President Crawford unveils plan to reform University, but questions remain

By Albert Chang-Yoo

On Oct. 28, the Board of Trustees voted to affirm a plan created by President Issah Crawford aiming to avoid an estimated $10.5 million structural deficit by 2025. The vote was held at an open session following a week of deliberation. The recommendations include much of what the Academic, Administrative, and Auxiliary Program Review (AAAPR) report had advocated for; however, there were also important differences between the proposals.

President Crawford presented his plan in a less-than-precise bullet-pointed slideshow entitled “A Sound Future: Recovery and Renewal.” Within the presentation, President Crawford called for the implementation of “adaptive, alignment and foundational strategies” that would boost the University. He also extended the timeline of the plan from fiscal year 2025 to 2026. The plan was unanimously approved by the 40 members of the Board of Trustees.

In a statement sent to the campus community following the meeting, President Crawford said, “we will not cluster academic programs as proposed by the Committee, but instead will consider whether there are academic programs that should be created, expanded, or discontinued, consistent with the Faculty Code.” The possibility of program discontinuation unspooled much of what the AAAPR committee had tried to avoid. The committee has spent the past 18 months trying to find a way to consolidate programs with the goal of avoiding program cuts.

The meeting offered another reminder of the dire reality of the institution given the current $10 million structural budget deficit. I thoughtfully considered their recommendations in light of our strategic plan goals, shared their report with the campus community for additional feedback, and engaged in discussion with members of the Cabinet and the Board of Trustees. At the October board meeting, I presented, and the board unanimously approved, A Sound Future: Recovery, Renewal, which is the strategic roadmap that incorporated many of the Committee’s recommendations and included additional strategies to address our budgetary reality. Not all of the AAAPR recommendations were included in A Sound Future because all efforts need to help the University reach enrollment goals.

Faculty clarification on information conveyed in the 10/28 issue of The Trail:

From Monica DeHart, Nancy Bristow, Robin Jacobson, and Vadhath Ramakrishnan, all are previous members of the AAAPRC.

In the hopes of clarifying the work and recommendations of the AAAPR, we would note that our committee was charged with closing the university’s $10 million deficit by Fiscal Year 2025. Therefore, our recommendations to reduce 35 FTE faculty and consolidate programs were in response to that call, rather than an independent finding about what would be good for the health of our liberal educational environment and curriculum. To help bridge the financial gap and continue to provide students a broad, interdisciplinary liberal arts experience with minimal curricular disruption. The AAAPRC recommended that those cuts be made mostly through retirement attrition, rather than through program elimination, which the President’s alternative plan proposes, the statement said.

At the monthly faculty meeting in the Tahoma Room on Nov. 2, faculty unanimously passed a resolution urging President Crawford to share the full report and related documents laying out evidence for the President’s recommendations to the Board of Trustees in October. The meeting also highlighted the stark divide between the faculty and the University’s administration due to a perceived lack of transparency by the administration. These heightened tensions are due to potential cuts caused by the University’s poor financial situation. Many faculty members voiced deep frustrations at the lack of transparency from the administration regarding the recommendations made to the Board and the process that went into them.

“There is a perception that the process was not done in good faith,” said Seth Weinberger, a Politics and Government professor.

Interim Provost Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, who attended the meeting, assured faculty that he believes the administration is acting with the best interests of the entire University in mind and that the decisions of the Board do not reflect a separate process between the President and the Board of Trustees.

Kontogeorgopoulos told the faculty that although program discontinuation is a real possibility in the near future, there is as of yet no plan to which – if any – programs would be discontinued or subject to cuts. He explained that the decisions regarding program discontinuations are highly dependent on enrollment and reductions of contingent faculty. He also voiced his personal belief that no cuts should be made beyond those absolutely necessary.

The resolution passed at the faculty meeting was not passed with the expectation that the President would comply with their request, but rather to show “a coordinated effort of solidarity by the faculty,” as one professor put it. A comment from Jason Struna, a professor in the Sociology/Anthropology department, urged the faculty to take the actions that would be in the best interest of the entire institution.

A statement released to The Trail via email by four professors after the faculty meeting indicated their disagreement with the President’s alternative plan, and the differences between Academic, Administrative, and Auxiliary Program Review (AAAPR) and his plan. “The AAAPR recommended that those cuts be made mostly through retirement attrition, rather than through program elimination, which the President’s alternative plan proposes,” the statement said.

At the meeting on the night of October 28, the Board of Trustees voted to affirm a plan created by President Crawford in a less-than-precise bullet-pointed slideshow entitled “A Sound Future: Recovery and Renewal.” I thoughtfully considered their recommendations in light of our strategic plan goals, shared their report with the campus community for additional feedback, and engaged in discussion with members of the Cabinet and the Board of Trustees. At the October board meeting, I presented, and the board unanimously approved, A Sound Future: Recovery, Renewal, which is the strategic roadmap that incorporated many of the Committee’s recommendations and included additional strategies to address our budgetary reality. Not all of the AAAPR recommendations were included in A Sound Future because all efforts need to help the University reach enrollment goals.

A Statement from the President’s Office:

University of Puget Sound is not immune to the financial and enrollment realities facing higher education nationally, and as campus leaders we have a responsibility to maintain the academic and financial health of the university. For this reason, I charged the AAAPR Committee with providing their recommendations for how best to balance the academic priorities and financial reality of the institution given the current $10 million structural budget deficit. I thoughtfully considered their recommendations in light of our strategic plan goals, shared their report with the campus community for additional feedback, and engaged in discussion with members of the Cabinet and the Board of Trustees.

At the October board meeting, I presented, and the board unanimously approved, A Sound Future: Recovery, Renewal, which is the strategic roadmap that incorporated many of the Committee’s recommendations and included additional strategies to address our budgetary reality. Not all of the AAAPR recommendations were included in A Sound Future because all efforts need to help the University reach enrollment goals. The board was not persuaded that select recommendations helped to reach this goal. I look forward to the opportunity to continue the conversation with high-level university administrative leaders to help bridge the financial gap and continue to provide students a broad, interdisciplinary liberal arts experience with minimal curricular disruption. The AAAPRC recommended that those cuts be made mostly through retirement attrition, rather than through program elimination, which the President’s alternative plan proposes.

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Supermajority of TAM workers organize for union representation

By Emma Loenicker

Since May 2022, a council of Tacoma Art Museum employees has been making efforts to unionize. They are organizing for livable wages and benefits, no further staff reduction, accessible grievance procedures to create accountability, transparency from leadership, standardized hiring and training procedures and influence in decision-making processes to improve their work conditions. This effort would make the TAM Washington’s first major art institution with unionized workers.

On Oct. 17, TAM’s board of trustees received the workers’ letter requesting union representation. In the letter that TAM Workers United sent to the board and leadership, they expressed that their “efforts have been undermined by unlivable wages, unsafe working conditions, no opportunity to provide input on policy, few avenues for review and advancement, a lack of accountability and transparency, as well as fear of retaliation when we raise concerns.”

That same day, members of the council convened outside of the TAM to publicly announce the formation of their union with the Washington Federation of State Employees, the local council under the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. One of the committee-elected leaders, Eden Rondom, who is also the Institutional Giving Manager at the museum, called TAM workers “undervalued, underpaid and unheard” during her speech on the 17th. By Oct. 17, nearly 90% of TAM’s eligible employees signed union authorization cards, thereby indicating their preference to be represented by a union. Since a supermajority of the workers signed the cards, TAM can react one of two ways: They can either voluntarily recognize the union and begin bargaining, or they can decline to recognize the union and hold a vote on the matter.

By Oct. 27, and convened a task force on Nov. 2, which includes an HR representative, as well as three board members. According to Williams, the unionization committee has “recognized that at this point, we are not in a position to determine whether or not to recognize them as a union yet.”

The listening session was the first step in understanding the staff’s concerns, according to Williams. “The task force’s job is to meet with the union organizer. They are a conduit for the unionization members, as well as for the board to really inform us on what the prudent steps would be to take moving through the process.”

There is currently no fixed timeline for this effort, but Williams says that ongoing meetings are taking place with the common goal of coming to a “mutual understanding” of how to proceed. The movement to unionize TAM is in line with unionization patterns at various social and cultural institutions throughout the country. The pandemic has had a massive impact on the workforce — impacts that are causing union membership to undergo a resurgence after years of decline. The NLRB reported a 57% increase in petitions filed for union representation between October 2021 and March 2022. In that same time period, the NLRB reported a 14% increase in charges of unfair labor practices.

On behalf of the TAM board of trustees, Williams stated, “we want them to be happy in their positions. They do a lot of great work on behalf of the museum so we obviously want to support them in a work environment that they are happy to come to.”

Sports scores and Schedule

Congratulations to the Women’s soccer team for returning to the NCAA championships and the Women’s volleyball team for winning the NWC title and heading to the NCAA championships!

Scores
Women’s Soccer (16-3-1)
Oct 26: Loggers 0 - Pacific Lutheran University 1
Oct 29: Loggers 2 - Whitworth University 1
Oct 30: Loggers 2 - Whitman College 1
Nov 5: Loggers 4 - Willamette University 0
Nov 6: Loggers 4 - Pacific University 1
Men’s Soccer (9-6-5)
Oct 29: Loggers 2 - Linfield University 1
Oct 30: Loggers 0 - Willamette University 0
Nov 5: Loggers 0 - Pacific Lutheran University 1
Nov 6: Loggers 2 - George Fox University 1
Football (0-8)
Oct 29: Loggers 0 - Whitworth University 59
Nov 5: Loggers 10 - Pacific Lutheran University 35
Volleyball (14-10)
Oct 28: Loggers 3 - Willamette University 0
Oct 29: Loggers 3 - Linfield University 1
Nov 2: Loggers 1 - Pacific Lutheran University 3
Nov 5: Loggers 3 - Lewis and Clark College 0

Upcoming Games
Football
Nov 12 at Willamette University
Cross Country
Nov 12 NCAA West Regionals
Swimming
Nov 18 vs George Fox University
Nov 19 vs Pacific University
Dec 2-4 Logger Invitational
Men’s Basketball
Nov 11 vs Northwest University
Nov 15 at The Evergreen State College
Nov 18 vs California Lutheran University
Nov 19 vs Montana State University-Northern
Nov 25 at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges
Nov 26 at Pomona Pitzer
Dec 2 vs Whitworth University
Dec 3 vs Whittman College
Women’s Basketball
Nov 11 at Warner Pacific University
Nov 12 at Multnomah University
Nov 19 vs Wheaton College
Nov 25 vs Chapman University
Nov 26 vs Whittier College
Dec 2 vs Whitworth University
Dec 3 vs Whitman College

WORLD NEWS

- **Indian Child Welfare Act** faces threat of being overturned in Supreme Court Case, Hauland v. Brackeen
  - ICWA was passed to prevent the separation of Native families
- **Majority of Iranian Parliament** urges judiciary to “show no leniency” towards protesters, pushing for mass executions
  - The UN reports a civilian death toll of at least 277 death and 14,000 arrests
- **Russia announced a withdrawal near the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson**
  - President Volodymyr Zelensky warns that this move may be a strategic move to regroup forces.
President Crawford unveils plan to reform University, but questions remain

By Albert Chang-Yoo

Several members of the Board of Trustees expressed concern over cutting the core, due to the potential for exposing students to unknown areas of passions. Lyle Quasim, alumni and member of the board, spoke candidly about the decisions the University must make, stating, “There’s no way out of this without significant harm to some of the people we hold dear.” Quasim went on to say that “we have to look this issue square in the eye and realize there will be casualties.”

Elise Richman, the Faculty Senate Chair, countered the sentiment: “There are systemic ways to enhance ability to grow in terms of enrollment that can lift us out of these ‘seemingly dire’ circumstances. It will take time, but we can do it.”

Before moving into a closed door session, the Board presented a report from the financial committee which found that the University’s endowment had dropped from over $450 million in Fiscal Year 2021 to $418 million today. Additionally, the university had a budget surplus of $1 million from the past fiscal year which was recommended to go towards the review actions.

The stiff atmosphere of the Board of Trustees meeting was contrasted by an emotional faculty meeting on Nov 2. During the meeting, a packed room of professors aired their grievances over concerns of program cuts and a perceived lack of transparency by the board and the president. The meeting ended with the adoption of a resolution calling on President Crawford to release the full version of his plan.

President Crawford will be hosting a campus town hall meeting on Nov. 16. It will be a chance for direct engagement by the campus community. The next Board of Trustees open session will be Feb. 23, 2023.

CHWS hosts MPV info session and vaccine clinic

By Hannah Lee

On Oct. 25, CHWS hosted an information session and vaccine clinic for “monkeypox,” a condition more appropriately termed MPV. Each person who came to the event was given an info sheet about Smallpox and MPV as well as a fact sheet about the new JYNNEOS vaccine, a smallpox vaccine.

The event was given an info sheet about the disease. “The largest number of cases we’ve seen have been in young adults. The age groups that we have here on campus are... potentially folks that are at risk. Behavior changes and education about this crisis have been very effective at stopping it,” he said. He also mentioned that his goal as a clinical educator is to help modify behavior so people can be less at risk. “Monkeypox... can be a painful disease, and we want to make sure that it doesn’t become a disease we deal with year after year in the United States,” he said.

Working with the local community is something that Bus feels is important to mitigate diseases like MPV. “CHWS and the university are fortunate to have a wonderful working relationship with our local health department, and we are happy to be a small part of the team effort to provide the MPV vaccine within the Tacoma community,” she said. Concerning attendance at the clinic, Brignall mentioned having 15 conversations about MPV, whilst Bus noted that she only saw six to eight students.

Brignall thought that we are on a good track to have the MPV outbreak be a thing of the past, and said, “Hopefully we get this disease to the point where we don’t have to worry about it in the future.”

Flu season back bigger after early COVID-19 years

By Hannah Lee

For the past couple of years, cold and flu seasons have been dwarfed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but now that more people are returning to a sense of normalcy, this may not be the case. With the rise of new COVID variants and experts predicting a brutal flu season, colder weather could spell trouble. According to John Hopkins, colds, flu, and other respiratory viruses are more common during the winter months because people are indoors more often, and dry air can weaken resistance.

While several new strains of COVID-19’s Omicron variant have recently emerged, the three strains that scientists are closely examining right now are BA.1, BQ.1.1 and XBB. According to the World Health Organization, these strains have been identified in 65 countries and show a “significant growth advantage” over other variants. Preliminary studies done by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory also show that BA.1 and BQ.1 appear to be better at dodging antibodies from past infections than BA.5, another Omicron subvariant that was the dominant strain this summer.

Flu developments also point to trouble. According to the CDC’s influenza tracking website, 4,326 people have been hospitalized across the United States in the past week. These rates surpass the number of flu hospitalizations for every season since 2010. This year’s flu season may be worse than others because with fewer people masking, there are more opportunities for the flu to spread.

Another virus of concern is the Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection (RSV), which causes mild, cold-like symptoms that could potentially lead to bronchitis. The virus is especially dangerous to infants and older people. CDC surveillance indicates a surge in RSV-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits throughout the US.

Experts are particularly concerned about the ongoing ‘tripledemic’, a combination of COVID, the flu, and RSV. Not only is it possible for a person to come down with two or more of these viruses at the same time, but the danger present in each is cumulative. Pediatric beds in 17 states are now at 80% capacity amid a surge of children getting respiratory viruses.

The best way to protect yourself and those around you is to get the bivalent COVID booster and flu shot.
The Trail is an independent, student-run organization funded by ASUPS. The Trail seeks to produce a credible weekly newspaper that serves as a comprehensive source of information relevant to its readership. The Trail acts as an archival record for the university, serves as a link between the University of Puget Sound and the greater Tacoma community and provides an open forum for student opinion and discourse.

Visit trail.pugetsound.edu for the full mission statement.
KUPS bowling impresses again

By Sara Orozco

This past week has been an eventful one for KUPS! Oct. 27 was KUPS bowling at Chalet Bowl where most everyone showed up in costumes, from cows to cowboys and everything in between. The Halloween themed event has been held every year for many years and proves to be one of the most exciting KUPS events of the entire year. Usually the event is packed enough that it’s quite hard to actually bowl, but this year we had a steady flow of people which meant anyone who wanted to had an opportunity to show off their mad bowling skills. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped make it another successful Halloween Bowling Extravaganza for KUPS. We hope to see you next year!

Also, put it down in your calendars that KUPS Fest will be on Dec. 7. Your core staff have been diligently at work putting together an amazing line up. This will be held in Tacoma’s own ALMA, a neat venue at 1322 Fawcett Ave, which features a range of cool shows all year round. Keep your eye out for ticket sales as those will be starting up soon, and there’s a limited amount of tickets for sale so the quicker you snatch yours the better!

Finally you should also be aware of a KUPS hosted Art Market on November 17th from 5:30 to 7:30. There’s going to be a clothing swap which is always popular and full of great stuff, so come check it out!

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<th>Fall Peer Allies Office Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mondays:</strong> 3-4pm (Maria)</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesdays:</strong> 10:30-11:30am (Maria)</td>
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<td>5:30-7:30pm (Evie)</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesdays:</strong> 10-11:30AM (Evie)</td>
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<td><strong>Thursdays:</strong> 11am-1pm (Maria)</td>
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<td>2-4pm (Amelia)</td>
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<td><strong>Fridays:</strong> 2-6pm (Amelia)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturdays:</strong> 10:30am-12:30pm (Maria)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sundays:</strong> 5-7pm (Evie)</td>
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| Peer allies is a peer to peer support group aiming to provide a safe place for survivors of sexual violence be heard and believed. |

Hours start the week of October 25th and take place in the Kilworth memorial Chapel Multi-faith room. This room is in the basement of the chapel and can be accessed by key card.

KUPS bowling event
Photo credit: Guy Crawford

Scan here for more information about Peer Allies!
Washington 2023 legislative term: what to expect

By Amelia Pooser

In January of 2023 a new legislative session will begin in Washington. As next year is odd-numbered, the session will last 105 days as opposed to this year’s 60. This long session will allow the legislature to gather together and have more time to introduce, discuss and hopefully pass an assortment of bills. However, with the recent developments in abortion rights around the country, this session has become tremendously important to Washington’s pro-choice status.

Luckily, Gov. Jay Inslee and the legislature seem to be on the side of the majority of Washington residents, as they announced a new set of reproductive freedom bills that will appear in the 2023 legislative session in a press conference on Oct. 21. The announced bills included new legal protections for citizens seeking abortions outside of their home state, ensuring that individuals could not be punished for coming into Washington for an abortion. Rep. Drew Hansen, who previewed a sanctuary policy, stated, “If other states are going to be creative and aggressive in making anti-choice laws, we will be creative and aggressive in fighting back.”

Rep. Tarra Simmons discussed another bill that would prevent healthcare from restricting patient choice. The bill, which has flowed over from this year’s legislative session, would ensure that large healthcare providers could not deny their patients lawful abortions or gender-affirming care. However, it would require oversight of the healthcare system. This proposed legislation will hopefully establish broader protections for abortions as pro-life states attempt to limit and undermine the power of pro-choice states like Washington.

In the same press conference, Governor Inslee announced his momentous plan that would push legislature to put into place an amendment in the state constitution establishing a fundamental right to have an abortion. In the governor’s words, “Washington is a pro-choice state and we intend to make it a constitutional amendment so that Washington will always be a pro-choice state.” Governor Inslee then continued, “This right needs to be enshrined in the basic foundational document of the state of Washington and that is our constitution.” This powerful move could potentially ensure Washington’s permanent status as a pro-choice state, a status Senate candidate Tiffany Smiley wanted to block.

Although anything could happen in the new legislative session, the future of abortion rights in Washington seems bright. The governor and legislature seem in agreement that abortion rights are fundamental human rights — not only for Washingtonians but for others as well. If passed, these bills would give hope to the citizens of states like Texas and Idaho that someone is out there fighting for them and their rights to their bodies.
88% of Americans are at least somewhat worried about politically motivated violence

State of the country by the numbers

As of April 2022, 68% of Republicans and 35% of Americans believe the Big Lie: that Joe Biden fraudulently usurped Donald Trump through mass voter fraud.

“68% of Republicans and 35% of Americans believe the Big Lie”

**Question of the Week:**
How do you feel about the midterm elections and the state of the country?

Zoë Ellis, she/her, Fourth year

“Oh God. *laughs* Um, well, I am worried, to be quite frank um, because I am a Pennsylvania voter, and I just had to make sure that I voted not for Dr. Oz. I just have known in the past couple of elections that I am voting against people, and that’s not a good feeling to have as a young voter. Um, so that’s something that I feel very strongly about is the fact that I don’t feel politically engaged because none of the options are what I’m looking for. And especially, I know, like being in Washington and seeing like Washington-based commercials, it’s just like people begging, “Please don’t vote for Tiffany Smiley” because we would like to keep our abortion rights.”

Ben Moseley, he/him, Second Year

“I feel like they are very, very important and that everybody should register and vote.”

Corn Graupensperger, they/them, Second year

“I’m mostly uncertain [about the state of things] but it’s good to see peers holding each other accountable for filling out their ballots.”

Sofie Stam, they/them, Second Year

“I’m gonna be completely honest, I don’t really know. I need to educate myself on that.”

Tiffany Pi, she/they, Fourth year

“Democracy? In this economy? I don’t think so.”

Graphic: The Trail from a new ABC News/Washington Post poll
Crumbl cookies announces new existential Dread™ flavor

By Bean McQueen

Nationwide specialty bakery chain Crumbl Cookies, known for its weekly menu rotation and for finally sizing cookies proportionally to other American foodstuffs, recently announced the newest addition to its confectionery line-up: Existential Dread™. It should be noted that the trademark symbol has not been included because Crumbl has trademarked the name “Existential Dread.” Rather, it was reportedly intended to be a “commentary on how corporate branding has seeped so insidiously into every aspect of our lives that even our avenues of personal expression have become dominated by advertisements,” as per a statement posted to the Crumbl Cookies company TikTok page. A follow-up TikTok, posted after three separate TikToks proclaiming to be “signs that [the viewer] should distrust themselves from the inevitability of the next tragedy with fun cookies the size of [their] face,” bemoaned the fact that forums for genuine expression by “real people” were all but lost, as corporations seeking to boost their sales have “appropriated and warped them beyond recognition.” This TikTok, published by a company with locations in 36 states, was set to “Look Who’s Inside Again,” a song with similar themes from comedian Bo Burnham’s Netflix special “Inside,” and ended with the message, “don’t worry if you’re stuck in a room again, Crumbl Cookies delivers.”

Crumbl Cookies’ attempts at market-ing this novel flavor have reached into the physical world as well. For instance, alongside the other merchandise sold on their website, the Crumbl franchise now offers t-shirts emblazoned with phrases like: “The World is Crumbling Around Us,” “The Pink Box is Full of Despair,” and “I Fall Apart Easier than A Crum-bl Cookies Existential Dread™ Cookie Available For Only $4! (Availability at Store Not Guaranteed).” The revenue generated from sales of these merchandise items will reportedly be used to fund the publication of a “nihilistic treatise on the state of the world,” authored by the Crumbl Cookies company. Furthermore, advanced copies of the book have now been sent to book reviewers across the country, with most reporting that the book had a surprisingly positive conclusion for a purportedly nihilistic work. To provide the most unbiased view possible, that conclusion has been reproduced below exactly as it was printed:

“It may seem as though life has no mean-ing, that love is to suffer ceaselessly as you are buffeted by the winds of cruel fate, and that your suffering is pointless, for there is no justice nor retribution in this universe beyond the equity of death’s cold embrace. But the strength of human-ity lies not in seeing the universe for what it is, but what it could be. Indeed, it is the duty of humanity – the duty of all those who live – to make their own meaning out of this nothingness, to see the void as a canvas, not a hole, and to create some-thing beautiful out of what they have been able to scrounge from fate. ‘Tis the most noble and sacrosanct calling to answer the cry that rings out across this existential plane, the cry for meaning on this cruel, cold, floating rock, and you can answer that cry by picking up a box of Existential Dread™ Crumbl Cookies for you and your loved ones.”

For all of this promotion, however, most customers apparently expected the Existential Dread™ cookie to perfectly encapsulate the eponymous emotion that had become so prevalent amid this all-encompassing sea of tragedy that threat-ens to drown humanity’s highest hopes and aspirations. However, preliminary reviews indicate that it is “functionally indistinguishable from a piece of sweet-ened cardboard.”

Logger Chatz

My roommate is on some power trip, thinking she’s better than me because she’s busy 24/7. How do I tell her that I actually enjoy, I donno, life? Hm, I don’t see that conversation going well in real-time. When I’m mad at people, I find it really helpful to open my notes app and type out the most gut-wrenching, toe-curling, cleverly crafted pouches I can– you know, just really let out all the things you can’t say out loud. This submission was a good start but you’re going to need to dig deeper – try comparing them to their mother.

While this ‘advice’ should not be taken serious-ly (you do you) these are real submissions from your peers. We love reading them and are happy to offer our expertise, so keep sending them in

I have a crush on someone who was in my class last year. I see them around campus sometimes, but I don’t know how to approach them. Cupid. Where are you? Who needs cupid when we have people providing some of the most creatively convivial inspiration for trapping a partner on the internet for free? Go watch the TikToks using “Mastermind” and learn how to DIY your own Stockholm Syndrome Spouse TM. #Girlboss #CuffingSeason #Manifest

My friend said I deserve a straight jacket. I am mentally ill– was this hate speech? Hold that thought… Would you enjoy a straight jacket?

I’m the friend that made the straight jacket comment. I would like to clarify that I said that I thought they would ENJOY a straight jacket, not that they deserved one. I am also mental-ly ill, so I don’t think it counts as hate speech. You sound like a great friend. Don’t change who you are, ever, even if everyone you know tells you that your behavior actively hurts them.
Greek life to be abolished on campus: What happens next?

By Harry Gers

After years of back and forth between the Abolish Greek Life movement and Greek Life defenders, we are finally seeing an end to the conflict. Sources within the university have reported that the wheels are beginning to turn on the removal of fraternities and sororities from campus. While this news may be awful or amazing news depending on your personal stance or institutional involvement, the question must be asked: What happens now?

Sources say that this decision was reached through much deliberation from within, and was not made lightly. “We really had to take a look within ourselves and ask, ‘what do the students want?’ We realized the best way to get in touch with campus was to hold a board meeting to find a decision for them,” said one anonymous member. “The students need to learn to trust the process. We haven’t steered this school wrong before, why would we now?” claimed another. With such capable and in-touch leadership, the student body can rest assured that positive change is coming.

To counteract the hole that Greek life’s absence will leave on campus, a new structure will be implemented to foster community. The Roman system will be composed of various houses centered around core principles, and organized by gender. Proposed by renowned classicist R.B. Custer, the new and revolutionary concept plans to completely restructure how students interact. Unlike the Greek system’s alphabetical naming conventions, the Roman system will be using Roman numerals. Changes like these will have seismic effects, really getting to the root problems and altering the very foundations. As one passionate board member declared, “The Roman system is not just some rebranding, we are finally facing the real problems and taking action.”

Students around campus are already buzzing with excitement. “I’m so happy we’re finally moving away from all of the dead white guys, and making room for the white guys alive today,” stated one enthusiastic campus resident. “My sorority was always so full of drama. The Roman system sounds way better because they like, never had stuff like that in Rome,” says one eager diversions-goer. Suffice to say, campus can’t wait.

With the Roman system, the University takes a massive step into the twenty-first century. Greek Life’s roots in outdated and problematic institutions are finally being dealt with directly. When consulted, one history professor pointed out, “the problem with idealizing an ancient empire is that you just need to pick the right empire.” Now that we’ve found the best ancient culture, we can start moving forwards, not back.

With this new era being ushered in, and concerns already being raised about an off-campus house functioning as a gladiator pit, there’s a lot of uncertainty. How will the campus community look in a year’s time? Will longstanding problems ever truly be fixed? Is this really addressing any of those issues? Through all this, there is still one thing you can be certain of: this time, it’s going to be different.
RPI lecture: Whiteness as a barrier to racial liberation

By Audrey Davis, Editor in Chief

Dr. Wendy Haddad’s workshop performance of Henry Smalley’s original script “Troy the Hillian” is a play that produces big laughs and evokes thoughts about the future. Set in a far-future, post-apocalyptic society whose entire culture has changed. With limited knowledge of the origin of human beings is central to the story. The play centers itself around the internal and external struggle of a Black man in 1950s Pittsburgh. Beside giving the actors of this post-apocalyptic world something substantial to decode, Dr. Wood chose to use “Fences” as a tribute to Wilson, citing him as one of his most revered influences. “It’s an homage to August Wilson but also theater itself,” he said. Of course, putting on a performance of “Fences” is not only a challenge for the directors and actors of the future. As a story about the Black experience, the irony of attempting its performance—or meta-performance—at a predominantly white institution like the University of Puget Sound is not lost on Dr. Woods. He explains that having a predominantly white cast works towards the design of the play. In “Troy the Hillian,” the defamilizarization of our current culture is central to the plot and having a mostly white cast perform “Fences” works well as a tool to communicate just how far this futuristic society is from our current understanding of race. “It is so culturally and racially sensitive,” Dr. Woods said. According to Dr. Woods, the script is still a work in progress. This performance was a workshop performance, meaning that it was a sort of test-run for the script. As rehearsal went on, Dr. Woods continued to make changes to the script, with its “final version” being passed out just a week before the first performance. The actors had their work cut out for them, having to memorize a new script on such short notice. The script itself presented some unique challenges, as well.

Beyond the task of delivering such heavy themes, the actors had to bring themselves into a new world of Dr. Woods’ creation, which included learning a new, futuristic dialect. In the script, all double Rs became RZ, all words ending in TOR became OURTH. For example: “our doctor” becomes “our doc’r.” Dr. Woods said. “Fences” is perhaps the best-known work of August Wilson, the playwright who began his career in 1950s Pittsburgh. Besides giving the actors of this post-apocalyptic world something substantial to decode, Dr. Woods chose to use “Fences” as a tribute to Wilson, citing him as one of his most revered influences. “It’s an homage to August Wilson but also theater itself,” he said. Of course, putting on a performance of “Fences” is not only a challenge for the directors and actors of the future. As a story about the Black experience, the irony of attempting its performance—or meta-performance—at a predominantly white institution like the University of Puget Sound is not lost on Dr. Woods. He explains that having a predominantly white cast works towards the design of the play. In “Troy the Hillian,” the defamilizarization of our current culture is central to the plot and having a mostly white cast perform “Fences” works well as a tool to communicate just how far this futuristic society is from our current understanding of race. “It is so culturally and racially sensitive,” Dr. Woods said. According to Dr. Woods, the script is still a work in progress. This performance was a workshop performance, meaning that it was a sort of test-run for the script. As rehearsal went on, Dr. Woods continued to make changes to the script, with its “final version” being passed out just a week before the first performance. The actors had their work cut out for them, having to memorize a new script on such short notice. The script itself presented some unique challenges, as well.

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Beyond the task of delivering such heavy themes, the actors had to bring themselves into a new world of Dr. Woods’ creation, which included learning a new, futuristic dialect. In the script, all double Rs became RZ, all words ending in TOR became OURTH. For example: “our doctor’s arrangement” would become “our doc’r’s arrangement.” These linguistic quirks make for some impressive and funny dialogue and are an incredible feat of Dr. Woods’ worldbuilding ability as a “director.”

Despite the challenges, the play’s cast was wonderfully effective at bringing the intellect and humor from Dr. Woods’ world to the audience. As all seven main characters were on stage together for most of the play, the actors were tasked with bringing energy and charisma throughout every scene and they delivered on all accounts. Each actor brought life to their characters and the interplay between them, even in certain scenes’ backgrounds, kept the audience engaged.

Unfortunately, the final performances of “Troy the Hillian” were moved to a live online format due to COVID cases among the cast. Despite this challenge, the workshop production has certainly made its impact and Dr. Wood is hopeful for the future of the play. After the final performance of this run on November 5th, 2022, the professor says that he plans to take a new approach and send it out into the world to see what kind of life it has. With the intellectual—almost academic—nature of the plays, he says that he could see it having a strong future in other university productions. With such an entertaining and thematically intriguing script, the sky really is the limit for this home-grown play.

Troy the Hillian: a captivating exploration of the value of theater

By Henry Smalley

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Campus wants to connect with Security

By Rowan Baiocchi

The Trail reached out to the new director of security, David Ferber, to discuss his vision for the future of Security Services but, unfortunately, was unavailable due to a personal matter. The Trail hopes to feature Ferber soon.

The recent departure of long-time director Ann Todd-Statham presents a perfect opportunity to reflect on how the campus community views Security Services. We talked with campus employees and students about general campus sentiments towards the program, The Trail interviewed students on campus to ask them some questions about security.

Across the board, a concern that Jumped out among the population was the separation between the student body and the security members who serve them. When asked how they would like to see security services change throughout the next year, sophomore Mika Lopez answered, “Seemingly less separated from the community as a whole.” Lopez also voiced concerns about security’s presentation. “I think a lot of the way they present themselves is very similar to the way that police present themselves, which inevitably presents a lot of problems,” they said.

On the flip side, students report that Security does have a longstanding history of success. Sophomore Mary Borgerding expressed that her experiences with security have been “exclusively positive,” adding that “at least half of the security personnel I interact with are my peers.”

Leo Segal, a sophomore who lives in Trimble, says that Security Service excels at being right where they need to be, promptly responding to students’ calls. A combination of swift response times, attentive phone operators and student staff make it significantly easier for the student body to interact with security. Specifically, students can interact with their peers instead of someone they might not instantly recognize, resulting in otherwise tense situations progressing infinitely more smoothly.

Students also emphasized that they want to interact in more comfortable settings with Security Services and that they found their physical presence important. Borgerding brought up the idea of workshops: “I think it would be really cool if they offered self-defense workshops,” she offered. Borgerding also suggested that security could engage in new dialogues with the student body. “They could be a little more involved in discussions that are had about sexual violence or racial biases on campus,” she said. Lopez also suggested doing more community outreach: “I don’t think I’ve ever seen them do something like that,” he said.

To most students, Security Services appear separate from the campus community. The only interactions most have with security are during fire alarms or when they lock themselves out of their rooms. This distance, coupled with their association with the police, creates some sort of a gap between students and the people who keep them safe. A potential starting place: outreach. Whether it’s speaking at events, providing self-defense workshops to emphasize community safety, or even something as simple as coffee hours, taking steps to ground security within the community here at the university would go a long way.

The CDC recommends that all sexually active women get tested for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea once a year.

Take Control of Your Sexual Health: Get a Test.

To make an appointment at CHWS, call them at 253-879-1555
To make an appointment at Planned Parenthood, visit www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center

Professor power couple: Tiehen and Tubert

By Raka Custer

Every so often, the fabric of the universe folds in just the right way to account for unbelievable coincidences. One of these fun coincidences took place right on our little campus. The philosophy department is made up of not one, but two married professors. Having the opportunity to work together has been beneficial for their careers, but one can imagine this constant contact being somewhat draining. Most other professors don’t have to live with their coworkers. Due to the amount of time Tubert and Tiehen spend in proximity to each other, the two have made the decision not to occupy next-door offices in a healthy act of distancing.

Working at the University together also has a big effect on the professors’ off-hours. Although their children are older now, finding a morning babysitter for two toddlers proved challenging for the couple. Professor Tiehen also mentioned that since both sets of couples in the philosophy department had younger kids, department meetings were a challenge to schedule.

For Tiehen and Tubert, finding a balance between work and home life became even more difficult during the pandemic. Like parents across the world, they would spend their days sitting with their young children during virtual school to make sure they were actively learning. Furthermore, their sabbatical plans for 2020-2021 were effectively quashed, leaving them marooned at home rather than on off a wild book-writing journey.

However, Tubert and Tiehen made the best of this unprecedented situation. As they kept working on their manuscript together, the two found themselves discussing their work in small moments of downtime. “Even during the sabbatical, those difficult times, we’re taking our dog for a walk at night and we could fit in a discussion of, like, existentialism or something that was relevant to the book, in ways that it would be hard to match to with someone you weren’t living with,” Tiehen said. It goes to show that meaningful connections lead to meaningful results.

Professors Tubert and Tiehen both contribute immensely to this campus, and their connections to the community and to each other remind us that a university’s spirit resides in the human bonds it protects and encourages.
**Horoscopes**

**Aries** - Grab a blanket and cuddle up this weekend. It’s finally cold and you deserve a hot drink and some time to relax. Read a new book and treat yourself!

**Taurus** - We all know you’ve been thinking of them. Send that text and get back in touch. Sure you haven’t seen them in years, but there’s no time like the present.

**Gemini** - Have a night in and bake something new. Sure you can buy a cookie from the MET, but there’s no time like the present.

**Cancer** - Time to go out and make a new friend. You may have some great ones, but maybe it’s time to seek out new people for new experiences. You may be bored with your current friend group so reach out! Make a change!

**Leo** - Sure you’re always the most fashion-forward in all of your classes, but maybe stop buying all your clothes off TikTok and think a little about your environment. Thrift stores are just as cool and I know you can rock a funky sweater just like the rest of us!

**Virgo** - Time to go dancing! Get your cowboy boots on put on a hat and get out there. A square dance waits for no one and you’re gonna be the STAR tonight. Let go of all your stresses and let loose.

**Libra** - Sure everything is falling apart right now, but what may start as a complete mess may turn into the best day of your life. Just keep putting yourself out there and one-day things will get better.

**Scorpio** - Yes no one has written a missed connection about you and yes you are depressingly single, but each day is a new day. Ask that cutie to coffee or send a fun and flirty text. You never know what might be right over the horizon.

**Sagittarius** - I think that maybe you should stop listening to Mitski all the time. Sure she’s a lyrical genius, but people are starting to worry. Maybe it’s time to drink some tea, watch a comfort movie, and talk to a friend.

**Capricorn** - Now is the time to choose the thing you’re going to be obsessed with for the next year. You were definitely obsessed with mustaches in middle school and maybe you had a mushroom phase this summer. What’s next?

**Aquarius** - You are a cool girl! While some people may not love your sense of style and confidence you own it. So put on that cool jacket and walk around campus like you own this place because you do!

**Pisces** - Time to go down to the water! There’s nothing like looking out at the sound and reminiscing on all of your life choices. Check out the sea life, take a walk and enjoy the cold.