University tackles ugly history in Slater Museum renaming

By Albert Chang-Yoo Grace Eberhardt

On Feb. 21, 2022 the University of Puget Sound’s Board of Trustees adopted the Policy on the Reconsideration or Removal of Names on University Buildings & University Spaces. The Policy is most predominantly directed toward renaming the Slater Museum of Natural History, a step that students and faculty have pushed for the past three years.

The Slater Museum of Natural History contains one of the largest specimen collections in the Pacific Northwest and serves to promote both environmental research and student outreach. Started in the 1930s, the collection officially became the Puget Sound Museum by the early ’40s. In 1979, a group of alumni requested that the Museum be named after then-retired biology professor James Slater. Functioning under Slater’s name for the past 50+ years, an initiative to change the name developed in 2019.

James Slater, the primary Biology professor at the College of Puget Sound (and eventually University) from 1919 until 1951 contributed to the Museum’s creation and collection. Throughout his career on campus, Slater taught courses on eugenics, examining the “laws of heredity and racial progress.”

Eugenics has a really harmful legacy of racism, xenophobia, sexism, and ableism especially, and I don’t think having a name that reflects that is very inclusive, especially in a field where so many of these groups, marginalized groups, are underrepresented in STEM,” Eberhardt said.

Following Eberhardt’s request, Peter Wimberger, a biology professor at the University and the director of the Museum for 16 years, approached President Crawford. “I said the university has no policy for thinking about naming or renaming… And it was just a lot of concern that more based on convenience than on the climate of the school and our morals.”

Nearly a year later, in Fall 2021, Eberhardt was invited to a committee meeting. The lack of progress frustrated Eberhardt: “There was concern about, ‘Oh, is it going to be confusing, if we rename it? Isn’t it going to be too long of a name?’ Because we were thinking of putting it to its original name, which was the Puget Sound Natural History Museum. And there was just a lot of concern that was more based on convenience than on the climate of the school and our morals.”

In January 2020, President Crawford officially established a naming committee but did not mention the Slater Museum. According to Eberhardt, it seemed that “he didn’t give any of us credit for putting out the requests to have this committee started. And he specifically didn’t want any attention drawn to any specific buildings, which, honestly, would have been the Slater Museum.”

After Eberhardt graduated in spring 2020, she was invited to a committee meeting. “I was kind of uncomfortable about it. I think the speed of this process has been slower than it is at other places, at least from my watching, renaming proposals and renaming happening in other places,” Wimberger said. He now wants the focus to be on the museum’s programs: “We have some deans right now working on an exhibit that’s going to go up, regardless of whether or not the name gets changed, on Slater and eugenics at UPS, and the history of eugenics courses at colleges and universities.”

“Change is really hard… all these larger powers and systems in place make these types of changes really difficult,” Eberhardt said. Even though she’s now an alumna, Eberhardt is optimistic about the renaming process: “I think we’re making a lot of great progress though. It’s just really slow.”

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People: Raising Awareness

On May 2nd, the University hosted an event with Carolyn DeFord educating people on MMIW. Continuing to facilitate events that bring attention to historically overlooked issues and crises is of the utmost importance. The University, in hand with larger institutions, can no longer afford to look past the harm done to Indigenous communities, nor the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People.

- Murder is the third-leading cause of death for American Indian/Alaska Native women
- Native women face murder rates more than 10x times the national average
- 4 out of 5 of Native women experience some form of violence in their lifetime
- Cases of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, two-spirit (LGBTQ2S+) have been undercounted
- The National Crime Information Center reports that in 2016, “there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, though the US Department of Justice’s federal missing person database, NamUs, only logged 116 cases.”
- More than 95% of the cases from the study were never covered by national or international media

Educational Resources Ways to help Events
To mask or not to mask
By Hannah Lee

The University became a mask optional campus on April 5th, following in the steps of many states. Sophomore Phoenix Stoker-Graham said the feeling was apprehensive when campus mask mandate dropped. “We’ve seen multiple times in our community and across the world that mandates work,” she said. The CDC estimates that between 2010-2020, 12-15,000 people in the U.S. died from the flu every year, far behind COVID globally. She also mentioned that when cases are low, we drop the mask mandate, and so cases climb again, and then we need to mask again. “I think that is partially due to the fact that I am fairly desensitized to the severity of Covid after living in this weird state of endemic status. The endemic phase of COVID will likely last through mid-2023, is expected to bring extensive vital changes, disrupting our collective recovery and continuing to put people and communities at risk.

By Emma Loenicker

In 2021, the Tacoma Democracy Socialists of America (DSA) adopted a Housing Green New Deal campaign with the intent of creating more equitable and environmentally conscious housing policies in Tacoma. In early 2022, the Tacoma DSA Housing Justice Committee (HJC) and the Eco-Socialism Committee launched the “Home in Tacoma For All” campaign that outlines a renter’s bill of rights.

John Adams, the Tacoma DSA co-chair, said that “if we want to achieve the goals that we wanted to achieve with the original priority for our chapter, the housing green new deal, then we needed to create a campaign that would most effectively engage the Home In Tacoma process.”

The Tacoma City Council approved Phase one of the housing reform deal called Home In Tacoma, on Dec. 7th, 2021. Phase one primarily constructed a vision and laid the groundwork for more just and sustainable housing policies. Phase two, which is in progress and will likely last through mid-2023, is expected to bring extensive visible change. The TCC initiated the second phase to develop zoning and updated standards and take steps towards affordability, anti-displacement, and sustainability. In an interview with The News Tribune in December 2021, Elliott Barnett, senior planner for the City of Tacoma said 2022 will be the time for community engagement and preliminary strategizing for phase two. The TCC aims to reflect community feedback with the outcomes of phase two.

The Home In Tacoma For All platform is putting pressure on the TCC to accommodate certain demands in the implementation of phase two. As a grassroots movement, the campaign hopes to encourage housing policy transformations through affordability, stability, tenant rights, and sustainability.

When asked about the impacts of phase one, David Galazin, chair of TDSA HJC, said the city planning committee has “delivered a zoning plan for a city that refocuses the city’s resolutions to meet its growth targets and begin dismantling the racist legacy of redlining.”

Adams said that looking forward, “We want the city to establish a social housing developer who will develop housing that will meet the needs of many income brackets, not just an elite few.” Adams contends that this would change the very nature of the housing market.
Aquatic habitats and water resources are becoming increasingly important around the country as many states experience prolonged droughts with negligible healthy streams. Washington is no exception. Especially in the population-dense, Western half of the state, human water use directly competes with the health of aquatic habitats. In Tacoma, residents see the Sound daily. The water may not look too bad, but looks can be deceiving. Puget Sound Info reports that many key features of the sound, such as freshwater and marine water quality as well as orca and salmon populations are declining or stagnating. According to Peter Hodum, professor of biology, the signs of an unhealthy sound are multifaceted and often difficult to understand. "One of the challenges is that it is so nuanced, you know, you can point to success stories but you can also point to trends that are worrying," said Hodum. He explains that the complexity of natural ecosystems makes remediation difficult. "You would expect that a response to human impacts would be correspondingly complex," said Hodum.

A further complication to developing a response plan is the variation in what is considered healthy between Puget Sound and other bodies of water. According to Hodum, the period of time, or baseline, in the past when the sound was considered healthy varies depending on the party involved. "Depending on when you grounded yourself in a place is going to influence what you consider to be normal," said Hodum.

The reality of shifting baselines for what is considered healthy is especially pertinent for Puget Sound because of the diversity of invested parties. Local tribes, the industries brought by the Port of Tacoma, and the people that live near, and use the sound all have different and sometimes conflicting beliefs over what healthy means for the sound.

While precise goals may vary depending on different parties’ opinions, Puget Sound Info reports several areas that are written in Washington state’s legislature, which are “measures of ecosystem health and recovery towards Puget Sound recovery goals.” These areas are healthy water quality, functioning fish, and living species and food web, healthy human population and vibrant human quality of life.

Another challenge confronting Puget Sound’s remediation is the sheer population density. Washington is commonly referred to as the “Evergreen State” because of its rich vegetation. Hodum foresees that a healthy Puget Sound must be able to accommodate the actions of humans. This understanding of ecological balance goes against older models that emphasize preservation and try to take humans out of the equation. According to Hodum, the premise that the logic is unsustainable. "It’s not going to work in the long run," he said. Hodum elaborates that what the sound needs is, “a very inclusive process that is committed to equity, environmental justice, and human wellbeing.”

Further inland in Washington, away from the Puget Sound, water use is also a complicated subject. According to Welch, it is a constant balancing act between human use of water and maintaining healthy flow rates. "The biggest challenge for our state is trying to manage the competing demands for freshwater while meeting the instream flows for a healthy stream ecosystem," she said. On the Eastern side of the Cascades, the story is entirely different. While there’s less of a population using groundwater, the draw from agriculture is significant. According to Welch, “In those areas, there have been significant declines in groundwater levels and in some regions, there are also contamination concerns from nitrates that come from fertilizer application and dairy operations.” Nitrates in drinking water can lower the ability of red blood cells to carry oxygen– an especially dangerous health issue for infants. Welch expresses hope in the ability of scientists and citizens to come to a consensus on water use. However, there’s a lot of work to be done to decide how water gets divided, especially as water resources become more vulnerable. Welch explained, "As our population grows, agricultural irrigation increases to meet demand, and the timing and amounts of precipitation become more variable and less predictable. We all need to treat our freshwater as a precious resource.

Pushing FEPPS forward after COVID

By Emma Loeiner

In 2011, Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS) was founded in collaboration with the University of Washington Correction Centers For Women (WCCW) by Tanya Erzen, professor of Religious Studies and Gender and Queer Studies, Stuart Smithers, professor and chair of Religious Studies, and Robin Jacobson, professor and chair of Politics and Government. The program originally offered Associate of Arts degrees, but, in 2019, the board of trustees approved a Bachelor’s degree program. The B.A. program is funded, in part, by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

FEPPS provides a rigorous liberal arts education to women, transgender, and non-binary students in the WCCW. When I spoke with Professor Erzen, she said that starting this program in partnership with a women’s prison was important because historically there have always just been fewer resources to prisons that are designated for women.

“We worked for many years with the administration at Puget Sound to talk about why this is valuable for people in the prison, and also for undergraduates,” said Erzen. This transformative program involves students engaging with classes like Professor Erzen’s experiential learning course Religion 307: Prison, Gender, and Education, providing a platform of connection between students in the WCCW and students on campus. Erzen said, “It builds a sense of contradi- cary, of relationship, of mutual endeavor, of we’re all in this together.”

Now the students in the B.A. program are treated as Puget Sound students; they just don’t live on campus, they live in the prison, but it is an extension campus. Erzen said. A student at FEPPS is “to create the idea of a campus, so it’s not just classes. Its study halls, a lecture series, an honors society, research classes, computer labs, and we had a film series at one point,” said Erzen.

Nola Thury, fourth-year and a fellow working in the FEPPS program focuses on strengthening the connection between the University’s main campus and what she calls the “satellite campus” at the WCCW. She wrote newsletters, brought in campus publications, and made campus tour videos to give the FEPPS students a feel for the campus, because "students really liked that kind of interaction.”

The FEPPS model emphasizes the importance of creativity and initiative through the independent exploration afforded by a liberal arts education. Education programs in prisons are often designed to be restrictive, but Erzen hopes that FEPPS will give students the opportunity to get an education and to have it be a choice of what they want to study. Thury believes the classroom environment should be a place of “taking ownership of your life, taking your life into your own hands, and putting in the work into something bigger that contributes to your self-image and self-worth.”

Thury elaborated that “the students in the program are not monolithic. They come from all different perspectives from a lot of different perspectives and backgrounds, and interests, so for some people, the classroom is their place where they get to exercise autonomy and better themselves.”

Identity by the prison often becomes defined as an offender or inmate, so it gets to the point of how do you see yourself,” said Erzen. The faculty teaching in the prison tries to help the students build a holistic sense of identity. At the beginning of the spring semester in January, the WCCW experienced its first massive COVID Outbreak. In response, the prison initiated a cohort system to minimize the spread of COVID. The cohorts were separated by custody levels with different people living in different parts of the prison were not allowed in the same classroom. The new system diminished the number of people able to participate in the program. The A.A. program, which generally taught 80-100 students, now has roughly 40 participants.

"It was a pretty devastating time for a lot of the students, but we are picking up classes over the summer,” said Thury.
Displaying Tacoma's "toponymic abominations"

By Nola Thury

A name can tell a story, make a claim, and reflect a relationship. Beyond that, the way we refer to a place dictates the people and experiences welcomed into its space. For centuries, people in the United States have contested the naming of places, from cities to streams to national parks. Renaming and restoring Indigenous place names involves a recalibration of how we think about history as well as the future. Locally, movements to remove the inappropriate names of “Mount Rainier” and “Pierce County” are gaining traction. Professor of North American History, Doug Sackman, described the history and motives behind the mountain’s name. In the late 1700s, the British explorer George Vancouver sailed around what is now referred to as the “Puget Sound,” named for his Lieutenant Peter Puget. According to Sackman, Vancouver was searching for a passage through the continent. He went around naming anything he wanted after his friends— in 1792 he named “Mount Rainier” after another friend of his, Peter Rainier, an admiral in the British Navy who fought against the United States in the Revolutionary War. Sackman said, “So he’s kind of a John Peter Rainier, an admiral in no more ceremony around here, bestowing imperial names. And he’s literally networking when he chooses a name apply on topography, gonna name it after my 2nd well-positioned friend.”

Sackman said of the name, “It exposes a deeper arrogance really. Vancouver is lost, basically. He’s looking for something. He tells us how to pronounce the name. They tell him he’s not gonna find what He’s looking for, which is a water route across North America, the Northwest passage. And then he decides that he gets to name everything around.”

The Puyallup Tribe has always contested Vancouver’s naming of the mountain and recently renewed discussions on formally recommending an official name change according to KIRO? News. Members of the Tribe told The Trail that they are waiting to hear from the County Council, which will conclude to comment on the issue. To the Puyallup peoples, the mountain is called təqʷuʔməʔ “mountain” (one anglicized version of the name). Brandon Reynon, the historic preservation officer for the Puyallup Tribe, told KIRO? News that we might be looking for all the time before COVID at that moment was sort of a blessing for me. I’m fortunate to have a pretty good relationship with my parents, so home was nice. I had a lot of time to just recover from the over stimulating-ness of college and the chaos of life. So in a way, that singular part of COVID at that moment was sort of a retreat. Many seniors wonder what their college experience would be like had the pandemic impacted their social lives. Leona DeRango said, “I was pretty pissed because COVID got in the way of the person that I was seeing.” Leona pointed out, “I could have been married and had a child if it wasn’t for COVID.” However, the break facilitated some positive changes as well. “I didn’t feel like I had a community on campus before the pandemic. And then afterward, having to be holed up all the time, I quickly learned who my real friends were and who I wanted to spend time with and devote energy to. And now I feel like I have closer friends because of COVID,” Leona said. Walla Bartholomay said that the timing of going home sophomore year was sort of a blessing for me. I’m fortunate to have a pretty good relationship with my parents, so home was nice. I had a lot of time to just recover from the over stimulating-ness of college and the chaos of life. So in a way, that singular part of COVID at that moment was sort of a retreat. Many seniors wonder what their college experience would have been like had the last two years been different. “I think part of me is really sad that I’m leaving because these friendships have just started. And I have the idea that these friendships would’ve been created a year ago, if COVID hadn’t happened and I would’ve had more time. But at the same time, I don’t think I can say that for sure. And I think COVID allowed me to have a lot of introspective time and allowed for a lot of people to have time to introspect and figure out what they needed in friendship or what they wanted to spend their time on, or are still figuring that out. Obviously, we’re always learning, but I think that that’s attributed to a lot of new people this year,” Walla said.

“As I definitely feel like part of me has this feeling of being robbed of a year and a half of school and going through a lot of really hard stuff and wishing that I could have had, you know, more time here that was enjoyable. And then another part of me is like, well, obviously we’re here. They say “it’s a give and take of not knowing if I would’ve been here no matter what, or, or if COVID like pushed me here.” At the end of sophomore year, many students returned to Tacoma. Walla said, “the biggest challenges were trying to make college happen with a tiny little group.” Pressure to make the experience the same led to feelings of overstimulation and numbness. In terms of positive changes, Walla said “I think they’re significant. I don’t think they’re from anything other than COVID. I think these are just the times we’re in.” They will also miss about college, Addie Tinkham said, “I’m going far less for affirmation from anybody else, which is something I was looking for all the time before COVID at school. I was always wanting validation, and that might just be a senior and freshman difference.”

Sitting down with seniors:

institutional wisdom and musings on graduation

By Nola Thury

As the last class of students who had a full year of college pre-pandemic, the class of 2022 has a unique perspective on our institution. Sent home halfway through sophomore year, current seniors saw friendships break down and new kinds of relationships emerge.

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As the last class of students who had a full year of college pre-pandemic, the class of 2022 has a unique perspective on our institution. Sent home halfway through sophomore year, current seniors saw friendships break down and new kinds of relationships emerge.
If you’ve had the opportunity to venture off-campus, you know that Tacoma is full of vibrant, nuanced, and moving art. Every turn in downtown Tacoma provides potential sightings of eye-catching art. Spaceworks Tacoma works with local artists; one of their projects includes connecting artists to their Rapid Mural Response Program. Artists are commissioned to create temporary murals with the purpose of reducing crime and unwanted graffiti, supporting local businesses and displaying messages of civic hope. The following links direct you to a guided audio tour by the artists of murals throughout downtown Tacoma. Below are several of the captivating pieces you might stumble upon if you wander beyond 6th ave.

Jessilyn Brinkerhoff and Esteban Camacho Steffensen dynamic mural celebrating Native history located at the back side of 7 Seas Brewery marks the start of Tacoma's downtown mural walk.

"Not having papers – doesn’t mean – we have no rights"
This isn't D.C.

Dear Editor,

I feel that you and members of this campus should be aware of ASUPS’ refusal to pay student leaders for their hard work. I am the Senior Senator and also the Senate Chair of ASUPS Senate. I run the Senate and the Student government for a Director position and have a KUPS radio show.

When I pushed back against this explanation, I was told I can’t get paid because the Executive branch is too uncomfortable intersecting with this claim. I assure you, I am familiar with the restrictions that the Executive branch refuses to pay me for my work as Art and Layout Director for The Trail (a typically paid position). I understand why this restriction to work across branches may apply to an editor, it makes me wonder what applies to an Art and Layout Director – especially considering that a member of the Executive branch is allowing me to serve as a residence hall director for a Director position and have a KUPS radio show.

We have to keep pushing ourselves and continue working to be better. I realize that there are many challenges and that every person could take on, so I admire everyone on the executive team’s ability to step up to the plate. Actions will always speak louder than words, so don’t just say it, show it.

Sincerely, Grace Stensland

Student Voices: Give Bee Stings a Second Chance

From Kynthia Gustafson

At a young age, I decided I would take up German because what better language to learn when you’re a child? My parents are both German and I speak Spanish. So I decided to learn German as well. As a gluttonous individual, I wanted to learn German because what better language to learn when you’re a child? My parents are both German and I speak Spanish. So I decided to learn German as well. I know how to say basic German sentences and I’m pretty confident in my ability to speak it. It’s a great skill to have and it’s something that I can do without getting paid. I am writing this letter to show that I am interested in learning more about the language and I am willing to put in the effort to become fluent.

The Mystery of Pho Corner

By Luke Ahearn

On the corner of S 11th St. and M.L.K Jr. Way, there are three dining establishments that specialize in Vietnamese cuisine, namely the famous south-east Asian broth noodle dishes called pho. Pho Bac Cafe, Pho King, and Le Restaurant offer different takes on the Vietnamese dining experience, but being so close to one another is a strange phenomenon.

Originally introduced to Pho Bac Cafe through a local Tacoma friend, its consistent delivery of quality pho and friendly service make it a personal favorite of mine in Tacoma. As I frequented its location in Hilltop, I couldn’t help but notice its neighbors around the corner boasting much larger pho signs, almost as if in competition with my favorite place. It thought it was strange that there there be three Pho-specific restaurants in such close proximity to each other, but thoroughly pleased with my experience at Pho Bac, neither of its competitors could be called similar. That was, until one evening I arrived late – 7:03 pm and Pho Bac had closed. I decided to try Pho King and was puzzled once again by the restaurants’ neighboring spaces. Owner of Pho Bac Cafe, Sunny Chu, situated on the corner since 1985, has added the restaurant to his empire. The most glaring difference between the two is Lily’s diverse menu. Lily lives the experience unique from Pho Bac Cafe, with a variety of menu options, but the two share a passion for connecting to the community. Lily also doesn’t feel like there’s any competition between Pho King and Pho Bac, leaving the mystery of Pho corner unsolved.

The final destination, two buildings down, Le Restaurant specializes in Asian Fusion cuisine. Its signs advertise for warm Pho, the third choice within a 100-yard radius. Le Le Seves offers an even wider array of dishes than their neighboring Pho King. The nature of Asian Fusion being a conglomerate of different cultural cuisines. The restaurant is more family-oriented with large dining tables, lots of open space and amenities like a fish tank near the cashier’s desk. According to Sunny, in a similar manner to Pho King, the two restaurants serve different customer bases and have never really interacted much. The corner is home to some of the best Vietnamese food in Tacoma, and while it is competing for the title, all three restaurants is a worthy endeavor. The underlying question of their placement however remains a mystery. Each stem owner claimed the nature of their competition is practically nonexistent, and while there is a brief time each establishment, the customer demographics appear distinct. S 11th St. and M.L.K Jr. Way, or a little bit about all simple pho for the community.
Happy end of the spring semester! With UPS students leaving Tacoma this summer for jobs, vacation and new living situations some are saying good-bye to their partners. As someone who would prefer to spend every second with my partner, I empathize with the anxiety, stress, and sadness this may be causing. I wanted to share a few tips that can hopefully make this period of time less difficult.

1) Schedule phone or video calls
There’s nothing sexier than punctuality! Especially if there are time differences involved, it’s important to find overlapping free spots in one another’s day when you can catch up. The vagueness of “we’ll talk tomorrow” makes it way too easy not to follow through. While movies and books perpetuate this idea that love is only beautiful if spontaneous, I wholeheartedly disagree with that. Knowing your partner intentionally dedicated time from their day to you and only you is incredibly affectionate.

2) Sexting Sexting Sexting
Don’t be afraid to send a cheeky little text. I’d say if you’ve never done phone sex before, definitely start with texts or Snapchats and then transition to phone and video calls when you get more confident. It can be intimidating having only your words to arouse your partner; but I promise once you get it down it’s such an ego boost. For those struggling with how to initiate a sexual conversation, you could take either the direct approach of saying “I’m horny,” “Let’s sex,” “Send me a dick pic” or the more indirect transition text like “You were in my dream last night” or “I miss being able to touch you.” Just make sure you get your partner’s permission before sending any nudes.

3) Visit one another if you can
I know visiting your long-distance partner isn’t an accessible option for everyone; for instance, a road trip to California is much simpler than an international flight to Germany. However, for those who have some time available and some money set aside, even one trip to see your partner can make a really big difference! It gives both of you something to look forward to and makes that time apart a little bit shorter. If you do go this route, definitely make them split the travel costs with you!

4) Recognize you don’t need to talk every day
Don’t feel like you need to compensate for the distance by communicating 24/7. Sometimes waiting a day or two between phone calls can give you both more to talk about! Not to mention, you still want to make sure that both of you can be present in your lives separate from one another. This is also important to remember so you aren’t too hard on yourself if something comes up and you can’t make it to your scheduled phone call.

5) Discuss what your long-distance relationship will look like
As always, my most important suggestion is communication. Before you move apart, discuss what you both need from the other person in order to make your relationship work despite the distance. It could be some of the things mentioned above; for example, if one person values sexy to feel close to the other, then talk about what kind of phone sex you’d both find most pleasurable. If one person values romantic gestures, then the other can send surprises in the mail. Don’t just assume that because you’ve been together for some time that you’ll both know how to transition to long distance. Be honest about your expectations, requirements and your worries. Don’t leave anything up in the air.

I hope these tips at least serve as a jumping-off point. I am supposed to study abroad next semester in Amsterdam, so personally I have been thinking a lot about what long-distance will look like for me and my partner. To be honest, I’m terrified. I get really sad thinking about what it will look like even though it’s still four months away. I am definitely going to keep these suggestions in mind and have numerous conversations with my partner leading up to my departure. I wish each and every one of you in long-distance relationships the best of luck, and if you want to start a support group chat, hit me up.

In my last sex horror story article, I encouraged readers to find sexiness in their snafus. Did you take my advice? If you haven’t, that’s alright. Truthfully, I haven’t either. Somehow, I managed to develop genital psoriasis, and as a result, I haven’t felt sexy in months. From this experience I’ve realized how closely tied my sexual inexperience, it’s recognition of regarding our level of sex education or sexual experience, we all will make mistakes during sex. Sex is incredibly unpredictable, and to prove this to you, I will share a few more University of Puget Sound students’ sex horror stories!

Surviving Long Distance Relationships

By Anna Sweetland

In my last sex horror story article, I encouraged readers to find sexiness in their snafus. Did you take my advice? If you haven’t, that’s alright. Truthfully, I haven’t either. Somehow, I managed to develop genital psoriasis, and as a result, I haven’t felt sexy in months. From this experience I’ve realized how closely tied my sex appeal is to my happiness; I love sex, but I can’t desire or enjoy sex if I don’t feel sexy.

If anyone else is feeling similarly, I think to reclaim our sexiness we need to acknowledge the normalcy in whatever is making us feel undesirable. For me, I need to recognize that I am not the first to contract a rash on my cooch, and I will not be the last. For someone feeling insecure about their sexual experience, it’s recognizing that regardless of our level of sex education or sexual experience, we all will make mistakes during sex. Sex is incredibly unpredictable, and to prove this to you, I will share a few more University of Puget Sound students’ sex horror stories!

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On April 4, five students from Dr. Brackett’s African American Studies 399. Public Scholarship class hosted an event teaching Puget Sound faculty and staff about positionalities and asking them to reflect on their own. “Every year, this course holds a workshop about an aspect of identity. This year, my classmates and I chose ‘positionalities’ as we feel it is of the utmost importance in recognizing how the cumulative of our own identities influence the ways people see us, how we see ourselves, and the ways we treat each other,” Kahili Kyee said. They titled the workshop “Unearthing Positionality: Unpacking and Processing how our Identities Influence the Ways We Show Up on Campus.” With support from Dr. Brackett, the following students organized the workshop: fourth-year Jordan Calhoun, fourth-year Kalina Cordero, third-year Amanda Ferguson, fourth-year CJ Geathers, and fourth-year Kahili Kyee.

At the event, Dr. David Leonard, professor in Washington State University’s School of Languages, Cultures, and Race, spoke about his article, “My Life in the Classroom, Where Race Always Matters.” Leonard described his journey in working towards allyship. He distinguished between giving oneself the title of ally and actually allyship as a series of actions. “So much of the work should never be seen and will never be seen,” he said. Our duty is to learn, but never assume that we fully understand. One of the pedagogical tools the students utilized was the ‘power flower.’ Each petal of the power flower listed a characteristic, for example race, religion, gender, educational debt, ability, and sexual orientation. Faculty and staff reflected on whether they were in a dominant or marginalized group for each category. After reflection, they colored the petal with a color of their choice, either purple or yellow. “In order to recognize the way you enter a space or communicate with another person, you have to understand not only your identity that are normalized or taken for granted,” Calhoun said.

One often overlooked example of a positionality is citizenship. Someone who has been a United States citizen all their life might overlook the struggles and insecurities that come with being undocumented. Near the end of the event, students distributed cards from Puget Sound community members featuring relevant stories of times positionalities impacted them. Many of these stories were in the form of harmful remarks students heard around campus. Several of the students also verbally shared how their positionalities impacts them. “Many of these stories showed how our identities were degraded, stereotyped, or dismissed,” Calhoun said. Kyee shared one particularly awful experience when a teacher told her, “you write like a schizophrenic, like you actually write like you have schizophrenia.” She reflected on this grossly inappropriate comment, saying, “This is a comment that returns to me every time I start and finish a piece of writing. There is a lingering self-doubt in the back of my mind that has never left.”

Kyee also spoke more generally about the power of our words: “Although we feel like the people we see, teach, and learn from are only in our presence for an hour a day, a semester, or a year, it is important to recognize that the ways we treat people transcend time and space, and remain to exist in our minds as feelings of doubt, anger, frustration, and pain,” she said to the group.

In his student presentation, Geathers specified the goal of the workshop: “We are not asking you to go out and teach about positionalities to the people you lead as a result of this talk, rather we are asking you to reflect on your own positionalities and the relation you have to it.” The event offered a space for vulnerability, and asked participants to take the time to think deeply about our individual positionalities affect the way we interact with the world around us.

“In the emails we sent out as invitations or, as well as on our event posters, we say how when we as faculty, staff, and students enter a space, our identities are not always valid. But people showed up for us wanting to do the work that we are silenced and our voices and feelings are not always true. But people showed up for us wanting to do the work and who want to better understand the community around them,” she said. It is important that we have a space for community members that we can by reflecting on our positionalities and listening to those around us who have backgrounds different from our own.

On April 22, Puget Sound’s sustainability team put on several events to help students get involved in climate action and celebrate Earth Day. The sustainability team includes two student employees, Sustainability Project Manager Kaylynn O’Curran, a third-year, and Lily Poe, Sustainability assistant and second-year. They work closely with Lexi Brewer, the sustainability director at The University. We, as a university and as a globe, are deep in the midst of a climate crisis, and addressing it is of the utmost importance, especially as young people.

According to a temperature analysis by NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies, the planet has warmed by at least 1.1 degrees Celsius since 1880, with the majority of warming happening since 1975. Already, we are seeing the disastrous effects, from fires to droughts to widespread flooding. In the fall of 2021 and hopes to implement it more widely soon. The students are passionate about the climate. Sustainability services at Puget Sound is a wonderful place to start. They are on Instagram, at @LoggerLiveGreen. These individuals are great resources for students with ideas for projects surrounding sustainability. They are not only an outlet for existing passions, but a resource for students looking for a way to be involved. Their emails follow: Kaylynn O’Curran, kocurrani@pugetsound.edu; Lily Poe, lpoe@pugetsound.edu; Lexi Brewer, breweri@pugetsound.edu; and Lindsay Walker, lwalker@pugetsound.edu.

One recent project they have undertaken is offering composting in residence halls. Sustainability services plans to continue this in the fall of 2021 and hopes to implement it more widely soon. If we think there is a lot of parts of sustainability where having a student champion, or advocate, or someone who wants to kind of get the ball rolling, can do a lot. Lindsay Walker, staff member and program coordinator for the Sound Policy Institute, said. Those at sustainability services are committed to doing their part but need help from campus to be most effective. As Walker said, energy from students makes a big difference. One step in the right direction is the Green Fund, which is administered by ASUPS and provides funding for plans to increase sustainability on campus.

Brewer looks forward to making the climate action plan for the University and will start next year. The goal will be to make a clear pathway to net-zero emissions for The University and make climate efforts more trackable. “I’m really looking forward to collaborating with students and faculty, and kind of the broader community too, and putting that together,” she said.

In the face of the climate crisis, we can only find success through collaboration. “If there’s something exciting about the climate crisis,” Walker said, “It’s this big problem that we all need to come together as a community to solve, and we all have different things that we can bring to that.” We have a lot of work to do, but hope can be found around us in working with others passionate about the climate.

Unearthing Positionality: student-led event educates faculty and staff

By Kate Patterson

Earth day event: a climate summit and day of action

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