By Marcella Rutherford

The United Methodist Church voted in the second-to-last week of February to exclude LGBT+ people from fully participating in church life. This decision is on top of toughening their stance on performing same-sex marriages. They also toughened their stance on being in a same-sex relationship, describing it as LGBT+ to become members of the clergy. This decision was made at the major conference only a week after the United Methodist Church holds every couple of years. “The United Methodist Church has had anti-LGBTQ+ language in its Book of Discipline (rule book) for almost its entire existence (the denomination has existed in current form since 1796 when the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church). The UMC is global and so delegates who come together from all over the world for all-church General Conferences every four years bring a variety of opinions, cultural practices, beliefs, ways of interpreting the Bible to the table. This makes our tradition very rich, I believe, but it also makes it hard to agree on some things,” Kristin Sinks, President of UMeth, the Methodist student club on campus, said.

This news affects campus because the University of Puget Sound is still affiliated with the United Methodist Church. The University of Puget Sound was founded by the Methodist church in 1888, and while the University is now run entirely independently of the church, it maintains its affiliation with the organization.

President Crawford sent an email to campus in the wake of the announcement reaffirming the dignity of students affected by this, and placing his support behind LGBTQ+ students in the wake of the church announcements. “Puget Sound maintains an affiliation with the church for a number of valued practices that include access to education, academic freedom, social justice, environmental stewardship, interfaith dialogue, and global focus. In addition to these shared values, I draw strength from our Methodist heritage, including our student members of the campus club UMeth, our Methodist-appointed campus chaplains, and the many ways that these and other members of our campus community contribute to the spiritual life and wellbeing of the campus community as a whole,” President Crawford wrote.

UMeth responded to the announcement by requesting that the following statement from the club be published in The Trail. “The exclusion of the United Methodist Church’s General Conference last week to tighten the restrictions on LGBTQ+ clearing and namings is one of the reasons the Church by United Methodist clergy, and to increase the disciplinary risk for those Church leaders and congregations who support LGBTQ+ inclusion. We also condemn the harm the church has done to the LGBTQ+ communities and ask for forgiveness for our role in this harm. As University of Puget Sound students, as United Methodists and as Christians, we will continue our efforts of offering love and support and affirmation. The feelings in the moment were a mix of grief, fear for the future, and pain for all who have been affected by past actions of the church, as well as the potential for future actions.”

“I was watching the conference itself and, with every vote, this focus on punishment for LGBTQ+ folks suggests those working towards inclusion became clearer and clearer,” Sinks continued. “There are those who feel that the church has always been split on this discussion of inclusion,” Sinks said. Wright went on to say that many members of the United Methodist Church have disapproved of the rules in the past by performing same-sex marriages on campus. “It will cause a rift in the church as those who prefer a more inclusive model will be forced to reexamine their connection to the church.”

“What I was texting on and off with some folks who were at the conference and I was in almost constant connection with friends on campus and from across the United Methodist connection,” which was helpful, but the whole thing was such a rollercoaster. I was really emotionally shaken out of concern for the wellbeing of the UMC, which I care deeply about and hope to be ordained in one day, but more importantly, out of concern for the wellbeing of LGBTQ+ friends and mentors and young people who are continually told that who they are is not welcome in the church,” Sinks said. “The outcome was not really unexpected for me, but I hadn’t realized the extent of the spitefulness and focus on punishment present in the discussion until I was watching the conference itself and, with every vote, this focus on punishment for LGBTQ+ folks suggests those working towards inclusion became clearer and clearer,” Sinks continued.

These sentiments toward the decision were echoed by University Chaplain Chaplin Dave Wright, who has spent a long time watching this issue and paying close attention to how this would affect his work on campus. “While I had been anticipating things to go poorly at the conference, it was still a mixed punch in the gut at different things that took place, leading up to the final vote. I was at a conference of multifaith chaplains in higher education at the time, and the dozen or so of us that were there who are United Methodist kept finding times to connect and reconnect with each other. Even more importantly, our Humanist, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, and other Christian chaplains were there to share our stories, offer love and support and affirm.”

“arly on, it was clear that the steps actions is finally the end of the United Methodist Church as we’ve known it. Period. It's not the last time we’ll hear about this in the church, and hopes to help students through this process in his work on campus. “We’ve heard the claim that this is about saving the church, but I don’t believe that is true. We have a responsibility to our students, and I’m hopeful that this will not be the end of our work together,” Wright said. “The United Methodist Church has never been about the church. It’s always been about the people, and that includes all of us. We have a responsibility to our students, and I’m hopeful that this will not be the end of our work together,” Wright said.

“Beyond all, you are of sacred worth, and (speaking as a theist) you are beloved by the Sacred. No church, no religion, no government can take that away from you. No organization has the right to tell you that you’re not. It shouldn’t even take that sort of system to tell you that you are beloved, that you are sacred, but I know it helps all of us to get affirmation from the world around us,” Wright said.

Both Sinks and Wright encouraged students to use their own judgment in how much they involve themselves with the church in regards to their own health and safety, but for those for whom faith isn’t an option, they will feel supported on this campus. “I am a product of the church, and I have received many, MANY ways of understanding scriptures and beliefs and God. If you have been raised within a system that harms you, or that puts you who are at odds with what you’ve been told to believe, it’s fully understandable that you might need to just walk away from that. For others, that might feel impossible,” Wright said. “Be safe and take care of your health above all, and if you feel stuck, you’re not alone and myself and many, many others would be willing to walk with you on a road that fully affirms and embraces you as you are and that may find space for you to hold that alongside a healthy mix of faith and belief – or to find ways of life that might not include traditional faith or belief but that allow you to fully embrace who you are,” Wright concluded.
The Center for Intercultural and Civic Engagement, or the Yellow House as many know it, has quietly started a new project designed to bring needed clothing to members of the campus community. As of this semester, the Yellow House started an open clothing closet designed to provide students with limited means the opportunity to have quality clothing.

The new closet is currently focused on providing winter goods and business wear. Pairs of boots, puffy jackets, hats and gloves are all available at the closet. Additionally, there are elements of professional wear such as blazers, work-appropriate shirts and nice shoes. The closet also has a few bottles of soap, lotion and other small toiletries.

The closet, located in the back office of the Yellow House, is a small operation. For anonymity, the closet has its own door, which makes it easy for students from having to interact with employees of the Yellow House. However, this space is temporary due to the limited accessibility of the location. Stairs prevent some members of the community from accessing the space anonymously, forcing some to use the entrance that goes through the office. This is one of the main concerns of the Yellow House, and a driving factor for finding new space.

Skylar Bihl, the Assistant Director of Spiritual Life and Civic Engagement, spoke about the necessity of this project. "It’s expensive in this campus not only to just be here, but also to participate fully in the social environment of this campus,” Bihl said. She pointed out that the culture of Patagonia and expensive gear can make students feel isolated, as if they don’t belong. With this project, Bihl’s team has a goal of "making [students] feel like they belong here.”

The need is there, according to Bihl. "Over the last five years I have seen an increase in student need," she said, also commenting on the continued use of the lending library and the food pantry. Bihl has seen that students are in need of these resources and the Yellow House is working hard to provide them.

The closet started from one of the Yellow House’s spring projects called Operation Save. At the end of the spring semester, students donate unwanted goods and local charities come sort through the materials. This is where the majority of the items in the closet are from, with a few things purchased out of the Yellow House’s budget. As this project continued, Bihl started to notice that students on campus were interested in the clothes.

"I started hearing pretty immediately that we had students saying, I really can’t afford to buy new clothing, can I come pick some clothes?" Bihl said. Since then, Bihl has sought for these resources has been a serious consideration of the Yellow House, but up until recently there hasn’t been any space for the closet.

Previously, in order to provide this resource the Yellow House would host pop-up clothing closets, as a sort of short term attempt to supply the needed clothing. But Bihl and her team wanted to create a more long-term and effective solution. "As of now this space has not been found, but the back office of the Yellow House is a step up from intermittent pop-ups. "How do we meet this need on a more ongoing basis?" Bihl asked as she and her staff continue to plan for the project.

Bihl envisions that the closet will grow. Unfortunately student needs continue to rise. Socioeconomic disparities make the clothing closet a necessary resource.

As of right now, the closet is not taking donations from the campus community. "We’re trying to figure out the best way to facilitate donations,” Bihl said. They do not have a system in place, or enough space to effectively collect clothing yet. However, Bihl and her team are fully committed to making the closet a reality.

The clothing closet is in its beginning stages, still trying to find its footing and get organized. Bihl and the staff of the Yellow House are slowly trying to carve out space in the university to provide needed resources to its students. Though this project is just beginning, it is already in use. Bihl pulled eight empty hangers from the closet last week. Eight items of clothing, and soon to be many more, have gone to students in need.

The closet is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. for those who need it.
Mayor Woodards delivers ‘State of the City’ address at Puget Sound

By Kylie Gurewitz

“We are the city of destiny, and we are moving forward,” Tacoma mayor Victoria Woodards exclaimed last week in Schneebeck Concert Hall. On March 6, Woodards delivered the 2019 State of the City Address at the University of Puget Sound.

Several community members contributed to this event by performing or speaking in introduction. The T.U.P.A.C. Dancers performed, as well as the Tacoma Refugee Choir and the Puget Sound Community Choir. Emcee Clemencia Castro-Woodley, along with outgoing Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound President Colin Noble and Rabbi Bruce Kadden, gave opening remarks. A video adaptation of the poem “Destiny is not a Metaphor” by poet Laureate Kellie Richardson was also shown as an introduction to the address.

In her address, Mayor Woodards focused on a few key topics including transit, infrastructure, affordable housing, tenant protections, recycling and living wages. In terms of transit, Woodards discussed the expansion of the Tacoma Link throughout the city, including the extension to the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. In November 2018, the city broke ground on the extension of the Link system from downtown to Hilltop, a 2.4-mile extension that will open in 2020 if construction stays on schedule.

Housing was another important topic at the address, with a specific focus on increasing tenant protections. Woodards discussed the issuance of apartments raising rent or being converted for commercial use without giving adequate notice. She shared stories about tenants whose rent was raised several hundred dollars and were only given 20-40 days notice. Most of these resulted in the previous tenants’ homelessness. To combat this problem, the Office of Equity and Human Rights created legislation that has been in effect since Feb. 1 that calls for 120-day notice and relocation assistance for low-income tenants.

“There is no way to address it [the issue of homelessness] without ensuring our community has enough affordable homes,” Mayor Woodards said.

Woodards also discussed projects regarding Tacoma’s infrastructure, specifically focusing on Tacoma’s streets. In the last year, the city has repaired 3,600 potholes and improved 659 blocks of Tacoma streets. Woodard also praised the Public Works team for their hard work, and stated that they won the American Public Works Association 2018 Project of the Year Award for the Tacoma Avenue South Bridge rehabilitation project.

Recycling was another important topic in the address. Woodards discussed the changes in recycling policy that have occurred in the last year as a result of China’s 2018 ban on many recyclable products. Whereas Tacoma was previously able to recycle plastic types 1-5, only 1 and 2 are now recyclable. Woodard stressed the collaborative approach to this issue, asking citizens to weigh in via an online survey. Several different approaches have been proposed, including the removal of curbside recycling all together.

Collaboration was a recurring theme throughout the address. Mayor Woodard emphasized the importance of working with the city council, community partners and citizens. “While I am honored and blessed to serve as your mayor, you also have eight incredible city council members working very hard with our community partners each and every day,” Woodards said.

Overall, Woodard emphasized the positive aspects of the city’s growth and improvement, and seemed optimistic about Tacoma’s future. She emphasized the need for collaboration and community involvement. However, there were a few topics that Woodard seemed to overlook. She discussed the state of the Tacoma Tidelifts briefly, but did not mention the liquefied natural gas plant that Puget Sound Energy is building there. Woodard also quickly discussed the Legal Defense Fund for Immigrants, a project spearheaded by City Council member Keith Blocker. The fund was approved for ongoing funding in the Tacoma city budget. She did not, however, mention the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC), which is located on the tide flats, and one of the largest detention centers in the United States.

Bioethics Club hosts lecture on food justice

By Sofia Vazquez

When talking about science, most students do not really think about the ethics behind it. In the Bioethics Club, students connect what they learn in the classroom with moral principles. On March 6, the Bioethics Club held a talk about food justice given by Emelie Peine, an international political economy professor.

“Bioethics is the study of the ethical implications of the scientific community’s actions, so it looks at new discoveries and how they might be ethically controversial, what parties they might discriminate against, and how they might affect the well being of different groups of people,” sophomore Annellise Phelps, the treasurer of the Bioethics Club, said.

The Bioethics Club is mostly functioning in sort of a lecture series and we have different professors or students or community members speaking on topics related to bioethics that they are excited about,” Bioethics Club president Kate Gladhart-Hayes said.

“It is also a place where both people with a bioethics emphasis as well as other science majors can kind of explore the ethical side to science because I think that a lot of times that area gets neglected in traditional science classes,” Phelps said. The club does encourage students from all majors and interests to attend the talks they host one to two times a month.

Peine defined food justice as “Human rights, fair treatment and equal opportunity in the food system,” during her talk. Her talk was centered around facts such as: most of a farmer’s income comes from off-farm jobs and that 16 percent of families in the U.S. do not have access to nutritious foods.

“When I think about the food system, I really think of it even including the sort of the production, processing, sale, but also the consumption side. So we are all part of the food system even if we aren’t directly involved in any sort of agricultural activity. We are all part of it because we all eat food, so we all have a connection with the people that grow it even if we don’t think about that connection or are really aware of it,” Peine said.

She covered a wide variety of topics concerning the food system. She mentioned that most farm workers do not have proper working conditions and can’t speak up because of their immigration status or race. Peine also said that farmers are not actually employed by the farm they work for, which makes it hard on them to file a claim.

In addition, she talked about how most meat in the U.S. comes from Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), and how “everything has a dark side, including eating tofu,” Peine said.

During her presentation, Peine explained how CAFO facilities use fertilizers made of fossil fuels to grow food for the animals they keep in cages until they are turned into meat. These type of fertilizers are bad for the environment not only because they are made of fossil fuels, but also because it causes the fertilizer that the animals create to go unused, which creates pollution.

“Consumer choices are important but not enough, I think that was a really big takeaway from it because people get very hung up on that. They are like ‘it is worth it? Is it not worth it?’” Gladhart-Hayes said. Even organic food is fertilized with the waste of animals at CAFOs, thus making it hard to break out of the cycle of mistreatment of animals and pollution.

“The choices that we make really do matter but I think that it is very easy for us to consume our way out of this problem,” Peine said. There are more actions that can be taken, such as calling representatives to ask for better conditions for farm workers, and to turn the 36 percent of our food that is produced and goes to waste into fertilizer.

People can call representatives to ensure “the ability of small and medium size farmers to make a living farming and the ability for them to hold on to their businesses and make a living, and that is more of social and political problem than it is an economic problem. I think we often think of it as an economic problem and we have economic solutions rather than having political solutions,” Peine said.

In our community, the S.U.B. already helps reduce the ecological impact by sending the food waste to an organization called Tago. This organization turns waste into compost and gives it to farmers for free. This compost is also used to fertilize the trees around campus and vegetables in the campus garden, which people can harvest and then eat. Students can visit the campus garden and grow some of the food.

“For me, growing a little bit of your own food is not necessarily an issue of sustainability as it is just sort of fostering that connection to where that food comes from and what it actually takes to get food onto our plates,” Peine said.

This would help people understand the struggles and hard work that farmers put into feeding others and close the gap between consumer and producer. “I feel that everyone can have a pot with a basil plant on their windows,” Peine said.
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By Bailey Gamel

We may be more than a year away from the Democratic National Convention (457 days to be exact), but a tight race is already shaping up. Contrary to the 2016 election where we had two dominant candidates, Sanders and Clinton, as of March 8 there are 12 people in the running for the 2020 election. Included in that list are Bernie Sanders, Cory Booker, Kamala Harris and John Hickenlooper. Each has their own platform, assets they bring to the campaign and party, and (of course) liabilities they bring to the party as well.

What we are seeing in this primary election is eerily similar to the 2016 Republican National Convention — a variety of candidates, all in varying degrees of extremism and popularity. What resulted from this was Donald Trump’s election as the Republican candidate in the General Election.

Democrats must be wary of repeating the Republican mistakes as well as our own mistakes of last election. We must find a strong candidate who will be able to dominate the primaries and win the general election. During the 2016 primary season, I attended the caucus in Colorado. Caucuses are unique to the Democratic Party, as they are comprised of constituents that gather together in a public place and actively debate the potential candidates. At the end of the discussion, each voting precinct selects a candidate to endorse. In July, a representative from each precinct goes to the convention and casts their vote, usually for whoever their district chose.

With the divisiveness of the 2016 election, a record number of people turned out to the caucus. In my precinct, I met voters who were die-hard Sanders supporters. They told the rest of the voters present that if the Democrats selected Clinton to be on the ticket for the general election, they would be more inclined to support Trump. Despite how insane this is from an ideological standpoint (no matter how much you dislike Clinton, you cannot deny that hers and Sanders’ platforms were more similar than Sanders’ and Trump’s platforms). This attitude was not an uncommon one. After Clinton was selected as the Democratic candidate, many people expressed that they would support third candidates or even Trump. This contributed to Trump’s ultimate success in the general election.

Throughout the next year, Democrats must work to sift the candidates so that by the time primary elections/caucuses start, we have it narrowed down to a few strong viable candidates. Come July 2020, the Democrats must select the strongest candidate and all support that candidate together. No splitting the ticket.

It is imperative that we find a candidate and all support this candidate because that is the only way we are going to ensure that Trump does not win the next election. I was really hoping that 2020 would be the time to make a shift towards the third-party vote, but under our current political system, this is not viable nor advisable.

While I would love to see a pluralist system arise (similar to that of the United Kingdom where there are several parties from which to choose), it is more important that we prevent another four years of Trump. People of all types of views, liberal, progressive, union affiliated people, left-wing liberals and progressive Republicans who are fed up with Trump, let’s all find a viable candidate who can run on the Democrat ticket. Let’s find a candidate who will advocate for all of us, not just the rich, cisgender, heterosexual, non-immigrant white men that the Trump administration cares about.

Let’s find a candidate who will work on fixing the mess of a country that Trump will be leaving behind. As soon as we have this candidate elected, let’s work on eradicating the two-party system that is responsible for the issues we have seen repeatedly in elections. Hopefully by 2024, we can have multiple viable candidates, including those who are unaffiliated with either the Republicans or Democrats.

From left: Sen. Bernie Sanders, Sen. Cory Booker, Julian Castro, Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee and Sen. Kamala Harris are among the fourteen Democratic candidates who have announced their 2020 presidential campaigns. Other figures who are predicted to run include former Vice President Joe Biden. In the Republican race is current President Donald Trump.

The trials of a transfer student

How ‘enhancing’ is an on-campus living requirement?

By Isaac Sims-Foster

Bureaucracy does much less for this University than many administrators would like to admit. Uncomfortable and often disheartening stories about student interactions with the Registrar and Student Accessibility and Accommodations (SAA) float around campus constantly, for example, reminding us all of how tiring it can be to email as “office” rather than a person.

But while struggles with communication between student and administration are common, an often marginalized and overlooked plight is that of the transfer student here at Puget Sound.

Many transfer students, of the roughly 75 that join our ranks each year, face challenges with the administration over items like transfer credits, Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry (SSI) enrollment and especially housing. Transfer students have specific, and sometimes very personal, circumstances that don’t comply with the wishes of the robotic bureaucracy upheld in administrative offices. This tension and the resulting strife is a display of how this University is in fact really going to feel those “educational benefits inherent in this kind of undergraduate experience. Student learning, in and out of the classroom, and student success are enhanced by the on-campus residential experience. Being a part of a community of scholars is also reinforced by living in campus housing.”

As a result, all new students that come to Puget Sound must live on campus for two years, including transfers. There are some exceptions listed: married students, students with children, students who are at least 23 years old or dependents of Puget Sound faculty/staff. Exceptions outside this list are rare, usually defined by extreme financial hardship or severe mental/physical health issues.

In cases like this, a red flag is already waving. Every student is different, and trying to classify the exceptions to the contract with a couple of hyper-specific and understandably unlikely circumstances is not inclusive to students who may have unlisted, but still valid, reasons for spending less than the full two years on campus.

The anonymous transfer student is one such case. Upon applying for housing, they contacted the ResLife office to ask about the wording of the contract, and whether it would apply to them based on the fact that they attended a residential campus their freshman year and a commuter campus last semester. ResLife’s answer was brief, informing the student that their case would be considered.

“I was under the impression, after I was accepted and applied for housing, that I would only be spending one semester on campus. As of now, I’ve been looking at apartments and making plans for my junior year. . .I reached out to them and they refused to talk to me. If I were to have the housing, then I would have to live there for another semester. I was really hoping that 2020 would be the time to make a shift towards the third-party vote, but under our current political system, this is not viable nor advisable.

That’s what I was really hoping that 2020 would be the time to make a shift towards the third-party vote, but under our current political system, this is not viable nor advisable.

This student’s story is a glaring example of the disadvantages that Puget Sound’s bureaucratic administrative offices have in communicating with and assisting students. Not only has the student lost faith in the moral values of Puget Sound, but they’ve been granted access to a window showcasing the shallow and impersonal business maneuvers of a private enterprise.

I’ve said many times that Puget Sound has work to do in a lot of areas if it intends to live up to many of the words slapped onto promos and pictures, many of which are aspirational and encouraging prospective students. Housing is too important of a matter to be dealt with like a trip to the DMV. A more personal and empathetic perspective is needed in the Res-Life office if students are really going to feel those “educational benefits inherent in this kind of undergraduate experience.”
Is sex-positive discourse necessarily positive?

By Ellen Finn

For some reason, a fact that my AP U.S. History teacher told our class my junior year of high school has always stuck with me: during the Victorian Era, chair and table legs were often paired with the furniture so that it looked like bare legs and was sexually suggestive to the male owners. It makes me wonder how often a similar fear the furniture looked too much like bare legs and was sexually suggestive to those living in it. If you look behind pseudonyms (something Ellen and I have written about things that get people off. If you look

By Bennett Johnson

Writing for The Happy Trail is... sexy? Not all (okay maybe none) of my articles read like erotica, but I definitely have had sex in my articles in the past. I mean, if you went through the archives, you'll find

Michele Foucault's panoptic gaze over campus discourse

Michel Foucault's panoptic gaze over campus discourse

An uncredited artist's rendering of the spirit of Logger nation plucking itself, from a 2011 Happy Trail article titled "Mainehaven: natural act shouldn't be taboo."
Second annual ‘But Some of Us are Brave’ series centers multiraciality and polyculturalism

By Juliano Estrada Donatelli & Brynn Svenningsen

In the annual “But Some of Us are Brave” lecture series, guest speakers Nana Osei-Kofi and Stephanie Han confronted the under-discussed topic of multiraciality and polyculturalism to an excited crowd of students and community members. The series was co-sponsored by the Coalition for Multiracial and Bicural Students (COMBS), a club working to bring awareness to the experience of multiracial people on the Puget Sound campus.

Osei-Kofi and Han presented on March 1 and 7, respectively, in Trible forum. Osei-Kofi is a professor of women, gender & sexuality studies at Oregon State University and Han is an acclaimed writer and English scholar.

The “But Some of Us Are Brave” series was inspired by the Black Women’s Studies textbook written by three African American women scholars, Gloria T. Hall, Patricia Bell Scott and Barbara Smith. The book is titled, “Women are White, All the Blacks are Men, But Some of Us are Brave.”

The series was created in 2018 through the joint collaboration of Professors Brackett of the African American Studies Department and Dr. Sarah West of the Hispanic Studies Department. The goal of the series was to feature women of color in higher academia, and invite Puget Sound students and community members to engage with the research and activism of these acclaimed scholars.

Additionally, the series works to highlight women scholars whose work continues to further the inclusivity and equity of women of color in academic settings.

“I want to reach across different cultures and backgrounds,” Dr. Brackett said.

“Sarah and I partnered up and we decided on five speakers. … It was a really amazing time, and it was great to work with someone who really had the same vision that I did, of making sure that students have that experience and the access of women of color that are not necessarily here or may not necessarily be able to speak about those things.”

As Dr. West’s appointment last year as Visiting Instructor of Hispanic Studies came to a close, she was hired at the University of Illinois as a tenure track professor. This year, Dr. Brackett was the sole organizer of the “But Some of Us are Brave” series.

“I was so happy to see that people in every department that I reached out to that had a little bit of money said, ‘Sure, we will give you what we can,’ which shows that they know … we need that voice,” Dr. Brackett said.

“Now that I don’t have that partner, I’m trying my best to make sure students are the ones introducing the speakers and that they have a stake in the fact that the speaker is coming … I also got to send a lot of thanks to ASUPS for supporting financially and just being there consistently for our students so that we can have this.”

In the first lecture of the series, Osei-Kofi shared her research and experience in a lecture titled “Notes on Multiraciality: Reflections on the Personal and the Political.” At the beginning of the lecture, COMBS founders Isaiah Thomas and Lenora Yee spoke to the importance of COMBS as a club that recognizes the experience of multiracial people.

“We don’t get a lot of spaces to talk about this,” Thomas said. COMBS was created after Yee and Thomas met in an affinity group at the Posse scholarship retreat. Since the club was created, weekly meetings have begun.

“Every week we talk about an issue that we face in daily life, back at home or on campus. We are trying to create a welcoming community for multiracial students on campus,” Thomas said.

Osei-Kofi’s lecture combined a personal speech with an audience discussion. Osei-Kofi shared that the lecture was meant to encourage conversation between everyone in attendance. As a result she often stopped her lecture to ask for audience participation.

“When I introduce it, I always try to make sure people know that this is for the students and the reason I enjoy doing it … is when I see students interact … they’re laughing and enjoying, and they’re connecting and they’re collaborating, and they’re excited,” Dr. Brackett said.

She worked with Osei-Kofi, Han and COMBS to create a lecture series that would encourage active audience participation.

“I encourage students to come forward with their answers. … Polyculturalism is a big issue within the global market, and there will never be a this-or-that.”

Osei-Kofi’s experience as a biracial woman and Han’s extensive research in sexuality studies at Oregon State University is reflected in the writings of Stephanie Han, acclaimed scholar.

“Hawaii is a very complicated place. Many people do not claim a pure ethnicity. They’ll be Hawaiian, Chinese, Filipino … the vast majority of what they say is local culture is mixed.”

Although Han acknowledged there are problems present within the Hawaiian community, of which she did not go into great detail, she shared her work as an example of what polyculturalism looks like on a smaller scale.

“I liked the nuance with which Stephanie Han dealt with polyculturalism, specifically regarding Hawaiian identities,” said Kofi, a professor of women, gender & sexuality studies.

After the lecture, the audience was encouraged to ask Han questions. Topics such as cultural oppression were highlighted in the lecture, as Han spoke on the individual interacts in a global society. This included comments from Han regarding the complex and multifaceted, as well as the powers that have participated in the exploitation of others within the global market, such as wearing clothes produced by child laborers in foreign countries.

“She was very eloquent and straight-forward with her answers. … Polyculturalism is happening. … It is inevitable but while we are going through this we have to be cognizant of the power structures and the oppression that can be caused by the systems in place,” ASUPS President-elect Mushawn Knowles said.

“I was really happy to hear people sharing,” Dr. Brackett said. “To be able to be very open and honest about the difficulties of the not-knowingness … this is always a process and there will never be a this-or-that.”

Just like the first lecture with Osei-Kofi, after the event, there was a dinner held with Han and students and faculty from the University of Puget Sound, which drew to a close the second, and last, visiting lecturer event of this year’s “But Some of Us are Brave” series.

The series concluded with a Women of Color Community Circle on Thursday, March 14, which gave space and faculty who identity as women of color the opportunity to speak about their personal experiences and narratives.

“I believe that this space, which is a temporary quick space, allows for people to be a little more brave about what they really want to discuss,” Dr. Brackett said.
A tale of two faiths: Professor Ann Redding shares her unique fusion of Christianity and Islam

By Corrissa Sullivan

Although the Vietnamese Tết New Year was in February, the University of Puget Sound hosted a celebration put on by the University of Puget Sound Vietnamese American Community Association and the Vietnamese Senior Association of Olympia & Vicinity on March 9.

The event had been postponed due to the snowstorm in February. Around noon in Upper Marshall Hall in the Wheeldon Student Center, students, staff and faculty joined with members of the wider Tacoma community to welcome in the year of the pig.

According to the event program, Têt celebrates the lunar new year, marking the beginning of spring. The event was given in both Vietnamese and English. However, as some customs would be difficult to explain, the program guided audience members in understanding the context and relationships behind certain events.

The event started with the singing of both the Vietnamese and American national anthems, led by the Lincoln High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC).

As Vietnamese organizations who sponsored the event are comprised of both veterans and seniors who came to Washington from the Vietnam War, it was important to the members that they honor both identities.

A moment of silence was also held to mark the 51st anniversary of the Tết Offensive, the name of a series of attacks by the North Vietnamese against South Vietnam, which turned the tide of the Vietnam War.

The bittersweet introduction was quickly followed by the much-anticipated Lion Dance. The most excited audience members included small children who boldly ran up to these big noisy lions and “fed” them money offerings. Interestingly, some of the lion dancers were not asked to perform until the morning of the event.

“We just looked around and said we needed two more lions,” community member and organizer Yv Du Ly said.

Unfortunately the lion dancers that had performed in previous events graduated from the University of Puget Sound last year so Ly emphasized that they are still looking for lion dancers for future events.

After the Lion Dance, the event paused for lunch, donated by Na Thuy Restaurant and Hong Kong Supermarket, with extra refreshments donated by the The University of Puget Sound’s Lace Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment (LIASE). Other sponsors for the event included the City of Tacoma Arts Commission, Hong Lan Fashion shop and Big John’s Trophies.

The second part of the event included performances by the Sunflower Dance Team, the Kaimiola Dance Team, and singers. According to the program, the Sunflowers started in 1995 as a way for refugee children to keep their culture alive.

In the beginning, linguistic and cultural differences were hard for the girls and so the group provided support.

The Sunflower dancers, a combination of middle to high school students, were excited to dance, rushing back and forth from the dressing room to the stage in their bright yellow ao dai.

“We’ve been practicing for two months,” said Nancy Sweery, 39, the founder of the Kaimiola Dance Team, connected to the Vietnamese community by teaching dance to the Golden Bamboo senior Vietnamese Women’s Group. Their performance showed the power of connecting communities through dance.

The event finally concluded with some senior members of the Vietnamese community singing traditional and popular Vietnamese songs.

“I’m an alum of UPS so I know their venues … and I thought it would be nice for UPS to connect … I know UPS and I know they care about connecting to local Tacoma and getting out of the UPS bubble so it seemed like a perfect opportunity … by bringing community members in,” alumni and community organizer Renee Meschi said.

From the appearance of the packed room it appeared the event was successful in bringing together different people and cultures to welcome the new year.
As spring training nears end, Major League Baseball prepares for 2019 season

By Sam Watters

The off-season for any sporting club is time for the management staff to reevaluate their rosters, trade players and construct a fresh team for the next season. According to SportingNews.com, the Major League’s regular season this year starts on Thursday, March 28, clocking in the earliest start to the regular season in Major League history.

The two earliest games on the docket are the New York Mets face off against the Washington Nationals in the National League and the Baltimore Orioles clash with the New York Yankees in the American League. Before the season for all 30 teams kicks off, the Oakland Athletics and Seattle Mariners will be touring in Japan to play two friendly games eight days before the nationwide first pitch is scheduled to be thrown.

To some, this off-season was off to a rather slow start. Several of the game’s biggest names went into free agency and got tied up in unsure trade rumors, causing the league as a whole to be uncertain of several team’s newest rosters.

Freshman Bryan Darlington said the best part of Spring Training and preseason as a whole is that fans get a first glance at the development of new players.

“It’s interesting to see the big names off the field this year,” Darlington said. “Without Spring Training, so many lower-division players wouldn’t have any game experience before the regular season starts, so giving them the chance to showcase what they can bring to their roster is really cool.”

Recently, important trades have been made, including the 26-year-old right fielder Bryce Harper finalizing his trade into the National League’s Philadelphia Phillies organization on Feb. 28. MLB.com stated that Harper’s new contract is a 13-year, $330 million deal, ensuring his future with partner Lisa Owens.

Panicking Machado’s powerful swing and calf-clipping slide style with first baseman Eric Hosmer’s defensive skills, who’s one year into a 10-year contract, the Padres are expecting to rise above the .500 mark by the end of the season for the first time since 2010.

Looking at the Bay Area, the Oakland Athletics organization, soon to be the only professional sports team in Oakland, has made several moves this off-season even though they lost six players to free agency.

Two free-agent additions to their rotation, Marco Estrada and Joakim Soria, as well as a trade from the Texas Rangers for Jurickson Profar give the team better depth and higher hopes to clinch a spot in the postseason, where last year they lost in the American League Wildcard game against the much wealthier organization known as the New York Yankees.

As one of the most consistently poor franchises in the game, the Athletics don’t have the luxury of signing top players for low contracts; they can get. Manager Bob Melvin, though, knows his team well and can certainly work with what he has to make a team worthy of a title.

Much closer to campus, the Seattle Mariners took this off-season to finalize several major trade deals. “They were giving up Canoe, they were giving up other players that I don’t think they could really afford to lose, but at the same time I think they’re going into a more rebuild type of mentality,” Darlington said.

One of the strategies the Mariners are using for this season is to trade away their top, mostly older players to then get higher draft picks and younger players to start the process of redeveloping the team. This redevelopment style — usually lasting longer than a season — is an opportunity for the team to essentially start fresh and anew.

With Spring Training in full swing, each of the 30 major league teams are showing their newest players on and off the field. One can only hope that the season itself is as exciting as the off-season has certainly been.

Tennis teams take the court for Puget Sound

The men’s and women’s tennis seasons are underway. Both teams have competed in five matches, four of which were conference matches. Additionally, both teams have a new head coach, Matthew Simons, who is somewhat unusual because both teams have different traveling schedules.

A current senior, Riley Inn, has been a member of the men’s tennis team for all four years of his college career. He described the beginning of their season: “We’re all starting slow and having to catch up, but we have been focusing on starting strong so we don’t have to dig ourselves out of the hole!”

The women’s team is currently ranked in seventh place and the men are in ninth place in the Northwest Conference. In the preseason, the men’s tennis team was expected to finish the 2019 season in ninth place, and the women are expected to finish in fifth place.

Inn described the aspects the men’s team hopes to improve on. “Finishing our opponents and keeping our foot on the pedal instead of relaxing when we are up. There have been several individual matches where we have been up but let our opponents come from behind to win. We want to focus on closing out matches and finish strong.”

Women’s senior captain Nicki Bouche explained the categories that the women’s team want to focus on in the upcoming weeks: “We have been working on developing a competitive atmosphere during practices, so we want to be able to apply that drive and fight attitude towards our upcoming matches.”

Bouche said. Recently the women’s team competed against Whitworth University, the second-ranked team in conference, and barely lost 4-5. Bouche won her individual match in addition to her match with partner Lisa Owens.

Moving forward, Bouche discussed an exciting upcoming match. “The one that comes to mind right away is our rematch against Whitworth on April 13. I think it will be pretty intense because we were tied for fourth in conference with them last year and we barely just lost to them last weekend,” Bouche said.

Bouche discussed her thoughts about the first couple weeks of season: “I am so impressed by the level of competition and determination that the team has displayed so far in the season — even though it’s relatively early, every single player on the team seems like they have already been playing conference matches for months.”

The men’s team gained six new players for the upcoming season and returned six, whereas the women’s team gained four first-years and returned seven members. The large number of returners can assist the continuation of momentum from previous years.

Bouche described the efforts and her impressions of the first-years: “I’m especially proud of our newest players, who have been throwing themselves into matches with full effort and dedication even though they are probably still figuring out how to handle all of the stress and excitement that comes with being in season.”

The men’s and women’s teams both compete tomorrow at Willamette University in Oregon. The women play at noon and the men play at 1 p.m.
Track & Field begins season with Boitano Invitational

By Lars Deifty

Puget Sound Track & Field hosted the Ed Boitano Invitational (March 2–3) in honor of the beloved coach who passed away in October 2016. The Loggers put in a performance that Boitano would have been proud of as they kicked off their outdoor season.

Baker Stadium saw quite a bit of action when Whitworth, Lewis & Clark, Western Washington, Saint Martin, Seattle Pacific, Everett Community College and Olympic College paid a visit to the North End of Tacoma.

The Boitano Invitational was the perfect chance for Puget Sound Track & Field to jumpstart its outdoor season in a fun and sentimental manner.

"After all the snow days, the team was excited to have a sunny day for the meet," sophomore Tatiana Klein said.

Senior Matthew Tetreault echoed this enthusiasm: "After the indoor track season it felt incredible to race outdoors on a normal-sized track! Indoor tracks are typically 200 to 300 meters, much smaller than the 400-meter outdoor track." Indoor tracks are generally 200 meters, much smaller than the 400-meter outdoor track.

"We're just coming off of a short indoor season so it was really nice to be back outside," senior Emery Bradlina said.

"But what made the event particularly special was that it was in honor of Ed Boitano. He was a beloved member of the track community."

Head Coach Mike Orecchia spoke highly of Boitano as well: "Ed coached with me for 19 years here at Puget Sound. He was a great part of the culture because it's pretty slow paced and there are smaller group, partner projects. You are able to process what you're learning at your own pace," OLE alumna Grace Phillips said.

"Each course dynamic is different, depending on the excitement and willingness of students to engage and learn, but all produce capable and confident outdoor leaders."

"It was great to see our Assistant Coach Andrea out on the course, as well as some additional wilderness first aid courses, they can lead Puget Sound Outdoor trips of their own, which Canny notes, "is a base for meaningful work in environmental education, wilderness therapy and adventure leadership during the summer or post college."

"It really fostered a sense of community for me. Because it was a mandatory weekly class and there were sometimes things on the weekend, you get to know people you otherwise might not meet," Phillips said. "Even after the trip was over I remained close with the people in my group."

Junior Abbie Gustke agreed, noting the social capital value of OLE as one of her favorite parts as well. "I loved OLE because it gave me an opportunity to connect with new people, while all exploring my own capacities for growth and leadership in the outdoors," she said.

"It's really nice to be back outside," senior Emery Bradlina said.

The Ed Boitano Invitational concluded with a 4x400 Alumni relay race, an annual tradition.

"It was great to see our Assistant Coach Andrea out on the track running the anchor leg of her alumni team," Tetreault said.

"It really fostered a sense of community for me. Because it was a mandatory weekly class and there were sometimes things on the weekend, you get to know people you otherwise might not meet," Phillips said. "Even after the trip was over I remained close with the people in my group."

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"It's really nice to be back outside," senior Emery Bradlina said.
"The beginning of the end happened at my freshman year LogJam," former Puget Sound student Jeremy Jones said. Like many Puget Sound students, Jones put his name down on 90 percent of the club email lists. But unlike most students, Jones committed to each club.

"I was the president of every fraternity, the sweetheart of every sorority, the secretary for every eco group and the hero of every acting coalition."

Not only did Jones quite literally have a toe dipped in every campus water –– he was part of the "toe in every campus water" club –– he took a full course load and two activity credits.

"I was performing CPR and swimming for fitness. I was studying neuroscience and some of the earlier Greek vases — but mostly I was going bezerk," Jones said. After Jones' first year, he experienced the greatest burnout of his life.

"I bit off more than I could chew. I filled my plate too full. The people told me to have a bigger mouth; to craft a bigger plate — I was part of the ceramics club — but I just couldn't do it," Jones said. "The people told me to grow more toes to dip into more waters, and to fatten up so that I could be spread less thin," Jones said. "I told them I was juggling too much and they told me to grow more arms and show up to juggling club, so I did."

On Jones' first day at Juggling Club, he realized that he had found his home base. "Everything was so easy, especially with the extra arm I'd grown because of neoliberal demand," Jones said. "All I had to do was keep my eye on the ball and my third arm moving at about seven miles per hour and I was golden."

Jones felt more connected and in tune than ever at juggling club, and wanted to abandon his other 900 obligations (Jones was spending eight hours every weekend managing the color coordination of his Google calendar). Jones decided to leave the University and pursue juggling as a career. "Leaving was initially a great choice. When I stepped out of my Trimble suite with only my dignity and 26 oranges — for juggling — I felt more liberated than ever. But then things took a turn."

Jones spent his first few weeks as a professional juggler working in some underground juggling communities. "The venues were small, but my love of juggling was large," Jones said. As Jones rose up in the world of juggling, he began to overcommit to the sport. Jones began taking the overnight juggling shifts and teaching classes on juggling.

"I accidentally opened the notorious "College of Juggling." And that's when Cirque du Soleil recruited me," Jones said. Jones, overcommitter and explorer of the world that he is, decided he would run both the College of Juggling and do Cirque du Soleil. "This is when juggling became to much to juggle," Jones said.

After two years of juggling the world of juggling, Jones was burnt out. "For the eightieth time in my life someone told me that I'd filled my plate too full. So, I decided to finally take up the suggestion to make big ceramic plates," Jones said. You can currently find him at his new ceramics studio.

"Next week I'm leading my first classes. I hear world-renowned potter Harry Potter might be in attendance."
Panel Discussion with Blair School faculty exemplifies the School of Music’s year of transition

By Evan Welsh

The School of Music, led by Interim Director Dr. Gerard Morris, has used the past year as an opportunity to reach out beyond their building, hosting events that speak to more than just music majors. On March 6, the School of Music hosted such an event — a trio of distinguished artists from the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Heather Conner, Dr. Caleb Harris and Dr. Christina McGann served as panelists, discussing their experiences as music educators and professionals with a group of a dozen current University of Puget Sound undergraduate and graduate students.

The opening half of the panel, while interesting, was certainly more directed towards music education students. However, the talk broadened in scope as Conner, Harris and McGann spoke about their experiences navigating the world as professional musicians and educators.

The trio offered, through their specific lens of professional music, a conversation about strategies to help further oneself in the modern professional landscape, and how to best set oneself up to achieve your goals.

“Try to find a position where you can learn something about yourself,” Dr. Conner said. Along with a focus on learning and finding opportunities that help achieve personal goals, she ended her remarks for the evening by advising the audience to remember to say thank you to those who lend a helping hand.

Dr. Harris spoke about subtle persistence in networking and how you should make sure to consistently contact people in your network and not to reach out to them only when you have a favor to ask.

“Whatever you do, put your whole self into it,” Dr. McGann said. She focused her advice on self-reflection and being sure to always make decisions with yourself, your happiness and your goals in mind.

The panel showcased Dr. Morris’ philosophy during his tenure as Interim Director — Dr. Conner, Harris and McGann’s comments highlighted both the specific and broad applications of the events and academic opportunities sponsored and offered by Puget Sound’s School of Music.

Whenever we’ve written grants, part of the grant proposal is that the person you’re bringing to campus also has to do something that’s cross-curricular,” Dr. Morris said. Emphasizing music’s ability to transcend different fields of academia is a core part of making events that feel accessible to a wide audience; however, this year, being able to maintain and evolve the School of Music’s ability to engage with the broader community has not been without its obstacles.

At the beginning of the year, the School of Music opened with a new front office staff, an interim director and two open faculty positions in Music Education and Ethnomusicology. With this challenge ahead, Dr. Morris and the rest of the School of Music focused their initial energy on keeping the metaphorical ship steady. Through events like the March 6 panel, impromptu performances by the faculty group Puget Sound Piano Trio in the S.U.B., and other programs like the Community Music Department, which reaches out to all-aged members of the surrounding Puget Sound region, they have marked their course for community inclusion.

“We’re going to traverse this landscape together and come out the other side,” Dr. Morris said about the assurances he has to make as Interim Director and the necessity of holding together during periods of transition. He has been very grateful for the cohesion and help of the entire faculty and staff in the School of Music, thinking of them as a family as they move through change and towards opportunity.

The School of Music and its faculty and staff, in this period of change, has set a course to help students within the School of Music attain their goals and get as many other people in the Puget Sound and the Tacoma community involved as is possible.

Author Richard Wiley launches ‘Tacoma Stories’ at King’s Books

By Carlisle Huntington

Think about your hometown. Maybe your heart is already welling up with affection. Or maybe your face is puckered with disdain. Either way, we’re all affected by the place we grew up in. On March 7, at King’s Books in Stadium District, local author and Puget Sound alumnus Richard Wiley shared just how much his hometown of Tacoma has meant to him during the launch for his short story collection “Tacoma Stories.” Having published eight novels, Wiley switched to short stories for the first time with “Tacoma Stories.” The volume includes 13 stories, which take place between 1958 and the present day. The first story, “Your Life Should Have Meaning on the Day That You Die,” takes place on St. Patrick’s Day in 1968, in Pat’s Tavern, a local Tacoma dive bar. Wiley explores the story of each character in that bar, illustrating all the ways in which place connects us.

“It’s very much about a sense of place,” Wiley said about his collection. “A sense of place is important to people and these days I don’t think it gets enough play.”

Wiley grew up in Tacoma and studied at the University of Puget Sound where he received his B.A. in English. While he has spent some time in Nevada, where he taught at the University of Las Vegas from 1989 to 2015, part of him has always stayed in Tacoma.

“A lot of people just become the place they were raised in, and I sort of did with Brown’s Point and Tacoma,” he said. “I love Tacoma. It’s in my blood.”

And that love undoubtedly comes across in his fiction. The stories run a gamut of topics, from a retired English professor inheriting a perfect wax replica of an ex-lover (“Anyone Can Master Grief But He Who Has It?”) to two strangers meeting at one of the most expensive restaurants in California (“Harmony Date @ Chez Pennie”), whatever the situation, all the stories manage to draw their way home, in Tacoma, Washington.

While there were certainly many Tacoma natives in the audience, Wiley’s work also resonated with more recent residents just getting to know the town. Wiley’s neighbor, Dale Mcfeatters, for example, has gained a new appreciation for the city through Wiley’s work.

“We’re in the process of moving out here, we live a couple of floors below Richard on Broadway and I’ve just fallen in love with Tacoma. It’s an absolutely fascinating city,” Mcfeatters said.

The owner of King’s Books, sweet pea Flaherty, also appreciated Wiley’s intimacy with the city. “Tacoma always makes an appearance somehow in Richard’s work,” Flaherty said. “Obviously in this book, all the stories are set there, but even in other stories, there’s always a character from Tacoma who makes an appearance and I really resonated with that.”

Whatever one’s relationship with Tacoma, there’s something for everyone in each of Wiley’s stories. A marvelous mixture of humor and contemplative nostalgia, “Tacoma Stories” shows us that cities are more than just a collection of buildings, landmarks and roads. They’re a delicate web of lives and stories, each one connected in ways we might never expect.
Jaune Quick-to-See Smith: ‘In the Footsteps of My Ancestors’ at the Tacoma Art Museum

By Arielle Harvey

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith’s intense and powerful paintings unapologetically highlight the history and consciousness of the Native American people. Smith draws on her Salish-Kootenai roots to tell stories of pain, resilience, conflict and peace. Smith’s work will be on display through June 30 in her first solo exhibition of mostly large mixed-media oil paintings and a wide variety of backgrounds. Each artist performed in the University’s Rendezvous Room on March 5, the tour performed in the University’s Rendezvous Room, the Curator of “Kitchen Sessions,” a performance revealed his struggles with the Curator of “Kitchen Sessions,” a performance revealed his struggles with the Curator of “Kitchen Sessions,” a performance revealed his struggles with the Curator of “Kitchen Sessions,” a performance revealed his struggles with the Curator of “Kitchen Sessions,” a performance revealed his struggles with the Curator of “Kitchen Sessions,” a performance revealed his struggles with the Curator of “Kitchen Sessions,” a performance revealed his struggles with the Curator of “Kitchen Sessions,” a performance revealed his struggles with the Curator of “Kitchen Sessions,” a performance revealed his struggles with the Curator of “Kitchen Sessions,” a performance revealed his struggles with the Celebrate their resilience and the American museum that helped us create our own path. This year’s performers included Lopera, a Trinidad and Tobago native, artist and writer. She currently writes for Yes Femmes, Amsterdam and The Black Warrior Review. Her presentation featured a racially charged poem aided by milk imagery. Baruch Porras Hernandez is a writer, stand-up comedian and two-time winner of Literary Death Match. Originally from Toluca, Mexico, Hernandez performed a gut-wrenching poetic account of his childhood, describing what it was like for him as a gay youth against a traditional Mexican backdrop. Road performed a fiery and passionate reading of her hand-drawn tarot cards, “The Next World Tarot,” described on the Sister Spit Facebook page as “a traditionally illustrated Tarot depicting resilience and revolution.” A Cuban-American artist, writer and musician, Road’s tarot deck and readings contained strong themes of social justice for people of color, women and LGBTQ+ people. New York cartoonist and library worker Katie Fricas presented a moving cartoon to music. Hernandez is Mexican-American designer and writer raised in Texas but currently living in Brooklyn. His moving and eye-opening performance revealed his struggles with identity and isolation as a transgender, monolingual mestizo. Further details about the artists and the tour can be found on the Sister Spit Facebook page.