ARCHIVES: "THE REVOLUTION"

By Milo Hensley

Our plunge into the Archives of The Trail begins with an April 10, 1970, edition, which focuses on the history of the Black Panther movement. Upon first encountering this piece, the gravity of the language used, and its relevance to our world today is striking. Insightfully, the editorial introduction (attributed to no writer in particular) states, “If the world around us seems tranquil and progressive it is only because we exist in an environment of contrived passivity.” Studying the history of revolution allows us to deconstruct our contrived passivity. There is no moving forward in ignorance. The article highlights many different facets of revolution in the United States at the time. These include everything from Women’s Liberation, the Black Panther Party, and the Chicago Conspiracy Eight, to orgasm, rock music, and drugs. The newspaper also discusses tangible measures, including information about a draft protest, a guide to conducting urban guerilla warfare, and a list of dates and locations of police attacks on police officers.

In honor of Black History Month, page three of the document has been selected for republication. The page highlights the Black Panther Party with a satirical comic about police violence. As well as reprinting a copy of the “Black Panther Program,” and part of a speech called “The Correct Handling of Revolution” by Huey P. Newton, a party founder.

The publication of this archival issue comes shortly after the first Black History Month in this country. The celebration of Black culture and history existed long before Black History Month was recognized as a national holiday. According to the New York Times, February as a period of observance and education was first proposed by Black students and educators at Kent State in 1969, celebrated for the entirety of the month for the first time the following year.

It is essential that we understand the history of the Civil Rights Movement in order to contextualize the ongoing Black Lives Matter movement; to remind us that the contributions of Black people are integral to the development of this country and that the ongoing fight for a level playing field is still ongoing. We must also take note of how contemporary demands echo those of the past. This is explicitly clear in our dives into the archives. Our systems of policing, trial and imprisonment are still racist. True history is still not taught all over the country. The Panther’s demands for housing, employment, food, clothing, land, justice and peace go unmet to this day.

Revisiting this edition of The Trail from a contemporary perspective, it is pleasant to re-capture the spirit of the student journalists of 1970 were taking a stand by showing their support for Black liberation. It also raises many questions about the role of journalists at a university like ours and how to move forward from here.

The Trail staff in 1970 were willing to risk coming across as being radical in order to give explicit support to the social movements of their time, why shouldn’t we do the same now?

As The Trail restarts, it is up to student journalists to publish radical stories. The status quo thrives on neutrality in times of injustice. Climate deniers, xenophobia, the right-wing effort to censor critical race theory in schools, and a whole host of other harmful viewpoints are legitimized by mass media every day for the sake of appearing unbiased. These issues would be central to a 2022 "Revolution" publication. The words of the anonymous author of the 1970 edition continue to ring true: “As we become aware of the turmoil each of us feels, we examine our personal values, assumptions and beliefs. We move forward from here. If we move forward from here, we can learn from those who came before us, and ground our understanding of The University in the analysis of past publications. All history carries the assumptions and biases of those who create it, and productive historical study acknowledges its connection to the present. This feature will republish historical material, attempt from those who came before us, and ground our understanding of The University today in its history. Happy divying!"
University labor shortage aligns with global trends

BY MILES CRUGER

Some call it "The Great Resignation," with over 4 million people quitting their jobs last April alone, according to the United States Department of Labor. In correlation with the pandemic and the resulting economic downturn, the entire United States finds itself in a labor shortage and there currently aren't enough workers to meet growing demands. The labor shortage affects companies, with and points to broader issues within the national, and national, and global work forces.

National Public Radio (NPR) suggests that "the labor shortage is a result of wage workers looking for better paying jobs. They do the job that［they］inevitably." With the illusion of a "jobless recovery," many workers are looking to make financial gains after years of seemingly stagnant wages. Despite the pandemic, unemployment in the United States is down to 3.9% compared to April of 2020's 14.7%. The labor shortage results from the large numbers of people leaving the workforce during the pandemic. As they are a result of in-person work pick up, workers are returning to positions different than the ones they left. This leaves to high vacancy rates in a multitude of industries.

The university is currently running at a 16% staff vacancy rate, with around 70 total vacancies. The positions are already budgeted for, and due to long hiring processes, the school has been struggling to fill those since last summer. Food stations in the S.U.B., which operated in the past are now closed. Stations like The Wok have reduced hours. The Diner has been short-staffed since the middle of fall semester 2021. The reduced dining options can have a direct impact on student experience, especially students with dietary restrictions. According to Terry Halvorson, Director of Auxiliary and Business Services, the university has 15 staff members. The positions have been open since last summer and remain unfilled. Halvorson acknowledged this to the food industry as a whole. "I don't know of any food service restaurants but there used to be restaurants that were open seven days a week that are now only open five, they're so short staffed."

The labor shortage in the food service industry is currently harder than other industries. Seven out of ten restauranteur business owners find themselves with a shortage of employees to meet customer demand, according to the National Restaurant Association. The need for labor on campus is off the charts. "Non-student staff members as student diners workers. They work around 10 to 12 hours a week. It isn't an all-inclusive thing to have a full-time staff position with a student position," notes Nancy Nieraeth, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Chief People Officer.

Dining and Employment Services (DES) is working to create the best possible situation for students given the current staff shortage. Halvorson talked about how DES is making dining decisions. In order to address student needs, last fall DES' Office of Assistant Director of Student Employment Programs, Training, and Development, on how the labor shortage has affected student employment. She noted that there are significant vacancies still in the process of being filled. "We are seeing slower paces, we are seeing a longer hiring timeline when things are posted," she noted. Student jobs are open and hiring, but ultimately the university is most in need of staff positions. The university is pressed to fill staff positions to address the current situation. People are leaving their old jobs in record numbers, and although this can often be a good sign, it also brings problems. "It also brings mobility changes when you have so many vacancies and you have employers who are so eager and desperate in some cases to hire. You have greater chances and less competition than you might normally think. I think that brings in an element of, this time." The potential for low-wage and unsatisfied workers to "reNegotiate" the terms of the workplace is on the rise.

Tacoma Safe faces further scrutiny following hit and run incident

BY ALBERT CHANG-YOO

Building tensions over Ordinance 28756, which calls for the denial of public encampment, is being considered in the Mays Cafe Museum on January 26. Inside, 500 business owners of Tacoma Safe, a campaign which purports to "address rising violent crime and inhuman encampments," met with the city council, police chief, and Tacoma Municipal Attorney Victoria Woodard. Outside around 40 or 50 housing rights activists and community members gathered to protest the Ordinance. Police are investigating a hit and run case from the protest. Theresa Evans, a local neighbor, and friend of some protestors was hit when a pickup truck made a sudden right off the side of the road and blinded her. The incident happened while Ms. Evans was walking to the protesters, Cathy Pick, of the Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee (TTOC), explained. Ms. Evans was taken to a regional trauma center and diagnosed with a concussion, broken ribs, and a broken pelvis. Organizers established a GoFundMe to help support Ms. Evans' medical costs.

Ms. Pick helped organize the protest against what she called the criminialization of "just existing in public space." Ms. Pick becomes the lead advocate for the TTOC, a housing rights organization under the Tenants Union of Washington, which represents Ms. Evans. She was a part of the team that kicked housing rights movement after longtime tenants were displaced by owners of the Tiki Apartments in 2018. Tacoma Safe’s promotion of Ordinance 28756 was concerning for Ms. Pick. "I also asked Valentine and Calebry about how they felt about student activism on the campus of Puget Sound. They were me personally. I think more people should get out and I think they want to too but aren’t quite there yet. UPS has a lot of different opportunities to do outreach. And I’ve volunteered in a school in the south right now and another through UPS. Also, there are ways to do it. You just have to find the best of it." Valentine explained.

The University of Puget Sound has many student activist groups including Serve the People (STP), who explains that people in the Tacoma community also have Advocates for Detained Voices, or ADV, which directly addresses issues at the NWDC and works with La Resistencia.

The issue is also related to the current state of our city. "Generally it’s really easy to just stay in the bubble of this campus and make yourself feel extremely disconnected to all the issues going around in Tacoma."

Tacoma Safe members stand during recording Photo credit: Audrey Davis / The Trail

LA RESISTENCIA PROTESTS

NORTHWEST DETENTION CENTER’S COVID HANDLING

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in Washington. This means that the detention center will end operations after its contract expires in 2025. Valentine spoke on the bill, “Everyone’s still there who will just be transferred to another detention center.” Although the bill is a step forward for immigrants as well as advocacy groups like La Resistencia, the sentiment that there is still work to be done remains prominent.
Seattle utility company addresses Indigenous concerns on Skagit River dams

By Reed Loer

There are three hydroelectric dams on the Skagit River—the Gorge, the Ross, and the Diablo. Seattle City Light, Seattle's public utility company, runs these dams and provides 20% of the city's electricity. The company is currently relicensing the dams through the federal government to determine how the dams will operate in the future. Tribes along the Skagit River have consistently voiced alarm about the ecological and cultural harm the dams inflict. Concerns received minimal acknowledgement until recently, as Seattle City Light moves towards forming a more cooperative relationship with their licensing partners. The first Gorge Dam was built in 1921 without consultation of the tribes living along the river. Until recently, the tribes' request for study of the dam's effects on declining salmon populations and cultural damage had not been given much attention. Scott Schuyler, member and Policy Representative of the Upper Skagit Tribe, says, "When Upper Skagit first started raising these cultural issues about fifteen years ago, there was not a very understanding receptive audience." Recently, Seattle City Light has changed course and moved to work with the tribes towards forming a more cooperative relationship with their licensing partners.

The Gorge Dam is located below the Ross Dam and the Diablo Dam, which extends from the Ross Dam to the Diablo Dam. Seattle City Light operates the Gorge Dam through the Long Term Licensing Plan in which Seattle City Light requests to add a fish ladder to the dam. However, Seattle City Light’s current licensing term ends in 2025, and so must ultimately deal with the concern of how much flow to let through the Gorge Dam.

According to Schuyler, this water flow would not necessarily repair the damage. "Just going through these hydroelectric projects, three of them on the upper Skagit, degrades our culture because the water is no longer pure in the sense that it’s been manipulated, handled and it’s producing money," Schuyler said. "Seattle City Light will also study the possibility of creating a passage for salmon to travel through the dam. This is a significant course change, as previously they maintained that salmon cannot reach the Gorge Dam on their annual migration to spawn due to a series of rapids below the dam. However, in a letter published on November 5th of last year, Smith talks about the outdated study they were using. "That was almost 30 years ago. That science has been called into question," the statement says.

This reversal from Seattle City Light shows the long-held view of the Upper Skagit Tribe, that salmon do not travel above the location of the rapids. According to Schuyler, the Upper Skagit Tribe and state agencies have photographed salmon above the section of river alleged to have blocked them. If the indigenous populations along the Skagit are correct that the dams are responsible for the declining salmon population, the dam’s existence has a direct impact on their culture. For Schuyler and his people, the ability to fish for salmon and teach this knowledge to the next generation preserves their way of life. "We don’t have a written language," he says, "In our history we pass on our knowledge through hands-on and oral traditions."

The treaty between Native Americans and the state government guarantees the right to fish "at all usual and accustomed grounds and stations." If they are not able to fish due to the dams, Schuyler wonders about the point of the treaty. "What in fact did we receive?" Schuyler asks, "Are we able to get our lands back?"

According to Schuyler, Seattle City Light’s course change is only meaningful if true once environmental actions take place. "Until we have something solid in place that sees these fish reversing the current trend and helping our people with these issues," Schuyler says, "we’ll have to wait and see."
Is your syllabus sabotaging successful masturbation?

**By Anna Sweetland**

“I need to orgasm cause I’m stressed, but I can’t orgasm cause I’m stressed. What do I do?” Quinn, a University of Puget Sound third-year, responded in Oct. of 2021 to an Instagram post for my KUPS show asking if any of my peers needed sex advice.

Knowing that I rely on masturbation to relax and relieve stress, I understood Quinn’s predicament and expected other students might as well.

On Feb. 1st, 2022, I prompted my Instagram following with more masturbation-related questions. First, I asked them “Do you masturbate to relieve stress?”

One third-year student answers yes, he does masturbate to relieve stress saying, “During the act, I’m not really thinking about anything else except for the thing that I am watching or imagining. So I’m not worried about what was stressing me out.” He adds that because making himself orgasm is physically demanding, when he finishes it provides a moment of relaxation. In total, 76 UPS students responded to this poll — 74% said yes, 26% said no.

An anonymous third-year UPS student who answered no to this question, shared with me that she masturbates in order to sleep when stressed. She explains, “During stressful periods in my life sometimes I just increase the number of times I masturbate” to silence her stress and fall asleep.

On the other hand, second-year student Lily replied yes. “I think it is difficult to masturbate in stressful periods of my life because I get too in my head or prioritize dealing with the stressful issue over masturbating... sometimes I don’t feel like I have the time to step back from whatever is stressing me out,” says Lily.

My second poll asked, if like Quinn, other young adults on campus have difficulty masturbation at stressful times in their life, and if it was the worst week they’ve ever anticipated. Seventy-eight (78) Puget Sound student respondents replied — 54% said yes and 46% said no. Then to dive deeper into the issue, I asked my peers if “Before or during stressful times in school do you masturbate more or less?” 78 UPS students responded to this question — 40% arguing more, and 60% arguing less.

As a springing student who loves to consume anything discussing sexual health and wellness, I have some tips to share with those too stressed to enjoy masturbing:

First and foremost, it’s vital to remember that orgasms are largely influenced by our mental state — our thoughts, ability to focus, level of arousal, etc. Yes, accomplishing the “Big O” is assisted by what you’re physically experiencing in the moment, but not entirely. Even when using the same sex toy and/or porn that has made you orgasm 100 times before, if you’re too consumed by thoughts of wellness, your desired outcome may be virtually impossible.

In order to focus, you need to trust yourself. Trust that you will complete whatever it is that’s looming over your head. Trust that you will have time after this masturbation session to sort everything out. Trust that you are deserving of this moment all to yourself. Direct your concentration entirely on your hands. Where are your body? What sensations are you feeling? Is your heart racing? Similar to meditation when one is instructed to focus on their breath and leave their mind blank, focus on the physical sensations you’re experiencing.

Those should be the only thoughts in your head. If you’re already having trouble avoiding distraction, don’t attempt to develop an elaborate erotic in your head or replay every second of a sexual encounter you once had. We allow too many opportunities for our mind to trail elsewhere in that effort to create a story. It’s essential to recognize orgasms do not have to be the goal. It’s possible to experience incredibly satisfying pleasure without ever orgasming. Appreciate and fully enjoy that pleasure, rather than declaring it a waste of time if you never reached an orgasm.

We spend so much of our lives as college students wanting to please our peers, professors, families and employers, but we deserve moments where our actions are entirely for our own benefit. You are deserving of pleasure, and trust that you can provide that pleasure for yourself. Nobody knows your body like you do. Masturbation can be a great way to relieve stress, but only if you really take the time to clear your head and focus on the sensation.

Finding your perfect sex toy: a beginner's guide

**By Anna Sweetland**

My first sex toy was a vibrator disguised as a tube of lipstick that I bought from Spencer’s when I was fifteen. Well, I should specify that my friend actually bought it for me while I hid scared and embarrassed in the mall food court. I wouldn’t say that $13 lipstick was my “perfect sex toy,” especially considering it broke after only six months, but it was everything I wanted as an introduction. It was an inexpensive, discrete, and non-intruding first exposure to vibrating plugs. Lovers offers “training kits” that contain four different sized butt plugs or dildos, and Melanie recommends these to beginners because they “let you start yourself off small and work yourself up to your own pace. That being said, anal penetration doesn’t produce natural lubricant like vaginal penetration would, so lubes definitely your friend here! Then once you’re used to that penetrating sensation, there are toys which thrust, spin, bend, vibrate, and even a dildo called the “Big Shot” which, as Melanie explains, “will basically break you.” That’s the gist of it.

Visual stimulation includes toys focusing on the clitoris, the perineum, the penis head and shaft. Here is a wide variety of vibrators which could stimulate someone with any kind of genitalia. Specifically for vulvas, there are suction toys which create a pull and push and vacuum sensation over the clitoris to mimic oral sex. For penises, there are vaginal or anal molds, and the packaging of each demonstrates the angles and internal textures you’ll feel when penetrating.

As we stood in front of this section of the store, Melanie said “one thing, I can actually go grab her butt,” pointing to some of the products molded after a famous pornstar’s genitals. Before I had time to politely decline, they brought in a very large, well-used silicone butt wearing a blue thong. I think they were just really excited to show me all their products for my article, so you likely won’t have to stare directly at a giant silicone ass for 15 minutes of your visit, unless you specifically request that. Not everyone prefers internal or external stimulation. I know one week I was practically married to my vibrator, and the next week I’m using my dildos daily. Some people may just be unsure which form of stimulation they like. In this case, Melanie typically directs customers to their display.
Mysterious Monkeyshines: hidden treasure helps Tacoma find community

By Andrew Bendit

For many people, the latter half of winter in Tacoma can be pretty dreary. The holiday season is over, the sun is hidden behind heavy clouds and the rain keeps most people indoors. For others, these weeks are brightened by Chinese Lunar New Year and a tradition called Monkeyshines. Treasure hunts, which started around Feb. 1st, 2021, this year, for small pieces of art from local artists hidden all over Tacoma bring the community together and lifts spirits.

The tradition began in 2004 when “Ms. Monkey” and her husband had ornate glass orbs adorned with the symbol of the monkey around Tacoma for people to find. Ms. Monkey meant for the pieces to go out around Christmas, but it wasn’t ready yet, so they scrambled to find another holiday coming up. Lunar New Year was right around the corner, and luckily enough it just happened to be the Year of the Monkey. Thus, a tradition was born, though Ms. Monkey explains that she never meant for it to become one.

“It was never set out to be a 24-year project, but it’s evolved into one and it has a life of its own and we just kind of usher it along,” she said. Right now, Monkeyshines is in its second Lunar cycle, and 2022-2023 is the Year of the Tiger. Ms. Monkey plans to finish the current cycle, for a total of 24 years between the two cycles, but her plans beyond that remain open.

“If we’re going to continue again, that’s a huge commitment for us,” she said, adding that she has a particular vision for the continuation of the project, which would make it hard for her to step back. Whether or not the project continues in the future, there is no doubt that right now Monkeyshines is a Tacoma institution.

“It’s not just Ms. Monkey anymore, people from all over Tacoma have started hiding their own art pieces. These ‘rogues’ have widened the scope of the Monkeyshines, even creating pieces in other venues. Although they aren’t affiliated with Ms. Monkey, she has made it clear in the past that she welcomes everyone getting involved.”

Around May of 2021, Zia Blue, second year, decided to post a video of herself singing. By Sophia James, to her Instagram story. Little did she know what sharing that 60-second clip would lead to. Shortly after Blue posted the video, the artist reposted the cover to their Instagram story. After viewing Blue’s video through Sophia James’ Instagram, a senior producer from American Idol contacted her. “They reached out to me like hey, I saw your story do you want to audition for season 20 of American Idol?” Blue said.

Blue then started to get in more contact with the senior producer. “It was really crazy. I started getting emails that had the official American Idol logo on them and I was like what the heck? It was just very surreal and still is very surreal. I don’t know if I’ll ever be like wow yeah that happened. It’s just kind of like a dream!” said Blue.

At the same time, stuck in an awkward transition in her life, Blue started to play around with recording and posting singing videos to her social media. Out of the eight jobs Blue took over the year, she found herself taking on a field technician role. “I took a gap year and on that gap year, I took a job with the USDA. I was doing a native pollinator study in the Mojave Desert and it kind of ended up being something I didn’t want to be in” Blue said. Blue ended up quitting her job and moving into a house she sublet with a friend.

Blue has been singing from a young age and grew up in a very musical family. She was involved in choir all four years of high school. “I’ve been singing for literally like my entire life. I really honestly don’t know when I started singing. I think it’s always just been incorporated into my life” Blue said. She mentions that music festivals and concerts were very important to her family which they often attended together.

Before possibly having the opportunity to audition in front of the TV judges, Blue first completed the required preliminary auditions via zoom. “I had two zoom auditions. I did one in my house that I was currently being evicted from.”

All while dealing with the parts of her life that felt unsure, Blue was selected to continue with the audition process. The next step would be to another audition in a discrete location.

In her audition journey, Blue connected with new people that shared her passion for music. She explained how exciting it was to be surrounded by people like herself. “I haven’t had a lot of creative friends in my life, so it was cool to be like oh yeah that syncopation is so crazy! We were all united in the way that we all just loved music and

Puget Sound student takes on American Idol

By Sabrina Hubbell

we loved to be around other people who love music” Blue said.

Thus far, Blue explains that she doesn’t have much performing experience, especially on a stage. “I think I’m extra cautious right now especially since I haven’t done a lot of performing and I really want to ever and truly just love the art of being in front of people” Blue said.

Blue explains that being kind to yourself can be hard for people when pursuing goals and dreams. “I’ve personally struggled really hard with being imperfect. Even if I post a reel on Instagram or you know, a known on twitter as @MonkeyThing1 and specialize in hiding pins, explained how meaningful it is for people to find the treasures.

“It just makes everything happy. It’s just a real positive thing to be giving to other people seeing that reaction. I see posts of little kids who find the pins with these huge grins on their face.”

Christine Sharr, who started hunting for Monkeyshines with her children this year, is impressed by how the tradition makes people feel. “I love the way that the community pulls together to try and bring a little bit of joy and happiness to each other,” Sharr said.

For Chenard, who moved to Tacoma two and a half years ago, Monkeyshines helped her and her family explore the city and feel connected to its people. “My two teenage kids, they come out with me, and they think it’s the greatest thing ever. Not only does it get us out and spend time together, but they get to see kind of the community and how people can come together and it’s just a nice thing,” she said.

People who take part in Monkeyshines also know how meaningful it is to give back to the city. Chenard mentioned that people clean up the city at the same time they’re hunting for the treasure. “We usually bring a bag with us and if there’s some trash hanging out, we usually try to pick it up and just clean up as you go along,” Chenard said.

The mystery of the whole experience, from who made and placed the treasure to how many people walked by the art without noticing, make finding a Monkeyshine a joyful and special occasion.

To an outsider, Monkeyshines may seem like a confusing tradition, but to Tacoma residents it’s an important way to spread joy and adventure by tapping into the city’s vibrant artistic spirit. In the words of Ms. Monkey: “there is magic in the world and sometimes that’s just enough to know.”

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To an outsider, Monkeyshines may seem like a confusing tradition, but to Tacoma residents it’s an important way to spread joy and adventure by tapping into the city’s vibrant artistic spirit. In the words of Ms. Monkey: “there is magic in the world and sometimes that’s just enough to know.”
"White people's work for anti-racism": comprehension as a stepping stone

By Sabrina Hubbell

Today, people talk about their dedication to fighting systemic issues of racism, but committed action rarely follows regardless of people’s intention. Because students at the University of Puget Sound attend a predominantly white institution, complete with the associated privileges, there is a responsibility of students to engage in deconstructing systems of racism. Such an overwhelming issue can leave people searching for ways to individually take action.

The book club “White People’s Work for Anti-racism” thinks that the most sensible place to start is in conversation and comprehension. The book club, hosted at King’s Books in Tacoma, meets the fourth Saturday of every other month to discuss a selected book dealing with issues of systemic racism. According to the King’s Books website’s description of the club, the ‘all-ages book club is for white folks to work at undoing white supremacy and the dismantling of racism’.

This Month’s reading for the “White People’s work for anti-racism” book club is “Four Hundred Souls”, edited by both Ibram X Kendi and Keisha N Blain. In the past they have read books by authors such as Angela Y. Davis.

The club aims to have these conversations without causing more harm. “It’s a place to read certain texts and discuss and work things out without necessarily traumatizing people of color,” Flaherty said.

White People’s Work for Anti-Racism’s page encourages members to also join multicultural groups as they believe that is where real progress is made. It might seem odd that a book club could serve to combat big, overwhelming issues such as racism, however, sweet pea explained that the book clubs can serve to push you out of your comfort zone. “It’s a place to read certain texts and discuss and work things out without necessarily traumatizing people of color,” Flaherty said. White People’s Work for Anti-Racism reminds us that deconstructing racism begins with talking through ideas and having a willingness to learn. Groups such as this book club provide a resource for people committed to combating systemic and internalized racism.

Sites of Shame Project features student voices honoring Japanese Day of Remembrance

By Kate Patterson

February 19th, 2022 is the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. This action, signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, ordered the incarceration of thousands of Japanese Americans on the West Coast; this caused immense harm to these communities and violated the American promise of freedom. On February 16th, The University of Puget Sound hosted a virtual event for Japanese American Day of Remembrance, with about 50 people attending. For the first ten minutes of the event, four Puget Sound students spoke. This event as well as our article seek to center the voices of the Japanese American community.

Hayden Hotchkiss, fourth-year said, “This history is incredibly important to me, as both of my grandparents were incarcerated due to Executive Order 9066.” Hotchkiss and the other students explored some of the history and impacts of Executive Order 9066 and shared how it impacted them as well as their families. “I often think of the privilege I have as their granddaughter, hearing their stories from internment, but never experiencing anything close to it in my lifetime,” Hotchkiss said. Another Puget Sound student, Mimi Carrier-Berndt, second year, echoed the same sentiment, saying, “I have nothing but the utmost respect for those that were less fortunate than me and hope to honor their history not only today, but for many years to come.”

In 1942, 36 Japanese American students at University of Puget Sound were forcibly removed from campus and incarcerated in concentration camps. During the virtual event, students read the names of these 36 people who were not allowed to continue their education and life here. This was a time of reflection and remembrance to consider the gravity of the opportunities taken away from these students: individuals around our age, learning and living where we are now.

Next, Geoff Froh and Brian Niiya from Demsho presented. Demsho is a Seattle-based organization and long-standing public history project that documents these accounts. Their website sums it up: “We offer these irreplaceable firsthand accounts, coupled with historical images and teacher resources, to explore principles of democracy and promote equal justice for all.”

Demsho recently relaunched their Sites of Shame project with a new, easily navigable and cutting-edge website. The map provides information about different Japanese American incarceration sites. The sites are marked with dots the size of which corresponds to the camp’s peak population. For each camp, there is a description, timeline, and the peak population. It is possible because the War Relocation Authority kept detailed records. In fact, the records, often written by members of the Japanese American communities themselves, document where each person came from and where they moved after leaving a camp. This is visually represented on the website: yellow lines show peoples’ origins while blue lines show where they went after they were released from the camp.

The camp closest to Tacoma was Camp Harmony in Payhallup, Washington. It was located at a fair grounds, eliciting dissonance between the intended function of the area and the injustices committed to Japanese Americans during World War II. Sites of Shame shows that Camp Harmony, a temporary assembly center, was active from April 28, 1942 to September 12, 1942, and had a peak population of 7,390 people.

The horrifying history of incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II should continue to serve as a lesson today. According to Niiya, another goal of Demsho is to be an ally for groups experiencing scapegoating reminiscent of this history. One example that Geoff Froh, Deputy Director of Demsho, shared was unfair treatment of undocumented immigrants. The parallels to ICE detention facilities like the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA are unacceptable.

Froh explained that Den-sho is sponsoring a Japanese American Day of Remembrance Day event at the Northwest Detention Center along with several immigrants’ rights groups.

The shameful history of the US government incarcerating Japanese Americans during World War II is something that we all have a responsibility with which to reckon. The virtual event was both an opportunity to learn about this history and an opportunity for the Japanese American community on campus to remember and honor those who came before them.

“This day, may we all remember and honor the 36 University of Puget Sound Students and every one of the 120,000 Japanese Americans who were interned,” Hayden Hotchkiss said. This is a day to reflect on the liberties that were stripped from deserving people and think about preventative measures against ongoing discriminatory efforts to scapegoat and suppress.
We are NOT ok.

By Ansley Feeneys

I’ve been staring at the blinking cursor on a blank Google Doc for an hour and a half. I love writing so why can’t I get words on this page? I skipped my favorite class this morning because I couldn’t muster up the will to get out of bed, even though I got eight hours of sleep last night. I’ve had three migraines in the past three weeks. When I come home from classes I barely take my mask off before collapsing into bed. I forgot to take my medicine, brush my teeth, take a shower, or call my mom. I am not OK, but I am not alone. Americans greet each other by asking “how are you?” without really wanting an honest answer. A mutual nodding to each other’s standing; we’re not really asking, and you’re not really telling us. The exchange of surface-level pleasantries rolls off the tongue: “Doing well! How are you?” Only if you’re close to someone will they ask, “no, how are you really?”

As college students, we have begun to skip the formalities. The typical, “oh, I’m fine,” has been replaced with a sigh, a laugh, or a “oh, you know how it is.” And I do.

Time spent with friends is now haunted with a spectrum of essays, practices, housing applications, and personal classes. Classes, no matter how interesting the subject is, have become chores. Showers and exercise are reduced to items on a to-do list. The walk to get lunch at the SUB gets a bit longer each time. Sleep is our best friend, our alarms, our mortal enemies. The phrase “I just need to make it to the weekend,” echoes in our heads. We are not OK. But we are not alone. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that 73% of college students have experienced a mental health crisis. Active Minds, a mental health advocacy group for college students, says 80% of college students feel overwhelmed and 45% feel hopeless. Furthermore, Active Minds also reports that 1 out of 3 college students have felt “so depressed that they have had trouble functioning.” I know I’ve been there. I know my friends have been there. These statistics are bleak, but the statistics surrounding responses to mental health – both personal and institutional – are even worse.

NAMI reveals that while 50% of students rate their mental health as “below average or poor,” 40% of students fail to seek help either from the school or elsewhere. The Huffington Post reports that the ratio of counselors to students at small schools like the University of Puget Sound is 1:1,000-2,000. Not only are we struggling, but we’re struggling in silence. My inclusion of statistics is a formality. We don’t need them to know that the mental wellbeing of college students is collapsing. We need it in each other’s posture, eyes, and social media pages.

Despite all this, I don’t believe all hope is lost. Now is the time to take radical action surrounding mental health. The time for empty “how are you” texts and one-off self-care sessions has passed. The University provides some mental health resources, but there’s no way all of us can take full advantage of them. It’s a scarce resource. Now is the time for us to lean on each other. While we can’t (and shouldn’t) be expected to take on the weight of other people’s mental illness, perhaps helping others work towards healing will help us heal ourselves. Yes, we are not OK. But we don’t have to stay that way.

Finding your perfect sex toy: a beginner’s guide

(Continued from Page 4 —)

By Hannah Lee

I know what it meant when I didn’t get the usual “results negative” text message. All of my roommates had taken their turns in ‘the white prison’ — COVID-19 isolation — and now it was mine. I had a lot of mixed feelings, mainly I felt angry, but next came the fear. I was scared. I am immunocompromised because of my multitude of health issues. So I took extra precautions — double masking wherever I went, frequent hand-washing, wiping surfaces down, using hand sanitizer — all of which seemed to have been in vain. I took every precaution and still got sick. I remember that after receiving my positive result I cried because I thought that it was too unfair. Why did it have to be me? Those around me did not understand my fears.

“it’s just a cold.” “More people die from the flu.” “You’re young, it’ll be fine.” “More people die from the flu.” “You’re young, it’ll be fine.” I was frustrated. Many people told me that the Omicron variant was ‘mild,’ just like a cold. That it would all be okay because even if I got it, I was young, and young people didn’t die from having COVID. But the truth is, COVID can be very dangerous regardless of age, and having people around you brush off your concerns is invalidating. It can still be serious for supposedly healthy people, and immunocompromised people, like me, face the dire possibility of contracting “long COVID,” which, according to Scientific American, affects 14 to 30% of those infected.

The university should have taken Omicron more seriously. The best thing one can do to protect themselves from it is to isolate, so the university should have had us isolate for more than a week before going back to in-person classes. The university’s COVID Dashboard does not mention Omicron, and the university’s current testing strategy states that “As a fully vaccinated campus, we anticipated testing only symptomatic and unvaccinated individuals during fall semester 2021. However, in response to increased transmissibility of the delta variant, and the rate of breakthrough cases associated with this variant, the breadth of COVID-19 testing has expanded to inform decisions regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies.” President Crawford’s email from January 20th only briefly mentioned “very contagious Omicron variant”. The university should have emphasized the seriousness of Omicron.

I found the university’s handling of testing sub-par (for lack of a more vulgar term). I understand that it was bucklogged, but it was nerve wracking to wait for days compared to the one or two days it took in previous semesters. Especially as order online, we ship discreetly so it no longer says Lovers,” Melanie informed me.

Finally, please wash your sex toys. Lovers sells sex toy cleaner, but any kind of gentle unscented soap works. Our genitals are very sensitive places which can easily get infected; it’s important we make sure to safely interact with these areas. Happy masturbating!

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COVID isn’t pretending that it is unknown, yet contagious, asymptomatic individuals.

In isolation, the university should have done a better job enforcing the rules. People were congregating unmasked in one room, maskless in hallways, and would open their windows to talk to their friends, also maskless, or leave to meet up with them. Each time someone broke the rules, I said nothing, not wanting to draw attention to myself. I would see something and then force myself to turn away. I would have loved to hold others accountable, but the culture of dismissal I already encountered gave me little hope it would be effective. Besides, most of the time it was during the weekend, when nothing could have been done because contact-tracing was sorely needed.

It’s sad and dangerous that the university, as well as many others, prioritize their urge to ‘get back to normal’ over the needs of others. Even though I have since recovered and am able to go back to classes, I’m still wary. I am also still dealing with “long COVID” — including breathing issues that I can only hope don’t get worse.

I wish that The University of Puget Sound and our community would take the ongoing pandemic more seriously. While vaccines have definitely helped reduce the number of deaths and spread of COVID, the pandemic is not over, no matter how much we want it to be.
Student talent showcased in Kittredge's Art Annual

BY AISLEY FEENEY

The Kittredge Gallery tucked away near the Welcome Center is a hidden gem unnoticed by students outside of the Art and Art History Departments. However, the 2022 Art Student Annual proves Kittredge as a hidden gem on campus. The innovative work of students transforms the space from a mundane campus building into a modern art exhibit. The paintings, drawings, sculptures, and video art from the Picassos and Van Gogh's of The University add color and life to the space. The Art Student Annual highlights the best and brightest art of students at The University. Pieces from the previous year’s art classes are submitted to be judged and curated for the exhibit by a community juror. This year, Jillian Chhun served as the selected juror. Chhun is a Digital Communications Manager at Pacific Lutheran University and a local art advocate. After the selection process, the student art is displayed in Kittredge Gallery for five weeks for students, faculty, and the local community to admire.

Claire Gustafson, senior, is one of these talented students featured in the exhibit. She showed me a sculpture work she created in her metalworking class. She took inspiration from the Poliforum, a mural-covered building in Mexico City. The piece has a solid silver metal base but is otherwise covered in bright red yarn. Furthermore, blue, black, and white yarn pom-poms hang off the ends, creating a youthful and fun feel. "I really wanted to take inspiration from, like, the playfulness of the colors, but also integrate my childhood experience into the creative process," Gustafson said. As a Spanish minor, Gustafson incorporated her personal passions into an awe-inspiring work of art.

I imagined that each piece had a similar story behind it as I walked through the exhibit. The art evoked a feeling of wonder: the realization that everyone has a life and story just as complex as my own. I wondered how the works I was looking at could mean something deeply important to each artist. One work, called Safe Space, showed everyday scenes from a person’s bedroom, giving a small glimpse into a stranger’s life. Another, titled Pronghorn, featured a well-dressed young person of color showing off their top surgery scars. A piece called Tiny Pots! featuring, of course, tiny ceramic pots, speaks for itself. In fact, the artist was so excited about their pots that they couldn’t help but add an exclamation point. In a strange way, through artwork I felt connected with my fellow students, even though I had never met them.

Come visit these amazing works of art, and more, which are on display in Kittredge Gallery until Feb. 26.

Film Club's short contends in local competition

BY KATE PATTERTON

On Feb. 12th, the University of Puget Sound's film club undertook a daunting task: writing, filming and editing a short film in 96 hours. The ambitious project is for the Reel Life 96 film competition, an event held by the city of Lakewood, WA. "I wanted to jump on it as soon as I heard about it," Jake Greenberg, fourth-year, President of the film club, said. The University team is competing with 31 other teams of up to 16 participants competing for prizes of up to $500 dollars. The "weekend," (it’s actually four days total) started at 5pm on Feb. 16th, when Greenberg received an email detailing the required elements, which are purposely withheld to make sure teams don’t try to get a head start. Each film must include one prop, one action, and one line of dialogue which hasn’t announced till the start of the competition.

Before the 96 hours started, Greenberg predicted, "It’s gonna be a grind this weekend." He was right.

I got to join the film club right as the required elements were announced and they started brainstorming for their five-minute short film. The email announcement arrived at 5:00, and by 5:26 there were nine film club members brainstorming in a circle. As they threw out ideas and considerations, the energy in the room was electric. One student even bought a Pepsi from the nearby vending machine using solely quarters borrowed from other people. Although they were weary from the school week, they were animated in their discussion. Karen Hunt, fourth-year. Vice President of the film club, exclaimed, "Oh no!" as the gravity of the work ahead sunk in.

The three requirements were written on a whiteboard for pondering: the required prop was a lit candle, the action was dancing, and the line of dialogue: “Sometimes you have to be happy for what you don’t get.” There was widespread agreement that the line was pretty corny. Ultimately, the group decided to focus on the story of love, movies, and the importance of showing up.

The script was completed Thursday night. As the group settled into the work, most of the filming took place in Rausch Auditorium and the lobby of Schneebeck Auditorium. The group remained masked throughout the process, with the exception of actors while they were actively being filmed. Filming on Saturday didn’t go entirely smoothly. In an important candlelit scene, they forgot to turn on the mic and had to go back and re-record the audio. This added another task to the long list, but they made it happen.

The process was a sort of complex relay, with different people working on different aspects. There were 15 people involved, who worked on script writing, cinematography, editing, sound, lighting, acting, and other odds and ends. It was a chaotic and collaborative experience, in all the best ways.

Anika Freeling, first-year, mostly worked on scriptwriting. She said, "Specifically, I really enjoyed the process after we had established our basic idea and could come up with individual plot points and fun little details to add in."

Greenberg said, "It’s fun getting together with the people that you know and the people that you care about and making something that you can be proud of."

The finished film, centering around a love story, is sweet and hopeful. A couple, Joey (played by Greenberg) and Casey (played by Cormac Smith, third-year), run a movie theater together. Joey’s film is premiering in 30 minutes at the movie theater and they’re a nervous wreck. Everything is going wrong: the lights aren’t working, the popcorn machine is broken, and Joey worries that no one will come to the showing. On top of this, Casey is running late to help set up.

In the pivotal scene, Casey is in the theater, on the verge of a breakdown. Casey reassures them, and they end up dancing and eventually sharing a kiss. Once they return to the lobby, a crowd has accumulated outside! We learn that Casey was late because he spent all day putting up fliers.

The film was edited Sunday and Monday. In the last step of the filmmaking process was driving a flash drive with the finished film to Lakewood on Monday afternoon. With that, the project was complete. The finished films will be viewed at a screening party on March 19th. Cormac Smith, an actor, said in reflection, “My favorite part was just being able to create something with people that I enjoy working with.”