers of climate change, and they have a vested interest in keeping that going,” Grimm said.

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\section*{Dawn Shaw visits Puget Sound}

\textbf{By Julia Schiff}

“It’s not about how we look. It’s not about our appearance,” lecturer Dawn Shaw said. A small bunch of the campus community and Tacoma locals gathered on Tuesday, Feb. 12 to listen to Shaw’s motivational speech on “The Power of Choice.” She talked about her experience growing up with a facial difference and how her conscious decisions to appreciate positivity changed her life.

Shaw was born with a tumor on her neck. In the process of removing the tumor, the doctors left part of her face paralyzed, with a misaligned jaw and hearing loss. Her talk, however, was not focused on what had happened to her. Rather, Shaw spoke about her growth in dealing with her facial difference.

Shaw has a lot of experience with motivational speaking and sharing her experiences. She has written three books on facial disfigurement, including a memoir of her life. She has also given a TEDx Talk called “Beauty Is An Inside Job.” Shaw’s TEDx talk is almost identical to the speech she gave on Tuesday evening, with similar messages of being empowered by choice and conscious decision-making. Shaw has a lot of experience speaking about facial differences, but most of her work is motivational.

Much of her speech was focused on one of her early relationships. In her 20s she had let a romantic interest cloud her perception of her self-worth. She spoke about this abusive relationship and how it was a pivotal moment in her understanding of herself and the power of choice.

As she grew up, she realized that she could make a decision about how she understood beauty and self. She spoke about her choice to stop having cosmetic surgeries when she realized that she could choose to be happy with herself. “I made an important choice — I decided that I was not going to allow my face to ruin my life,” Shaw said.

She urged the audience to share this understanding: that life is crafted by your outlook. Her main message was that you must make conscious decisions to appreciate the positive and reform how you see the perceived negative aspects of your life.

In her talk, she also highlighted the importance of community. She spoke about her experience working in a movie called “Happy Face.”

The movie features a cast of people with facial differences. Shaw described the film community as “like a family.” She spoke about how community has made her more comfortable sharing her experience and how support has changed her perception of her facial difference. Perhaps due to multiple snow days and the challenging icy weather, Shaw’s talk was not very well-attended. The audience was made up of a few Puget Sound students and one or two members of the Tacoma community. However, her message was still strong and the attendees left the talk empowered.

Shaw also approached her situation with humor and positivity. She had a casual and confident air about herself and her situation. She made jokes as she stumbled through parts of her speech and approached the minimal audience with a jovial attitude.
**Students of Color need more space**

As a student of color on campus, community can be something very hard to come by. Four students have an idea that just might change that.

Though it’s still in its early stages, the Student of Color Community Initiative (SoCCI) task force is looking to establish first-year housing for students of color. Christina Mills ’22, Becca Lumbantobing ’21, Mara Henderson ’20 and Collin Noble ’19 have banded together to provide a “living and learning community for first-year students of color,” according to Lumbantobing.

Creating a community requires dedication and effort. It’s never as easy as just going to a club meeting or being friendly with others who look like you — developing actual community takes time and resources.

“The four of us have experienced Puget Sound at different times, and we’ve seen the campus climate change throughout our time here. A shared experience that we’ve had is that there’s a lack of central community for students of color, and we feel like this initiative will address that,” Henderson said.

This longer than the average population of students of color needs to see right now. With a worsening national political climate, many people of color are beginning to feel like good news is hard to come by. The success of this initiative would not only vastly improve the sense of solidarity between students of color on campus, but it would also make the University better accountable as a whole when it comes to color, even if they don’t want to participate or don’t think it’s necessary. According to Henderson, the initiative would likely begin as a single floor in a first-year residence hall and involve an application process similar to that of the Honors program.

Students of color admitted to the University would have the option to apply for and live in a community of other students of color for their entire first year, provided that they are dedicated to social justice.

“There is no program that is catered to students who are really interested in social justice or civic engagement. It just doesn’t exist. And if you were to want to do something like that, it’s on you to get involved with the Yellow House. Then I thought about how we also don’t have anything like that for students of color, and so I started to think about how I could merge the two,” Henderson said. Thus was born SoCCI (pronounced “saucy”), and in April the task force will present their proposal to Dr. Uchenna Baker, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

Henderson and Lumbantobing are also both members of ReLife, currently serving as Resident Assistants (RAs). Lumbantobing referenced a conversation she’d had with one of her current residents: “I was talking to her, and she’s a student of color, and she really likes Tacoma and wants to be here, but from the minute she got to UPS, she didn’t feel like this place was for her. Even when she went to the club that represents her identity, she didn’t feel a strong sense of community. … The whiteness of this school is something that is a barrier. After feeling like this is somewhere she can learn and comfortably exist. That hurt me so bad, because if this had existed years ago, so many students’ experiences would be different,” Lumbantobing said, referring to SoCCI.

Living in a society already starved for representation and resonance with people of color, the best medicine so far has been realizing a community of people you identify with in your personal life. At the very least, even if you can’t change the whiteness of our campus, you can change how you feel about it and what you do about it. With a first-year hall for students of color, and I many other students of color on this campus would feel so much more sound in talking our everyday lives. This initiative would provide push back against the isolating power of whiteness.

“This effort is to build on work that’s been happening the last year by Multi-Identity Based Union, which is a coalition of all the identity-based clubs on campus, to create this sense of community. Also, Solidarities, a social gathering of first-year students of color led by RAs,” Henderson said, and proceeded to tell me how other students can help.

Currently, a petition in support of this initiative is live and in need of signatures. If you want to support these students and generations of students to come, check out the SoCCI posters around campus this week.

By Isaac Sims-Foster

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**Study shows immigrants in Pierce County are worse off with ICE**

By Bailey Gamel

Big news: Trump is at it again. On Friday, Feb. 15, he declared a national emergency in order to try to secure funding to build the wall he promised in his campaign — a wall that is ineffective, a waste of money and does more harm than good.

Five states and Customs Enforcement (ICE) before and I am sure that I will be writing about immigration policy in the weeks to come — it’s an important topic after all.

This week, I am going to synthesize a recent study done by the University Washington Human Rights Center and discuss the legal rights of immigrants who have been detained.

The UW Human Rights Center recently published a study about the length of stays in Pierce County prisons.

Tacoma Weekly covered the recent report that followed the study’s publication. Researchers found that immigrants with ICE detainers stayed 3.7 times longer than the average population of people can be arrested for a variety of reasons, ranging from minor misdemeanors to felonies. Furthermore, an arrest does not mean someone actually committed a crime.

In this country, we are innocent until someone accuses us of doing something. In this regard, we see that the legal rights of immigrants are not always guaranteed the right to an attorney. Some are removed while they are still in custody, and this does not say “citizen,” but rather “person” when discussing legal rights.

So, with the current system, people can be arrested for something minor or something they didn’t even do. While in the process of being detained, they can be turned in to ICE. Their detainee keeps them in custody longer than they otherwise would be, cutting down on their ability to try their case in their own defense (a legal right).

The UW study explains that it has been demonstrated that being in custody before a trial begins makes a conviction more likely. It also negatively impacts many people beyond the person in custody, including their families, friends and employers.

When it comes to actual trials for immigration and deportation, people are not always guaranteed the right to an attorney. This is especially true for those close to near impossible battle. Even worse, many times immigration/deportation trials are completed en masse, with each person being lucky to get a few minutes to present their case. That’s not justice.

Why is Trump so insistent on building a wall when we could instead be making productive changes to the immigration process and upholding all people’s legal rights? Instead of funneling billions of dollars into ICE, detention centers and the National Emergency to build the wall, our government agencies’ budgets to build the wall, our government could work to make positive changes to the immigration process.

It is a convoluted, difficult, expensive and long process. Make no mistake, American immigration policy is and always has been racist.

At the end of the day, unless you are a Native American, you come from immigrants. We are a country built on immigration, and we must find ways to refuse entry into a country when our own families arrived as immigrants.

### Photo

*The UW Human Rights Center study looked at prisons throughout Pierce County and the impact of ICE presence in the lives of detained immigrants*
**Why are young people having less sex?**

By Bennett Johnson

It is the eighth week of 2019, yet it feels like the 100th. Exam season is here, and the semester is starting to gain momentum. While our heart rates increase due to the stress, I wonder if our hearts still beat.

The Atlantic recently published an article called “Why Are Young People Having So Little Sex?” arguing that millennials don’t get laid because they are too insecure and afraid to lead to less sex than the older generations had. The book “Gen Genn” even found that in people’s early 20s: 21/2 times more likely to be abstinent than Gen Xers were at the same age.

Researchers aren’t sure what to blame. We are living in an age of surging anxiety rates, widespread antidepressant use, streaming television, and smartphone addiction. Each one of these factors is a vibratory golden age, dating apps, option paralysis, careers, smartphones and sleep deprivation. In 2014, when Tinder last released its data, the average user checked Tinder 11 times a day. Men and women together spent around 10.5 hours a week on Tinder. Today, the company says it logs 1 billion swipes a day, and just 26 million matches. That is a lot of people nodding and not talking.

Colby Wright, a junior from Idaho, told me he has conversations with his friends just a few jokes and then one of us steps out. He never met up with anyone from Tinder, but I did manage to get a pen-pal out of it.”

While I wasn’t looking, a young woman that met through dating, told me, “I have very basic conversations, but they are common.”

The Atlantic article argued that young people are hitting on each other with fear. I rather say it’s a high percentage of fear for others. I tested this by asking Loggers their experience. Sophomore Roan Furmanski told me, “I’ve always hit on people in person, never used online. The last time I did was with my current partner, Angelique, last year.”

Wright told me, “I’m a fairly flirty guy in general. I offer little hints into conversations and let people take from there a little. So if they have interest, I fully endorse watching it.”

Cat Shank, a junior studying religion and Asian Studies, told me, “I prefer to show interest for someone in person because it feels more genuine.”

Nia Henderson, a junior studying psychology, said, “Flirting from behind the screen is so two thousand and late.”

We all long for the days of enjoying flirting in public. The Austin Institute for the Study of Family and Culture found that from 1992 to 2014, the share of American men who reported masturbating in a given year doubled to 54 percent and women more than tripled to 26 percent.

Wright told me, “The first time I watched porn was in fifth grade. This kid Jeremy started showing me boobs on his phone on the playground and gave me some tips on what to search to get past privacy settings.”

Sakai and Furmanski first watched porn in the sixth grade. Just so you know, women watch porn, too. One woman I interviewed started watching porn in the fourth grade.

Gavin McKinley, who also co-founded Vice Media, has said that pornography and masturbation are making millennials “not even want to pursue relationships.”

Wright told me, “I never really had a relationship as a teenager, but I saw the first relationship I got into was when I was 10, so I guess that counts.”

Furmanski had a very different answer: “As a teenager I’ve had four non-sexual relationships. As an older teenager I had another four sexual relationships.”

In 1995, a large study known as “Add Health” found that 66 percent of 17-year-old men and 74 percent of 17-year-old women had experienced “a special romantic relationship” in the past 18 months. In 2014, when the Pew Research Center asked 17-year-olds whether they “ever dated, hooked up with or otherwise had a romantic relationship with another person,” only 46 percent said yes.

Researchers believe that this is because dating apps have created a paradox of choice or “option paralysis” (a term from the Netflix Series “Black Mirror”). FOBO (fear of a better option) combined with the ‘one that got away’ syndrome is a paradox that is not a promising one.

She quoted Nora McInerny, saying, “I love you” sounds better than “You are my best option at the time, though I know you have reached your potential and I am destined for greater things, buddy.”

Avonozian continued, “But my FOBO dissolved when I met Roan. We both had had our fair share of sexual experiences, the good, the bad and the ugly. Roan had more experience than I had, but we both understood we were on the same page and had a very similar understanding of sex. We had different sexual experiences, but we were both on the same page.”

Despite living in an age full of stressful obligations, it is joyful to know that people still find time to search for love and intimacy. There might be a plethora of researchers wondering why our generation isn’t coupling up as quickly as older folks did, but it seems to me that Loggers are simply navigating love at a new pace.

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**Review: Netflix’s Sex Education**

By Ellen Finn

When the British Netflix series “Sex Education” was released in January, I avoided it despite my final week of an extraordinarily long winter break boredom. I figured that it was yet another show created by the Netflix algorithm to lure curious teenagers in with cheap, raunchy tropes about teenage sexuality.

While I can’t say that I was 100 percent incorrect, when I finally got around to watching it, “Sex Education” surprised me, especially in terms of its topic matter, aesthetic and undeniable sincerity.

“Sex Education” featured unexpected storylines, such as girls under 18 getting pregnant, dogs and dark, wood houses that felt like an episode of “Stranger Things.” The raunchy language and high school angst, on the other hand, made it look less like a teen soap and more like an adult drama.

The show spotlights Otis, a sexual-phobic teenager with an extremely open (and rather nosy) sex therapist mother, Jean. Otis’ secret crush, Maeve, convinces him to become their high school’s “sex and relationships therapist” after he talks a student through a slightly disturbing Viagra mishap. The pair go on to see students through STIs, revenge porn, first-time lesbian sex and a series of incredibly awkward sexual scenarios (so uncomfortable that at certain points they are difficult to watch).

The series shares a certain raunchiness with its middle school counterpart “Big Mouth,” but also appears to be trying hard to be caught up to 2019: there are conversations and conflicts regarding non-binary and transgender identity and non-consensual sex. Each episode of the show is supposed to be a licensed therapist, she has a frustratingly poor knowledge of personal boundaries. I found her a little hokey and not overtly realistic. But I think the show’s creators intended the show to be one of the more unrealistic parts of the show and ultimately made her admirably relatable.

I talked to a couple of my friends who have seen the show and really enjoyed it. Senior Olivia Burke said that she also found Jean’s role to be slightly over-the-top but still representative of a high school and teenage self she knew well.

Eric is an out gay black teenager but a lot of what she did was meddling of Jean, Otis’ very sexually active mother. Eric, one of the few who is aware as others.”

Burke found Otis’ storyline about not feeling ready to have sex or masturbate to be reliable.

“I think I was freaked out like Otis,” Burke said. “I felt less in tune with my body or socially aware as others.”

Both Burke and Pytte (and I, for that matter) cite Eric’s storyline as one of the reasons for celebrating the show. Eric is an out gay black teenager. Without giving away too many details of the plot, Eric faces bullying, transphobia and racism. Despite the terrible issues he had to face, he becomes a champion of self-love and compassion.

“I like Eric’s storyline because it showed him going through a rough patch — and finding self love again in the context of being queer in high school. That was such a breath of fresh air!” Pytte said.

“Sex Education” is a wacky comedy that isn’t for the faint of heart. If you don’t enjoy it, I fully endorse watching it to have a laugh or even spark an intimate conversation with your friends (and family if you’re really brave). But if you’re a little less experienced like Otis, you may want to watch the series solo and learn a few tips along the way.

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**An honest portrayal of how a wide range of teenagers come to understand sex**

*Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons. An advertisement featuring actress Emma Mackey, who plays Maeve Wiley in the show.*

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The Happy Trail is The Trail’s weekly sex column that seeks to inform the community on issues related to sexuality and gender by addressing these topics in an education-based way. Our mission is to make the campus a safer place by normalizing and demystifying topics like safe sex practices, sexualities, kinks and polyamory, while shedding light on topics like trans rights, sexual and domestic violence, gender inequalities and intersectionality. Happy Trail correspondents are not medical professionals, if you have a medical concern contact THFR or a local clinic. Otherwise, direct your sexuality and gender questions to mmclean@pugetsound.edu. Respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to trail@pugetsound.edu.
Tacoma’s vulnerable communities hit hard by winter storm

By Hana Morita

On Feb. 8, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency for the state of Washington due to the winter storm. The storm forced many schools to close, caused widespread transportation to shut down for several days. Freezing temperatures and snow also impacted the large population of homeless and food-insecure residents in Washington, specifically in the city of Tacoma.

According to the city of Tacoma website, Tacoma has a three-phase approach for emergency temporary aid and sheltering for homeless persons living in Tacoma. The three-phase initiative provides temporary shelter in city-owned locations while also giving access to food and workplace units such as on-site meals, showers and laundry units.

“The Tacoma do have a high population of homeless families. Some are living in hotels and others are over the Puyallup River living in their cars,” University of Washington Tacoma professor Christie Stevens said.

Stevens is an associate professor at the University of Washington Tacoma in the Nursing and Healthcare programs with a background in researching structural disadvantages faced by low-income residents. Stevens believes that residents affected by the storm will experience longer-lasting consequences.

“Many other organizations reiterated the concern of how the storm would be impacting students. According to a representative from Tacoma Mutual Aid Collective (TMAC), "When school is cancelled, those families have to come up with two meals worth of food per kid. When your food budget is already limited, people go hungry." Another issue parents still had to leave for work faced with the closure of schools includes the loss of childcare provided during work hours.

"You no longer have your kids being watched at school,” the representative from TMAC said.

The TMAC representative also pointed out how the recent government shutdown has deepened the issue of inaccessibility to food and the food-insecure and homeless.

"A number of families are still recovering from not getting back pay from lower-wage government jobs that were affected by the shutdown. ... Forst campus, for February were distributed in January, so many families are already out," the representative from TMAC said.

Like many in Tacoma, TMAC has reached out to support homeless and food-insecure people through mobile distributions. “Mobile distributions where people take whatever they need that we have. The focus of the weather response was on warming supplies (layers, winter socks, waterproof shoes and coats, hand/foot/boy warmer, bandannas, gloves, hats, scarves), shelter supplies (tents, tarps, weatherproof tape and bungees, sleeping mats, sleeping bags), as well as a hot meal and snacks,” a representative from TMAC said.

The heaters are a DIY project that one of us read about. We talked and then made a number to distribute. Our means are limited, we are always interested in items we can produce more lightweight and for cheaper. Anything too big to carry will likely be lost in a sweep,” a representative from TMAC said.

During a sweep items are often lost or thrown as homeless encampments are forcibly removed. Beyond the recent weather crisis, TMAC has committed to a wide range of work throughout the year, including monthly supply distributions, home-cooked meals for an oncology unit, and lunch boxes for minor injuries and providing free laundry services.

Many shelters and organizations also felt undersupplied and understaffed during Tacoma’s harsh winter. One such organization is Comprehensive Life Resources (CLR), a private not-for-profit community mental health agency that also provides shelter for youths and young adults experiencing homelessness.

“I think in general the conditions forced a lot of people inside who are used to sleeping on the streets... We’ve been open since Friday 3 p.m., running 24-7, feeding three meals a day. We are neither staffed nor funded to function at that capacity (there’s normally a full eight hours between shelter let out and drop-in programs start) and so both staff and program participants had to work together to keep things running,” Jake Nau, a project manager at CLR, said.

The winter storm has also impacted Tacoma’s Northwest Detention Center, which shut down as a result of the storm. However, Northwest Detention Center reported that they were prepared and able to care for inmates immediately after being released from the Northwest Detention Center, also claims to have been negatively affected by the storm.

“Appointments with some of our partners such as World Relief being cancelled slows up the process on getting our people back to their lives due to these offices and other government offices being closed,” AIDWN Volunteer Coordinator Deborah Nelpo said.

AIDWN’s volunteer-run shelter known as the Hospitality House offers shelter to homeless families, and the Northwest Detention Center and like many other organizations, the AIDWN house had to shut down due to public transportation closures.

“We are fortunate to have a live-in host to take care of the residents and a group of great guys that aren’t afraid of walking to the stove,” Cruz said.

The shutdown of government services and public transportation deeply impacted many Tacoma residents, restricting access to basic necessities.

To help donate to the organizations stepping in to help victims of the storm, visit http://www.compassionforclothes.org, or comprehensivelife.org.

How to utilize Career and Employment Services

By Corrina Sullivan

“Every advisor jumps at the opportunity to work with students, which I find to be the most welcoming and comfortable part about using CES as a resource,” senior and lead CES assistant Madison Fisher said.

CES, or Career and Employment Services, is a free resource that all current students, alumni and faculty are able to use. CES helps students gain experience by meeting with advisors to look for part-time jobs or internships that suit them, and asking any questions they may have.

CES offers many services to students, including reviewing resumes, letters of interest or cover letters for career development and much more.

“We can consult with you in-person, by phone, or via Skype!” CES’ website reads.

The consultations are also available throughout the year, but the only request CES is to schedule an appointment for meetings that are more than a quick resume check.

Fisher has used the resources since her first year at Puget Sound.

“I have used it for internship interviews, interviews, updating my resume, proofreading cover letters, taking career assessments,” Fisher said.

These resources are available to all students, whether they are first-years looking for a part-time job or a senior wanting to get their first job after college.

Another service CES provides are classes, worth 5 credits each, to help students learn more about their strengths. The classes, Career Development (CRDV) 201 and 301, run each semester. CRDV 201 is focused on career awareness while CRDV 301 is about career readiness.

Jake Nelko, the Assistant Director for Career Advising, teaches the 301 class. “Our office has this model: assess, explore, act,” Nelko said.

These classes help the students through this model so they are more informed when they officially join the workforce.

The resources CES offers are mostly geared toward current students, though there are exceptions. Alumni are encouraged to come by during ASK nights and talk to current students. The ASK nights are a way “to connect with students who want to learn from your life experience,” the CES website says.

The alumni are also encouraged to hire current Loggers by providing job opportunities on LoggerJobs.

LoggerJobs is an online resource where students can look for various types of internships, part-time job and full-time jobs. On LoggerJobs, students are able to enter information about themselves, from their GPA to their major. From there, students are able to view jobs that may be applicable to their time and their career interests.

Although much of CES is tailored to current students, alumni who graduated less than a year ago are also encouraged to use CES resources.

For alumni who graduated more than a year ago, Loggers are able to login and seek resources online for them to use. Most of these resources are available exclusively to alumni as they are not quite as local. These resources, unlike CES, may not be free.

Loggers are encouraged to take advantage of their opportunities and our office is here to give you some practical tools that will help you leap into those opportunities are,” Nelko said.

If a student wishes to take a class, they may contact the office to register. If a student is not able to take a class, they are allowed and encouraged to use CES resources.

“As a class, they are able to enter information about themselves, from their GPA to their major. From there, students are able to view jobs that may be applicable to their time and their career interests.”

The next career fair is on Feb. 28 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Upper Marshall Hall.

The events are a great way for students to network. “I would point to networking as the most effective way to learn,” Nelko said.

The events are a low-cost environment for students where students can network with people who have been in the Puget Sound environment. These events also allow students to learn which careers work with which majors.

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Late last semester the University of Puget Sound held the soft launch of GET, a mobile ordering app that allows users to order via their smartphone at their favorite on-campus cafes and restaurants.

“This was something that we just needed to do,” said Kimberly Wells, coordinator for Diversions, Cellar and Alchemy. “This was on the forefront,” Wells said. “You know, it was one of the things we could do to stay on the forefront.”

It became clear that the “closed” message occurred when a certain time slot for orders had filled up. The app then would allow so many orders per each time slot as to not overwhelm the employees who were also taking additional in-house orders. If the app states that the Cellar is closed, it will show its normal hours on the app. The Cellar recommends trying to change your order to a later time slot to resolve the issue.

Dining and Conference Services (DCS) is diligently working to resolve any issues that occur to ensure the best ordering experience for their customers.

Phillip Wells, the assistant director for catering and cafes, and Emily Smith, the catering coordinator, explained how long a mobile ordering system has been in the works. “The idea of GET probably started in the fall of 2017 and one of our cohorts, Tasha Helton, who works for business services, goes to a conference each year,” Wells said.

The conference is called CBORD, and the CBORD conference provides the points of sale system (POS) and software that DCS uses. At the conference Helton first saw the GET app and DCS began to explore what other universities were utilizing the GET app.

“We actually took a trip to Pullman, Washington to Washington State University who also uses the same app for their mobile orders,” Wells said.

When the app was first being tested, DCS worked closely with DCS to resolve any issues that have occurred.

Phone orders require employees to stop their current task to pick up the food. If The Cellar is busy, like on a Friday night or Monday through Thursday night, the phone would ring until an employee was free and they could find time to pick it up.

Besides eliminating that inconvenience, the app has made orders more accurate, as users enter exactly what they want rather than having an employee transcribe the order from a phone call.

This is especially important for customers with dietary restrictions who want to ensure that their pizza is vegan or gluten free.

For The Cellar, a common point of confusion occurs as customers attempt to use the app but are informed that The Cellar is closed, according to Wells. This message sometimes appears even when The Cellar is open and obviously hasconfused customers.

The last event of the retreat was held in honor of PossePlus Retreat facilitator Rebecca Renard.

“Students often feel that their voices are not heard and that the decisions being made on campus don’t reflect the ideas and the values that they hold,” Morrison said.

“We hope that those who feel they can’t speak up on campus feel comfortable enough to speak, not only about campus ... but about the nation in general.”
Callahan breaks conference record, moves on to NCAA championship

Junior Kelli Callahan earned the award for the Northwest Conference (NWC) Women’s Swimmer of the Year for the second consecutive year.

“It takes a lot … but it’s all worth it!” Callahan said.

Callahan’s exceptional abilities were on display at the NWC Championships held from Feb. 7-10. She had some specific aims in mind heading into the competition: “My goals were to continue improving my IM and free races … I was focusing on defending my conference titles in the 200 and 400 IM, as well as adding a third title in the 200 freestyle.”

Her ambition and focus paid off. According to Logger Athletics, Callahan successfully defended her title in the 400-IM (individual medley), clocking an impressive 4:26.70. She also defended her title in the 200-IM and won the 200-freestyle, doubling the number of titles she held from the year before. It’s no surprise then, that Callahan was named Swimmer of the Year for the second time in her collegiate career.

“My pride is shared among all of my teammates and co-captain Kai Haven praised Callahan and her achievements: “She has a good work ethic. She was really happy with her performance and so was everyone else.”

Assistant coach Alex Nowjack echoed this excitement for Callahan’s achievement: “Seeing Kelli receive recognition for her hard work is amazing.” The season is not over for Callahan. “While scoring/placing is important to me, I also wanted to continue my season on past our conference meet,” she said. While she must wait for official qualification, Callahan will most likely be competing in the Division III NCAA Championship in March. This means another month of hard work for the NWC Women’s Swimmer of the Year.

Looking ahead, Callahan knows like Callahan apart, however, is not the sheer amount of time spent training, but the manner in which they train. Nowjack praised Callahan for paying great attention to detail when she trains.

Callahan will be competing in the 200-IM, 400-IM and 200-freestyle.

Softball starts 2019 on historic note

With springtime approaching campus, the varsity women’s softball team is gearing up for what promises to be another great season. Two weeks ago, the team’s first preseason weekend in California showed what the team can accomplish. Every player has high hopes for this season and knows that the team as a whole has the ability to continue making history.

According to the University’s athletic department, the Loggers posted a score of 19-8 by the end of seven innings, cementing a historic win over Occidental College two weeks ago on Feb. 10. That game alone goes to show how good this softball team truly is, and that calls for nothing other than pure anticipation for this upcoming season.

Sophomore pitcher and outfielder Noelle Kerr is one of three pitchers on the roster; the other two are first-years. Kerr emphasizes the youth on the team, stating that they are all excited for many more years of playing as a unit. “We have a really young bullpen in general; we’re definitely on the young side,” Kerr said.

Looking back on the team’s performance two weeks ago, Kerr was more than happy with the outcome of their trip to California. “We played a lot of different teams from the SCIAC; we played Pomona-Pitzer on Friday, University of Redlands on Saturday and Occidental on Sunday,” Kerr said.

The SCIAC is the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletics Conference, one that the softball team participates in each year before their main conference begins.

And as a second-year player, Kerr notices a lot of good chemistry within the team, something that she says is essential when competing at a college level. “We graduated six people last year, and we had seven new people come this year, but we only have 14, so half of our team is new players,” she said. “But since we are so small, I feel like we’re really connected as a cohort, so it’s a lot of passion and an amazing work ethic. Hopefully we can contribute to the team’s powerful victory on Feb. 10. As the season’s schedule continues, Kerr said that they can’t wait to play more competitive teams and really work for winning games. “We go back to California again and play a double-header against Occidental on Feb. 22, 2019. That game alone goes to show how dominant the school’s softball unit. "We have a really young bullpen in general; we’re definitely on the young side," Kerr said.

"It certainly seems as though Callahan has lived up to this spirit of competition. "I was focusing on defending my conference titles in the 200 and 400 IM, as well as adding a third title in the 200 freestyle. "It’s no surprise then, that Callahan was named Swimmer of the Year for the second time in her collegiate career."
SPORTS & OUTDOORS
February 22, 2019
traillsporteditor@gmail.com

By Tayla MacPherson

The Puget Sound basketball programs continue to bring in a multitude of accolades. This week Jimmy Wohrer, senior men’s basketball player, beat the University’s three-point record. Chase Curtis held the three-point record of 275 until Wohrer hit his 276th career three-pointer on Feb. 9 during a game against Lewis & Clark (Oregon).

Wohrer describes the major influences that have gotten him to where he is today: “I would say that several things helped to get to this point. I’ve had great coaching that contributed greatly to my growth by reaching strong work habits and mechanics in basketball. Next, I’d say that confidence in my abilities helped a lot too. When it comes to shooting, you have to believe every shot you shoot is going in.”

Not only does Wohrer receive accolades weekly through the Northwest Conference (NWC) and school, Wohrer is also described as a true teammate by head coach Aubrey Shelton and fellow senior teammate Gabe Chaikin.

Chaikin described Wohrer’s qualities as a teammate on and off the court: “On the court, Jimmy is someone that you always want on your team. Not only is he one of the best three-point shooters I have played with, but he is very versatile in many other aspects of the game. He has a great basketball IQ, attacks the basket well and has a great feel for the sport. Having known him for the last four years, I have seen him grow as both a person and a basketball player.”

Wohrer is averaging 20.2 points per game, which is the third-best in the NWC. The star continues to grow as a player offensively and defensively. New head men’s basketball coach Aubrey Shelton described Wohrer’s best qualities as a player on the court: “What impresses me even more is that he is not just a shooter. He has played the point guard position at a high level this year, constantly working to get his teammates involved and handling the ball versus other teams best defenses every night,” Shelton said.

“Jimmy is also a very good defender, which often gets overshadowed by his offensive greatness. His overall ability as a complete basketball player again comes back to how hard he plays, his confidence and athleticism his tremendous footwork and balance.”

The Loggers have finished their conference play but will be continuing to the conference tournament. Depending on the outcome of the conference tournament, the Loggers may be able to extend their season and move on the NCAA tournament, an ultimate goal of Wohrer and the rest of the team.

Wohrer’s fellow senior teammate Gabe Chaikin described the expectations decided by the team and coaching staff at the beginning of the season: “As a team, our expectations have always been to put out our best effort. Whether the team is winning or losing, our goal is to never let a team out-work or out-hustle us,” Chaikin said. “We have faced several challenges this season, but we try to stay focused on the things that we can improve. As the season is coming to an end, we want to leave a lasting impact and legacy for the basketball program.”

Wohrer has been a major contributor to the Loggers’ success throughout the last four years. The Loggers have placed fourth in the conference for the majority of the 2018-2019 season. Additionally, Wohrer has been named as The Logger of the Week and Northwest Conference Student-Athlete of the Week numerous times throughout this season.

Wohrer described his confidence and his drive to succeed in the game he adores: “I would say that I’m not surprised by my success just because I always tell myself no matter what, and I’m confident that I can handle any struggles I face in the course of a game or season.”

Tales from the trail: Finding adventure and perspective abroad

By Serena Hawkey

Going abroad can be daunting, especially if it feels like you might be leaving a part of yourself behind.

The study abroad brochures warn you about losing your passport and the discomforts that may accompany a homesay, but they don’t normally tell you what it’s like to go months without climbing a wall, kayaking a river, or taking a bike ride in the rain.

If you consider playing outside one of your core identities, spending time doing things other than that might feel unimaginable. In the back of our minds, we know that “being outdoorsy” can be more a sign of socio-economic privilege than an affinity for nature, yet for many of us, nature brings peace and fulfillment, and entering into a new experience without that comfort is scary.

Senior Kumar Kay spent his junior year on Pacific Rim, a Puget Sound program that takes students to 11 different countries in Asia over the course of nine months. Kay grew up in the outdoors: hiking, climbing and biking. The prospect of spending almost a year in some of the most expensive and the outdoor club at school provided little support for liaising between the students and the wilderness.

Hoping to skip the fees, March and a group of friends decided to take a two-day pre-season hike that nearly ended in disaster. The group got caught in a torrential rainstorm, which washed away the trail, soaked their gear and almost stranded them. While the group made it back safely, March admitted that the group was too underprepared and inexperienced for such an adventure.

Before she went to New Zealand March said that she thought being outdoorsy was about being a National Outdoor Leadership School alumnus and having the right hiking gear.

“I think I aspired to be considered ‘outdoorsy’ before New Zealand … but now I think it’s just more important to do what you like. And if that means being in the outdoors — in whatever sense makes you happy — then that’s great, that’s being ‘outdoorsy.’”

Going abroad may not allow you to be “outdoorsy” in the same way that you are at school, but there’s a good chance that if you seek out outdoor adventure, you’ll likely find it, and perhaps some perspective, too.
Administration to build separate campus for campus tours

By Grizz ‘n’ Toe

Hello Presidents, neoliberal, full-paying business majors and students (I guess),
I am the Board of Trustees, Benson Bernard. As I write to you, I’m sipping whiskey and stroking my custom-bred hairless cat, Charles. We make a great team. I have some decent, delicious news to deliver to The University of Puget Sound (which is my newest philanthropy project).

In the next month there will be groundbreaking construction to create a separate campus solely for Puget Sound campus tours. We want to ensure that prospective students are schooled, stunned and bewildered in the best possible ways. Don’t you want your prospective Loggers to feel at home? Good.

Not only will this project wow prospective students, it will help with retention. There was a Princeton Review study, “Fraudulent Campus and Retention,” that surveyed the 20 liberal arts colleges nationwide that use this model. In 2010 all 20 campuses were struggling with retention. Between 2010 and 2015 each of these campuses built a pre-campus campus solely for tours, and their retention increased by 7 percent. Incredible! Don’t you think so, Charles? Ha!

Well, aren’t you curious about what the Puget Sound pre-campus campus will include? Charles sure is. What a good boy. When a prospective student arrives at the pre-campus campus, a butler will arrive at their right side, place a tender hand on the student’s shoulder and whisper in their ear, “You are granted an A in four classes of your choosing.” A separate butler will greet the prospective student’s parents and hand them $500 in cash, along with an IPA for the fathers and a lovely Moscato for the mothers.

Then, the student will be carried through state-of-the-art buildings, which will be reconstructed each day based on the prospective student’s preferences, gathered from a pre-visit survey. Again, all of these strategies are tried and true based on the “Fraudulent Campus and Retention” model. We need to trust the studies, models, prototypes and facts, folks. Charles thinks so, too.

After the students, parents and butlers glide through our premium facilities, they will end up on 30 acres in Ruston Way where the student mansions are located. Each mansion — one per student — will have a private chef and rugs made from the finest exotic game (gathered from my global hunting excursions — the iguana bath mat is my personal favorite). The students will then be encouraged to nap within 30 seconds of lying in them. What a dream.

Again, this girl has been tested many, many times and is beyond ethical. You may be wondering where the money to fund this is coming from. Well, I most certainly have answers for you. I hired the ghost of Hugh Hefner to host a private meet and greet. The ticket sales from this event are fueling the fraudulent campus. Thus, the tuition of students — scoff — will not be involved. Let me stress, this new campus is being funded through fundraising, and is supported with numerical evidence from the “Fraudulent Campus and Retention” model, so it is beyond perfect.

I have never felt prouder to be, in some way, connected to the University of Puget Sound. I know that each and every Logger will feel a swell of school spirit when they imagine what the pre-campus campus is like — because, ha, you will not be visiting if you’re already enrolled. Please email me at ibernard@hughhefnerlegacy.com or extrasleekhairlesscat@hughhefnerlegacy.com for any compliments or praise.

This campus is boy-crazy!

By Bean McQueen

The University of Puget Sound campus and community has been hit with a stff bout of boy fever.


When asked if she, too, was boy-crazy, Baitman smiled a small smile and said, “Oh, I’m the boy-craziest of them all.”

Boy-craziness is characterized by frequent desires to think about boys, to talk about boys and to figure out places where boys are and go there. Boy-craziness is highly contagious and moves quickly through small communities, particularly in late winter, or “boy season.”

I spoke with senior biology major Murphy Tanks about the science behind boy-craziness.

“The causes of boy-craziness are not well understood, but scientists have been able to identify some risk factors and physiological signs of boy-craziness,” Tanks said. “A person exhibiting strong behavioral signs of boy-craziness will nearly always have abnormally high amounts of anti-boys in their bloodstream. The infected will often develop sudden rashes, which, while not painful, are itchy and do often spell out trivia about American sports history. Those who are boy-crazy often see in blue, because blue is for boys, pink is for girls, and yellow is for non-binary people, and the rest of the spectrum is genderless, of course.”

Tanks revealed that boy-craziness can strike anyone, regardless of gender or sexuality.

“Oh yeah, no one’s safe. Cis men are boy-crazy, trans women are boy-crazy, the tall, the short, the smart and the simple — everyone’s coming down with it. Woop de doo, stoop stoop stoop. Oh, sorry about that — I’m boy-crazy as hell,” Tanks said.

Another symptom of boy-craziness is unprompted scatting.


Some students have called for classes and/or deadlines to be temporarily suspended due to the access issues presented by boy-craziness.

“I’m not going to write a paper right now, boy-crazy junior Meerkat Davidson said. “There’s no way I could even start a paper. Unless, I guess, the assignment was to write about boys. Wait, yeah … a paper about boys! Boys. Beep boop, deet ta ta. And I definitely can’t go to class like this! Except … wait … do you think there might be boys there? I’m sorry — I have to go!”

“There’s no way we’re going to cancel classes over this,” University President Issiah Crawford said. “We have channels in place for this. If a student is unable to do their work due to boy-craziness, they can contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Accommodations.”

Crawford shook his head. “Look, I get boy-crazy like anyone else, and I still do my duties here. I wake up in my cottage every morning, as is my duty, and I go to sleep in my cottage at night, just like I’m supposed to. I make this sacrifice, boy-crazy or boy-sane.”

The spread of boy-craziness seemed to be so prolific that The Trail struggled to find a single person on campus who was unaffected before hearing about security guard Tristan Bowls, who claimed not to be boy-crazy.

“Boys, shmoys. Who needs ‘em?” Bowls said. “I’m not boy-crazy and I’ve never been. They should test me to discover the cure, don’t you think? I see boys around and I hear about security guard Tristan Bowls, who claimed not to be boy-crazy.

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The impact of Write 253: Tacoma’s Literary Arts Organization

By Evan Walsh

It would be misguided to underestimate the power of self-expression, especially in the case of children. The ability to express feelings and stories to the world can change lives. Write253 aims to get Tacoma youth excited about the literary arts and literacy through writing workshops and events.

“They say they’re a literacy arts organization — not literary, but literacy... They are interested in both the creative aspect — the creative writing component of it, the artistic component of it — but they are also interested in literacy. They are using the creative writing arts to excite students about writing and to express themselves,” Renee Simms, Board Member of Write253 and an associate professor of African American studies at the University of Puget Sound, said.

Simms is going into her second year with the organization. Speaking about her initial involvement with Write253 and the organization’s founder, Mary Fox, Simms said, “She was looking for people who could do community-based writing workshops for students in Tacoma public schools.” Simms has a background in teaching creative writing in K-12 schools, having worked as a teaching-artist in Phoenix and Los Angeles.

Despite only being an official organization since 2016, Write253 has been doing work in the Tacoma community for longer. “The idea for Write253 came out of a workshop in 2011 with Tacoma area high school and college writing instructors,” Simms went on to explain. “One of us had heard of 826 Valencia, a non-profit creative writing organization that was started in San Francisco by writer Dave Eggers and others. We loved it and thought, ‘Why can’t we do something like that here?’” Mary Fox, co-founder of Write253, said. “And so Write253 works through a number of different programs. The organization’s base is rooted in educational partnerships, providing writing workshops of all kinds for Pierce County students of all ages. Write253 also conducts workshops for youth at Renmann Hall Juvenile Detention Center.

The organization’s standout program is the Louder Than A Bomb (LTAB) teen poetry festival and spoken word competition. “It’s a signal piece,” Simms said of LTAB.

The festival, originating in Chicago, has been a defining success in Tacoma and Pierce County. It has grown substantially since its initial competition in Tacoma in 2016. “It’s incredible. The kids are excited, they love it, people are cheering and baying and saying, ‘Listen to the poem!’ if they don’t like the score that’s been given. There’s a lot of energy in that room,” Simms said.

The youth of the organization is a point of excitement, not unease, for Simms and Write253. “I’m also excited to hear stories about female body size, stout length, body condition, mite load... stress levels and age... So a lot of information is potentially held within variation and the color expression,” Weiss said.

Not only do more vibrant females indicate health, but the more vibrant the female, the more desirable she becomes to her male lizard friends and the more likely they are to court her. Additionally, male lizards become more competitive and aggressive in the presence of vibrant females.

So what do lizards and young couples falling in love in Europe have in common?

“Before Sunrise” is arguably the most obvious example of a date night on Valentine’s Day. A less-obvious choice is “Science on Screen” at the Grand Cinema in Tacoma, Dr. Stacey Weiss of Puget Sound’s biology department gave a presentation called "Brighter females are better: A lizard tale of flashy females and discriminating males” at 6:45 p.m. prior to the showing of "Before Sunrise." "Science on Screen" invites viewers to listen to a science-related talk before showing a movie which in some way relates to the content of the lecture.

Dr. Weiss presented her PhD thesis work on female-specific traits in lizards and what they indicate about sexual selection. Sexual selection is essentially when an animal selects a mate based on certain traits. The most obvious example of sexual selection is found in the behaviors of male peacocks and female peafowls.

When attempting to woo a peacock, peacocks will literally fight to the death. The peacock is meant to show off their beautiful feathers, because the duller-colored peafowl generally pick mates with the largest, most vibrant and most heavily marked feathers.

“Imagine that flashier traits in males can indicate their health to the choosier female is a well-accepted and studied theory. However, many female animals show different traits, they are interested in both the characteristics, yet little work has focused on females. This is why Weiss began researching the Striped Plateau lizard, a species found in a small number of discrete mountain ranges in Mexico. Female Striped Plateau lizards’ coloring changes based on their reproductive cycles, becoming more vibrant as they enter peak fertility. “It’s incredible. The kids are excited, they love it, people are cheering and baying and saying, ‘Listen to the poem!’ if they don’t like the score that’s been given. There’s a lot of energy in that room,” Simms said.

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“Variation in color expression is able to reliably predict things about female body size, stout length, body condition, mite load... stress levels and age... So a lot of information is potentially held within variation and the color expression,” Weiss said.

Not only do more vibrant females indicate health, but the more vibrant the female, the more desirable she becomes to her male lizard friends and the more likely they are to court her. Additionally, male lizards become more competitive and aggressive in the presence of vibrant females.
Students and community members transform library books into works of art

By Keara Wood

The development of the Internet took the world by storm and began to completely reshape society in the early 2000s. Because of it, books, newspapers and other kinds of physical printed media have slowly become obsolete. Because of the Internet, we no longer have as great a need for things like books and printed copies of newspapers as we once did. Everything is just a few taps on a touchscreen or a few clicks on a keyboard away.

The exhibit “Transforming Knowledge: Altered Encyclopedias” directly addresses the subject of the obsolescence of books in our increasingly technological world. According to the description of the exhibit in the catalog, events began the spring of 2018 by turning works of the Encyclopedia Britannica from University of Puget Sound’s Collins Library into works of art.

“Another striking piece is the paper statue of Lady Britannica done by Jan Ward. The work features a paper rendition of a so-called Lady Britannica who stands in a Victorian-era styled dress with her hands spread at her sides, almost as if she is about to hug the viewer.”

Two crows rest at her sides, and at the foot of her dress stands a plinth that had once been made from chicken wire and rolled paper cones made from pages from recycled journals in the library.”

The piece as a whole adds to the almost melancholy tone created by the exhibit’s acknowledgement of the end of the reign of printed media. The exhibit will be up during the library’s regular operating hours until May 12, 2019.