Greek Life is often synonymous with the college experience. Mainstream media is saturated with films like Neighborhood and American Pie, which perpetuate the stereotype of hard-partying fraternities and sororities. That representation, however, and the assumption that all fraternities and sororities adhere to it, has consistently come under fire on the Puget Sound campus.

Greek chapters at the University of Puget Sound often pride themselves on inclusivity and their strong anti-hazing policies, especially when contrasted to Greek life communities at larger schools.

Indeed, Greek members often cite their many contributions to the University, among which are higher financial contributions to the University after graduation, myriad philanthropic events and strong personal connections between members, which remain long after the students have graduated the University.

Given recent events, however, the appropriateness and relevance of Greek Life on the Puget Sound campus has increasingly been called into question.

When news broke in March, it was nearly impossible to avoid hearing about the viral video that showed members of the University of Oklahoma chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) singing a racist chant.

The SAE video ignited a national furor that, among other things, prompted the question over whether the video was an anomaly or representative of greater institutional problems within the predominantly white Greek Life community.

**TRIGGER WARNING: SEXUAL ASSAULT**

This in-depth feature aims to analyze some of these accusations and try to decipher the truth in them, as well as critically question the culture—or lack thereof—of dissent and self-reflection in our Greek community.

**IS HAZING STILL A PROBLEM?**

Sigma Chi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Beta Theta Pi and Kappa Alpha Theta all cite stringent national policies, and even more stringent Puget Sound-specific policies to avoid hazing.

Austin Brittenhorns, president of the Puget Sound chapter of SAE, said that last year the national SAE organization decided that “there’s nothing in our set of values that says that someone needs to be a pledge.” The pledgeship was therefore abolished, and new members are initiated within 96 hours.

Sigma Chi also purports to have a zero-tolerance policy towards hazing, and outgoing Sigma Chi president Tim Pogar says that there hasn’t been a reported incident of hazing at Puget Sound’s Sigma Chi in at least a decade.

“Hazing is still a real thing,” first year and SAE member Jimmy Kelloway said, “[but] in my fraternity, and especially at Puget Sound, I can confidently say that there has not been a single event where I have experienced any form of hazing. I feel like everybody in the fraternity is very aware that hazing is such a big, hot topic in the Greek life community, and you don’t want to be seen in that light.”

(Continued on page 8...)
This past year, a handful of Puget Sound students returned victorious from the National Debate Tournament (NDT) hosted at the University of Iowa. Juniors Austin Brittenham and C.J. Queirolo past this year have advanced to be one of the top 32 collegiate debate teams in the country out of 118 teams at the NDT. Queirolo also returned as the first openly trans debater to win a national collegiate debate award since the conception of collegiate debate in 1947.

Brittenham discussed some of the more long-term benefits he will have from gaining the title of a member of the debate world. "I left this past year in the activity made me read many college-level texts (the most recent and best academics on a given issue) in high school, because they made the best arguments. I have met a wide range of people from other institutions who have incredibly different ways of seeing the world. Debate then forces you to be grounded in who you are and what you believe and to be accountable intellectually to a wide range of members of the debate community. That is to say, intellectually untenable positions or unattractive ways of thinking about the world are quickly highlighted, and as a debater, you have to be able to engage critically with them. As a liberal arts college, Puget Sound strives to create students who have the ability to think critically and assess an issue from all perspectives—even those we are sometimes less comfortable with.

Collegiate debates offer an extraordinarly way to engage with students from around the country and discuss these important policy topics facing the United States and the rest of the world. Brittenham added that in social settings, debate teams, in particular, offers a lot to the debate world that some other schools don't. "We're cooler. But more seriously, C.J. is one of a handful of trans debaters in the country, and that one of a slightly larger number of queer debaters in the country. Our argumentative style of queer and trans negativity, antisociality, accessible social theory and inaccessible abstract philosophy makes our content distinct from other debaters. Additionally, we focus on a style of rhetoric—arguementative presentation—that sometimes involves reading poems (which makes arguments), engaging in dialogue with one another or talking about our lived experiences as queer or trans people," Brittenham said.

Brittenham and Queirolo both bring to the table an ability to speak about these issues from a uniquely informed perspective relative to other debaters in the country.

Debate it: Junior Austin Brittenham and C.J. Queirolo pose at the National Debate Tournament. PHOTO COURTESY AUSTIN BRITENHAM.

TELESCOPE IN HAWAI’I BRINGS CONTROVERSY

By CLAIRE MEYER

Over Parents' Weekend, the Lu'au was enjoyed by students and their families with fascinating dance, food and traditions from the students' home countries.

Meanwhile, as we were captivated watching hula dancers on stage, the land from which many of the dances originated was facing deep turmoil. Currently on the island of Hawai’i, colloquially known as The Big Island, scientists are building a 30-meter telescope on one of the world's most powerful. The location of the project has caused much consternation, especially demonstrations, over the issue of maintaining respect for both scientific progress and native Hawaiian culture. For centuries, Hawai’i has been a unique and irreplaceable location, it makes for an ideal scientific observation point, it rises 32,000 feet, making it the highest mountain in the world from sea level. Due to its distance from light pollution and its clean dry air, the telescopes atop Mauna Kea are able to view some of the furthest galaxies in the universe. According to the project’s website, the telescope would permit astronomers to see 13 billion light years away. The scope of construction would be grand. The telescope is projected to be 18 stories tall and 1.4 acres wide. Numerous public and private corporations as well as the United States, India, Japan, China and Canada have invested in the construction. On the other extremely significant factor, it is a historic site. It is the place that we [Hawaiians] are closest to our ancestors, a place that is closest to the stars where we went to feel closer to them, first- generation Hawaiians, Aaloa, who form the Big Island, said. "There are grave sites of significant people in our history that they are destroyed in... in order to start building and make room to add on what they have already taken from us."

Not only would building the telescope destroy culturally important Hawaiian lands, it would also significantly impact the land ecologically. "It has a lot to do with how the mountain reacts to the atmosphere and how much snow collects on the top of the mountain. When the snow melts it feeds water to the rest of the island, and we have already been in a drought. The telescopes, which can rapidly change the terrain, are in the way of the entire population of Hawaiians that are native to the mountain. We basically changed the weather patterns on the mountain. Scientists are totally disagreeing that [scientists] are grave sites of significant people in our history that they are destroyed in... in order to start building and make room to add on what they have already taken from us."

The production of the telescope has spurred much heated debate over social media. With the hashtag #WeAreHawaiians, many have spread images of themselves with the words, "We are Mauna Kea," written across their bodies. However, some native Hawaiians are not opposed to the building of the telescope. Some Hawaiians have pointed out that the Polynesian culture is one of astronomical exploration. These Hawaiians believe that the telescope would be the ultimate tribute to Polynesian culture.
Paul Goudarzi-Fry: How do you move an audience, as an activist, away from awareness to engagement?

C.J. Quiero: I feel like the way that audiences or just... people come to be engaged in whatever movements they're engaged in is by understanding the concreteness of the situation with respect to their particular lives and experiences, because lived experience is much more important from the view of community building and organizing as opposed to abstract or theoretical cohesion. It's important to engage the direct material conditions that students, audiences, people are living under when you're engaging with them. So, Chong perhaps you're not engaging with them...

PGF: Does activism (as such) have a goal?

CJQ: I wouldn't say there's really a thing called "activism," I think there are different types of things that we do. There's also what I call "activism." I feel like activism is a starting point for a certain kind of movement. I feel like it's progressive or reactionary, libraries, science, activism, and so forth. I feel like activism is more a set of methodology, a helpful tool to instrumentize or exact particular goals. So activism, as such, I would not say has a goal. It's a set of tactics.

PGF: Tactics to what end?

CJQ: Well, that depends on what kind of goal you have in mind. But many of these goals are related to things like gender-neutral bathroom action groups. So, I was [to get] access to single-user, ADA-accessible, gender-neutral bathrooms in a series of buildings on campus. So our tactics were [are] engaging with committees directly related to those buildings, as well as advocating for those buildings. And so those particular buildings was bad, but that the university would have to change the situation. If people had different goals, they might have utilized different tactics.

PGF: How would you define what you personally do on campus regarding social justice, the rhetorical sphere, etc.

CJQ: I would say that what I am most concerned with on campus is working to help better achieve conditions of liberation for students who exist in marginalized communities. The people that I work in, that I care about, those are particular clusters of marginalized communities. I'm also aware that our university is relatively unable to address in the status quo, on which information is the operations of this university at a series of points, although the university is accepting this work for work as a whole. So, then we just begin to disconnect from the real communities and the real materiality and concreteness of those situations elsewhere also.

PGF: What sort of critical responses have you received as a student activist, in a community as a whole? Where do these responses come from, and how do we deal with them?

CJQ: Well, I feel like people who are reactionary in response to these tactics tend to respond in a way to any kind of social justice activism such as they did in the 1960s. I, as opposed to engaging with either signed comments in a place like The Trail, or Facebook, or even Facebook. But they resist and network for whatever reason, because for whatever reason, they feel like they can't articulate their perspectives publicly. But I feel like there's also a more liberatory reason, because this is all part of building community, and so I think that's why you know—realizing what communities you're not in and how you want your communities to be is as opposed to how you don't want them to be. If we essentially have to engage with the real situation and relations of unconditional support for liberation, then that requires shifting our focus away from the popularity of our decisions and the decisions whether or not they help students who are actually impacted by structural inequality.

PGF: In what ways, over the course of your time within the university, have social justice activists been subjected to changes and developments at Puget Sound?

CJQ: Well, I feel like a couple of years ago, the student body was more... apathetic in response to a lot of our actions. I think now the student body is largely more engaged, we can come to better understand these sorts of actions and those who are more... apathetic in response to a lot of our students have been... I think, because they can come to a better understanding of the ways that we come to these conversations. And so, students, I think, that we're better, or that we're actually engaging with the substance of the issues and recognizing the gravity of the scenario that is being articulated, and so they retreat into an emotional response that the activists, in a way, to disguise their own existence within the structure of privilege that's being yielded at.

PGF: How do we connect these activists to the student body, into a space where they can feel logically charged form of discussion, as it were?

CJQ: Well, it seems like that is something that allies and people who self-identify as allies in a number of communities, because people who ex- ist in relative privilege and who exist as allies should be articulating these structures and the social consequences of privilege that responsibility doesn't fall on relatively marginalized students in a given situation... Otherwise, what you get is students who know the gravity of the scenario articulating to the students who don't. And the students who don't just refuse to engage because they assume that it's hyperbolized, or they assume that it's impossible, or they assume that they're not interested, and so they just want to focus on their own homework... But the work of education is part of the work of the university, and part of living in a community of scholars means that peers should engage with each other's, and so we should want to focus on their own existence within the social change. And so I think that means that allies should be discussing with their peers how they can come to a better understanding of social justice and privilege, and so it's all part of building community, and also taking seriously the words of marginalized students, because they're the ones who...
GOLF TEAM CONTINUES THEIR STRONG SEASON

By MADELINE BROOKS

The Puget Sound golf team competed in the Northwest Conference Spring Classic, with both the men's and women's teams placed in the top nine. The men's team finished with a score of 630, while the women's team finished with a score of 634. Their final team scores were 32 over the par of the course.

The Spring Classic was largely influenced by the first years of the team. "If I could change one thing about the Spring Classic, it would be our short games. We haven't been putting well enough," said Coach Erwin.

Despite the fact that the men's team did not finish in the top three, Coach Erwin predicts better results for the women's team at the championships. "Our women's team has been working hard on their short games," said Coach Erwin.

The men's team has been struggling with their short games, but they are working hard to improve. "We are working on our short games and putting," said the men's team captain.

The women's team has been working on their putting and short games as well. "We are working on our short games and putting," said the women's team captain.

The Puget Sound golf teams will be competing in the NCAA Division III Outdoor Championships, in hopes of winning a national title. "I'd consider it a success if I can leave behind a legacy, not just dominating in the classroom and on the track," Whitehall said.

Whitehall has also been named NWC Student-Athlete of the Week for her performance in the Spring Classic. "I appreciate all the support from the school, my professors and fellow loggers more than I can say," Whitehall said.

Whitehall also has a busy life outside of track. She is currently double majoring in Exercise Science and Business and is a member of the sorority Kappa Alpha Theta.

Whitehall is preparing to defend her conference titles this upcoming weekend. After this weekend's meet, Whitehall will travel to New York City where she will race in the NCAA Division III Outdoor Championships. "I think my only goal for the season is to continue to try to reach the height of my potential," Whitehall said.

Whitehall has one more year to compete before the season ends. "I want something with contact," Whitehall said. "I want to see my future teamates do the same."
WOMEN’S RUGBY PLAYS THEIR FIRST EVER GAME AS A PUGET SOUND CLUB

By ZAL ROBLES

The title after 90 minutes of intense battle, the University of Puget Sound’s women’s rugby team started to celebrate.

It was the end of the first competitive season for the University of Puget Sound’s women’s rugby team.

The club formed last spring semester, but did not compete in any matches. It has given an opportunity for women to participate in a sport that was previously only available to men. It became apparent that there was a strong contingency of ladies who wanted to participate in the sport.

There were a couple of obstacles the team had to overcome before they were game-ready.

The first is that the players had to learn the rules of a very complicated sport. Second, the players had to learn how to play the game from the most basic level.

This is the process that every team must go through, playing a new sport, but in most cases the players are usually younger and are playing a more widely known sport.

The participants of the University of Puget Sound’s women’s rugby club are adults and have chosen a complicated sport that is not widely played in the States. Most of the members had never played or seen our rugby match before.

It is a very empowering process for all members who are involved in the club, which started out as an idea and has become a competitive team.

For senior Beth Onaga (Wailuku, Hawaii), her and other graduating members, it encourages leadership, as they found success in creating a club that will have a lasting impact on the University of Puget Sound campus after they leave.

“I’ve never played a sport that you are praised for being good at, and not striving to be taller, or have longer arms, or whatever it may be.”

—Hatte McKay

Younger members, like sophomore Hatte McKay (Pineapple, Wa), will get the opportunity to continue to lead as new members join the club. Veterans will be able to continue to impart their knowledge of the game to these new members.

Rugby has been described as a fraternity of sorts.

It is more than a sport, but a way of life. As every team does, there are many parts of the game that players and the team as a whole improve on as the season goes on, and Follett added his thoughts on that subject.

“I improved immensely due to the great coaching that I received; the coaching staff was able to show me glimpses of my potential, and I have definitely improved in all aspects of pitching. For 11-1, we have a ton of young talent, and over the span of the season we were able to show some of the best teams in the country that we were no fluke. We improved in all facets of the game, and this last series at Redlands showed our ability to succeed and dominate in all aspects of the game,” Follett said.

As every team does, there are some parts of the game that they can work on as a whole. First-year student Mito Rowan-Kennedy (Seattle, Wash.) noted those parts.

“We are a team I think we need to work on being less stationary in general because there was a time earlier in the season where we played well enough to compete with anyone in the country, as was evident in the first half, but then we seemed to taper off a bit while still showing flashes of our best baseball,” Rowan-Kennedy said.

The season is over, but this team has shown it is a force to be reckoned with in the sport of the game that they can compete at the highest level, and this is just the beginning of a long road of winning here at the University.

AFTER EARLY HOPES, LOGGER BASEBALL BARELY MISSES NWC TOURNAMENT

However, they were able to sweep Redlands this past weekend in Los Angeles.

By LUKIE CROWLEY

A season that brought great hope and fantastic baseball has come to an end after a sweep in Redlands from April 17-19. The Loggers came back on Sunday in a neutral setting.

The season certainly finished with a bang, though. After winning Friday of the series 5-3, the Loggers came back on Sunday for a doubleheader and put up 11 runs in both games. Winning 11-7 as well as 11-13 on the road while finishing a neutral game of the series, crushing a Grand Slam.

The Loggers finished the season 16-19 overall (13-11 in conference). They were 7-5 at home, 9-9 on the road, and 0-5 on the road while finishing a neutral game of the series.

For first-year student David Follett (Bilings, Mont.) the season was something else.

“Coming in as a first year, the dynamic of college baseball was much different than I expected. While we took things very seriously, we never forgot that the game is fun, and the memories I have made this year will stay with me for a lifetime,” Follett said.

There are many parts of the game that players and the team as a whole improve on as the season goes on, and Follett added his thoughts on that subject.

“I improved immensely due to the great coaching that I received; the coaching staff was able to show me glimpses of my potential, and I have definitely improved in all aspects of pitching. For 11-1, we have a ton of young talent, and over the span of the season we were able to show some of the best teams in the country that we were no fluke. We improved in all facets of the game, and this last series at Redlands showed our ability to succeed and dominate in all aspects of the game,” Follett said.

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“"As a team I think we need to work on being less stationary in general and because there was at a time earlier in the season where we played well enough to compete with anyone in the country, as was evident in the first half, but then we seemed to taper off a bit while still showing flashes of our best baseball." Rowan-Kennedy said.

The season is over, but this team has shown it is a force to be reckoned with in the sport of the game that they can compete at the highest level, and this is just the beginning of a long road of winning here at the University.
IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL IS A POSITIVE SHIFT IN POLICY

Negotiation is better than war, and should always be the first choice

By MICHAEL GREENBLATT

Recent events in world news have been favorable for the U.S. and its allies in the global order. Reopening of relations with Cuba, a likely nuclear deal with Iran, a mutual commitment to reduce carbon emissions from the U.S. and China. All of these include the current Islamist regimes in the United States' enemies. That is insulting and arrogant.

Critics of President Obama's negotiation tactics worry that he's been too lenient. Leaders who do not negotiate, compromise over intervention, and war present a much greater chance to negotiate is to deny other countries the chance to negotiate is to deny them legitimacy, essentially saying that our demands are much more valid and just than theirs are. This is insulting and arrogant.

U.S. foreign policy in the past half-century has strained itself into many conflicts, resolving few and creating more unforeseen problems. Yet all of those recent developments now face promises resolutions thanks to President Obama's insistence on negotiation, compromise over intervention, and war. U.S. foreign policy in the future must continue this trend by placing negotiation as its central tenet, sparing war as a weapon of last resort. Our prospects for actually resolving problems, instead of masking them, are best met by directly engaging our adversaries and allies at the bargaining table.

President Obama's policy of direct negotiation over intervention and war presents a much greater opportunity to achieve positive and lasting results than the war posture America's foreign policy in the second half of the 20th century.

Had it not been for negotiation and compromise, we would still be closed off to Cuba and have a less embargo against the country, which is likely to be lifted soon (not even 50 years of the embargo had almost no effect on changing the country's regime. But every year since 1992 the UN has passed a resolution condemning the embargo that was signed by every member state except for the United States and Israel). The reestablishment of relations with Cuba has already elevated international opinion of the United States significantly, especially in Latin America.

Likewise, direct negotiation and compromise is responsible for the potential nuclear deal with Iran. Had it not been for the negotiations, it is likely that the U.S., Israel and other NATO countries would have gone to war with Iran and its allies, likely resulting in a nuclear war.

Finaly, the joint commitment by the U.S. and China to each introduce stronger regulations against carbon emissions within their countries is yet another major in a particular group. This is the first time that China, the world's largest greenhouse gas polluter, has ever agreed to limit its carbon emissions. Before this, both China and the U.S. criticized each other for their lack of greenhouse gas reductions and used this as an excuse to not create those very regulations. Similarly, international climate change treaties were consistently held up by a lack of support from the U.S. and China. Now, however, the potential to reach a new legally binding international climate change accord next year is the strongest it's ever been.

Critics of President Obama's negotiating tactics worry that he's showing weakness and that he is giving in to the demands of the United States' enemies. That is plainly untrue, as the above examples show that the U.S. will stand and fight. To deny other countries the chance to negotiate is to deny them legitimacy, essentially saying that our demands are much more valid and just than theirs are. This is insulting and arrogant.

Students with mental illnesses deserve respect, not isolation, from campus community

Dear Editor,

I have a mental illness. When I was sixteen, I was diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. That was a very painful time for me—I spent a lot of it crying. At one point, my mother and I wondered if I would be better off in a psychiatric ward. We went to a friend's Halloween party instead. I put on my Maximum Ride costume, carved a scary pumpkin, and resumed living my life. It was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

I'm not alone. According to the informational posters displayed by Middletown's Mental Health Center, 1 in 5 people has an invisible disability. And mine is invisible. Most people wouldn't notice anything different about me. I eat at the SUB, attend classes, and pursue my dream of being a writer. In short, there is no outward signal just like the student body, I may tell close friends about my disability but for the most part it remains "in the closet." I do not want people to look at me differently. I do not want to look at myself differently.

Despite this, I was surprised when a professor said that admitting more mentally ill people made campus more "viable" and that was why we didn't have as many intense debates. I remember thinking that just because we are mentally ill does not mean we are jerks. This professor judging me without knowing anything about me or my situation. He didn't even have to look at me, in that moment. I was glad my disability was "in the closet." I did not want to be thought of as less than.

Why are remarks like these common and acceptable? It would not be acceptable to say that African American students made campus more volatile or that gay and lesbian students made campus more volatile or that African American students were more intense. How are students with mental disabilities different? It is the same concept of isolating a particular group and disparaging it for its difference.

Last week, I heard the word "silver" used in the same context as the first time, used to describe people without mental disabilities. I don't believe any of us are truly normal or neurotypical. We are all different, each and every one of us. I adore murder mysteries. My sister loves anime. Wouldn't it be nice if we supported our differences? Gave each other tolerance instead of judgement? Why do we feel this need to look down on one another?

None of us are less than because of the things that make us different. We all have the right to acceptance and encourage, no one, including me, should accept and encourage ourselves. Let's all take that thing that makes us "weird" and let it out of the closet. Celebrate it! Be ourselves in doing so we celebrate ourselves.

Sincerely,
Lorna McGinnis
It's prevailing hearsay that college admissions offices now use social media to scion student competition for admission. From a certain standpoint, this phenomenon comes across as a little too piercingly close to reality; I'm sure their job is no easy task, at least in my opinion.

Deciding to deviate from a plethora of personal statements and letters of recommendation—a necessary evil in the admissions process—treating social media as a success or a failure is a difficult task. For if one is able to use social media for the right reasons, it seems only best suited for those who belong to a cutthroat lifestyle.

Many scholarships, organizations, and companies see social media as the "true" view of a student's character. Or, could we be sustained in an interview, then tarnish the impression which I hope responsible had a less-than-appropriate regulation online, it's wise to question this many will continue at a final decision, yet there have been promises made by lukewarm. Erickson believes a good deal of the declared nuclear facilities; the U.S. has imposed extra sanctions placed on the presence of strangers, they may be absurd to think otherwise. An on-the-spot representation of reality is not enough, it is the only way to gain an accurate comprehension of who someone is as a person, and it would be absurd to think otherwise. An on-the-spot representation of reality is not enough, it is the only way to gain an accurate comprehension of who someone is as a person, and it would be absurd to think otherwise. An on-the-spot representation of reality is not enough, it is the only way to gain an accurate comprehension of who someone is as a person, and it would be absurd to think otherwise. An on-the-spot representation of reality is not enough, it is the only way to gain an accurate comprehension of who someone is as a person, and it would be absurd to think otherwise.
That being said, The Trail has discovered at least one incident at Sigma Chi within the past five years where a student felt that they had been hazed, though it was not officially reported. Sources both affiliated and unaffiliated with Greek chapters have also confirmed at least one other instance of potential hazing involving alcohol within the Puget Sound chapter of Phi Delta Theta. Sources on student conduct confirm that a student’s conduct process, but those members alcohol consumption in March after becoming ill from consuming too much alcohol at a Phi Delta function to welcome new members to the fraternity. It is unclear whether the incident occurred on campus or off campus.

Those familiar with Phi Delta tradition say that every “family” within the Greek chapter is named after a brand of liquor, and that a new member (a “little”) is confirmed, their “big,” an active member of the chapter tasked with mentoring the little, will buy them a fifth (750 milliliters) of their family’s titular liquor. The challenge is to drink the entire fifth. A source within Phi Delta stated that it has never been completed.

While those in the fraternity claim that the expectation is for a little to drink the entire fifth of alcohol is more of a joke than a real expectation, the tradition remains. Whether or not other students have become ill as a result of this tradition is unknown.

Further, a source within Phi Delta alleges that there were little consequences from the University following the incident, with the house being placed on “social watch” for two days before administrative officials at Student Activities and Student Conduct intervened.

We are a chapter of people who might not have given Greek life a chance were it not for this opportunity. Institutionally, we welcome skepticism. [National incidents are] something we grapple with through our own membership and our own fraternity. There is an openness and a willingness to engage in these conversations about [these issues]. We want to be a catalyst for change.

— Beta Theta Pi president Scott Greenfield

Lydia Gebrehiwot, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, said about a hazing event from another sorority, “I think it would provide The Trail with more specific information.”

With some Greek chapters allegedly pushing pledges to follow traditions such as these, whether or not they are different from formal pledges, the question of how to address these issues is one that plagues many members in the community.

**SAFETY ASSAULT**

The relationship between Greek Life and sexual assault has surfaced and taken center stage in recent years. A study in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence shows that rates of sexual violence are significantly higher within Greek community than outside of it, with the study claiming that fraternity members can be up to three times as likely to be perpetrators of sexual violence than non-members.

Are we at Puget Sound an exception to that rule?

Marta Palmquist Cady, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Activities, thinks so.

“Our Greek Life students have adopted the Green Dot Program,” explained Palmquist Cady. “Gamma Phi Beta, Phi Chi and Theta have had Peer Allies come in and do informational sessions about how to be victim advocates, as well as how rape culture happens and how we all participate in it to some extent.”

“We were at Green Dot certified, we had Sarah Shives come in and give a workshop about positive consent and how to actually do that or produce that on our college campus, we had Alisa Kessel come in and talk about her work on Title IX and sexual assault,” said Palmquist Cady. “SAE has a long history on this campus, since we’ve been re-founded, of focusing particularly on power-based personal violence, sexual assault, sexual misconduct.”

First year Jimmy Kelloway, who joined SAE in the spring of 2015, also described a proactive approach to sexual assault at SAE events.

“If you are nervous or you feel like there could be a risky situation, there are about a dozen sober monitors who are wearing the SAE letters in or around the dance party who you can go up to, and they can dissolve any situation or ask people to leave if necessary,” Kelloway said.

Sigma Chi and Beta Theta Pi also boast a no-tolerance-for-sexual-assault policy. Incoming President Joshua Nance stated that he knows of at least one individual who was forcibly disabused of his drink after he was found guilty of sexual assault by the University.

“[If you look at the body of incidents, we have just as many of those incidents happening outside of Greek Life. Student behavior is fairly consistent across sub-populations,” Assistant Dean of Students Sarah Shives says.

It is clear that many at Puget Sound believe that our Greek system differs from that of larger schools around the nation.

“The atmosphere of a fraternity party is that you go really, really drunk, and the expectation is that you will be hit on, orhook up,” an anonymous sophomore sorority member said. “I was showed up against a pillar, and he got angry when I refused his advances. None of the [SAE] brothers did anything about it,” she said, recalling an experience at an SAE dance party.

“There is no other place on campus where I have felt more objectified than in SAE,” said another anonymous student.

And she isn’t alone.

“I personally know of several of my own personal friends who have been sexually assaulted at Greek events but have not reported it,” junior Lindsay Conrad, the editor-in-chief of Wetlands Magazine, said.

“I have been very vocal about the fact that certain individuals accepted into SAE or allowed to stay active even after numerous reports of sexual assault, abuse or harassment had been filed against them,” junior Katryn Valancos said. “Saying that our Greek chapters fall in line with their national reputation is a highly unpopular opinion on this campus because we perpetuate this idea that our Greek Life is sterile. The fact that we act like Greek Life in this campus somehow transcends or escapes the problems that plague the system nationally makes me very uncomfortable.”

Despite initiatives taken by Greek Life to combat sexual assault, mentalities and attitudes within Greek life conducive to creating an environment wherein rape entitlement is prevalent persist. And that environment is a dangerous one.

Studies published on the interaction of fraternities and sexual violence have highlighted how such mentalities can stem largely from the coalescence of traditional gender roles and strong peer influences.

“Men who believe their friends and related peer groups are using coercive behavior to obtain sex are more likely to engage in similar behaviors. Thus, fraternity men within that environment that promotes stereotypical notions of masculinity, may be more likely to perpetrate acts of sexual aggression,” a 2005 article published in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence said.

“It’s an entire population that is brainwashed to believe that their status will only improve by getting drunk and having sex, consensual or not,” sophomore Shanna Williams said. “I don’t know what else needs to be done to prevent sexual assault in Greek houses, it’s not a problem that can be solved in training. Sexual assault in Greek houses will be over when Greek Life in its entirety is abolished.”

First year Julia Lin counters that sexual assault isn’t just prevalent in Greek houses, however. Rather, she says that “sexual assault is a problem everywhere,” and that it isn’t Greek Life that perpetuates it on campus, but a pervading rape culture.

Puget Sound Greek members have stressed, nonetheless, that they strive to improve their organizations by acknowledging and addressing such issues. Kelloway highlighted how SAE policies are constructed so that the chapter can receive criticism and adjust accordingly.

“Every single week, we have an executive meeting where... the entire group talks about the party and people and says ‘we’ve heard this complaint.’ And then there are chapter meetings every week with all the members and we discuss what was talked about in the executive meeting,” Kelloway said. “Everybody is aware if there were possible reports of sexual assault or any kind of misconduct. We all become aware of that and being educated about it makes us more able to recognize it in the future.”

Palmquist Cady also spoke to the importance of that ongoing dialogue plays in making Puget Sound a safer environment for its students.

Men in fraternities are more likely to commit sexual assault than men not in fraternities.
Sound a safe place.

"I would like to see more conversations about sexual assault and how we do that within our community," she said. "It's such a taboo issue... and we need to be able to talk about it.

Brittain, who is schooled by other fraternity presidents, emphasized that silencing provides an enormous barrier.

‘It is telling that the vast majority of Greek members that we spoke to were only willing to speak anonymously. This was the case for many individuals even if their comments were positive, and especially when Greek Life has made strides in self-reflection.

'If I go to see members really questioning some very core behaviors in their organization that would normally go unquestioned.

'Institutionally, we welcome skepticism," Beta Theta Pi President Scott Greenfield said. "We encourage these conversations, especially among our chapter... There is an openness and willingness to engage in these conversations about the issues that you brought up.

Indeed, Sigma Chi, Beta Theta Pi and Phi Delta Theta members were made anonymous due to their national discussion.

"I think there is a learning curve for people to broach these topics. It is telling that the vast majority of Greek Life has made strides in self-reflection.

While in college, they said, there are more people to help push back against that.

This culture of silence runs deep. Membership executives have the option of being called out as exceptional. That is calling ourselves out as being highly accountable to that exception. So that... would mean we have a lot of work to do.

"But does that invitation extend to everyone? In conducting our interviews for this article, it is telling that the vast majority of Greek members that we spoke to were only willing to speak anonymously. This was the case for many individuals even if their comments were positive, and especially when Greek Life has made strides in self-reflection.

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"It is interesting to note that interviews with members of Gamma Phi Beta were redacted at the request of the members, after Gamma Phi’s advisers had recommended that chapter associations and names of Gamma Phi members be removed from the interview. The advisers also told them that members were not supposed to speak with the press in the first place.

"When I was a student at my house. It was like... The Trail Greek Life community. The University’s Interfraternity Council put the event together, ‘Hoping that the week would bring Greek organizations together and prove to the school that the Greek system is a positive and caring part of the school.’ Vice President of IFC and member of Theta Chi fraternity sophomores Connor Chabot said.

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"In 1973 the University of Puget Sound housed 12 Greek chapters.
COMBATING THE TROPE OF EVERY HORROR MOVIE’S FINAL GIRL

By GREGORY GRAPAGE

First coined in the 1992 book Men Women and Chastity: Gender in the Modern Horror Film, “The Final Girl” was later used by American film scholar and professor Carol J. Clover to describe the returning archetype of the horror heroine, the last girl standing against the (frequently male) villain. Clover heralded this trope as a manifestation of feminism amid a genre considered typically “male,” which is to say a genre that focused primarily on sexuality and violence.

The “Final Girl” acting as a protagonist allows for a female character to demonstrate the resourcefulness, cunning and strength to overpower a man and, in many cases, the threat of rape is as prominent as the threat of death. The trope also forces the audience to identify with a female character defending herself from sexual assault as well as murder. The structure also forces the man in the audience to identify with a female protagonist that is beyond any romantic context. Yet as much as the creation and perpetuation of the “Final Girl” trope demonstrates progressive empowerment of women, it also places women in horror movies in a new though admittedly larger cage.

One problem that remains is the role that sexuality plays in determining which character the “Final Girl” is. Should a horror film contain more than one female character, these other female characters are likely to die after demonstrating a characteristic that the audience is meant to consider risky, immoral or simply annoying. A hugely common example of this is the trope of the promiscuous blonde, caught during or right after sex by the villain and seemingly punished for her sexual indiscretion. Female characters of a similarly open sexuality are inclined to be the “Final Girl.”

The “Final Girl,” therefore, is determined by which girl is the least offensive to the audience, and while she must be attractive enough for viewers to sympathize with her one way, she must be sure not to offend the audience by being too sexual. This builds negative connotations toward female sexuality because, within the realm of horror films, sexuality becomes a crime that will eventually be punished, albeit by the villain.

The second major problem is that of the view of men as an expendable gender. This is to say that, should a villain murder men, it is often used as little more than evidence that the villain is capable of murder. However, should the villain murder women or children, it is viewed as evidence of true villainy. Men must earn audience sympathy—meaning that they must prove their worth through strength, resourcefulness or intelligence—while women are automatically granted audience sympathy until, at the last possible moment, they are presented otherwise. Interestingly, this holds true for villains as well as heroes. Should a male villain appear to be insane, there is often the assumption that he has simply always been that way and that his primal, animalistic urges such as murder or rape are simply who he is. Yet should a female villain appear to be insane, a backstory is considered necessary to explain what traumatic event caused her insanity. While this may seem to be a positive view on female morality, it ultimately perpetuates a discrepancy between views on male and female morality—men are suggested to be intrinsically more primal than women.

As well as perpetuating men as being more primal and acrational than women, this technique also prevents male characters from being able to express fear, even despite their terrifying and possibly ridiculous circumstances. The last character standing in many horror films is female because audiences are likely to find a man being so victimized intolerable or uncomfortable. Even though the “Final Girl” force in audience members to identify with a female protagonist, the hero is female because society suggests that men hunt and women are hunted.

Ultimately, the “Final Girl” should be recognized as a step forward to make the horror genre more progressive. It prominently displays a female protagonist who is resourceful, finds her self and can defeat a frequently menacing villain. Despite this, there is still much further to go in making this trope one that does not divide the gender binary and pit both men and women in box-

PHOTO COURTESY/EMMA FERGUSON

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 safer 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 CHWS or a local clinic. Otherwise, direct your sexuality and gender questions to trail@pugetsound.edu. Respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to trail@pugetsound.edu.

April 24, 2015
happytrail@pugetsound.edu

PHOTO COURTESY/EMMA FERGUSON

HAPPY TRAIL
JOBS & INTERNSHIPS

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TYEMILL
Software Development Interns (LJ# 25340) use big data, statistical algorithms, and custom visualizations to help Tyemill power economic theory, healthcare infrastructure, genomic analysis, and more!

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Help people coping with personal, social, and vocational difficulties with employment or retraining as a Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant/Case Manager Assistant (LJ# 25453).

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Help people coping with personal, social, and vocational difficulties with employment or retraining as a Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant/Case Manager Assistant (LJ# 25453).

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Discover new energy reserves! Earth Sciences Interns (LJ# 44724) work on specific exploration projects, so your results may have an immediate impact.

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April is Student Employment Month. Celebrate!
Because there's no such thing as "just a job." EVERY job contributes to your career path. Each Part-Time, Temporary, Work-Study, Internship, and Summer job teaches you something...even if the main thing seems to be "I never ever want to do that again!" Every job builds your resume; builds your network of contacts; builds your character. Connect with CES to find your very next money-making, career-path-enhancing opportunity!

The Trail is now accepting applications for the Fall Semester.
By AUDREY KAUFMAN

Eveyone has had that feeling. No, I’m not talking about that feeling where you’re walking to your car and you see a ticket on your windshield. Your heart drops. You get an instant headache. Your level of irritability hits the ceiling, even if it’s a nice day and even if you were in a pretty good mood before. We all hate parking tickets. But why?

My car is registered, this is just a silly thing that I don’t want to/think I should have to deal with.

You may think that parking enforcement is the least important aspect of preserving happy Cascade. But, Audrey was not easy-to-use program called Audrey. Audrey registered her car at the beginning of the year, using the super awesome and easy-to-use program called Security Services to pick up a sticker to put on your back windshield. For seven months, she parked in front of her house on Theme Row and over the course of those seven months, she acquired around ten parking tickets. Should she have gone to Security Services to clear this up? Absolutely. Did she? No, she was busy with lots of schoolwork and “reading” and “so many essays.” She thought, “My car is registered, this is just a silly thing that I don’t want to/think I should have to deal with.

A week ago, Audrey was rushing to the library to write a paper that she had just found out was due the next day (there is a theme of procrastination here, just go with it). She ran out of her house to find her car being ticketed and, in a moment of impatience and frustration, was unnecessarily rude to the man writing her a ticket (as evidenced by the above-Audrey is a flawed person who makes mistakes). He made her wait while he looked up her car and wrote her a ticket. This man claimed that while writing her essay was important, “this was important too.” At the time, Audrey thought, “that is just not true. Parking enforcement is the least important thing ever.”

Now, we already know that Audrey is the wrong one in this story for being a bratty, entitled whine. That is a given. But what’s even worse than Audrey’s attitude is the fact that parking enforcement really is important. It was announced last week that the University plans to remodel the S.U.B. again, using the money they have acquired from ticketing registered student cars.

“We are so excited for this newest remodel of the Student Union Building,” a spokesperson for the University said. This remodel will take around four years to be completed. The finished product will include even lower ceilings in the cafeteria area and new off-brand lettuce chairs.

Unrelated Picture

So here’s a picture of someone walking and it totally relates to this article because they’re walking to their car only to find a ticket on their windshield that they will never pay. See what I did there?

spokesperson responded, “I don’t know what that question means.”

THE SUB FINALLY GIVEN THE STAR RATING IT DESERVES, STUDENTS UNDERHELMED

By CURIOUS ME

In a shocking reveal last Tuesday, the famous Michelín Guide released its most recent edition—but this time, headlining the Puget Sound S.U.B. as its favorite three-star student restaurant. A restaurant awarded the highest rating in the Guide, three stars, is defined as “exceptional cuisine where diners eat extremely well, often superbly.” Distinctive dishes are precisely executed, using superior ingredients. Worth a special journey, indeed. Indeed, the S.U.B. is exactly that, with diners coming from all different states and 16 different countries. Their ingredients are even more special because they are from real farms, real people, real community.

The Guide, in its classic two-three-sentence structure, succinctly described the diner as an absolute treat and a unique experience compared to the rest of the reviewed restaurants. However, it marveled at the surprisingly grumpy and disinterested nature of the other diners.

The diner’s reviewer, anonymous and undercover in the traditional method of the Michelín Guide, shared his disbelief at the greasy, greasy, greasy mound and unimpressed fellow diners with The Flail in a recent interview.

“Tell me, God is my witness,” I heard one of the other customers express loudly to his companions with true passion and disinterest, “I said it was bland and unappetizing,” the reviewer said. “I did not under- stand what he was trying to say. Why could he not speak the scrambled eggs and bacon combinations for nine months and most assuredly not get sick of them by then.”

Diners at the S.U.B. often share the opinion of the reviewer’s overheated conversation, wildly dreaming of better dining options in the area. Perhaps they palates are more experienced and refined than even the greatest Michelín Guide reviewers and are more delicate than those of the chefs in the kitchen of the great establishment. And yet, despite the S.U.B.'s perfect score of three stars, the diner still maintains a comment box at the registers in order to further their excellence—they constantly strive to make diners' experiences better and more memorable. However, despite the comment boxes, they normally remain empty—in the same way that the complaints of the diners fall on deaf ears.

“It is a mystery to me... with so many complaints, why would they leave a comment card in the boxes to better their experiences?” the reviewer said.

With much confusion and disappointment, the reviewer could only finally hypothesize that the complaints of the diners were simply a lovechild of privilege and slacktivism, perhaps even along the same lines of the diners’ knock for nitpicking appropriation and other native slum-ders of a sheltered population. “Be warm,” the reviewer said. “I would not try to educate the haters about the true nature of the S.U.B.; perhaps, and using their strategy, getting angry at and telling them it would work better instead.”

The 2015 Michelin Guide is now available online and in your local bookstores.
BY COWMAN BLACKMAILER

S

haniel Hammond was offered a position on campus this week with KUPS after just waking by the station on his way to purchase a pizza. Hammond claims that this treatment from certain establishments is not unusual for him. Standing at the perfect height of 6'2" while being covered in "meaningful tattoos" and more piercings than he knows how to fill, Hammond is no stranger to spontaneous job offers.

"I saw him and his glorious piercings saunter by the station and I thought, 'As long as he can hit the play button on a playlist, we have our next DJ,'" a KUPS recruiter said.

Hammond gave a tentative maybe, but the recruiter smiled giddily during the interview. Similarly, the reporters who interviewed Hammond were instantly charmed.

"A part of me hated him for being so cocky, but goddamn, he can hit the play button on a playlist, we have our next DJ," a reporter said.

Hammond proceeded to show reporters his tattoos and talk about the meaning behind his sleeve. The cross and bible verse (Leviticus 19:28) on his arm are symbols of sacrifice. They never thought that the cross would be one of their future prospects.

"They say it helps to have connections," Hammond said, "Yeah, it helps to have them. If I throw on a pair of glasses and walk into a Starbucks, you can bet I'll be your barista by next Monday."

Septum Ring: Look at how cool and hip this unidentified human looks with a septum ring. Who is this fox of a human and where can I get their digits? Doesn't it make you want to hire them for KUPS? Shouldn't we be giving them a radio show ASAP? SO COOL. SO FRESH. SO CLEAN. MORE WORDS FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT.

By HUTCH THE GREAT

Sources reported this past week that future graduate Steve Brokeman was excitedly preparing for the opportunity to deal with crippling debt accumulated over four years at the University—from the comfort of his parents' basement. They never thought that the main opportunity that college would grant them would be choosing whether or not to take the pain away from the realization that they were the failure that their expectations had always said they would be.

The elder Brokeman could not reach them for comment as they prepared for the coming disaster of having to leave their home with only the knowledge that they too failed to make something of themselves. The only member of the community excited for their return was the manager of the local McDonald's, who always knew that "Steve would find his true calling as a great fast-food worker."

They even hope that Brokeman would one day succeed them at their job. Despite all this to look forward to, we had the thrilling opportunity to sit down with Steve Brokeman before he left for home. We were able to witness the inevitable failure we all will face: a downward spiral into an existential pit of ultimate despair as we contemplate the inevitability of our doomed future.

"I really thought that my theater major would be paying dividends right after college, but nothing. It's almost like there isn't a job market out there..."
THE SCOOP ON ICE CREAM SOCIAL

If you like homemade ice cream made of all-natural, locally sourced ingredients, if you like giant chalkboard walls that stretch from floor to ceiling and if you like a variety of unique and delicious flavors, then you'll love Ice Cream Social on 6th Ave. in Tacoma, Wash.

By NICK LOUIE

Here, where the enticing smell of waffle cones being made and the perpetual stream of waffle cones filling the sweet, sweet air, you'll find all of the aforementioned and more.

Their varied flavors are tasty and inspiring, with everyday flavors such as Vahalla coffee, coconut milk and salted caramel (a personal favorite), to their wisteria, rotating flavors, ranging from Mad Hatter earl grey to lavender to French toast and many more.

They even have dairy-free options for the lactose intolerant; however, they lack the smooth, creamy and flavorful gusto of the dairy options. That being said, though my body says I'm intolerant, I have always flavored myself to be a person tolerant of all different types of foods—and that includes lactose.

For reference, see my enduring love of mint chocolate chip and salted caramel ice cream, dairy included.

But even more than the ice cream—which I find to be spectacular but not entirely mind-blowing—is the continuous flow of freshly-made waffle cones. In my 21 years of life on this planet, I have had a wide variety of waffle cones. From store-bought to homemade to store-crafted, these cones in my hometown of Oakland, Calif., the waffle cones at Ice Cream Social are some of the best I've ever had.

Crunchy, chewy, cold or hot, they are very much part of this world. Personally, I prefer them hot and chewy. It is truly a magical moment to—when you're just about done with your tasty treat—unwrap the cone and take a bite from its chewy but delicate fold.

Gone are the days of showing the entire end into your mouth to avoid the devastating dropping and dripping of the end-cone game; gone are the days of stumbling helplessly at the mid-point of the waffle cone, champing on your hardened tip.

No, with such a warm and sumptuous waffle cone, the shape of your ice cream's sweet container is yours to mold and control.

The waffle cone, paired with their satisfying and magnificent ice cream selection, is truly a treat on any day of the week.

The lines are a little longer on Friday and Saturday nights (as with most establishments), but the service is always quick and the employees always friendly.

In the same vein, those friendly employees truly add to the cheerful and welcoming atmosphere of the shop.

From the aforementioned chalk wall to the old-school rock n' roll, doo-wop and pop, the shop maintains some of the vibes that a 50s ice cream parlor might have—but with the clean paintings on the wall boasting their natural and locally sourced ingredients, it also manages a modern feel.

While the shop is frequent by students from the University, their customer base is also largely composed of young parents, their kids and their kids' friends.

There have been few times when I have been to Ice Cream Social—if any times at all—when there has been a lack of children chasing each other around the tables, drawing fantastical drawings on the floor, or making waffles with the colorful spoons.

So, if you're feeling like a cold, creamy afternoon snack and wouldn't mind the sweet smell of waffle cones in your hair for the rest of the day, pop by Ice Cream Social for a tasty treat and a memorable experience—they're open every day of the week!

Ice Cream Social's varied flavors, with regular flavors as well as rotating flavors, are sure to be a delicious addition to anyone's day.

PHOTO COURTESY/ICE CREAM SOCIAL, FACEBOOK

THE DARK SIDE OF FASHION: SWEATSHOPS

Today, there exists a dark side to fashion that is hardly considered when the average consumer goes on a shopping trip. Prioritizing low prices over good business practices is a common habit that shoppers have. We rarely think about the producers or the structure of garment production that our money is going towards. However, these low prices are low for a reason, and many times it's because garments are being produced in sweatshops.

By KASEY JANOUSEK

Consumers may have a broad understanding of sweatshops: packed working conditions, extremely low-wages, forced overtime and sometimes the inclusion of illegal child labor. But more specifically, a sweatshop is defined by scholar Robert Mayer as "any workplace in which workers are typically subject to two or more of the following conditions: systematic forced overtime; systematic health and safety risks that stem from negligence or the willful disregard of employees welfare; coercion; systematic deception that places workers at risk; underpayment of the minimum wage; gross income for a 48-hour work week less than the overall poverty rate for that country."

As outlined in the definition above, the conditions experienced within sweatshops are atrocious compared to the standard of living conditions within the Western-centric understanding of an occupation. Not only is the environment bleak, but it is also dangerous because sweatshops by definition do not comply with laws that outline safe working conditions. Thus, workplace injuries are often work-ending or fatal, without compensation for families.

Sweatshop production is advantageous for large, multinational corporations because they are able to produce clothing at a very inexpensive price. Sweatshops are primarily concentrated in countries like Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and throughout Latin America. By contracting sweatshops to developing countries, multinational corporations are able to keep costs down because, in many cases, there is a lack of business regulations within these countries against sweatshop production methods.

You may be surprised to know that many of the large fashion companies that are extremely popular within our society have used sweatshops for garment production. The Gap was implementing sweatshop production in Central America, Kathies Lee Gifford's Wal-Mart clothing line relied on sweatshop production in Honduras, and most notably, Nike shoes were being produced in Indonesian sweatshops. Again, this shows how sweatshops are being used without widespread consumer knowledge.

The moral argument against sweatshops is evident. Sweatshops likely perpetuate a cycle that commits human rights violations and labor exploitation. This form of structural violence is maintained through our own shopping practices. As college students, we strive to find the most inexpensive clothing to suit our needs. Next time you're shopping, find clothing that is both inexpensive and sweatshop-free. It does exist, and it is affordable. Check out stores like Nordstrom, lluna, ModCloth, Everlane and American Apparel. By buying clothing from large multinational corporations, you may be supporting sweatshop labor without even knowing it.
EXCERCISES IN SUSPENSION

BY EVAN BOUCHER

The Tibetan word bardo roughly means an intermediate or transitional state. It can refer to a between-ness regarding many things: our waking lives are actually concealed as a bardo—between birth and death. But more locally, the word refers to kind of mindlessness or experience that takes place between two lives on earth, a sort of purgatory minus the lacking clock and the court date. In this state, one is faced with a variety of phenomenon, which slowly degrade from the clearest understandings of which one is capable to terrifying hallucinations fueled by lingering human memories and bad karma.

Recently, musician and alumna Kirsten Thom released her debut album as Bardo: Basho. She’s been active with this project for several years, but until now access to the Bardo: Basho has been limited to her powerful and hypnotic live performances, in which she triggers and manipulates loops on a computer while singing. The style is a very distinct one, involving a lot of blue and purple music in a mosaic that is easy to get lost in.

Evan: I was surprised to find a big emphasis on the drums? I felt like the album was built around drums and vocals, which, I’m not sure if that’s how you imagine it, but I think that’s an interesting core.

Kirsten: Thanks. I feel like I spend the most time trying to make the drums sound good because it’s the hardest thing to make sound good, I would say that the drums and the vocals are more like melodic elements I guess, whereas the synthesis is just kind of textural.

E: Is that just how it ended up or... have you sort of culti­vated that relationship with those elements over time?

K: That’s also how it ended up. That’s also just what my relationship to those elements is or if more specific to the album.

E: Did you sort of control that relationship over time. I think part of this thing why I let the synth take...I don’t want to say a back seat but have it as more side, just going on and developing really slowly, and then listen to a lot of dance music, which is really drum heavy.

E: Bardo: Basho obviously doesn’t read text as technology by any means, but it does contain that pulse that isn’t always found in this kind of music...the artists who you would compare to Bardo: Basho don’t have that sort of particu­lar orientation to the techno pulse, so it’s an interesting crossover definitely, who would you say are your main influences for this sound? If those other two types of things are, like, the elements, are there other artists who have combined similar elements, or ended up with a similar result to Bardo: Basho than those things on their own?

K: I’m not sure. I feel like Fever Ray, Kate Bush, Peter Gabriel, are in that vein, like creating, I don’t know, just a sonic environment, which is kind of what I’m doing for Bardo: Basho. But I feel like the kind of stuff that influenced the singer­songwriter side, it doesn’t incorporate that kind of sonic environment stuff as much.

K: I feel like the songs just came about like the actual melodic and lyrical parts— like the actual melodic and lyrical parts—like a long time before I actually made the tracks themselves, and so the thing that I was listening to at that time was that I made it was all drums and experimental and ambient type stuff, so it was kind of after all that I really listening to pop-singer-songwriter music anymore. I took a break from that, but I still took the approach because I already had the ideas.

E: And then you sort of overlaid them onto this ambient skeleton.

K: Yeah.

E: But you don’t have anything that sort of serves as your starting ground for Bardo: Basho itself, that’s true?

K: Like someone I really wanted to be like?

E: Yeah, like...you’re not looking at other models who have taken the same approach.

K: I think that when I started I definitely had a number of artists that I know I wanted to be like that—Fever Ray, Bjork, Kate Bush, Julia Holter—and I don’t feel that way anymore, I can’t say that it’s just purely influencing from all over and just trying to make something that I like...but the time when I made the album was kind of in between those things.

E: Yeah, that seems interesting too, how the album seems very conditioned by what was going on at the time of the album, as opposed to being something that you would have made no matter what time it was. Like, if you had made it a couple months earlier or later it would have been pretty different, even though it would have had the same “songs.”

K: Yeah, totally.

E: I’m interested in where you see your lyrical style com­ing from. Because it’s very different and seems like it’s not so much like anything out of lyrics...It almost reminds of, you know how Mount Eerie, when he writes the lyrics he will write it first in prose, and his lyric will be like, a sentence, that doesn’t even necessarily sound like a lyric, and I think sometimes you get towards that, and I’m wondering how you think about that as opposed to more traditional lyrical approaches.

K: I feel like I wanted to...I’m trying to balance being really straightforward and say what I mean with how much I’m actually willing to expose about my feelings, but definitely my lyrical style is a combination of just saying what’s on my mind in what I consider a concise way, and stream of consciousness, just kind of improvised, repeating some­thing over and over.

TACOMA ART MUSEUM: GEORGIA O’KEEFE

By ALEXANDRIA VAN VORIS

The Tacoma Art Museum is located on Pacific Ave., making it only a short drive or bus ride away, and it’s the perfect place to visit on a free afternoon or week­end. The Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) is constantly growing. In 2000, it nearly doubled its space by remov­ing the whole gallery and opening a new wing bringing its 6,000-piece collection to 3,000 pieces of art. Among their current exhibit­ions are Essential Objects: Georgia O’Keefe and Still-Life Art in New Mexico. It is the first time in a decade that O’Keefe’s work has been exhibited in the Pacific Northwest.

O’Keefe has been referred to as one of the most significant art­ists of the 20th century, and her work is a piece of a broader se­ries of exhibitions exploring pre­sentations of the western United States. The exhibition included 22 pieces from O’Keeffe and 42 other New Mexico contemporaries. The exhibit is complemented by a smaller display entitled The Still­Life Tradition in the Northwest. 130 pieces of American art are also on display. These works in­clude paintings, sculptures, and drawings. Work by Bill Schirck, known for his serigraphs, a pro­cess by which he forced through a fine mesh or stencil, will be dis­played in Haub Wing.

On May 17, in partnership with the Native American Artists Association and the Tacoma Art Museum, will be hosting their 6th An­nual Native American Artists Associa­tion. This event will put on exhibit art from Native American Artists as well as dancing, music, a Na­tive fashion show, and numerous art activities, all for children and adults alike. There will also be an art market that will be selling jewelry, basket weaving, bead­work, and ceramics. Throughout the day there will also be an event for children, Leschi Dancers, and community art activities.

The Tacoma Art Museum also offers an awesome promotion where if you show your student ID card, you get in free!
Since Netflix's new superhero show "Daredevil" was released on April 10, it has become clear that the man without fear has one less thing to be afraid of: bad reviews.

As is quickly becoming their custom, Netflix has released the entire first season of the show all at once (and, in watching the first season, I can't even begin to describe how great of an idea this is).

As the complex yet engrossing narrative slowly unveiled over the course of 13 hour-long episodes, I found myself surprisingly drawn into the crime-ridden world of Marvel's version of Hell's Kitchen, New York, due to all the little elements that the show does right.

Charlie Cox stars as Matt Murdock, the blind defense lawyer who moonlights as the titular superhero, Daredevil. Cox is joined by Deborah Ann Woll as Karen Page and Elden Henson as Foggy Nelson. Cox's main foil throughout the series is the enigmatic criminal overlord Wilson Fisk, played by Vincent D'Onofrio, who delivers a powerhouse performance.

Everyone involved with the series puts forward a similar effort, breathing life into these characters who we've actually seen played by accomplished actors before. Any comic book veteran no doubt remembers the ill-fated attempt to adapt the Daredevil origin story to the big screen back in 2003. The less we say about that film the better, but as it stands, the TV series succeeds in many places where the film did not.

It's important to note, however, that this is not a show for the faint of heart. Unlike the producers of other superhero shows such as "The Flash," "Green Arrow" or "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," Netflix has allowed series creator Drew Goddard a level of creative control. This has allowed Goddard to bring us a truly gritty and violent world, delivering justice to the criminal underworld of Hell's Kitchen.

As he continues to harass the various gangs under Fisk's control, he is able to draw connections between the groups, which eventually lead to his discovery of the group's mastermind, who he works throughout the first season to eliminate.

What does "Daredevil"'s success mean for both Netflix and the Marvel Television Universe? Well, if this first season is anything to go by, I feel it's fair to say that there are good things ahead for everyone involved and for those watching.

With Marvel already in talks for adopting other superhero shows including—but certainly not limited to—Jessica Jones, Luke Cage and Iron Fist, we can only hope that what lays ahead will be as good, if not better, than what we have now.