On Nov. 16, President Isiaah Crawford held a town hall addressing concerns about his newly formed plan, "A Sound Future," which tackles the University’s growing financial hole. He both vehemently defended his decision to reject key recommendations from the Aca-
demic, Administrative, and Auxiliary Program Review spearheaded by faculty and promised that upcoming budget cuts would only happen through a clear and transparent process – although it is still unclear what that process would be.

The town hall was held inside the rotunda at Wheelock Student Center. The room was so full that an additional online viewing space was created in Upper Mar-
shall. It followed an October Board of Trustees meeting, where a Sound Future was introduced. The plan rejected three essential proposals that would lighten fac-
ulty workload, consolidate programs, and only reduce faculty through early retire-
ment packages. Instead, A Sound Future extends faculty reduction into potential program discontinuation. The move gener-
ated immediate faculty backlash. During the town hall, President Crawford directly addressed these concerns: "I know that the three primary academic components that were iden-
tified to not move forward have profoundly disappointed people and people are angry at me," he said. "In my view, those elements were not going to be able to get us to where we need to go… the numbers just did not work."

Regarding potential layoffs, President Crawford said, "if we do have to go there, we're going to be as judicious and as thoughtful and as minimal-
istic as we possibly can be."

In days following the initial Board meeting, 26 full-time faculty members were offered early retirement incentives, which they must accept or reject by January 10. Despite this deadline, A Sound Future has not yet been concretely devel-
oped and will not be so until a Board of Trustees meeting in February. Naturally, this led to faculty con-
vessions about whether they should take the offer before the fast-approach-
ing deadline. According to President Crawford, the bulk of faculty were "not coming from a sense of pressur-
ing our colleagues. I love our faculty," he said. Cuts may directly result from the number of faculty who decide to take the retire-
ment package in proportion to the 35 positions to be eliminated.

The University is also working on increasing recruitment efforts. The Office of Admissions hosted "Discover Puget Sound," an open house that attracted 400 prospec-
tive students. Furthermore, President Crawford announced a 7% increase in

The Trail

Faculty hesitant on rushed retirement packages; uncertainty in Sound Future strategy

By Emma Loenicker

President Crawford defends plan, promises open
communication at Town Hall

By Albert Chang-Yoo

After the campus-wide town hall held on Nov. 16, many students, faculty, and staff were left with more confusion and frustration than they had felt beforehand. There was a general expectation that this meeting would provide clarity about the Sound Future proposal, and open the door for more transparency from the admin-
istration, but instead, the meeting fueled more tension.

Many are disheartened by the strategies being used to recover from a looming ten-million-dollar budget deficit. The layoffs being offered to beloved profes-
sors and the possibility of program cuts, which University President Isiaah Crawford repeatedly called a last resort during the town hall, have been the source of much tension.

Associate Professor of Biology Mark Martin was one of 26 faculty offered an early retirement package that would have meant voluntarily leaving campus perma-
nently by this coming June after 18 years at the University. Martin said that initially, he felt compelled to choose voluntary retirement incentives instead of remaining faculty, which they must decide upon by January 10. Despite this deadline, A Sound Future plans to implement collaboration and open the door going to be as judicious and as minimal-
istic as we possibly can be."

Regarding potential layoffs, President Crawford said, "if we do have to go there, we’re going to be as judicious and as thoughtful and as minimal-
istic as we possibly can be."

In days following the initial Board meeting, 26 full-time faculty members were offered early retirement incentives, which they must accept or reject by January 10. Despite this deadline, A Sound Future has not yet been concretely devel-
oped and will not be so until a Board of Trustees meeting in February. Naturally, this led to faculty con-
vessions about whether they should take the offer before the fast-approach-
ing deadline. According to President Crawford, the bulk of faculty were "not coming from a sense of pressur-
ing our colleagues. I love our faculty," he said. Cuts may directly result from the number of faculty who decide to take the retire-
ment package in proportion to the 35 positions to be eliminated.

The University is also working on increasing recruitment efforts. The Office of Admissions hosted "Discover Puget Sound," an open house that attracted 400 prospec-
tive students. Furthermore, President Crawford announced a 7% increase in the estimated application pool over last year, with 120 early decision applications so far. "That was a win for us," he said. The goal is to grow the student body to 2,300 students, about 300 more than the current undergraduate body.

President Crawford emphasized the im-
portance of new enrollment. "It’s perfect-
ly fine for us to have this type of dialogue and conversation within family here on campus… we need to do all we can to make sure that we achieve our goals and we don’t do anything that would prevent us from being able to achieve our goal of enrollment in the fall," he warned. In one distinct moment, President Crawford also acknowledged his own shortcomings on the issue: "would it have been better, perhaps, if I had gone back to the AAAPRC to let them know where I landed on this? Maybe. I will own up to that."

In the end, the meat of the discussion may have been overshadowed by a sepa-
rate incident that occurred while President Crawford spoke. A noise in the room was interpreted to be monkey noises directed toward President Crawford’s race. President Crawford tried to continue speaking before several students spoke out against the sound: "That is unaccept-
able and we will not tolerate that. We will engage in thoughtful, respectful dialogue with one another and that includes me," President Crawford said afterward. The incident is under Title IX investigation.
A note from the Office of the President

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of the semester, and this message is appearing in the final issue of The Trail for this calendar year! I appreciate having this opportunity to share a few thoughts with the readers of The Trail, and I would like to offer a message that has been adapted from my December report to the faculty.

As classes come to a close and the winter break approaches, let’s take a deep breath and acknowledge the emotional journey we have been on over the past few months – the joy of welcoming our students fully back on campus for the fall semester for the first time since 2019, the satisfaction of knowing the individual and collective difference we can make in students’ lives, the connection of being in community again together, the worry and anxiety of the outcome of the Academic, Administrative, and Auxiliary Program Review (“AAPR”), the shared outrage and personal and institutional reflection that was catalyzed by disruptions in our Town Hall just a few weeks ago, and, perhaps, the glimmering and growing hope for the bright future I know is in front of us. My faith in this university and its people is resolute, even in the face of anger, confrontation, and incivility. Because at the same time, I hear from many of our campus colleagues that they share my optimism, and they appreciate the urgent need to return to financial sustainability and realize our strategic goals. I have thought of little else since March 2020, and certainly, this has been the dominating focus of my attention since receiving the AAPR Committee’s Report and Recommendations just over two months ago. I am buoyed by our colleagues who have similarly confirmed their understanding of our current situation and who affirm they are prepared to work collaboratively through the difficult decisions now and step forward together into a sound future for the university. We are in this together.

Following the work of the AAAPR Committee and the delivery of its report to me, I have taken many of their recommendations and ideas and worked with the members of the Cabinet and the Board of Trustees to develop a slate of strategies to meet this moment and catapult us forward. I have met multiple times with the AAAPR Committee, with the Faculty Senate Chair, with the Faculty Senate, with the Staff Senate, with ASUPS, with individual students, staff, and faculty, and with the more than 500 members of the campus community in our recent Town Hall. I have responded to innumerable emails and answered as many questions as I can. I have charged the members of the Cabinet to continue to think creatively and thoughtfully about how to address the structural issues in front of us with the least amount of harm to the university and its people. I have promised you continuing conversation and consultation, meaningful engagement, and a commitment to our shared governance principles as we move forward. This is the hallmark of our Puget Sound culture.

I am pleased to inform you that a campus update regarding A Sound Future is currently being prepared and will be distributed prior to the end of this semester. The update will share with you some of the good implementation work already underway and provide more information regarding our path forward, consistent with my ongoing commitment to providing timely information regarding implementation of the strategies included in A Sound Future and our progress toward realizing our goals outlined in the Leadership for a Changing World strategic plan. I also encourage you to regularly review the A Sound Future website for FAQs, implementation timelines, and other campus communications.

We have a promising future ahead of us, but much work remains. As we head into break, it is my hope that those reading this message will make time to be with loved ones, friends, and family and to invest in rejuvenating yourselves. Enjoy this holiday season, and please accept my best wishes to all of you for a safe, healthy, and joyful new year.

Sincerely, Isiaah

NEWS

Historical Firsts and Abortion Rights During the Midterm Elections

By Hannah Lee

During this year’s midterm elections, many predicted a “red wave” in which many Republicans would be elected to positions of political power. Historically, the president’s party has generally lost elections at the state and national levels in midterm years. This year, however, many Democrats won over states and positions and kept their control over the Senate. There were also many historical firsts for those elected to these positions. Many attribute these results to a higher Gen Z voting turnout.

According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University, 27% of voters between the ages of 18-29 cast a vote during the 2022 midterms. CIRCLE also concluded that the 2022 midterms had the second-highest voter turnout in the nation. WeMoore is the first Black governor to be elected in Maryland and the third black man overall to be elected governor in the United States. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders was the first woman elected governor in the state of Arkansas, formerly serving as President Trump’s press secretary.

There were many firsts in congressional races as well. At 25, Maxwell Frost is the first member of Gen Z to be elected to Congress. Frost will represent Florida’s 10th congressional district. In Pennsylvania, Summer Lee will be the first black woman to represent her state in Congress. With Becca Balint’s win in Vermont, all 50 states have sent a woman to represent their state in Congress. She is also the first openly lesbian woman to represent Vermont in Congress. James Roesener is the first out transgender man to be elected to Congress, representing New Hampshire’s 22nd district in the House of Representatives.

One of the major issues on voters’ minds during this election was abortion rights. With the recent overturning of Roe v Wade, endangering abortion rights for people with uteris in several states, abortion was an issue that helped Democratic candidates win elections. For example, in Pennsylvania and Michigan, voters ranked the issue of abortion higher in importance than inflation, which helped John Fetterman win his senate seat in Pennsylvania, allowing Democrats control of the Senate. In Michigan, Democrats were able to reelect Gretchen Whitmer as governor, as well as electing a Democratic majority to their state house and senate, giving Democrats control of the Michigan government. They also were able to pass a measure to protect abortion in Michigan. Ballot measures regarding abortion were proposed in California, Vermont, Kentucky, and Montana. They were passed in California and Vermont, and in Kentucky and Montana voters rejected measures that would have further restricted abortion.

Sincerely, Isiaah

During this year’s midterm elections, many predicted a “red wave” in which many Republicans would be elected to positions of political power. Historically, the president’s party has generally lost elections at the state and national levels in midterm years. This year, however, many Democrats won over states and positions and kept their control over the Senate. There were also many historical firsts for those elected to these positions. Many attribute these results to a higher Gen Z voting turnout.

According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University, 27% of voters between the ages of 18-29 cast a vote during the 2022 midterms. CIRCLE also concluded that the 2022 midterms had the second-highest voter turnout in the nation. WeMoore is the first Black governor to be elected in Maryland and the third black man overall to be elected governor in the United States. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders was the first woman elected governor in the state of Arkansas, formerly serving as President Trump’s press secretary.

There were many firsts in congressional races as well. At 25, Maxwell Frost is the first member of Gen Z to be elected to Congress. Frost will represent Florida’s 10th congressional district. In Pennsylvania, Summer Lee will be the first black woman to represent her state in Congress. With Becca Balint’s win in Vermont, all 50 states have sent a woman to represent their state in Congress. She is also the first openly lesbian woman to represent Vermont in Congress. James Roesener is the first out transgender man to be elected to Congress, representing New Hampshire’s 22nd district in the House of Representatives.

One of the major issues on voters’ minds during this election was abortion rights. With the recent overturning of Roe v Wade, endangering abortion rights for people with uteris in several states, abortion was an issue that helped Democratic candidates win elections. For example, in Pennsylvania and Michigan, voters ranked the issue of abortion higher in importance than inflation, which helped John Fetterman win his senate seat in Pennsylvania, allowing Democrats control of the Senate. In Michigan, Democrats were able to reelect Gretchen Whitmer as governor, as well as electing a Democratic majority to their state house and senate, giving Democrats control of the Michigan government. They also were able to pass a measure to protect abortion in Michigan. Ballot measures regarding abortion were proposed in California, Vermont, Kentucky, and Montana. They were passed in California and Vermont, and in Kentucky and Montana voters rejected measures that would have further restricted abortion.
Sports scores and Schedule

Scores:

Women’s Basketball (6-1)
   - Nov 11: Loggers 75 - Warner Pacific University 55
   - Nov 12: Loggers 76 - Multnomah 72
   - Nov 19: Loggers 56 - Wheaton College 62
   - Nov 25: Loggers 93 - Chapman University 58
   - Nov 26: Loggers 84 - Whittier College 49
   - Dec 2: Loggers 89 - Whitworth University 77
   - Dec 3: Loggers 78 - Whitman College 63

Men’s Basketball (5-3)
   - Nov 9: Loggers 55 - Seattle University 106
   - Nov 11: Loggers 88 - Northwest University 74
   - Nov 15: Loggers 95 - The Evergreen State College 72
   - Nov 18: Loggers 77 - California Lutheran University 76
   - Nov 19: Loggers 63 - Montana State University-Northern 80
   - Nov 25: Loggers 48 - Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges 82
   - Nov 26: Loggers 79 - Pomona-Pitzer 77
   - Dec 2: Loggers 82 - Whitworth University 75
   - Dec 3: Loggers 62 - Whitman College 66

Football (1-8)
   - Nov 12: Loggers 26 - Willamette University 20

Upcoming Games:

Women’s Basketball
   - Dec 16 vs University of Redlands

Men’s Basketball
   - Dec 17 vs Millsaps College

Calls for Biden to declare RSV a public health emergency go unanswered

By Hannah Lee

On Nov. 14, 2022, the Children’s Hospital Organization (CHO) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) asked President Joe Biden and Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra to declare Respiratory Syncytial Virus (or RSV) a national and public health emergency. This was in response to the growing levels of hospitalizations for children with respiratory viruses.

Pediatric units across the United States are completely overwhelmed with babies and toddlers with RSV or the flu, and some parts of the country, such as Rhode Island have run out of pediatric beds. The CHO and AAP have called upon government officials to declare a national and public health emergency to help support pediatric staff and hospitals. In a letter sent to the President and Human Services Secretary, the organizations wrote, “The confluence of these capacity issues in pediatric hospitals and communities requires nimbleness and flexibilities that can only be provided through a Presidential declaration of an emergency under the Stafford Act or National Emergencies Act and a Public Health Emergency declaration.” They also mentioned that support was given during the height of the COVID-19 surge, and hoped for the same support to keep up with the increasing needs of children in the United States.

The emergency declarations would increase the flexibility of pediatric practices to respond to the influx of patients and be able to use federal resources, such as assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Biden administration has not declared RSV a national or public health emergency and has stated that it would provide support on a case-by-case basis for hospitals and counties.

WORLD NEWS

- Iran abolishes Morality Police after two months of protests claims Attorney General Mohammad Jafar Montazeri
  - This is unconfirmed by the Iranian government and has garnered skepticism
- Ukraine’s shows potential to drone strike deep into Russia
  - A third airstrike set a Russian airfield ablaze on Tuesday, Dec. 6
- Indonesia’s parliament criminalizes pre-marital sex
  - 4 months imprisonment of up to one year in prison
**Tis the Damn Season**

### Across

2. Welsh mid-Winter tradition where horse skulls visit houses and sing rhymes
3. Name of Jewish warriors whose rebellion against the Greek Syrians Hanukkah celebrates
7. Final day in the Gregorian calendar
9. Four weird little British children go into the closet
10. Sour cream or applesauce
11. Why do we still drink this?
13. "I'll have what she's having"
15. This song has grossed at least $80 million in royalties
16. The longest night
17. British and Commonwealth holiday once about giving to the poor, now a shopping day for the rich
18. St. Nicholas was born here

### Down

1. Honors the OG born again virgin
4. Head covering that makes you look like you're about to rob a bank
5. Week long celebration of African and African American culture
6. Bruce Willis' maybe Christmas movie?
8. Don't let an ex wear you as this through the winter season
12. Why do we still eat this brick?
14. The name of the Grinch's dog

---

### Crossword Key

**Across**

1. TAM
3. MSMDELI
4. LAPALOMA
6. SKATE WORLD
8. OWENBEACH
10. OLYMPIA
11. VASHON
12. MEMOS
15. LANDER
16. LEMAY
19. WRIGHTPARK

**Down**

2. STADIUM
5. GLASSBRIDGE
7. LINCOLN
9. POINTRUSTON
13. ALMA
14. MAGOOSANNEX
17. BOBSJAVAIVJE
18. TITLOWBEACH
An Interview with Stephen Kramer Glickman

By Andrew Benoit

On Nov. 8, Stephen Kramer Glickman gave the University of Puget Sound a night of comedy and music with his show “An Evening with Stephen Kramer Glickman”. The performance was a huge hit on campus and the Chapel was packed with students. Glickman is best known for his role as Gustavo Rocque on “Big Time Rush” and as Shrek in “Shrek the Musical” on Broadway workshops. The show sat down with Glickman the following day to ask him about Big Time Rush, Star Wars, Shrek and a certain dog-related movie he took part in years ago. This interview has been edited for readability and length.

Q: I read that you spent time with Wu-Tang Clan in preparation for your Big Time Rush role. What was that like?

A: The Rza owned the unit above me in my condo complex. I didn’t know that he did. And so, I was living in my apartment and there was a lot of noise coming from upstairs. And so, I went upstairs to knock on the door to be like, “Hey, turn that music down.” The door opened and it was the Rza. And he was like: “Can I help you?” And I was like, “We’re Good! It’s an honor, sir!” Then they invited me and I ended up hanging with them and making some music with them too, which was really, really cool. We did a cover of a song together and it was awesome.

Q: How did you get started as an actor and stand-up?

A: I’ve been doing since I was a little kid. I started acting from third grade, like as a kid doing musical theater. I didn’t start working professionally until I was probably about 25 or 26. So it took about four or five years out of college to actually start finding my footing. In the early days you’re just trying to figure out how to make this thing work. Los Angeles is a tricky city to navigate. In the early days, I was doing extra work on Deadwood which was crazy. We would do a graveyard on the show. We would shoot from like six o’clock at night to like eight o’clock in the morning. It was horrible. You do that and then you learn about what it’s like to be on a set and the level of professionalism that you have to come up with to be able to work. I’ve been doing stand-up for about 20 years. You can just keep trying things.

Q: So, you almost got a role in a Star Wars movie? What happened?

A: Phil Lord and Chris Miller were doing the Han Solo movie and asked people who were interested in coming out to do something in it. I was so excited and wanted to do it. But before it could even get past a conversation, they had already been let go from doing the Solo movie. Some other directors took over and that was the end of that. I have a lot of friends who now are on the Mandalorian. My friend plays C-3PO on the show, he plays a lot of other robots on the show. He’s kind of gone to bat for me a few times over there and a couple of other friends have gone out for me trying to help me get into Star Wars.

Q: Can you tell me a little bit about your experience with Shrek the Musical?

A: I got cast to play Shrek in Shrek the Musical on Broadway. It was Broadway readings and workshops, working on and creating the show. So, I worked on it with Jeffrey Katzemberg and Sam Mendes, who was our director. Sutton Foster was my Fiona. It was crazy. I worked on it for about two years. It was an extremely intense experience. I auditioned for it at an open call. I sat in a room with like 100 fat guys with beards all trying to audition for this role. I sang “What I Say” by Ray Charles for my audition, and was then called back to then come back and to learn the Shrek voice. I went and bought the DVD and I ended up watching Shrek five times that night from start to finish, and I learned the voice over night. Then I went back the next day. I ended up doing 32 callbacks over three months to get the role. And then they moved me to New York City and I lived on 58th Avenue overlooking the park. It was the most intense experience in the world. Literally, the most intense life change I’ve ever experienced was that move. I was living in a cramped apartment in Encino with two guys and we all hated living there. Then suddenly I was living in this beautiful place with my own doorman. I had a driver and the win- dow washer was washing my windows every day. It was a very big life change. And I worked really hard but no matter how hard I worked, Sutton Foster works harder, because she was not only doing the 8 am to 6 pm rehearsals of Shrek the Musical, she was also performing at night, doing Young Frankenstein on Broadway.

Q: Most people on campus know you from your role on Big Time Rush. Do you ever feel defined or limited by the popularity of the role?

A: No, no, no. I think having something to be a piece of your history is a blessing and a nice thing. I’ve never had a point where I was like, “Oh, this is the worst. I’m famous for something.” It also happened to me when I was 29 years old. I turned 30 during the first season. I mean, that’s the age where if you’re not proud of the work that you’re doing at 30, I don’t know what the hell you’re doing with your life. I’m very proud that I’ve been a part of so many people’s childhoods. I know a lot of people say, “Oh, it’s a curse, doing children’s television because you don’t work afterward.” That does happen to some people, but I got super lucky. I love keeping the Gustavo love alive in the world. Big Time Rush means a lot to me. And it means a lot to a lot of people. It helps people decide that they want to get into music, and it’s helped people follow their dreams. When you have a dream, whatever it is, having someone else that believes in your dream is incredibly effective. But having someone who believes in your dream and helps push you towards it is like the hand of God. I mean I got to play a character on the show who not only encouraged people’s dreams but helps them to achieve them. And I think that’s the reason why the charac- ter is so beloved. And the show is so beloved because people that grew up watching it look for those people. They look for someone who not only will encourage them but also help them to their goals as well. And I’m really lucky to have a bunch of people in my life over the years that have been my Gustavo, that have kind of helped lift me up and move me to the next place. So, I think, I think that’s the reason why the character is just a positive thing.

Q: Anything you’d like to say to the students of the University of Puget Sound?

A: Study hard and get out there into the world and don’t take any shit from anyone. Just keep making everything that you want to make and be your best selves out in the world.

Meet some of the Trail Team

By Sara Orozco

If you’ve ever so much as visited the University of Puget Sound, your eye has probably been caught by a flyer or advertisement for one of our bountiful media clubs and the many events they host. One of the most exciting parts of our campus is our regular publications and very own radio station, KUPS. From Wetlands, Elements, Photo services, Crosscurrents, and even The Trail itself, all these clubs are aided by Charlie Dahle. Charlie, third-year, is the ASUPS Director of Media and Technology services. “I can really feel strongly about the campus media and is excited and prepared to take on the posi- tion of Director of Media and Technology Services. “I wasn’t really aware of how powerful the media were until I came to this job. It’s been such great to see the leads bounce off each other during Monday board meetings and get ideas from each other and even host events together. Then, the tech side of the job is super fun too, I never would’ve thought about how to make coverage accessible and readable,” Ehony said.

If you’re wondering how to get involved, a whole world of technology and media is waiting for you. If getting involved with a club seems daunting, keep an eye out for our many events!
The University of Puget Sound’s student radio station, better known as KUPS, hosted the Student Art Market and Clothing Swap in the Rasmussen Rotunda on Nov. 17. Student artists sold their beautiful creations to their peers at an event quickly becoming campus tradition. Students also had the opportunity to look through free clothes provided by the Center for Student Support. The event was abuzz with excitement as art, money and smiles passed around the room. It was hard to leave the art market empty-handed. Art seemed to leap off the tables and into your hands, leaving you frantically typing in an artist’s Venmo. With clothes, friends, art and KUPS, it’s easy to see why this tradition is a favorite on campus.

By Andrew Benoit

KUPS representatives Jake Larson, sophomore (left) and Tate DeCarlo, junior (right) sit at the front of the Student Art Market.

Nisa Bhatia, senior, displays their necklaces as well as their roommates’ Kelz and Kleo, prints and t-shirts. Nisa has a lot of fun making their necklaces, describing the process as “a lot of labor, but a lot of love at the same time.”

Students buy and sell art in an amazing display of the creative power of the University.

Zoe Brinner, senior, poses with their beautiful ceramic pieces, hoping to attract some lucky customers.

Indi Reynolds, junior, shows off her handmade clay earrings. Reynolds described how much of a process making each set of earrings was, which includes painting the background. She pointed out her favorite earrings, a pair of red and gold hoops. (Top row, second from left)

Students dig through the free clothes provided by the Center for Student Support, hoping to find something fashionable to snag.

All photos courtesy of Andrew Benoit

Art Lauer-Frey, sophomore, proudly shows off his newly purchased rock from V Solar-Miller, sophomore.

Two exceptional Trail writers – Henry Smalley, sophomore, and Rowan Baiocchi, sophomore – enjoy a casual greeting as they appreciate the wonderful art students had to offer.

Ben Keri, freshman, who sold stickers and a sheet of original characters he designed, draws a stylized version of the alphabet.

Students buy and sell art in an amazing display of the creative power of the University.
Today, the University of Puget Sound is a bustling, vibrant campus home to 2,200 students, full of satisfying collegiate clusters — students walking to Wyatt, congregating outside of Thompson or bustling in hungry herds to the diner. The only signs of antiquity are the ivy that winds along the edges of windows, the library books whose bindings are fraying delicately at the edges, and the portraits of presidents past in the library, hanging quietly and elegantly on the walls. Many students do not spend much time contemplating their residence on the Puget Sound campus, however, as the University faces unprecedented challenges and uncertainty, anticipating how far the campus has come in providing students with a variety of academic and social spaces can serve as a way to transfer one’s gratitude into the will to problem-solve and persevere. Simply put, the rich history of the campus’ architectural expansion can help students appreciate the residential learning experience.

The University of Puget Sound campus, as students have come to know and love it today, began in 1924 when it moved from downtown Tacoma to the North End. The first building erected on the residential campus was Jones Hall, built in 1924, making it the oldest building on Puget Sound’s current campus. The following year, Warner Gymnasium was constructed. The campus only continued to expand, beginning with its residence halls. Anderson Langdon Hall (formerly referred to as Anderson hall) was built in 1938, with the intent of strictly functioning as a women’s dormitory. 1949 brought with it the completion of the Memorial Fieldhouse. The fieldhouse was dedicated and named “memorial” in honor of the numerous individuals throughout Pierce County and all of Washington State who had given their lives during World War II.

When the campus moved from downtown Tacoma and situated itself on the current residential campus, the north half of the Jones Hall basement acted as a college library for thirty years. However, a basement was no place for a library. From the beginning, the University had desired a larger, separate building and in 1954, the Collins Memorial Library was completed. Eventually, the volumes were carried over from Jones Hall, in a momentous exodus of books, to the new library, which was meant to house 80,000 volumes, by students, faculty, staff, and alumni. In 1955, the University expanded Anderson Hall and finally added a swimming pool to the memorial fieldhouse, allowing students the opportunity to compete in collegiate swimming. Since the opening, the Library has been experiencing a large architectural boom as new buildings followed one another right and left, Thompson Hall, which would end up housing the natural science departments, was constructed in 1967. At the time, it was the University’s largest architectural endeavor in its 80-year history, costing $3,800,000. It was to be built as a 114,000-square-foot complex, costing approximately 31 dollars a foot and containing 220 rooms. The natural science departments had previously been housed in Howarth. Now, the new science facility contained a variety of modern facilities and scientific devices that Howarth lacked. These advances made Thompson Hall a state-of-the-art college science complex for a liberal arts institution. In 2004, the University began its largest-ever construction project to date, spending $50 million to renovate each of Thompson’s wings, with an addition of a west wing. The renovation project worked to expand and update pre-existing classrooms and laboratories. At the same time, it also added eight more research labs, six more classrooms, four new conference rooms, and a 10,000-square-foot courtyard. What was unique about this project was that the University made it “green” by implementing an environmentally friendly design. Back in April of 1994, the University drew up plans to not only renovate the fieldhouse but also to renovate and expand the music building. The renovation and expansion plans for the music building were due to a desire to have a bigger, Continued on Page 9...
**Letter to the Editor**

*The following note was delivered anonymously to The Trail’s campus mailbox and received on Nov. 11, 2022.*

You and the student paper are about to be besieged with the results of an effort coordinated by a large and militant group of faculty who cannot abide by the recent decision of the Board of Trustees to accept only a portion of the recommendations put forward by those same faculty. This group is organizing its messaging to the student newspaper. As you begin to receive enquiries and guidance from this portion of the faculty, you might keep some of the following in mind: 1.) Many faculty feel diverse opinions and criticism are not welcome in public conversations on campus, 2.) Some faculty feel the plan put forward to the BoT was fatally flawed, 3.) The University of Puget Sound should definitely not follow the lead of those universities that have dissembled departments and the liberal arts, as those sorts of universities face the worst enrollment problems today, 4.) It’s inappropriate of those faculty to coordinate their attempts to embroil student energies into a fight they just lost. Perhaps your commitment to the craft of journalism would have revealed these tensions without this anonymous note.

**From the Editor:**

*Despite a lack of clarity in this letter, we greatly appreciate any and all feedback, warnings, threats(?), etc. Besieged and militant are certainly choice words but fear not, we have faced no such mob.*

---

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

How do you feel about the World Cup?

By Andrew Benoit

From Nov. 20 to Dec. 18, the best soccer players in the world face off in the 2022 FIFA World Cup, which is being hosted by Qatar. Besides being the most expensive World Cup ever hosted, it is also the first one hosted in the Arab world. So far, the matchups have produced some unexpected results, including Argentina’s loss to Saudi Arabia during the Group Stage and Germany’s loss to Japan. The United States national team made it to the Knockout Stage, but was eliminated by the Netherlands in the first round.

While the soccer matches have produced plenty to talk about, so has the circumstances of the World Cup itself. Criticism arose right after Qatar was awarded the cup, as accusations of bribery and corruption were leveled towards the process. FIFA has opened an investigation into these accusations. Other criticisms have focused on Qatar’s record on human rights, specifically its treatment of women, migrant workers and members of the LGBTQ community. Rainbow paraphernalia and other displays of solidarity towards the marginalized communities have been banned from both attendees and players. Qatar and others have dismissed the criticisms as simply Western arrogance and rooted in racism and Islamophobia. However, even as controversies continue, so do the matches.

---

Simone Shaw (she/her) 4th year: “I don’t care about the men’s world cup. Ask me again when it’s the women’s world cup.”

Lewis Herring-Tillman (he/him): “I’m not personally a huge soccer fan and also I haven’t been able to watch a lot of it, but I think its interesting how the joy of the game intersects with the deep violence that is underneath it.”

Annie Kisska (she/her): “I think its fun but I’m not waking up at 7am to watch the US v Netherlands game on Saturday.”

Quinn Shaer (she/they) 4th year: “I love the World Cup, but it’s at a really inconvenient time, and I never get to watch it, and all the stupid countries keep winning, and all the good countries keep losing. F@*k England.”
better performance space, a building where students could enjoy the expanded amenities and fully immerse themselves in the experience of musical performance. The expansion and renovation took place on the north side of the music building, allowing both the rehearsal and performance and audience space to be increased. In 2005, Lowry Wyatt Hall was named after longtime Board of Trustees member Lowry Wyatt. In May of 2013, a new era was dawning on Puget Sound’s campus. The 2013-2014 academic year was the first in which students were required to spend at least two years living on campus. Because of this, an addition of another residence hall was needed, in order to accommodate the new living requirement. Initially, the hall was to be named “Commencement Hall” but was renamed Thomas Hall in May of 2016, honoring then President Ronald R. Thomas. The architecture shifted in accordance, and students’ responses were quite varied. One student believed that the addition of a new residence hall and an on-campus living requirement would be a new way to foster a strong sense of community and connection, while another student was frustrated about the living requirements. Although some students expressed concern about the new residence hall blocking the view of Mt. Rainier from Wyatt Hall, others were more enthusiastic about the addition of a modern residence hall. Regardless of the opinion of the student body, the new residence hall was to have five academic communities, a gallery, and some larger rooms for group meetings. Although the University is currently facing a myriad of daunting challenges, some larger rooms for group meetings that such hardships will be solved with the signature determination and creativity of a small liberal arts institution. If history is any indication, challenges will become construction; new buildings, memories and improvement on a much-beloved campus.

Many other responses mentioned that music honestly made no difference for them and “depends on the situation and the person.” However, the most unique response was that music could be “traumatizing,” one student reported that one occasion while having sex “they heard Nate wants to battle’s song, ‘mangled’ which is a song about five nights at Freddie’s [sic],” and now they no longer play music.

Now to look at some of the favorite sex songs of students. The most popular genre was by far R&B, with healthy doses of pop, rock, rap, and classical genres. Many notable artists appeared in students’ favorite song choices, including Hozier, Harry Styles, Lizzo, and the Weekend. After listening to the 137-minute playlist created through student suggestions, here are our rankings:

Best Chill Vibes Songs: Unravel Me by Sahara Cashio, Foreplay by Jalen San- toy, Slow Motion by Trey Songz, High By the Beach by Lana Del Rey.
Best Slow Vibes Songs: Sex on the Beach by PartyNextDoor, Heaven by Julia Michaels, Movement by Hozier, Sacrifice by Sabrina Claudio, Foreplay by Jalen San- toy, Anything by Jackson Wang.

Best Energetic Songs: Round Round by Flo Rida, Hotel Room Service by Pitbull, Hot Wings (I Wanna Party) by will.i.am, Jamie Fox, & Anne Hathaway
Best Beatz Songs: Purple Haze by Jimi Hendrix, I Feel Like I’m Drowning by Two Feet, Valentine by 5 Seconds of Summer
WIFI: Ram Ranch by Grant MacDonald, Chub by Hudson Mohawke
Best Laugh: The Alma Mater, “anything from the ‘60s and ’70s and produce some soundtrack,” and “anything by Jackson Wang”
So go listen it up, enjoy the music, and have a great winter break! I hope every one has a great time and maybe gets their own groove on *wink wink*.

Hey, besties! I hope the sudden shift to biting winter winds has inspired you to wear your cutest sweaters or even drive yourself into the arms of a fulfilling lover. This week I asked the campus community via Google poll what’s plaguing us when it comes to sex, and I will now attempt to offer some sound advice to unique concerns. My qualifications are my extreme horniness and perhaps even more extreme nosiness. A community member wrote in, “In an exclusive relationship but part of me wants it to be open because it feels like a waste of my youthful sexiness not to be getting my ball blown out.”

Aw, yes! This is a perennial question, isn’t it? Do exclusive relationships mean we are “missing out” on all the free-range hotties? An open relationship is fascinating and entirely feasible for some couples; the key is a solid foundation of communication. If there is a desire or curiosity about opening up your relationship, approach your partner with the intent first just to open a discussion, not to shame them or pressure them into a dynamic they won’t be comfortable with. Is there something rich and challenging about monogamy worth exploring? There is just as much to learn in an exclusive relationship as with multiple partners. You can’t really go wrong. And don’t worry, dear writer, there is sex to be had when we are old and grey! Youthful sexiness is overrated. Flaps and wrinkles are fun. Another community member writes, “I’m plagued: how do I balance needing sex and using people for sex. Because being used for sex is degrading unless it’s consensual and sexual relationships) between everyone is on the same page, let’s use our glorious flesh vessels for ecstatic, consensual pleasure! Finally, a senior wrote in with their trickiest situation yet: “Ok, so this is kinda crazy, but I have a big crush on one of my professors. We flirt all the time and I feel pretty certain that the crush is mutual. There have been several interactions between which sexual tension is palpable for the entire class and my fellow classmates have mentioned it to me. I know it’s probably bad, but I want to take it to the next level. What’s my play?”

This is a big, resounding nope! I always hesitate to offer inflexible advice, but this situation (assuming it’s not a joke) is fairly serious. I would encourage you to talk to your school’s counselors at the Counseling, Health, & Wellness Center, contact peer allies (peerallies@pugetsound.edu), or our Title IX Coordinator (titleixco@pugetsound.edu), and tell them about a relationship with a profes sor who feels overfamiliar, potentially even flirtly. Our faculty code states that “intimate relationships (including ro mantic and sexual relationships) between a faculty member and a student violate acceptable standards of professional ethics as required by the Faculty Code, Chapter I, Part D, Section 4 and impair the role of teacher as defined in Chapter I, Part C, Section 2” (Appendix, Page 5). A relationship of this nature endangers the student and the teacher (primarily the student) and is simply not worth it! It’s not your fault and you’ve done nothing wrong, but this is simply something that cannot be acted upon.

Thank you so much, writers! I hope the advice was sound, sexy, and salacious. Good luck out there, and we’ll see you next week!
Beyond the Land Acknowledgment: Filling Empty Words

By Vivian Gray

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022, Doris Tinsley delivered a presentation at the University of Puget Sound, titled “Beyond the Land Acknowledgment.” The presentation, part of a series hosted by the Office of Equity and Community Engagement, aimed to educate attendees on the history and significance of land acknowledgments and their role in the broader context of reconciliation and reparations.

The presentation was divided into three main sections: an introduction by faculty member Galina Tinsley, a lecture by Melissa Harris-Perry, and a Q&A session. Harris-Perry, a well-known political commentator and author, discussed her personal experiences with land acknowledgments and the importance of understanding their broader implications.

Tinsley began the presentation by explaining the concept of land acknowledgments, which are statements that honor the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and recognize their ongoing sovereignty.

Harris-Perry then shared her own experiences growing up in a family that was not from the United States but had strong connections to their ancestral lands. She emphasized the importance of acknowledging and respecting the land that we occupy, particularly in academic and institutional settings.

Tinsley concluded the presentation by encouraging attendees to think critically about their own relationships with land and to consider how they can support Indigenous peoples and communities.

Melissa Harris-Perry Headlines Annual Pierce Lecture

By Ainsley Feeney


Harris-Perry is an accomplished writer, speaker, political scientist, and media personality. Her many accomplishments include being the Maya Angelou Presidential Chair at Wake Forest University, where she is a professor of Politics and International Affairs, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Environment and Equity in Political Spaces.

Harris-Perry is an intersectional feminist whose work emphasizes justice and equity in political spaces. The talk opened with a basic, easy-to-understand overview of the predicted and actual results of the midterm elections, specifically covering important elections and swing states. She revealed that while most predictions from polling websites like FiveThirtyEight were correct in their predictions — the senate would be a close fifty-fifty split — the data makes it seem like there would be a “Red Wave,” or a significant number of new seats going to the Republican Party.

Harris-Perry warned of increased interest in participating in democracy, the panic surrounding national abortion rights and a generation of young voters who tend to vote more progressively than past generations.

The topic of young voters was especially relevant to the audience of college students, as this midterm cycle was the first election in which many in attendance were old enough to vote. Referring to the way college-educated whites are more likely to vote for Democrats, Harris-Perry said, “When you send white kids to college, they vote like Black and Brown people.”

Harris-Perry closed the talk by reiterating her “Black Feminist Toolbox,” the principles of Black feminism. She spoke about the need for more diversity and equity in political spaces and the importance of understanding the role of media in shaping public opinion.

Harris-Perry’s lecture was well-received by the audience, who were engaged and thought-provoking. The annual Pierce Lecture provides a platform for important and timely discussions, and this year’s event did not disappoint.
What's happening in Iran?

By Ainsley Feeney

Last Wednesday, Nov. 30 the Politics and Government Department, along with the Gender, Queer, and Sexuality Studies Department hosted an informational session titled “What’s Happening in Iran?” The session was used to address and inform students about the “protest movements and the severe government crackdown in Iran following the killing of Mahsa Amini,” as stated in the promotional information for the event.

The lecture was proposed by Professor Greta Austin and was hosted by Professors Sam Kigar of the Religion Department and Patrick O’Neil of Politics and Government. Professor Kigar’s work centers around Islam and how the religion of Islam impacts laws and society in primarily Islamic countries. Professor O’Neil’s work focuses on comparative politics in Middle Eastern countries, namely Iran. During the lecture, both professors spoke on the current conflict in Iran through their specific lenses of study. Professor O’Neil referenced many past revolutions in Iran’s history — such as the 1979 Iranian Revolution and the 2009 Green Movement — to point out how Iran is a revolutionary state with many different political, religious and ethnic groups. This paradigm combined with a theocratic government has pushed Iran to its current revolution.

Professor Kigar focused on how the theocratic government, enforced by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, has propelled Iranian citizens to revolt. In general, Iran and other Middle Eastern countries hold a distaste for the West and Western culture, which is why Islamic values are so heavily enforced. One of the many ways the Supreme Leader enforces Islam is through dress code, which mainly affects women who are required to wear hijabs or other head coverings. In this way, women’s bodies become objects of the state, used to further political power. In many ways, the Iranian hijab burnings are about protesting sexist policies in Iran. However, it is crucial to note that hijabs are not inherently oppressive; many Muslim women choose to wear hijabs freely. For many people, the hijab now represents a greater level of government control, the true subject of the protests. Kigar says that, all in all, the Iranian protests are “protesting the government using religion as a tool of oppression.”

In the West, it is easy for us to see the Iranian protests and write them off as a symptom of Islam but it is important to understand the violence civilians are facing for what it actually is — pure governmental oppression.

Empire of Venus: a narrative on ancient abuse

By Emma Aggar, contributing editor

“Empire of Venus” is a new play written by University of Puget Sound’s own Greek, Latin & Ancient Mediterranean professor Asilum Melchior. This production was a staged reading: the actors had scripts in hand and there was only rudimentary stage direction. This reading promises great things for a full production at a later date. “Empire of Venus” is based on Ovid’s Metamorphoses which is a collection of unrelated short stories about ancient myths and legends. Empire of Venus is a retelling of many of these stories. However, Dr. Melchior turned the focus away from the male protagonists and onto the women they interact with in their stories. “It is about the women in the Metamorphoses reclaiming their voices and some who even take revenge,” Dr. Melchior says.

Due to the subject matter of the stories themselves, with the women often subject to abuse, this is not a production to be taken lightly. The play features the discussion of rape and sexual assault in the ancient Greco-Roman world. Each scene covers the abuse of women in the context of one of Ovid’s stories. One audience member remarked after the production that she wished there had been better context. She felt it was important to add greater context, knowing that it can be difficult to appreciate the rest of the play when blinded by heavy matter subject matter.

On stage, a brief synopsis of the original story was given in the fill in the gaps for those who may not know the original tale. This was followed by the mim being handed to the women, giving them a voice that is left out of Ovid’s writings. With only five actors on stage and only two weeks of rehearsals behind them, the story felt disjointed at times, with very little continuity between scenes other than the general theme. It is unclear if this is an obstacle that would be overcome with more revision and workshop, or if this is due to the fragmentary nature of the script and the fact that edits were being made so close to production. This separation of scenes may be true to the Ovidian source, but it can feel out of place on stage. While this was noticeable, it did not detract from the scenes themselves. Despite the short timeframe, the actors had many of their lines memorized. Their prepared preparation included the memorization of long soliloquies — brought Dr. Melchior’s script to life. The monologues were interspersed with deadpan humor that mirrors Ovid’s own propensity for puns and wordplay. Dr. Melchior’s wordsmithing features modern language, elegantly stitched together into speeches that brought tears to the eyes of actors and audience alike.

The playbook included a page to write out any “painful or burdensome memories” that may be brought up. At the end of the play, the actors and characters alike invited the audience to drop their pages of thoughts into the ‘river’ on stage, where they would be swept away. Dr. Melchior assured the audience that rights came up that she would be burning the notes as a final act of release. In writing this play, Dr. Melchior hoped to create a story that forces catharsis for the audience.

Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra delivers enchanting hour

By Rowan Baiocchi

For just over an hour on Friday, Nov. 18, I was thoroughly enchanted by a performance from the University’s Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Dr. Anna Wittstruck, the symphony played four pieces with a brief intermission. The selection ranged from modern day composers like Jessie Montgomery to renowned classics like Brahms. It was, to be frank, an electrifying and at times awe-inspiring performance, especially to this first-time symphony-goer. The performance also featured guest composer Miguel Ledezma, a graduate student and current student in the MAT program here on campus. Watching Ledezma conduct a piece he composed about friendship, it was hard to miss not just his skill on the stand, but also the deep respect and admiration present in each and every player on stage.

A second guest also made an appearance, directly before intermission: award winning piano soloist and current student Ivan Tarasenkov joined to play a piece by George Gershwin, Tarasenkov, who arrived on the stage without any sheet music, demonstrated a level of skill, talent and outright joy in his craft that evades adequate description. Watching him play was a delightful and enchanting experience. Everything was perfect, from the way he moved across the keys to the absolute delight on Dr. Wittstruck’s face.

Speaking of Dr. Wittstruck, I would be hard pressed to call this true coverage of the performance without mentioning its conductor. Dr. Wittstruck was, in a word, masterful. In a few more words, she brought energy, enthusiasm and awe-inspiring electricity to the stage. At times her expressive conducting made it seem as though she was casting spells; it would be easy to spend an entire hour simply watching her at work. Truly, one cannot fully grasp the importance of the conductor until they see one at work, and Dr. Wittstruck was a shining example of this phenomenon. The energy she conveyed from the stand was echoed and amplified by the orchestra itself, a feedback loop that produced some of the most staggering music I’ve ever heard.

The symphony was an absolute delight to attend, in short. Its conductor was electrifying on the stand, its players were masterful in their playing and delighted in their expressions, and both Tarasenkov and Ledezma put on incredible displays of talent in their disciplines.
Horoscopes

Aries: Your sporadic wrapped may have been chaos, but at least there's always next week. While you may have Glee as your top artist for the third year in a row that's alright. Someday you'll move beyond your middle school obsession.

Taurus: You do not need four different types of milk in your fridge. While you might think that you're a barista in training you're definitely not and it's just an inconvenience to your roommates.

Gemini: Scale back this holiday season. I know Amazon is convenient and you're trying to renovate yourself but maybe it's time to lay low and stop trying to fix your problems with material things.

Cancer: It's time to stop being sad and start listening to Phoebe Bridgers. Get out in the snow, enjoy the last rays of sun and take a nice walk. You deserve good things!

Leo: While it may seem like it's a good idea to start a fight with your roommate, sometimes you just need to get outside and dig a hole in the dirt. There's no manual labor and get your angst out in a healthy way.

Virgo: The end of the semester is definitely not your friend at this time, but you might still have time to pull it together. Just because you have four papers due that you haven't started doesn't mean you can't get yourself back on track.

Libra: Stop telling all of your friends that they're the wrong child. Just because they're stubborn and need attention doesn't mean there's a third child whose parents didn't tell them about.

Scorpio: You may like the patterns you've established this year, but it's time to branch out and make new routines. Try a new holiday drink! Make a new friend! The possibilities are endless.

Sagittarius: Grow a plant, start a new hobby, but maybe it's time to lay low and stop trying to fix your problems with material things.

Don't Stop the Music

By Kate Patterson, contributing editor

A line dance to “Fake ID” by Big & Rich finished out the night. Dancers wearing red cowboy hats, and fog from a machine partially obscured the dancers. Regardless of different feelings towards country music, audience members loved the performance.

There was one controversial song included in the program, “Cold Hearted” by Kanye West. RDG put a statement in the program addressing it. “In the last 4-5 years, we’ve discovered a number of anticompetitive and racist actions, comments, and attitudes that we, as RDG, condemn,” the program read.

In response, RDG used a cover of the same song, choosing not to replace it — likely due to the 7 weeks of rehearsal dancers had already put in.

With the help of great lighting, fun choreography and a strong community, everyone in RDG got to shine onstage, regardless of how much experience they had. After the dances, RDG members gathered back on stage together, and as they ran on, the president and vice president, Keegan Smith and Emily Kidd, high-lived each dancer. In the program, Smith wrote, “I am so proud to be a part of this club and to share the stage with all our dancers tonight.” RDG was a celebration of joy and of the dancers themselves.

While it may seem like it's a good idea to start a fight with your roommate, sometimes you just need to get outside and dig a hole in the dirt. There's no manual labor and get your angst out in a healthy way.

Leo: It's time to stop being sad and start listening to Phoebe Bridgers. Get out in the snow, enjoy the last rays of sun and take a nice walk. You deserve good things!

Capricorn: While it may seem like it’s a good idea to start a fight with your roommate, sometimes you just need to get outside and dig a hole in the dirt. There's no manual labor and get your angst out in a healthy way.

Virgo: The end of the semester is definitely not your friend at this time, but you might still have time to pull it together. Just because you have four papers due that you haven't started doesn't mean you can't get yourself back on track.

Libra: Stop telling all of your friends that they're the wrong child. Just because they're stubborn and need attention doesn't mean there's a third child whose parents didn't tell them about.

Scorpio: You may like the patterns you've established this year, but it's time to branch out and make new routines. Try a new holiday drink! Make a new friend! The possibilities are endless.

Sagittarius: Grow a plant, start a new hobby, but maybe it's time to lay low and stop trying to fix your problems with material things.

Gemini: Scale back this holiday season. I know Amazon is convenient and you're trying to renovate yourself but maybe it's time to lay low and stop trying to fix your problems with material things.

Cancer: It's time to stop being sad and start listening to Phoebe Bridgers. Get out in the snow, enjoy the last rays of sun and take a nice walk. You deserve good things!

Virgo: The end of the semester is definitely not your friend at this time, but you might still have time to pull it together. Just because you have four papers due that you haven't started doesn't mean you can't get yourself back on track.

Libra: Stop telling all of your friends that they're the wrong child. Just because they're stubborn and need attention doesn't mean there's a third child whose parents didn't tell them about.

Scorpio: You may like the patterns you've established this year, but it's time to branch out and make new routines. Try a new holiday drink! Make a new friend! The possibilities are endless.

Sagittarius: Grow a plant, start a new hobby, but maybe it's time to lay low and stop trying to fix your problems with material things.

Don't Stop the Music

By Kate Patterson, contributing editor

A line dance to “Fake ID” by Big & Rich finished out the night. Dancers wearing red cowboy hats, and fog from a machine partially obscured the dancers. Regardless of different feelings towards country music, audience members loved the performance.

There was one controversial song included in the program, “Cold Hearted” by Kanye West. RDG put a statement in the program addressing it. “In the last 4-5 years, we’ve discovered a number of anticompetitive and racist actions, comments, and attitudes that we, as RDG, condemn,” the program read.

In response, RDG used a cover of the same song, choosing not to replace it — likely due to the 7 weeks of rehearsal dancers had already put in.

With the help of great lighting, fun choreography and a strong community, everyone in RDG got to shine onstage, regardless of how much experience they had. After the dances, RDG members gathered back on stage together, and as they ran on, the president and vice president, Keegan Smith and Emily Kidd, high-lived each dancer. In the program, Smith wrote, “I am so proud to be a part of this club and to share the stage with all our dancers tonight.” RDG was a celebration of joy and of the dancers themselves.

While it may seem like it's a good idea to start a fight with your roommate, sometimes you just need to get outside and dig a hole in the dirt. There's no manual labor and get your angst out in a healthy way.

Leo: It's time to stop being sad and start listening to Phoebe Bridgers. Get out in the snow, enjoy the last rays of sun and take a nice walk. You deserve good things!

Capricorn: While it may seem like it’s a good idea to start a fight with your roommate, sometimes you just need to get outside and dig a hole in the dirt. There's no manual labor and get your angst out in a healthy way.

Virgo: The end of the semester is definitely not your friend at this time, but you might still have time to pull it together. Just because you have four papers due that you haven't started doesn't mean you can't get yourself back on track.

Libra: Stop telling all of your friends that they're the wrong child. Just because they're stubborn and need attention doesn't mean there's a third child whose parents didn't tell them about.

Scorpio: You may like the patterns you've established this year, but it's time to branch out and make new routines. Try a new holiday drink! Make a new friend! The possibilities are endless.

Sagittarius: Grow a plant, start a new hobby, but maybe it's time to lay low and stop trying to fix your problems with material things.

Gemini: Scale back this holiday season. I know Amazon is convenient and you're trying to renovate yourself but maybe it's time to lay low and stop trying to fix your problems with material things.

Cancer: It's time to stop being sad and start listening to Phoebe Bridgers. Get out in the snow, enjoy the last rays of sun and take a nice walk. You deserve good things!

Virgo: The end of the semester is definitely not your friend at this time, but you might still have time to pull it together. Just because you have four papers due that you haven't started doesn't mean you can't get yourself back on track.

Libra: Stop telling all of your friends that they're the wrong child. Just because they're stubborn and need attention doesn't mean there's a third child whose parents didn't tell them about.

Scorpio: You may like the patterns you've established this year, but it's time to branch out and make new routines. Try a new holiday drink! Make a new friend! The possibilities are endless.

Sagittarius: Grow a plant, start a new hobby, but maybe it's time to lay low and stop trying to fix your problems with material things.