



NEWS, PAGE 3  
Makerspace open for student projects



FEATURES, PAGE 7  
Costume aficionado Sidney Presley discusses culture, identity



ARTS & EVENTS, PAGE 12  
Bonsai Museum offers beautiful escape

## LAST WEEK IN ASUPS SENATE

Senate has been quite busy the past two weeks! During these two weeks the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound (ASUPS) Vice President has chaired the Senate while we do nominations and elections for the new Senate Chair and other positions.

On Oct. 12 Dean Bartanen came to visit Senate and talked about her role on campus as the Academic Vice President, and Dean of the University/ Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. She answered questions that senators had related to her position as well.

ASUPS President Amanda Diaz talked about the Budget Task Force, asking for a fee increase for ASUPS. ASUPS is in the process of buying a new van for student use and progress has been made on that.

The Office of the President and Division of Student Affairs are working on putting together a Halloween event (because it's President Crawford's favorite holiday) and Sarah Comstock had updates on that. ASUPS is going to be involved somehow, probably with a themed Italian Soda bar.

Diaz submitted her Board of Trustees report last week and encourages all students to go to the open session on Friday, Oct. 27 at 11 a.m. in the Tahoma Room.

We confirmed the following senators after the election: Emma Piorier '21 (residence Hall senator), Morey Lipsett '19 (on-campus housing senator), Nicolas Rothbacher '18 (off-campus senator), Hannah O'Leary '21 (freshman senator), Elena Staver '20 (senator-at-large) and Matthew Parone '21 (senator-at-large).

We also confirmed three new clubs: Health, Environment, and Animal Liberation (HEAL), a club devoted to reducing the suffering of animals, humans and the environment through active awareness and education; UPS Students for FEPPS, a club that aims to raise awareness and support for the Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS) among campus members and to advocate for increased institutional support for FEPPS; Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club. Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club is an opportunity to practice, train and compete with Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

The Senate made two finance allocations: \$75 to Underground Sound to provide scholarships to members for the purchase of uniform t-shirts and \$300 to ECO Club to purchase the rights to the live-streamed Q&A with Al Gore and "An Inconvenient Sequel."

Senators also made nominations for Senate liaison positions.

On Oct. 17, Jessica Pense and Sarah Comstock presented on the Student Integrity Code Revision process. It's been 17 years since it's been revised and they have allotted two years for revisions. They encourage students to get involved since it is their policy. The student representatives will be Collin Noble, Caroline Schramm and Priyanki Vora.

ASUPS made a capital allocation for \$769 for the purchase of credit card machine for the ASUPS Office. This can be used to pay club sports dues, miscellaneous payments to ASUPS and many other things.

Senate elections happened at the conclusion of Senate. The election positions were:

Senate Chair: Katie Handick  
President's Council Liaison: Morey Lipsett  
Club Liaison: Matthew Parone  
Club Sports Liaison: Elena Staver

## CREATING A MORE EQUITABLE TACOMA: CITY PLANS MAJOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS



By Ayden Bolin

The Tacoma Link and Light Rail systems are expanding to areas of town that have historically been neglected. The project is reaching two and a half more miles with seven new stations between Hilltop and the Theater District, as well as adding new vehicles and updating facilities, according to [soundtransit.org](http://soundtransit.org).

"The system expansion includes seven new stations, five new vehicles, and an expansion to the existing operations and maintenance facility on East 25th street," a video posted to the project's website claims.

The existing Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) on East 25th street will be built upon to the east of the existing building, along with a new vehicle storage yard. The project is currently at a "pre-60-percent design milestone," and construction is scheduled to start in 2018, according to Sound Transit.

Not everyone has as much confidence about these dates, however.

Tacoma resident Alex Flynn commented, "I think that the plans to expand Light Rail are good, but I'm not optimistic about the project being finished in any timely manner ... or at all. Sound Transit has spent the last nine years since the recession gutting its services and walking back on promises to voters."

In 2013, National Public Radio member station KUOW 94.9 Seattle reported that between 2009 and 2013, Pierce Transit cut about half of the service that it offered prior to the 2008 recession.

"I think it's neat that they want to expand Light Rail to MLK [Martin Luther King, Jr. Way], but I'm not going to hold my breath," Flynn added.

This project is being brought forth due to a need for more accessible public transit in historically more low-income parts of town. Many people rely on public transit as a part of daily life in Pierce County, whether it is to get to school or work, since cars for private

transportation are not an option for all.

Matt Driscoll, in an article written for The News Tribune, tied a lack of public transit in with the national problem of gentrification in urban centers. As people are pushed farther away from urban centers where the cost of living was once more affordable, they are forced to the lower-cost housing on the outskirts of the town. This is generally where public transit is less available.

"The good news is that viewing our transportation needs through the lens of equity is not a new idea. There's a reason Tacoma's Link light rail expansion is headed to Martin Luther King Jr. Way on Hilltop," Driscoll said.

Ultimately, this project will come to fruition slowly, as construction has only loosely been assigned to the year 2018. Hopefully, by the time the station is up and running, it will be a well-needed addition to Tacoma as a growing, more equitable city.



# Sustainability Efforts in the Diner continue

By Emily Schuelein

Using the LeanPath system, Dining Conference Services (DCS) “was able to reduce the total food waste produced in the 2016 school year by over 10,000 pounds,” the University’s website states.

DCS has used LeanPath, a food waste reduction system, since 2016, according the University’s Sustainable Dining page.

“LeanPath is a scale that takes pictures and puts together a lot of different data for us,” Mark Stewart, Purchasing Manager, said. Examples of data include spreadsheets based on how much overproduction there is and how much food is past its use-by date. The “scale will take a picture and send it to the chef and I, and we can see what station, what product ... a dollar value [and a] weight amount that [the Diner is] donating to TAGRO,” Stewart said.

In 2014, the University of Puget Sound partnered with the City of Tacoma and installed three large Insinkerator in the Diner’s kitchen.

“An Insinkerator is a large, industrial-grade food waste disposer that grinds up food waste and diverts it to a City of Tacoma processing plant.” The food waste is turned into Tacoma Grow (TAGRO) products. The on-campus community garden buys back TAGRO products, according to the University’s website.

On where food at the Diner comes from, Stewart said, “a lot of our vendors have great local partnerships, whether it’s our salmon that’s off the coast of [British Columbia] or all of the farms in Puyallup valley we use. Our bakeries are all local, our coffee, I mean, you name it, the list goes on and on.”

The main provider of the produce at the Diner is Charlie’s Produce and they are the ones that source out all of the farms. The produce mostly comes from “up and down the I-5 corridor, all of the farms like Puyallup valley and up North, Bellingham area,” Stewart said.

DCS provides food to “local charities such as the Guadalupe House and Salvation Army through our Food Salvage Program with the help of students from the Food Justice Program,” the University’s website states.

Karina Cherniske, Food Justice Coordinator, said, “the



PHOTO CREDIT TO GABRIEL NEWMAN

Food Justice program works with the Diner primarily by running Food Salvage. Food Salvage is when a group of student volunteers goes into the Diner, packages food that is left over from the week, and takes it to the Guadalupe House and the Tacoma Rescue Mission where it is used to feed people instead of going to waste. We typically salvage about 100 pounds of food each time!”

“Donating prepared food is really challenging because it has to be done in a timely manner ... because we always worry about food safety. This program was started years ago by students. They found the Guadalupe House and set [the program] up and kept it moving,” Terry Halvorson, Director of Dining & Conference Services, said.

The garden provides herbs and produce to the Diner, according to the University’s website.

“The Puget Sound Community Garden is a student-run garden on the University of Puget Sound campus ... that helps bring together members of our student

body with community members in the surrounding neighborhoods.”

“As long as we are consistent in our efforts of food salvage and donating and LeanPath sustainability efforts will continue. My department is always working with the data we collect to change our order practices for the future,” Stewart said.

Some of the University’s sustainability initiatives include the Sustainability Advisory Committee, Sustainability Services, Environmental Campus Outreach (ECO) club and the list of Top 10 Actions everyone can do to create a sustainable campus. This list includes habits such as bringing your own cup to the cafes and Diner, ordering meals for here and refilling water bottles at the tap or fountains. More information can be found on the University’s website.

# University continues to work toward higher enrollment

By Marcelle Rutherford

It has already been reported that the current freshman class, the class of 2021, is uniquely small. As the fall semester reaches its midpoint, there is an increase in campus tours, as current high school students are starting to make decisions about their college education.

Although the University did not get the normal amount of students in this year’s freshman class, Vice President for Communications Gayle McIntosh has been very open about the fact that this is not a bad thing in terms of the goals of the admissions department.

“Enrollment is both an art and a science — we work to enroll each year a class of students who will make the most of their time here at Puget Sound. This year’s first-year class brings a great deal to the college: they are academically talented, geographically diverse and 31 percent identify as students of color (this is something we’ve been working on campuswide),” McIntosh said.

In an effort to diversify the campus, the University took a more focused approach to its outreach. As *The Trail* previously reported, there are more students than ever who are from Tacoma. This is due to an effort by the University to increase local outreach. However, this positive change came with a few small issues.

“There are also fewer students in the class than we expected; a few years ago we had more than we

expected. Each situation brings its own challenges, but our budgets are structured in such a way that we can accommodate natural ebbs and flows in enrollment without compromising the quality of the education that students receive,” McIntosh said.

One of the factors contributing to low numbers is geographic, there are less out-of-state students on campus this year, especially from California, which is traditionally a large recruiting area for Puget Sound.

“There are many factors involved, but probably the biggest is that we have fewer students from both California and Oregon this year. This is true for many colleges, due in part to changes in in-state enrollment practices throughout the University of California system,” McIntosh said.

This is a financial issue in part, as California students receive a sizable in-state tuition discount if they choose to attend a University of California (UC). However, regions are not the only factor at play.

“Changing demographics in the United States are another factor; for several years now there has been a decline in the population of traditionally-aged college students, so there is more competition among colleges for best-fit students. Still, as evidenced by application numbers and inquiries, interest in a Puget Sound

education remains high,” McIntosh said.

The admissions team is not worried yet about next year’s recruiting numbers, as there is still a substantial amount of incoming students showing interest in the University.

“We are always looking for new ways to get the word out about Puget Sound, and our colleagues in the enrollment office are busy recruiting next year’s class now. We had a strong turnout for the first Discover Puget Sound day of the year, and that’s always a good sign,” McIntosh said.

“In terms of where we are recruiting, as a national liberal arts college we cast a wide net across the United States and, increasingly, abroad. Particularly strong states for Puget Sound include those locations where we have very active alumni groups, such as California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, Oregon and, of course, Washington,” McIntosh continued.

It will be interesting to see what the future holds for the University as more and more diverse freshman classes are attracted to the school. Although the numbers may be small, the school appears to be very focused on changing the traditional makeup of the freshman classes and welcoming a broader spectrum of students here to the University.

## SECURITY UPDATES

This is an ASUPS Media Publication

The following is a summary of incidents reported to Security Services occurring on campus between October 17, 2017 and October 23, 2017:

A student reported an anti-Semitic phrase written on the one of the study cubicles on the third floor of Collins Library. The writing, written in pencil or ballpoint pen, was photographed and then removed. Because the

writing was on the side of the cubicle, it was difficult to see and it is not known how long it had been there. The writing tool used and the writing style differ from previous malicious writings, so it is unclear if it this incident is related to similar incidents reported.

Students at a University-owned house near Union Ave. reported suspicious activity and noises outside a bedroom window. Security

responded, but was not able to locate anything or anyone in the area.

Security responded to two incidents of misuse of alcohol in residence halls.

### Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is a community responsibility. Please do your part to keep the campus safe. Security staff work 24/7 and are

available to assist you. Always report suspicious activity immediately to Security Services (253.879.331). Be mindful of your safety and security by using our 24-hour safety escort program and by keeping belongings secured. The use of a U-bolt style lock to secure bicycles is highly recommended. Contact a member of our team if you have questions or concerns about campus safety. We are here to serve you.

## THE PUGET SOUND TRAIL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.....Casey O'Brien  
ART DIRECTOR.....Bec Sather Jenkins  
LAYOUT MANAGER.....ALLISON SHAPIRO  
MANAGING COPY EDITOR.....Becca Miserlian  
BUSINESS MANAGER.....Ivor Zalud  
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND OUTREACH.. Cole Driscoll  
ADVISOR.....Kari Plog  
WEB EDITOR.....Alex Hsu

NEWS EDITOR.....Nayra Halajian  
OPINIONS EDITOR.....Ella Frazer  
HAPPY TRAIL EDITOR.....Nayla Lee  
A&E EDITOR.....Georgia Gustavson  
SPORTS AND OUTDOORS EDITOR.....Lucas Crowley  
FEATURES EDITOR.....Molly Wampler  
PHOTO SERVICES GENERAL MANAGER.....Gabe Newman

1095 WHEELLOCK STUDENT CENTER, TACOMA, WA 98416-1095 | (253) 879-3197  
TRAIL@PUGETSOUND.EDU | TRAILADS@PUGETSOUND.EDU

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 University of Puget Sound and the greater Tacoma community and provides an open forum for student opinion and discourse.  
Visit [trail.pugetsound.edu](http://trail.pugetsound.edu) for the full mission statement.



# Tressie McMillan Cottom featured as Brown Haley Lecturer

By Keely Coxwell

“The reason why I do work that is really sometimes soul-crushing is that I do have to believe that in that is an opportunity for us to write a better story about what society we are going to be, who we are going to be,” Tressie McMillan Cottom said. “So if anybody is challenging your deeply-held convictions, take it as an invitation to remind yourself and examine why they are deeply-held convictions to begin with.”

On Wednesday, Oct. 18 and Thursday Oct. 19, Cottom gave talks based on her critically-acclaimed book “Lower Ed,” which is about for-profit colleges in America, and her experiences as an intellectual in the digital era. These on-campus lectures were part of the Brown and Haley lecture series. The first talk was given to about 40 people in Kilworth Memorial Chapel and lasted an hour, the second talk was in the Tahoma room to 30 people.

According to the University of Puget Sound website, the Brown and Haley lecture series originated in 1953, and was the first fully-endowed lectureship in the history of Puget Sound in 1981. The lectures are intended to make significant contributions to the understanding of urgent problems confronting society, emphasizing perspectives in the social sciences or humanities.

According to the University of Puget

Sound website, Cottom is an acclaimed assistant professor of sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University and she serves on many academic and philanthropic boards and publishes work related to issues of education, inequality, technology and more.

“Our committee — me, Melvin Rouse, Doug Sackman, Sue Hannaford, Kris Bartanen — collectively chose Dr. Cottom from an impressive shortlist of speakers. All of the speakers’ academic works are exceptional,” Shen-yi Liao, Assistant Professor of Psychology, said. “But Dr. Cottom’s work as a public intellectual, including appearances on the Daily Show and op-eds in The New York Times and The Atlantic, made her stand out as someone who can communicate these difficult issues to diverse audiences.”

“Tressie’s passion for this subject was clear and resonated with her personally, making it all the more enthralling, and I feel lucky to have heard her take on this important issue,” Alyssa Lederman said. “Further, I believe her discussion sparked important conversation and thought within the audience, pondering the issues that surround our own institution and figuring out ways to make a worthwhile higher education more affordable and accessible to those who may never encounter the opportunity otherwise.”

In 2017, Sociologists for Women in

Society awarded Cottom the Feminist Activist award for using sociology to improve the lives of women. Additionally, her research on higher education in the new economy has been supported by the Microsoft Research Network’s Social Media Collective, The Kresge Foundation, the American Educational Research Association and the UC Davis Center for Poverty Research, according to the University of Puget Sound website. Cottom is not a stranger to giving talks; she recently appeared on the Daily Show with Trevor Noah.

In her first talk Cottom discussed the dangers and realities of for-profit colleges.

“I would like to get to the big story of what education means in our culture and our society,” Cottom said. “By virtue of the fact that we are here tonight we tend to be the converted; we believe. This is why you are spending your free time listening to a lecture. And that education has worked out for you; you tend to be on the winning side.”

Cottom is a self-proclaimed winner as well, but her work largely focuses on the “losers” when it comes to education, who tend to be the people who go to for-profit colleges.

“By 2010, 2.5 million people were enrolled in for-profit colleges in the United States,” Cottom said. “In one year alone they were attracting 76 billion

dollars in student aid money.

“The for-profit sector appropriately serves older students, women, African Americans, Hispanics and those with low incomes,” Cottom said. “By expanding access to higher education in the first decade of the 21st century, what we had done was not increase access to high-quality higher education for millions of new people. We had created an entirely new tier of low-quality institutions for people who societally we have decided are low-quality people.”

Attending a for-profit college hurts you more than helps you.

“Let’s say you beat every odd and graduate. Your life should be transformed, but in reality you are more likely to be unemployed than you were if you had never gone to college. When you are unemployed you are unemployed for longer and you have a higher debt level,” Cottom said. “On average when you complete [your degree] at a for-profit college you do not get a wage increase.”

“Dr. Cottom’s work is absolutely crucial to understanding urgent problems that confront society. Her book ‘Lower Ed’ is, as the title says, on for-profit colleges, but it’s also on the value of education, racial and gender inequalities and the crumbling social welfare state,” Liao said. “She uses both humanist and social scientist tools to understand these complex phenomena.”

# New Makerspace in basement of Collins Memorial Library

By Andrew Izzo

The basement of Collins Library has undergone a drastic change in scenery. Where old microform machines once stood, a well-lit, shiny-looking glass room dominates the path to the Tech Center. This sleek and modern facade is the brand-new Makerspace.

A brainchild of Siddharth Ramakrishnan of the Neuroscience Department and Lynnette Claire from the Business and Leadership Program, as well as other faculty and staff, this space is designed to provide resources to students to allow their creativity to blossom beyond the limitations of the local craft supply store.

“We really want it to be an open, collaborative place for students, faculty and staff of Puget Sound to experiment with new technology and to create and make things,” Library Director Jane Carlin explained. It’s a “high-tech to low-tech” space, with some cutting-edge technology as well as some simpler crafting materials.

Thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation and some additional funding provided by the University, the Makerspace offers equipment and tools that otherwise would be difficult to access. These include things like 3-D printers, soldering guns, sewing machines and a

laser paper cutter.

Some of this new technology is tricky to use and quite expensive. Thankfully, Carlin reassured that no experience is required, and that anyone with an interest in learning how to

create in different ways is encouraged to come by. Workshops and other classes are offered to learn how to use and create with various tools.

The space itself is bright, open and has plenty of work space. There are desks both with and

without equipment, so students can work with more traditional tools. Staff will be there to assist with some of the more complicated technology, Carlin says.

Clubs also have access to the space, and the library hopes to partner with faculty to have class assignments that involve the Makerspace. Hours for usage depend on workshops and other scheduled events, but the space is available for any student to use during drop-in sessions.

Students have also expressed excitement in the idea of creating in the Makerspace.

“I think it’s cool that we have a space where we can access tools that you normally wouldn’t be able to get to use,” junior Tom Daligault said. “It opens up a lot of unusual mediums for creative projects.”

The Makerspace is an evolving place, and there will likely be more tools and workshops available as time goes on. Hours for the Makerspace are posted around Collins library, and can also be found at [research.pugetsound.edu/makerspace](http://research.pugetsound.edu/makerspace).

Carlin also hinted at more renovations coming to the basement of Collins in the coming years, moving towards bringing the library further into the 21st century.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND

## Hours for the Makerspace are as follows:

Monday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (sew, knit, craft cutter, 3d print, solder)  
7 p.m. – 9 p.m. (craft cutter, 3D print, solder)

Tuesday: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (sew, knit, crochet, craft cutter, 3D print, solder)  
7 p.m. – 9 p.m. (sew, knit, crochet, craft cutter, 3D print, solder)

Wednesday: 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. (sew, knit, crochet, craft cutter, 3D print, solder)

Thursday: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. (sew, knit, crochet, craft cutter, 3D print, solder)  
7 p.m. – 9 p.m. (sew, knit, crochet, craft cutter 3D print, solder)

Friday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (sew, knit, crochet, craft cutter, 3D print, solder)



*Opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of The Trail staff, ASUPS, the University or its Board of Trustees. Articles and letters in the Opinions section are printed at the discretion of the Trail editorial staff. The Trail reserves the right to refuse any letters submitted for publication. Letters to the editor will not be edited for grammar, spelling, or content, except in the case of material that is considered to be offensive, as determined by the Trail style guide. All letters to the editor must be signed and must have an email address or phone number. Letters for publication the following Friday are due no later than Monday at noon and may be sent to: The Puget Sound Trail, 1095 Wheelock Student Center, Tacoma, WA 98416 or trail@pugetsound.edu.*

## On mass shootings, identity and music

*CW: Discussion of terrorism, racial prejudice*

By Karlee Robinson

A gunman, Stephen Paddock, stationed on the 32nd floor of Mandalay Bay hotel opened fire on a large crowd of concertgoers at the Route 91 Harvest music festival on the Las Vegas Strip on Oct. 1. Victims are in search of answers, while explanations pose discussion on prejudice and reclaiming the power of music.

Leaving 58 people dead and 515 injured (updated Monday, Oct. 2 by Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo), it's fair to assume Paddock had an identity of extreme and irrational behavior, but there is little that we know about him to suggest this reality.

Paddock had no criminal record or military experience. On a 2014 real estate application, Paddock said his income came from "gambling," and later is said to have told a real estate agent he gambled \$1 million per year. Paddock was significantly wealthier than the average mass shooter (according to reports compiled by Mother Jones and a 2014 study of American mass murderers by Eric Madfis, a University of Washington-Tacoma sociology professor) and owned two planes and multiple homes. Other than his white male identity, Paddock defies the stereotypical character and lifestyle trends of past mass shooters.

In an interview with CBS News, Paddock's brother Bruce stated, "We have nothing to say, there's just nothing we could say. He was my brother ... He gambled, he was nice to my kids when they went out to Vegas, my kids didn't know him that well. He sends his mom cookies — there's nothing else to say. ... [He had] no religious affiliation, no political affiliation, he just hung out."

Reasoning towards a motive, could this all be explained by a simple adrenaline high? Routine autopsy reports conducted last week by Vegas coroners conclude no obvious sign of tumor, injury or abnormality. Paddock's body has been transported to Stanford University, where they will continue more studies. It's important to be considerate of sensitivities surrounding these events. Is motive really significant when the loss is of such a great scale?

Recounting the earlier Manchester Arena suicide bombing on May 22, 2017, in which a shrapnel-laden homemade bomb was detonated by Salman Ramadan Abedi following

a concert by American singer Ariana Grande, an act which killed 22 people including the attacker, it's unsettling to write off the similarities between this act and the Vegas shooting as mere coincidence. Where their means of violence differ, their settings are essentially identical, illustrating discontent's invasion of sacred expression.

which goes against the social expectations of the time, so what are the implications of terrorizing attacks in the center of musicians' stage?

It's important to also acknowledge how ethnicity plays a role in seeking explanation.

If Paddock wasn't a white male, it's certain the public wouldn't be seeking explanation as desperately as they are now.

Looking back to the Manchester Arena bombing, while ISIS claimed responsibility, it's important to realize how the similarities between the Vegas shooting and Manchester Arena bombing support awareness of human capacity; specifically, human capacity for violence and how it isn't defined by race. It's clear both tragedies held different intentions, but the results are enough to encourage broader caution, not caution according to race.

The behavior Paddock performed contradicts those we've been socially conditioned to assume, but behavior is not exclusive to specific races, and where the proof Vegas provided is not evidence anyone would beg offer, it stresses the importance of viewing conflict through an objective lens. If doing so, we can work towards avoiding tragedy at the fault of overlooking prejudices.

That doesn't go to say these events are an explicit example, but serves well to bring these thoughts to the forefront.

Music was once an outlet for the unfamiliar, encouraging progress down new avenues. When this progress manifests in the form of violence, all is lost. The horrific Vegas shooting — while emphasizing security dilemmas and existing racism — illustrates a broader picture that reflects chaos in both social and political climate. The Manchester Arena suicide bombing serves as another example.

Paddock took the power of music by abusing its stage. Paddock took the grounds on which counterculture's dialogue evolves. Most painfully of all, Paddock took lives. The strength victims showcased on the night of events — concertgoers combing the grounds for survivors and carrying out injured — proves we can reclaim the sanctity of music to honor those lost.



Las Vegas: area where the shooting took place PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKI MEDIA COMMONS

Music's expression is intended to productively communicate a need for change, not abhorrent acts of baseless frustrations. Perpetrators are abusing music to project personal distraught on undeserving bystanders. They're abusing its power even when their intentions are completely separate from the realm of music. While Paddock's actions remain absent of an explanation, perhaps his violent expression found a haven on music's stage because he knew its realm is untouched by normal government and social restrictions.

Music effectively speaks to the public in ways uninhibited by normal government and social restrictions and with this, has a strong history of voicing counterculture.

Its dialogue is direct and it isn't censored by the government or oriented around media. Music manages the capacity of personal experience, while maintaining intentional clarity. If nothing else, music is authentic. Music illustrates that

## Wage gap expected to shrink, more for some than others

By Sarah Buchlaw

Women are expected to finally reach pay parity in 2059 — 76 percent of us, that is. That year reads more like 2123 for black women and 2248 for Latinx women, according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

News articles are eagerly reporting that the gender gap is narrowing for the first time in years, but evidence shows that the gap is as wide as ever for women of color.

The term "wage gap" refers to the difference between the money women and their male counterparts make in the United States. Since 2007, that difference has been remained roughly 20 cents, meaning that the average woman makes about 80 cents to every man's dollar (National Women's Law Center).

In a report addressing those who claim that the wage gap is a myth, the Institute for Women's Policy Research asserts, "Just because the explanation of the gender wage gap is multi-faceted does not make it a lie."

The factors that the Institute cites as contributing to the wage gap are "discrimination in pay, recruitment, job assignment and promotion; lower earnings in occupations mainly done by women; and women's disproportionate share of time spent on family care."

Wage gap doubters must understand that an issue as nuanced as the wage gap deserves critiques that are equally so; the wage gap may be complex and even confusing, but extensive research shows that it is no lie.

Returning to the average woman's salary compared to her male counterparts, the key word is "average." That women earn 80 percent of what men do is a watered-down statistic that can be severely misleading. When we look beyond this calculated average, the reality becomes more clear.

It should be noted here that there is a substantial gap between white men's salaries and what black and Latinx men earn, but for the purposes of this article, white men's earnings will be the ones compared to women of various ethnicities.

So if we break down that 80 percent average, what do we find?

In 2016, white women earned 79 percent of what white men earned. Black women, however, made only 62.5 percent of what those white men generated. Finally, Latinx women's earnings in 2016 were an astonishing 54 percent of those of white men.

We can see, then, that the statistics published about the wage gap overall are often over-generalized. Now, we've come to the big news: the age-old wage gap is finally closing.

"This is the first time the female-to-male earnings ratio has experienced an annual increase since 2016," the United States Census Bureau reported on the earnings statistics of 2016. The increase they're referring to? 1.1 percent. The Institute for Women's Policy Research shows a slightly lower increase of a little under 1 percent.

A change of any size is meaningful, but I wouldn't pull out the "congratulations" banners quite yet. Like talk of the wage gap itself, discussions of it closing leave out a great deal of important information.

In 2016, the female-to-male earnings ratio of white women (compared to white men) increased by almost 4 percent from 2015. This sounds promising enough until you learn that the female-to-male earnings ratio of Black women decreased by 0.8 percent, and the ratio for Latinx women did not move at all.

Progress for white women is often deemed progress for all women, and we forget the realities of women of color. We cite the 19th Amendment of 1920, for example, as giving all women the right to vote. We often fail to acknowledge that very intentional policies,

tests and even state violence prevented black women from exercising that same right until the mid-1960s.

Today, we are just as quick to celebrate a narrowing of the wage gap (however minor it may be) as we were to celebrate the success of women's suffrage. But the 19th Amendment gave white women the right to vote, and this average wage increase gives white women economic progress; changes like these rarely reach as far as to improve the lives of women of color.

*Women are expected to finally reach pay parity in 2059 — 76 percent of us, that is. That year reads more like 2123 for Black women and 2248 for Latinx women, according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research.*



*The Happy Trail is The Trail's weekly sex column that seeks to inform the community on issues related to sexuality and gender by addressing these topics in an education-based way. Our mission is to make the campus a safer place by normalizing and demystifying topics like safer sex practices, sexualities, kinks and polyamory, while shedding light on topics like trans rights, sexual and domestic violence, gender inequalities and intersectionality. Happy Trail correspondents are not medical professionals; if you have a medical concern contact CHWS or a local clinic. Otherwise, direct your sexuality and gender questions to nalee@pugetsound.edu. Respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to trail@pugetsound.edu.*

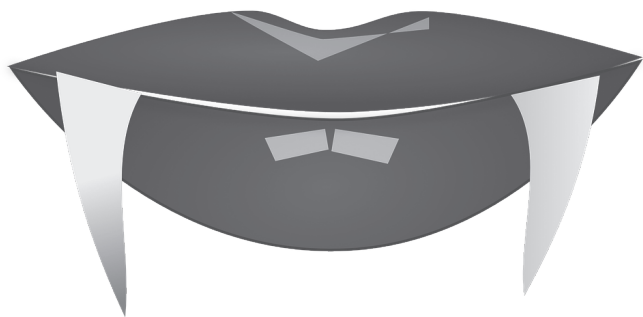
## Getting some more bang for your buck: *Integrating your Halloween costume into your sex life*

By Meghan Rogers

Halloween is rapidly approaching, and as the titian leaves fall in the chilling wind and the ghouls and spirits start to come out, the question rolls around like clockwork: what should I be for Halloween? And, arguably more pressing, how can I make this costume work for my sex life? After all, if you're putting time and money into your outfit, you want it to provide you with a lil' somethin' extra. Luckily for you, The Happy Trail has thought of some fun and flirty ways to help your costume get you more than just candy this Halloween season. Sure, our ideas may be a bit unconventional, but we want our Loggers to stay unique this season, baby.

### *The Vampire*

If "Twilight" taught us anything, it's that vampires truly are sex monsters. This is likely because in most interpretations of their lore, they are portrayed as attractive in order to more effectively lure in their prey. Biting and blood play are no-brainers, but also vampires are commonly portrayed as being sexually dominating. If you're used to being more of a sub and want to see what the other side is like, this may be the costume for you.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

### *The Mummy*

Why not have a sexy take on an old classic? You can wrap yourself up in long strips of fabric or even drape yourself in toilet paper to show your devil-may-care attitude towards the "conventional" Halloween attire. The connection to the bedroom is easy. Your partner or the lucky person that holds your affections for the night will see you and will likely immediately want to start stripping away at these extra layers. To amp up this costume's freak factor, you could even use the strips to tie each other up. Fun for everyone!

### *A Lab Rat*

It's 2017. The cat costume has been done a million times. Update it with our favorite underrepresented animal friend and add a bit of politics and you have the Lab Rat. Now you can finally put that lab coat from your Scientific Approaches core to good use. Sure, cats get fetishized, but let's give rats a second in the spotlight! According to the National Fancy Rat Society, rats are social creatures that seek companionship. Sound familiar? This costume will also give you an opportunity to spread awareness that we need to stop animal testing. Nothing is hotter between the sheets than a cutie who isn't afraid to speak up about what they believe in.



### *A Peddler Peddling Their Wares*

With this 'fit, you can really layer up (until you're ready to layer down with a cutie). Make sure you wear layers of cloaks and sweaters and blankets to stay warm, but also so you can easily shed them and expose all the wares you have been working so hard to carry around all night. Turning this into a flirty game is easy ... what would you sell?

### *Morph Suit*

The ambiguity behind the morph suit is hot. You'll have lots of fun being able to freely express yourself on the dance floor of the Halloween function with complete anonymity. Lots of fun for your partner as well if you're into roleplaying as strangers or like a little bit of ~mystery~.

These are just some suggestions, but you can pretty much turn any costume into a fun time in the bedroom as long as all parties communicate their interest and are respectful of boundaries. Don't forget to have fun! If comfortable, establish a safe word before embarking on your ~spooky~ roleplaying journey.



## Not having sex in college: *Students talking stigma and support*

By Emma Holmes

On a campus fully immersed in "hook-up culture," it can be difficult to navigate the realities of not having sex with others, whether the decision is deliberate or not. As a sex-positive section, we would be remiss not to affirm everyone's autonomy over their sex lives. This week, The Happy Trail reached out and interviewed two anonymous sources about their experiences as virgins\* in college — the reasons, the pressures, and the stigmas.

The first of our interviewees, who we'll refer to with the pseudonym "Frances," is voluntarily remaining abstinent until they're married. The second, "Jamie," identifies as a virgin by circumstance, having simply not found the right person, place and time to take that step. We asked them both about their experiences navigating identity, sexual exploration and social pressures surrounding their circumstance.

Frances attended a private Christian middle and high school, where their decision to stay abstinent until marriage was widely supported by their teachers and parents. Several of their friends made a similar commitment, and the decision was relatively easy to uphold. Their significant other shared that value, and the two worked together to avoid tempting situations.

In college, Frances draws support from their friends and family, as well as their faith. "It's for my benefit, not others. If God wants me to do this, it must be important," they stated. They've found friends who share their faith, as well as those who do not. The key, they told us, is simply being willing to talk about their decision instead of making assumptions about it.

According to Frances, the most significant pressures to have sex come from people's misunderstanding. Frances worries that people perceive them as feeling superior because of their decision to remain abstinent. This stigma is enhanced by people's discomfort when the subject arises. "Most conversations about sex are pretty brief once I tell them I'm a virgin." However, Frances says they appreciate it when people ask direct questions, or address their discomfort. It offers them a chance to clarify their position. "This is just something I'm choosing to do. It doesn't mean I think any less of anyone who doesn't do it."

Our other interviewee, Jamie, made no such commitment, but identifies as a virgin because they haven't participated in penetrative sex with another person. While they felt uncomfortable about their virginity their first year of college,

participating in more conversations about it has made them realize the true array of sexual experience on campus. Encountering friends, teammates, and peers who comfortably discuss their sex lives, or lack thereof, has normalized Jamie's experience, making them more comfortable with their own situation. These frank conversations, however, have made them increasingly aware of sexual assault in intimate situations. "Hearing close friends' experiences with sexual assault made the threat much more real. It was something I hadn't really thought about." While Jamie says that they "definitely still want to have sex" someday, they are warier than they were in high school about safety and comfort.

Both interviewees made it clear that the most critical aspect to navigating a sexually active campus as a virgin was transparent, non-judgmental conversations. Where Frances and Jamie otherwise felt that people were judging them, communicating honestly about their decision or circumstance made them more comfortable in themselves and with others' perceptions. Frances elaborated: "I'd say it's definitely not comfortable, but it's something that I like to push myself to do. I've learned recently — and through life — that being transparent is something that's super rewarding ... I would love to see people questioning each other in a friendly way more often. In a curious way, not confrontational." Jamie, similarly, said they were surprised with how comfortable they've become sharing the fact that they see themselves as a virgin. While they say they've felt shame around sex in the past, they're becoming more and more comfortable with the subject. The bottom line? Everyone makes decisions for different reasons, including whether to have sex or not. Avoid assumptions about someone based simply on this very personal decision.

*The concept of virginity is one that we grapple with regularly at the Happy Trail. For the purposes of this article, we define a virgin as an individual who has never engaged in sexual intercourse. We invite our readers to consider and challenge the concept of virginity, and the damaging effects of the cis-heteronormative and narrow definition imposed by traditional sexual norms.*



# ASUPS' "Topics on Tap" opens conversation around DACA

By Angela Cookston

The first of the monthly Topics on Tap discussions focused on why Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) matters to all community members and students, what was being done by the University and how more people could get involved in protecting the rights of students affected by DACA.

The town-hall-style discussion was led by Amanda Diaz, President of the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound (ASUPS), on Oct. 11. It was designed to be informal. "We're really encouraging people to feel comfortable and empowered," Diaz said. "So hopefully this is gonna be a first time where we can have these conversations and begin to shape a culture around conversation, honest feedback and grievances."

Diaz encouraged every person in the audience to share their thoughts, feelings, questions, and suggestions. The event had ASUPS note-takers who would deliver the notes to the campus administration and serve as a liaison between students and the administration.

DACA, which was created in 2012, protected children who were brought into the

U.S. illegally as young children and defers their deportation so that they can work and attend school. A New York Times article titled "Trump Moves to End DACA and Calls on Congress to Act" stated that until Oct. 5, DACA recipients could renew their two-year deferment of deportation one last time, ultimately ending all DACA coverage by Oct. 2019.

Because there are students who might be potentially affected by the ending of DACA coverage on any college campus, this issue matters to the University of Puget Sound.

In addition to the efforts of the University to support undocumented students financially and legally, the ASUPS senate has raised over \$7,000 to fund DACA renewal fees and efforts to promote Know Your Rights training have been increased.

If there were legal bounds or a subpoena to take or deport a student on campus, the University would be required by law to give up students to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers. This means that if ICE officers come to campus searching for a DACA student the University itself can't

resist this in any way and must allow the ICE officer onto campus.

Many students believe the University should take stronger action to keep undocumented students on campus and resist ICE. Advocates for Detained Voices has set up an emergency network designed to alert community members to the presence of ICE officers. This way, community members can use obstruction strategies such as physically blocking cars, linking arms, removing the individual to a sanctuary location and attempting to block an interaction between ICE officer and undocumented student.

"I think what is important about us meeting as a community is what we can do outside of that legal language," Diaz said. She explained that many students are privileged U.S. citizens who are willing to be on the front line of these issues in place of those with less privilege.

Students interested in civil disobedience should do research to know their rights and the possible consequences of these actions.

In response to this discussion on community action, an audience member

spoke on behalf of the women's soccer team and other athletes at the University. They said that representatives from every sport meet on the Student Athlete Advisory Council, which has the potential to mobilize over 500 people. Athletes could help bridge the gap between campus social justice and the Tacoma community.

Towards the end of the talk, Diaz said that many students and community members approach her to ask what action will take place in response to these social justice issues. She said that it is not up to one person to take action. The community as a whole should create events and protest injustice together.

"It's honestly saddening to see people who have their nose in their books when there's literally the threat of people being taken off campus," Diaz said. "There needs to be direct action to allow for people to ... step outside of their privileged midterm life and think about these things."

Since the walkout protest in 2015, there has been little community action in response to social justice issues. "It just needs you. You could do it," Diaz said.

# CHWS offering myriad of support groups this Fall

By Angela Cookston

Every semester, Counseling, Health, and Wellness Services (CHWS) forms support groups for students with a variety of needs. Below are the groups, their meeting times and their open status. Some groups are currently closed to maintain stability within membership and might be open again at the start of spring semester.

## Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACoA)

Meets every Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Social Justice Center.  
Led by Chris Edwards, PsyD.

"This group is open and drop-in. Students who have family members struggling with alcoholism or other substance use/addiction are welcome to join. Group format is both peer support and process oriented," Edwards said.

## All Addictions Anonymous (AAA)

Meets every Friday from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Multifaith Room in the basement of Kilworth Chapel.

Led by Colleen Carette, PA-C.

"All Addictions Anonymous includes ALL obsessive-compulsive patterns such as drinking alcohol, using drugs, gambling, sex, self-harm or injury, food, anorexia, bulimia, sugar, smoking, co-dependency, etc. Anyone can certainly increase this list and all are welcome," Carette said.

"The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop acting out," she added.

## Between the Lines - LGBTQ Support

Meets every Tuesday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at CHWS.

Led by Donn Marshall, PhD.

"For details, including meeting location, students should speak to a current participant or contact me directly," Marshall said (marshall@pugetsound.edu).

## Chronic Pain and Illness

Meets every Tuesday from 5 to 6 p.m. at CHWS.

Led by Jeffrey Okey, PhD.

This group is open to new students. "At this time [the group] remains open to anyone who identifies as having a chronic pain or illness condition, and is interested in both support and working toward effective self-management," Okey said.

## Eating Disorders Anonymous (EDA)

Meets every Tuesday from 5 to 6 p.m. in

the Multifaith Room in the basement of Kilworth Chapel.

Led by Colleen Carette, PA-C.

"Eating Disorders Anonymous (EDA) is a fellowship of individuals who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problems and help others to recover from their eating disorders. People can and do fully recover from having an eating disorder," Carette said. "In EDA, we help one another identify and claim milestones of recovery," Carette said. "The only requirement for membership is a desire to recover from an eating disorder."

## Grief Group

Meets every Thursday from 1 to 1:45 p.m. in the Student Diversity Center.

Led by Reverend Dave Wright, University Chaplain and Director for Spiritual Life and Civic Engagement.

This group is open to new students.

"It is an informal, low-structure group that is moderated to support students as they live with both recent and distant griefs of various types. There's no screening process, although I'm very happy to talk with students if they have questions about the group prior to attending," Wright said. "Because it's open, with no commitment required (but participation encouraged), people are welcome to come weekly or sporadically based on their own needs, energy and schedule."

## Intercultural Support — Students of Color

Meets every Thursday from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Social Justice Center.

Led by Khalila Fordham, PsyD and Sam Smith, MA.

"This group is open and looking for new



PHOTO CREDITS TO: SEAN GREALISH

members to get started!" Evans, ACoA leader, said. "The aim is to provide a safe, supportive space for Students of Color and/or students from minoritized backgrounds to share their experiences and openly discuss topics/current events that may be impacting their daily life. ... To express interest or learn more about the group, contact chws@pugetsound.edu."

## Sexual Assault Survivors Group (SAS)

Meets every Wednesday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at CHWS.

Led by Charee Boulter, PhD.

"Currently the SAS group is full for the fall. If interested in the group for the spring, please contact CHWS in January," Boulter said. "The Sexual Assault Survivors Support group is offered each year to provide support to survivors of childhood sexual abuse and/or adult sexual assault," Boulter said.

"The SAS group is run as a closed group. ... Members meet with the group leaders prior to joining the group for a screening interview to ensure the group is a good fit for the survivor. Members commit to

attending weekly for the semester and this allows the members to develop trust and confidence with each other."

## Stress Management & Coping Skills

Meets every Tuesday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at CHWS.

Led by Khalila Fordham, PsyD and Paolo Larano, MA.

"This group aims to provide students with concrete skills to manage distress. Coping skills are introduced related to four domains — distress tolerance, emotion regulation, mindfulness and interpersonal effectiveness. The group draws on principles of Dialectical Behavior Therapy," Evans, ACoA leader, said.

This group is open to new members. To join, contact chws@pugetsound.edu or just stop by.

*To join an open group or get more information, talk to any CHWS staff member, call CHWS at 253-879-1555 or email chws@pugetsound.edu.*



# 39 students take part in Experiential Learning summer intern programs

By Molly Wampler

*Correction: It has come to the attention of The Trail that a number of statements in an article published Sept. 29 were false. Below is the revised article with appropriate factual accuracy.*

This summer, 39 University of Puget Sound students participated in one of three Summer Immersion Internship Programs sponsored by Experiential Learning at Puget Sound.

Through the Summer Fellowship Internship Program, the University helps connect students with various organizations in the Tacoma community. “This program is a special opportunity for students who wouldn’t otherwise be able to intern with nonprofits or government agencies,” Renee Houston, the Associate Dean for Experiential Learning and a professor of Communication at Puget Sound, said. With funding from donors and the University, 23 interns were awarded a fellowship this summer to cover living expenses, and on-campus housing was offered for a low fee.

Experiential Learning at Puget Sound has also taken great strides to make the process of getting class credit for summer internships simpler for students and faculty members. Nine students participated in the Summer Academic Internship Program this past summer, and earned class credit for their local internships by completing supplemental course work with other summer interns. An online class was an option for the seven students in the Intern Away Program this summer which offered the same unit of class credit for national internships. For those interning in Tacoma, the same inexpensive on-campus housing was offered; however, students were still responsible for paying the cost of a summer class.

Interns are also connected with various Puget Sound alumni throughout the summer, and this mentorship opportunity helps students connect their internships to professional

life after college.

Despite being introduced to the University only two years ago, Experiential Learning at Puget Sound has already given undergraduates countless opportunities to involve themselves in educational experiences outside of the classroom. “Everything we do is always centered on how we [can] help students connect their academic learning with experiences [through] a reflective component,” Houston said. “[Reflection] deepens students’ learning, it transforms their knowledge, it clarifies their values, it develops their critical thinking skills,” she said.

Experiential Learning at Puget Sound recently launched a new internship program for sophomores called RISE, or Reflective Immersive Summer Experience, which will begin this spring semester. Students enroll in a .25 unit class which focuses on the development of their personal, civic and professional skills. Experiential Learning at Puget Sound then helps students find their own summer internships. “This program coincides beautifully with that moment when students are choosing a major,” Houston explains, and she hopes that eventually every eligible sophomore will participate.

“The common thread across all Experiential Learning programs is reflection,” Houston said. “When we look at Experiential Learning as a learning process, that reflection is really the transformative moment.”

For more information on other experiential learning opportunities, visit [www.pugetsound.edu/academics/experiential](http://www.pugetsound.edu/academics/experiential), or stop by Experiential Learning’s office in the basement of Howarth Hall in room 005.

## Sydney Presley talks costumes, culture and social media By Nayla Lee



2013: “La chalupa is bout to be la borracha in a few hours. Follow 4 moar jokes like dis one~”



2014: “Just a pan dulce mami looking for her lechero papi in this world”



2015: “A bag of sweaty rueditas walks into a bar...”



2016: “I’ll acknowledge Tajin’s ‘this is not a candy’ label the same day I read Apple’s Terms & Conditions.”

PHOTO CREDITS TO: SYDNEY PRESLEY@EMO\_EXTREMO

Sydney Presley describes the tweet that garnered her minor internet fame last year as “a scream into the void.” Her post, four pictures of Halloween costumes from 2013–2016, soon went viral. “It definitely took me by surprise. I just tweeted a random thing and I only had like 100 followers or something,” she said in an interview from her home in West Covina, California. The 26-year-old works full-time with children, who she says couldn’t care less about her 26,300 Instagram followers or her handmade Halloween costumes.

During our interview, she wore a bright striped sweater with a cutout felt heart pinned to it. We spoke about her inspirations for her costumes, the importance of her support network and how she dealt with a sudden presence on the Internet.

Presley’s parents loved Halloween. “My dad would always set up the haunted houses ... and I was so into it, right off the bat. ... He would get into weird trouble at school because he would bring in these grotesque things. Like, he would put dummy heads on rotisserie motors and the kids would come out crying and me and my dad would just be like, ‘Yes,’” Presley said. Her mother made all of her costumes throughout her childhood, and taught her youngest daughter how to wield a mean hot glue gun.

In high school, Presley’s knack for sewing and costuming translated into a “full-blown scene phase,” in her words. She described her love for Karen O. of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, David Bowie and especially the members of My Chemical Romance as her early fashion inspirations. Making her own clothes became both a means of personal and creative expression. “I was never really into going to football games, but if I could wear a loud outfit, like, I’d go,” Presley said. Her passion for music and attention-grabbing outfits is well-documented on social media.

In recent years, Presley has dressed up as La Chalupa from the game Loteria, a concha (a type of pan dulce), duros (mouthwatering pinwheel-shaped chips) and made matching Takis outfits for herself and her dog, Moz.

Many of Presley’s costumes are a nod to her Mexican heritage. She draws much of her inspiration from her grandparents, especially her grandmother, who passed away in 2013. “When I wasn’t in my house here in West Covina, I was over there. The food thing and the things that have more to do with my Mexican culture definitely comes from my grandparents,” she said.

We spoke about the time she spent with them in Montebello, which she called her “second home.” She spent a summer there while transferring colleges. “It was a really weird time for me, but such an inspirational time. I’d walk down the alley to the panadería and that’s where the concha came from. ... All these little things that I remember from her house or being there, that’s really where it came from,” Presley said.

While the costumes were met with overwhelming positivity, people on the internet aren’t always nice. It only took four days for her tweet showcasing four years of costumes to be featured in a BuzzFeed article, and not everyone was thrilled with her creations. Presley noted that some people took offense, seeing her work as distorting and making fun of Mexican culture.

Comments such as “my culture is not a costume” were especially surprising and hurtful. “I am a firm believer in that sort of thing, but I was like, ‘This is my culture as well; this is how I’m appreciating it.’ I’m not making fun of it. ... Like, they’re snacks. They’re childhood snacks that I grew up eating and they have to do with my Mexican culture, but I’m not saying that they’re definitive of Mexicans. I didn’t come out to be like, ‘I’m the queen of Mexico.’ I never tried to represent anyone other than myself.”

While Presley appreciated the compliments and thoughtful criticisms, the sudden spotlight on her work caused both stress and gratitude. “People were openly discussing me in the comments section like I didn’t read them. It really throws you into an existential crisis when you see your picture on the explore page,” she said. She stayed optimistic, focusing on her fans and acknowledging other artists who were working just as hard without receiving the same recognition.

Presley does her best not to let the social media presence have too much control over her life. She described fighting the pressure to post more often, monetize her work or crank out costumes mindlessly. She still has a full-time job, and friends and family who have been incredibly supportive. In fact, the only free products she’s received thus far have been from Tajín. After she turned herself into a human-sized container of the popular seasoning, her mom sent them a picture of her costume, and they sent her a package of all different types of their product.

While she kept the details of her upcoming Halloween costume a secret, Presley revealed that she had agreed to the interview with *The Trail* because of her own involvement in student media in college. As the Editor-In-Chief of her college newspaper and a participant in the Journalism Association of Community Colleges competitions, Presley has fond memories of frantic production nights and the satisfaction of a completed piece.

And what’s next for her? “I’m just gonna continue creating as I normally would, because I didn’t go into any of this having a hard plan. It’s always just been because I like doing these things. It’s just a hobby. I don’t try to make it sound like a craft I’ve perfected over the years. It’s still hot glue and a lot of felt ... but it is my art. It’s something that I create and I take pride in, so I’m going to continue doing that,” she said. Keep your eyes peeled for her next piece! She’ll likely share it on Instagram (@emo\_extremo) and Twitter (@wifwifey91).



## Vari settling into his second year as head coach of women's soccer

By Zachary Fletcher

The women's soccer team's 2016 season brought excitement and success to the Puget Sound soccer community. The team ended the season going 13-4-3 with 10 conference wins and over 30 goals scored throughout the season. Head coach Joe Vari was in his first season with the team, having been named head coach back in March of 2016. As he and the team head into their second season, they've got their sights set even higher.

Vari spoke of the adjustments he needed to make when coming on as head coach last season.

"When you come to a new school, you think things will be the same and that's not always the case. Pretty much the game itself was the same; it has 11 people and the ball is still round. Everything else was different," Vari said. There was much to learn in his first year on campus, both on and off the field.

"You learn about your players, about the conference schools, how the schedule works and then on top of that you have to figure out the basic day-to-day items in the office. What buildings are what, how does the phone/e-mail work, booking travel in a new region, recruiting, admission, etc.," he added. "The first year is a crazy change."

Logistically, Vari has settled in and now understands even more about his team. "I have a solid understanding of how our group works and how classes affect our student athletes and training times," Vari said.

The student-athletes of the team recognize the drastic change and acknowledge Vari's ability to keep things fairly consistent both on and off the field.

"A lot of times with new coaches there can be setbacks because the flow is broken. However, when Joe came in, I saw few if any setbacks. I feel the team transitioned well with a new coach," junior Elizabeth McGraw (Moses Lake, Washington) said about last year's squad.

Senior Emily Prasil (Lake Oswego, Oregon) also acknowledged the success last year despite missing the conference championship. "We were undefeated at home and posted as many overall goals as our previous championship year."

Both McGraw and Prasil speak highly of their second-year coach, especially with regards to the type of practices he runs.

"His practices look for constant improvement. He always has a concept he wants to work on during practice," McGraw said.

"Coach Vari cultivates positive team dynamics that include a culture of holding each other to high standards and keeping each other accountable over our long season," Prasil added. "Those are essential links to our program's impressive legacy."

Vari speaks of his venturesome practice regiments with an emphasis on trying new things: "We approached our training sessions with a different perspective and taught a lot of new concepts this fall. We've worked with a couple of different formations, and have finally found one that fits with this group."

Both Vari and his players acknowledge the success and near-champion status of last season, but they choose to focus on the present. Each new season loses seniors, but those seniors are replaced by talented first-year students backing up a strong upper class of athletes.

"We look at each year independent of the last. The team dynamic is always different as you add and graduate players, and that makes every year a different story," Vari said. "That's the fun part and the hard part, every year is a little different and requires something new," he added.

Coach Vari's players also share an appreciation for the level of coaching they've experienced while at Puget Sound.

"Joe is very approachable and easy to talk to. He is very understanding and always open for suggestions from players and coaches," McGraw said.

"I feel very fortunate to have played under two great college coaches. Their soccer programs have brought out the best of who I am as a player and have reinforced the character building aspects of competitive sports," Prasil said.

Despite this being only his second year on campus, Coach Vari has cultivated a talented core of soccer players at Puget Sound. Their first season was a strong showing for the then-first-year head coach. But as Coach Vari suggests, each season brings something new and can't be based on previous years. The continuation of Coach Vari as head coach surely has the women's soccer program headed to the heights in the coming season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOGGER ATHLETICS

## Senior volleyballers have tight-knit bond

By Tayla MacPherson

"They are unusually close as a class, have really good energy, promote strong team culture and they are just really good humans," head women's volleyball coach Mark Massey said about the senior class. There are six volleyball seniors this season: Hannah Stinson, Shelby Kantner, Erika Smith, Moira McVicar, Rachael Garrison, Katie Rice and Rita Dexter. Each of them have made an immensely strong mark on the women's volleyball program.

Although the women's volleyball team has had an inconsistent season, Coach Massey explained two starters were placed on bench due to unexpected injuries. "What I have appreciated most is that they have worked really hard to fill those gaps. They have helped match our expectations. What you always want from every team you coach is hard work," Massey said.

Overall this season, the women Loggers are 7-10 and 4-6 in conference. They are tied for sixth place with Willamette in the Northwest Conference Standings. These statistics may not sound amazing; however, the senior women alone have 356 kills and 637 digs this season. This class holds the highest scores in all categories.

Individuals who have been recognized by the conference include Rita Dexter, holding the fourth-best hitting percentage in the league at 0.262; Moira McVicar with the

fourth-best assists per set at 8.75; and Rachael Garrison with the fifth-highest number of digs at 281.

Senior Erika Smith (Bellingham, Washington) discusses the challenges and the advantages of the senior culture. "Our senior class is best friends on and off the court, but are still very competitive with one another. Our previous upperclassmen shared with us that we need to be super inclusive and ignore the grade boundary, so I think that has been one of our strengths this season. The most challenging thing that can happen on the court is if someone else is playing over you and it is one of your best friends playing over you," Smith said.

Like Smith said, the team pays little attention to age. First-year student Hannah Wright (Belmont, California) describes her experience with the senior class. "They are overall a very welcoming group. Even though they are a very close-knit group of girls I still feel like I am one of them; there isn't any grade separation," Wright said.

Since this group of women is so unique and supportive of one another, they have yet to experience a major challenge throughout their four years at Puget Sound. Katie Rice (Glendora, California), a senior hitter for the team, describes her appreciation for her teammates. "We are abnormally supportive of each other even when we play

over one another, which is very unusual in teams. Many times, that can cause a problem with team dynamics and culture," Rice said.

Some goals the senior class has set to improve the team are a higher team GPA, team-first mentality and selflessness. Senior Shelby Kantner (Spokane, Washington) explains some improvements the team would like to make in the last stages of season. "We want to improve on starting faster and coming out hot in the first minutes of the game, instead of starting slow. Once we have momentum we do really well, but we have to reach that point faster. A part of that is having the team hit above 0.250 or hitting a higher average each game," Kantner said.

Kantner explained a goal the senior class has always strived to achieve. "One of our goals since freshmen year was to all play together and all be able to contribute on game day, and we did that," Kantner said. "All the seniors this season either start the majority of matches or contribute a solid number of minutes to each game. This is a quality not all teams have. Having a class with such high expectations for one another and upholding them throughout all four years is inspirational."



PHOTOS CREDIT TO: DAN MCCORMACK

4-Top Loaders  
8-Double Loaders  
Large 3 Load Dryers  
Big 4 Load Dryers  
Large 4 Load Washers  
FREE WI-FI!

SAVE TIME!  
WASH ALL YOUR  
LAUNDRY AT ONCE!

"I like this place. It really rocks!" - Cathy M.

**Lighthouse Laundry**  
2800 1st Ave S  
Tacoma, WA 98404  
Open 8am - 9pm  
Westgate South • Tacoma  
(corner of Pearl & N. 26th)  
Only 5 minutes from campus!

www.lighthouselaundry.biz



## Sports Recaps

By Kevin White

## VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team split over the past weekend. On Friday, Oct. 20, the team lost 3-0 to George Fox, losing by 4, 3, and 2 across the sets. First-year student Melanie Siacotos (Newark, CA) had 11 kills. In the next game, the Loggers rebounded and defeated Pacific 3-1. The Loggers only dropped the second set, and won sets three and four handily. Siacotos impressed again, with 12 kills, but still trailed Senior Rita Dexter (Anchorage, AK) and Junior Kristen Miguel (Mililani, HI), each of whom had 13 kills.

## MEN'S SOCCER

The Puget Sound's men's soccer team lost two games this past weekend on their trip to Eastern Washington. On Saturday, Oct. 21, the team lost a game 1-0. Junior goalie Wren Norwood (Kenai, AK) had a season-high eight saves, with the only goal being scored in the 34th minute. The next day, the Loggers lost another game, also by the score of 1-0. Norwood had another six saves, but the Loggers were unable to find the net.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

On Wednesday, Oct. 18, Puget Sound defeated cross-town rival Pacific Lutheran by a score of 1-0. This was only the second goal allowed by the Lutes in conference play. The goal was scored by Senior Jacquelyn Anderson (Renton, WA). It was her second goal of the season. On Saturday, Oct. 21, the Loggers continued to do well, defeating Lewis and Clark 4-0. Junior goalkeeper Jamie Lange hasn't allowed a game this month, and won Logger of the Week this past week. The Loggers are third in the Conference, trailing PLU by four points and table-leading Whitworth by five.

## FOOTBALL

On Saturday, Oct. 14, the football team lost a close game to Pacific University, 35-27. The Loggers took a seven-point lead into the locker room at half behind two touchdowns from Sophomore Vance Wood (Selah, WA). However, a 14-point third quarter was hard to overcome. The next week saw another loss, this time 38-23 against Whitworth. Senior Tanner Diebold (La Verne, CA) threw for a career high 347 yards but couldn't overcome a 24-point second quarter from Whitworth.

## CREW

Both the men's and women's crew teams dominated at the American Lake Fall Classic. The women's varsity eight and varsity four both won, beating boats from both PLU and Lewis and Clark. The men's varsity four earned a win over two PLU boats and a Lewis and Clark boat. This past Saturday, Oct. 21, the women's eight again dominated, winning the Charlie Brown Regatta on the Willamette River. The second women's eight finished third in the same race.

## GOLF

Both the men's and women's teams finished sixth at the NWC Fall Classic on Sunday, Oct. 15. The men placed ahead of Pacific, Whitman and Lewis and Clark behind the lead of Sophomore Mac Turner (Minneapolis, MN), who finished 16th out of 45. The women tied with Pacific, led by Junior Kristi Koyanagi (Honolulu, HI), who was +19, and finished 16th.

## CROSS COUNTRY

At the Lewis & Clark invitational, the women's team finished sixth while the men's team finished 10th. First year Samantha Schaffer (Greenwood Village, CO) led the women's team, finishing 13th out of 128. Junior Liam Monaghan (Puyallup, WA) led the men, finishing 52nd out of 116 runners.

## Dodge stands out as leader for swimming

By Will Keyse

The Puget Sound Swim season is upon us starting this evening with the Northwest Conference Sprint Meet. After finishing fifth (men's) and third (women's) in the conference last spring, the Loggers look to build on past successes and rise up the ranks of the NWC this year.

At the helm of the leadership effort for this season is senior Cody Dodge (Tacoma, Washington). Dodge, a captain this year, hails from nearby Wilson High School in Tacoma, and has been swimming for over 14 years. His primary events are the 100-meter breaststroke, 200-meter breaststroke and the 200-meter individual medley.

Being a Division-III student athlete takes a certain amount of grit, and Dodge reflected on his experience as a swimmer during his time at Puget Sound:

"I have progressed as a swimmer and a teammate over my time at [Puget Sound] by working hard not only in the pool, but also in the weight room and the classroom," Dodge said. "I try to lead by example and when my teammates see that I'm working hard, my hope is that it will motivate them to also work hard and become the best student-athlete that they can be."

Dodge has been recognized time and time again by his teammates as a strong leader both in and out of the pool.

Sophomore teammate Kade Wagers (Boise, Idaho) weighed in on Dodge's impact as a leader:

"Cody always leads by example and has an upbeat positive attitude. As a captain, he is always inspiring others to reach their potential while working hard to reach his. At practices and lifting, he always gives 100 percent and provides words of encouragement to anyone who seems to be struggling. He always has time to talk, and will go out of his way to help you with anything if you need it. He has a great sense of humor and is able to brighten anyone's day with a joke and his cheerful demeanor."

Junior Caleb Van Boven (Boulder, Colorado) echoed these sentiments:

"Cody is an excellent leader, both in and out of pool. In the pool, Cody leads by example by working hard and keeping people on track. Whether it's through encouragement or laying down the law, he knows how to keep practice moving in the right direction. Out of the pool, in the weight room or just at team dinners Cody keeps these same qualities alive, and continues to keep the mood light."

Another hallmark of a standout leader, Dodge is the first to praise his teammates and fellow captains for their efforts, day in and day out, to make the team stronger as a whole.

"I am thankful for my whole team, but some specifically I am very thankful for my fellow seniors, Nick Mitchell, Melisa Kegans, Alex Koga and Kayla Dimicco because we have all been together for so long, and even in our fourth year on the team they still push me to be the best I can be," Dodge said. "I am also thankful for the other captains on the team with me, Erin Jenkins, Allison Hoops, Emma Staton, Austin Stiver and Nick Mitchell, because we have already been through so much just this year and we continue to push each other to be the best leaders that we can be for the team."

Any athlete will tell you how important a coaching staff is for the development of skills and reinforcing morale. Dodge lauded the efforts of his coaches:

"The coaching staff has supported me very well throughout my career," Dodge said. "We have had many assistant coaches in my time here, but all of the coaches have really stressed performance and hard work in the classroom and then in the pool and the weight room. All the coaches try to be as motivating as they can, and always push us to work as hard as we possibly can so we can be the best team possible."

You can catch Dodge and the rest of the Puget Sound Swim Team in action tonight at the Aquatic Center starting at 5 p.m.

## Women's soccer beat Lutes once again

By Gabi Marrese

The Loggers took on the second-place team in conference, Pacific Lutheran, on Wednesday, Oct. 18. Both teams battled through the first half and the Loggers' goalkeeper, junior Jamie Lange (Lake Tapps, Washington), had three saved goals before entering halftime scoreless. Lange was named defensive student-athlete of the week last week by the Northwest Conference.

In the 57th minute, the Lutes got called with a handball inside the 18-yard box. Senior Jacquelyn Anderson (Renton, Washington) scored off the penalty kick for the only goal of the game. Lange had another three saves in the second half from the Lutes' 10 attempted shots.

"We came into this game with so much passion and so much fire. Yes, every game is a big game for us but it's always a good day when we can beat the Lutes," Lange said.

The Loggers faced Lewis and Clark on Saturday, Oct. 21, winning 4-0 against the Pioneers. This shutout makes Lange's sixth straight game without giving up a goal and earned her Logger of the Week as well as the Northwest Conference Women's Soccer Student-Athlete of the Week. Lange is currently ranked second in the conference for saves with a total of 79. Her save percentage is .908 and her goals-against average is .51.

"The defense's mentality is like, 'Ok, we are the last line of defense and it's our job to get the ball out,'" Lange said.

The Loggers' next game will be against the conference leader, Whitworth, on Saturday, Oct. 28. The last timed game against the Pirates ended in a tie after two overtimes. This time the Loggers will host Whitworth at Baker Stadium.



PHOTOS CREDIT TO: WADE OWENS



Combat Zone is *The Trail's* satire section.

*The Combat Zone is intended to be a satirical work. The views and opinions expressed by the Combat Zone do not necessarily reflect those of The Puget Sound Trail, ASUPS, concerned parties or the University of Puget Sound. Please submit compliments or complaints in the form of letters to the editor.*

## Dorm jack-o-lantern rots just in time for Halloween



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By Anna Graham

In the spirit of the season, people across the city have begun decorating their front windows with fluorescent plastic pumpkins and cartoonish papier-mâché witches in an attempt to excite passers-by about the coming Halloween. Not to be left behind on a trend, students, too, have been scrabbling together Halloween decorations to hang on their doors and windows.

Students Pea Harper and Wally Neverson went the extra mile this year — by buying, gutting and carving a pumpkin from the local Walmart weeks before Halloween. Because of their unusual initiative and excellent foresight, their jack-o-lantern sat outside their door for two weeks and turned green with mold just in time for Halloween. Students on their floor could be seen holding their noses and running past the pumpkin at top speed, no doubt deeply touched by the spookiness and symbolism of the decay.

In a recent interview, Neverson and Harper noted that, before it rotted, the process of carving the jack-o-lantern was quite intensive. Neverson spent a whole 5 dollars on the pumpkin, nearly depleting his entire bank account in the name of celebration, while Harper traced the outline of a lopsided grin on the pumpkin's face in washable Crayola marker.

Opting to take the mess of pumpkin-carving outside their room, Neverson and Harper found themselves parked in the middle of a grass lawn as the classic Puget Sound rains began. As the skin of the pumpkin began dripping with condensation, the outlined Crayola marker began to melt into an indecipherable soup. Though most people would be discouraged at the decomposition of such hard work, our young virtuosos found themselves with more room for creative interpretation.

Neverson used that one dull kitchen knife they'd had sitting around for a while to carve off the lid. (The knife — it should be noted — had probably come from the 15th century and was shaped rather like a spoon with an identity crisis. Neverson had bought it from a nearby yard sale for just these types of emergencies.) Next, they scooped out the pumpkin seeds with a plastic fork.

Because they had so brilliantly neglected to buy a DIY pumpkin-carving kit, they subsequently attempted to use the spoon-shaped kitchen knife to carve out the jack-o-lantern's face. It was a rather violent and messy affair — Harper ended up with several small lacerations — but they eventually succeeded in crafting a rather gruesome, grinning, toothless pumpkin. Gruesome indeed, as the pumpkin itself was covered in the blood of its creators.

To ensure that the rest of their immediate community would know about their enthusiasm for Oct. 31, they placed their jack-o-lantern outside of their dorm room door, in the middle of the hallway. As fellow students stepped around it each day on their way to class, they were reminded to sentimentalize the upcoming holiday — especially because Harper and Neverson had maximized the immersion in the Halloween spirit by finishing two weeks ahead of time. Lucy Moon, a resident of Harper's and Neverson's hall, was quoted as saying, "Yeah, I guess the pumpkin is pretty cool. But do they realize it's made out of, like ... organic material? Like, that stuff is not going to last until Halloween. Why didn't they just buy a cheap plastic glow-in-the-dark pumpkin from Ebay? Same freaking effect."

As the actual date of Halloween began approaching, the jack-o-lantern began growing an impressive greenish fur all along its interior. Several days into this process, the outer walls of the pumpkin began to shrivel and collapse in on themselves, warping the carved face out of proportion. A week and a half later, it began to attract fruit flies.

Neverson and Harper were quite proud of themselves for timing their pumpkin-carving so brilliantly. They noted that the rot really added to the aesthetic of the whole thing and helped contribute to the authenticity of their artistic creation. The smell and appearance of mold added a real aura of death and decay to the hallway, which was a perfect way to spice up the Halloween season. Neverson and Harper plan to continue this tradition for the next few years, or at least until they come up with something even better.

## Roommates set aside conflict to plan matching costumes

By Lee L. Benbow

The quintessential college experience is not complete without a roommate and the conflicts that accompany them. Since moving into Regester 125 on Aug. 17, Sarah and Jessica have had their fair share of conflicts, from the passive-aggressive battle over who should take the trash out to the fight over expired milk. The roomies use small fights as opportunities to deal with conflicts and demons that have haunted them since birth. Despite their lack of healthy coping skills, the girls know when something is too big to let a little tiff get in the way. One such case is Halloween.

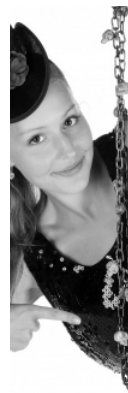
Everyone knows the way to achieve authentic

#roomiegoals is with coordinated halloween costumes. Jessica and Sarah have been waiting for the blessed night of Oct. 31 for so long. Sarah dreamed of duo costumes like salt and pepper, or angel and devil. Jessica wanted a pop culture reference like Gigi and Kendall, or Obama and Biden. This conflict was solved with a pinterest board of possible costumes followed by a tournament similar to the NCAA's March Madness.

Their peers — the four randos studying in the lounge and their RD who wanted to be "hip" — bet on favorites, but in the end only one costume could come out on top. The final

contender truly came out of left field, and even Jessica and Sarah weren't entirely sure about it. "I was not expecting to go as this, but I'm sure Sarah and I can pull this off, because that's just what best friends do," Jessica said.

Due to an NDA signed by *The Flail*, we cannot release what costume won at this time due to the possibility that "some basics will have the audacity to copy our genius idea," according to the girls. They did, however, allow us to tell our faithful readers that the costume includes baby formula and everyone's favorite Insta-famous pug.



## Last-minute Halloween costume ideas



By Lee L. Benbow

PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC DOMAIN PICTURES

*Whatever you chose to go as for Halloween is up to you, but if you really want to scare the heck out of your comrades check out some options from yours truly, The Flail.*

### Climate Change

*The Flail* isn't really sure how you will dress up for this one, but you'll be sure to spook every member of Puget Sound Outdoors at your Halloween shindig.

### Climate Change Deniers

If you aren't into abstract costumes, but still want to talk about the Paris Agreement this costume is for you. Wear your finest Lacoste sweater and khakis or dress slacks, and be sure to also come equipped with some alternative facts and a Facebook article to back up your argument.

### Mike Pence

Everyone and their brother will be Trump for Halloween. This costume ensures that everyone at your function knows you're woke as heck. Put some flour in your hair and throw on your favorite suit (bonus points if you tweet about leaving a party you never showed up to).

### Gluten

This one is sure to be rather controversial so proceed at your own risk. Gluten has been an edible pariah every since the all-powerful Gwyneth Paltrow banished it from her diet on her blog Goop. Cover yourself with wheat and carry bread and you'll be sure to spook every gal on campus who opts for the corn tortilla instead of flour.

### Grizz, but don't wear the mascot head.

This is hands down the spookiest costume ever. Sport the entire Grizz costume, but do not don the headpiece, rather carry it next to you, thus ruining the entire illusion. Students, faculty, and the surrounding community will quake in terror as if you had just told them Santa wasn't real.

*Note from the editor: Use caution when decrying our One Mascote Grizze. As long as the spirit is good-willed, mimicry and jest are allowed.*

### A Plastic Water Bottle

Not only is this costume extra scary as it contributes to pollution and therefore climate change, it also is a relic of a time before every student carried a carefully-stickered Hydro Flask, Swell, or Nalgene like it was an oxygen tank. The problematic part of this costume is that some underclassmen will not even recognize your plastic shell as a water bottle of the past and think you are Lady Gaga circa 2010.



# An inspiring afternoon with the University of Puget Sound's Writer's Guild

By Arcelia Salado-Alvarado

For the first half hour, there is only the tapping of keys and scratching of pens. Heads are bent and brows are furrowed. No one says a word. The prompt for the first fall 2017 meeting of Writer's Guild is "All #1 dad mugs are now ranked accordingly," but it is clear many members turn to projects they have already started. The small number of club members allows for a cozy environment, a quiet place overlooking the south side of campus.

Writer's Guild is one of many Puget Sound clubs focused on creative writing — prose, poetry and all other forms of written and verbal language that are considered literary art. The club was created about a decade ago, but has only recently seen a rise in attendance, in part to the efforts of senior Rebekah Sherman, current president.

"Writer's Guild is a place for people to work on some writing and also share with each other and get feedback from peers," Sherman said in an interview.

Writer's Guild meetings are held

on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Thomas 381, a conference room with couches as well as a large table. The meetings begin as most do, with brief introductions and a quick agenda for the day. Then, the idea is to dedicate the first 20 to 25 minutes to quiet writing, whether that writing is completely new or part of a continuing project. A book of journal-writing prompts is available for use. Today, the aforementioned mug prompt is written on the whiteboard, allowing writers to imagine a twisted interpretation of a Father's Day staple.

Usually after the quiet writing time, everyone comes back together to share what they have written, as well as to give and receive constructive comments on each other's work. Sherman believes the mindset that goes along with sharing a creation with a group of people produces positive results for herself and others in the club.

The small community, which last year acquired an official budget from the Associated Students of Puget Sound

(ASUPS), hopes to increase attendance through poster marketing as well as by word of mouth. Currently, most of the club attendees have been English majors, who, Sherman says, are already working on some sort of literary project. Sherman, an English and Psychology major herself, says that she is grateful that "the club forces [her] to write 45 minutes to an hour each week," in an otherwise busy schedule.

Though Writer's Guild is a creative writing club, it differs from the other writing groups on campus (i.e. Wetlands and Crosscurrents). While it does similarly provide a productive space that encourages writing and constructive criticism, it does not yield a publication. As such, meetings have a much more informal tone with lower levels of commitment.

"People can come one week and not the next if they choose," Sherman said. "[The club focuses] on community rather than a product."

An artistic process such as creative writing is ever-improving. There is no such thing as a perfect piece of writing — the edits of a writer or a poet are never done. When there is a space that allows people to bring the same piece of material every week without the expectation that it must be rendered "publishable," there is less pressure to share something that fellow writers understand will always be a work in progress.

Today, a few stragglers show up 30 minutes into the meeting. They are greeted with small nods and smiles. Shortly thereafter, everyone returns to their literary worlds. In the last 15 minutes, Sherman asks if anyone would like to share their work or if people would prefer to keep writing. A few mumble "keep writing," and, in true democratic form, the scratching and typing persist.

## "CrazyWise": altering perspective on mental illness through film

By Brynn Svenningsen

The crowd of college students and community members in the audience watched the difficult stories of multiple survivors of self-harm and mental illness in stunned silence. Each audience member watched with an open mind as the film explored the difficult topic of mental illness. On Oct. 19 there was a free showing of directors Phil Borges' and Kevin Tomlinson's film "CrazyWise" and a question and answer session afterwards with Borges.

"It's a cross-cultural look at how we define and treat what we call 'mental illness' and it's also about a movement that is happening right now of people with lived experience who have been through one of these crises ... to say what helped them and what didn't help them," Borges said of the film.

Both Borges and Tomlinson became deeply involved in the film, so much that it took five years to make. This was due to the long period of time that they followed the film's subjects Ekhaya and Adam. Additionally, it was crowdfunded by 700 people who believed strongly in the importance of film and the director's ideas.

The film explores the ways different cultures interact with those who have mental illnesses, as well as documents Ekhaya's and Adam's stories. They each began by sharing their experience with mental illness. Both Ekhaya and Adam found that medication and other more traditional methods of treatment available for mental illness did not help them. Their search for alternative solutions was shown throughout the entire film, which also incorporated information about similar grassroots movements that are occurring.

Throughout the film there is a repetition of the phrase "It's a process rather than a disease," which was also important in the aforementioned grassroots movement. For both Ekhaya and Adam, the alternatives they found allowed them to find happiness through their personal process. For Adam, it was through meditation and stopping his use of modern-day medication. For Ekhaya, it was through an exploration of her spirituality and a reconnection with her children.

Borges shared behind-the-scenes stories of those whom he had interviewed, and audience members shared their own struggles with mental illness and their views

on these new developments in the options for treating mental health.

One audience member shared his experience in caring for a family member with a mental illness. He talked of the positive progress his family member had made recently and how proud he was of this. Additionally he spoke of his happiness at the film's documentation of changes within the options available to those who are looking for help with a mental illness. Another audience member shared her personal opinion on the new changes

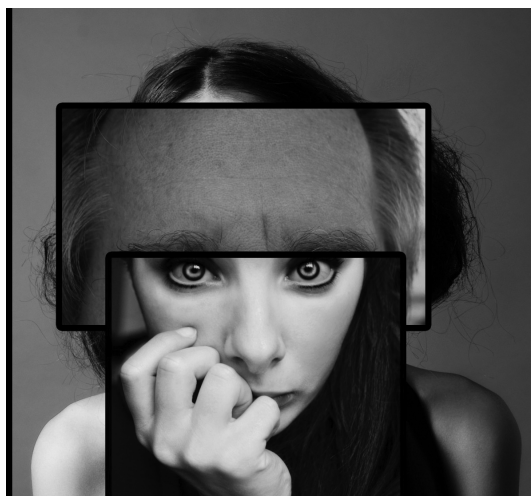


PHOTO COURTESY OF PXHERE

in mental health treatment as a local therapist.

Borges has a background in photography, which was heavily incorporated into the film as he shared powerful portraits of the subjects in the film. The portraits provided an image that left a large emotional impact on the audience. The use of portraiture and film created a strong visual dialogue that increased the audience's attention throughout it.

Borges spoke of his limited personal experience with mental health issues before beginning this film and how it benefitted him to not have a background in mental health.

"The things that I gravitated towards were the things that were common sense. It didn't take a rocket scientist to know if you were telling someone your age that you have a disease in your brain that can't be cured, that it would be frightening," Borges said.

Through his limited background with mental health, Borges was able to go into the process open-minded and he was able to pick up on the things that he kept seeing. Through many of the subjects in the film, it could be seen how terrifying their experiences were, as suicide and difficult life experiences were described.

Through interviews with multiple experts in the field, there was discussion of the effectiveness of medication. The discussion explored how medication helps some people but not others. Experts spoke of finding individual solutions that could not rely on medication and finding a personal spiritual connection.

Additionally, Borges is continuing the project to include more interviews which will focus on a connection to spirituality in the recovery process. Borges is now continuing his work on this project and is focusing specifically on the personal spiritual connections that the film's subjects have made.

"So, I'm now interviewing people and delving more into the spiritual side, and what I mean by spiritual is what makes them feel connected as a whole," Borges said.

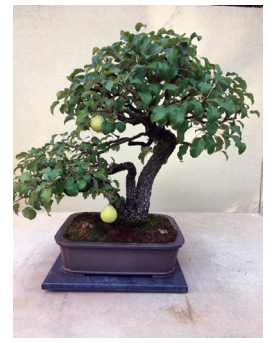
"CrazyWise" in name shows the complexity of the mental health stigma in which a person with mental illness may be considered "crazy" by one culture, and simultaneously "wise" in another culture. The film places the idea of mental illness under a microscope, and looks for a way to appreciate the differences that people have and encourage new ways to work with mental illness to accommodate this. This film showing gave all those who came a chance to consider an important development in the realm of mental health. It also allowed a deeply personal discussion to occur in which the importance of mental health to the community was affirmed a thousand times over.

"CrazyWise" is available for purchase online in a hard copy or it can be purchased and streamed from the website.



# Peace nearby at the Bonsai Museum

By Matthew Gulick



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW GULICK

20 minutes north of campus, tucked in a grove of old-growth conifers just off Interstate 5, hides the Pacific Bonsai Museum. Featuring year-round collections of carefully-curated bonsai trees, the museum's raked gravel paths wind through various kinds of trees from across the globe. With the 5's roar muted to a far-off rumble, visitors meander from one living installation to the next while learning about the art and practice of bonsai curation.

The museum holds over 150 trees from countries such as China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. However, the current exhibit, "Natives," highlights trees indigenous to North America. Backdropped with paintings by contemporary Swiss artist Liuna Tinta, "Natives" displays 60 species including a Rocky Mountain Juniper, a Coast Douglas Fir and perhaps the world's oldest Redwood bonsai. These installations include accent plantings by kusamono artist Young Choe and bonsai potter Vicki Chamberlain to recreate the feel of each tree's native ecosystem. Even the pots the trees grow in are made of rock from their natural habitat.

"What I'm trying to do is show people

how they can relate to bonsai. I'm trying to meet them where they're at, to show you don't have to learn Japanese philosophy and Zen Buddhism and all of these foreign concepts to appreciate bonsai," museum curator Aarin Packard said. "The point is to have it resonate with people, for them to connect with it. For example, me being from California, I feel strongly connected to the display of Yosemite Valley that has the Sierra Juniper that I worked really hard on restyling. I had a guy from Tennessee and the Blue Ridge Mountains one was the one he liked the best."

Packard notes that the museum seeks to introduce people to the world of bonsai, and to teach them about the nature they are observing

"One of the common misconceptions of bonsai is that it is a type of tree, like that it is a species of tree. These are all normal trees that are genetically identical to the trees in the landscape. If we were to put these trees in the ground and walk away they would grow to their full potential. They're kept small through our cultivation techniques: pruning as well as the confined space that the roots have in a container," he said.

Cultivators craft bonsai into specific shapes designed to catch the eye and lead it through the piece. Methods such as binding the tree in copper wire help achieve this effect. Packard likens these wires to tree braces.

"Bonsai is an art in the sense that we are styling these trees to resemble a naturally mature tree in a miniature form. It's a rendition of a natural tree but applying artistic principles to that design," Packard said. "If students wanted to see trees of the equivalent quality that we have they would have to go to Japan, or Korea, or China or Taiwan. We are the most geographically-diverse collection in the country; no other collection of bonsai has as many examples of bonsai that are reflective of different cultures. We also present bonsai in a way that's extremely unique."

"If students went to another bonsai collection, even in the United States, they wouldn't have the opportunity to see bonsai presented with other visual artwork in the way that we're doing it here. In addition to the actual space of the museum, the environment is the biggest asset we have. When you come here you are not only in this really

beautiful space, but the layout and the design of the exhibit presents a clean slate where the artwork speaks for itself," Packard said.

"It is a very beautiful and serene place" Rachel Bakke '18 said. "The artwork in particular is quite extraordinary and adds a unique element to the experience I wasn't expecting. I had a really wonderful time and would recommend the museum to anyone interested in thoughtful and creative forms of art."

The museum remains open year-round, providing visitors the opportunity to see the trees as they change with the seasons. Traditionally bonsai shows take place in the winter when the deciduous trees lose their leaves and provide the most striking silhouette. As it is an open-air museum, visitors will likely need a raincoat during the later months of the year.

"Natives" closes Oct. 8, but Packard said the exhibit will most likely remain up for an additional week. Admission is free, though donations are accepted. Typical hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. More information can be found at [pacificbonsaimuseum.org](http://pacificbonsaimuseum.org).

## "Meditation on mood": Scott Kolbo and TORCH explore the five elements

By Evan Welsh

How do you successfully perform and visually represent a meditative study on the classical elements? The chamber ensemble TORCH and visual artist Scott Kolbo set out to achieve this and more during their performance of "The Elements" at Schneebeck Concert Hall.

TORCH's ensemble is not comprised of the standard instrumentation found in chamber groups. TORCH consists of Ben Thomas on the vibraphones and bandoneón, trumpeter Brian Chin, clarinetist Eric Likkell and bassist Stephen Schermer. The challenge the group attempts to accomplish with their music is to create contemporary and neo-classical compositions with steady jazz and tango-influenced groove, a challenge the group greatly succeeds in with their program "The Elements."

"The Elements" is a multimedia performance split into two halves. The first half of the show consisted of compositions from members of TORCH that will appear on a new album coming out soon. These pieces ranged from original compositions by Thomas to reworkings of pieces from Stravinsky and Satie by Chin and Likkell. Each

piece felt lively and modern, and the eclectic combination of instrumentation breathed new life into arrangements old and new. Throughout the show, each piece they played was accompanied by a projection by Kolbo, seated on stage, as a working collaborator and active member of the ensemble. The intricate and layered images, both still and animated, featured drawings of people, animals, houses and landscapes, all lightly colored but exuding life.

"We wanted to work together — it started with creating a way in," Kolbo said. The members of TORCH and Kolbo found one another's work while all working as educators in the Tacoma/Seattle area. Kolbo found elements of the work he was creating in the songs TORCH were producing and vice versa. The collaborators found their universal concept in "The Elements," delving into the concepts of the four classic elements: earth, wind, air and fire, as well as the fifth element, aether, which was proposed by Plato and Aristotle.

After a short intermission, the second half of the show began. This half was dedicated to the performance's

namesake, and the driving theme behind Kolbo and TORCH's work together, "The Elements."

"It was a truly collaborative experience," Chin said before the group began playing the piece. Kolbo also spoke on the collaborative process of the piece, saying that the process of influencing each other's art progressed to the point where it became difficult to keep track of where the collaboration between the artists would begin and end. "A meditation on mood" was how Kolbo described the project between himself and the chamber ensemble.

After all of the preludes, TORCH and Kolbo took their places and began to explore the elements. The animated videos by Kolbo and the music by TORCH came together much in the way they had described their process: dependent on one another; each piece of the multimedia performance influenced and was influenced by the other.

"Everyone is composing for the band," Thomas said. "In that way it is a composer collective," Chin responded. The musical portion of "The Elements" reflected each element brilliantly: "Earth" felt full of

color; "Fire" jumped and crackled; the section of ambient layers in "Water" rolled back and forth; and "Air" swirled around and around. The videos for these pieces accompanied all of these feelings perfectly with animated movements layered over still drawings. These visual aids inspired inquisition on how these elements present themselves in our lives visually, audibly and metaphorically.

After the group had tackled the elements of the terrestrial world, they moved toward the celestial fifth element with their final song of the performance, "Aether." The final piece was more improvisational, basing its free-flowing structure on the spherical and elliptical bursts of color and constellations projected by Kolbo. The performance as a whole was a testament to how well collaboration can promote a wealth of ideas in a single project.

TORCH's new album will be out soon. For further information about the band you can visit [torchthemusic.com](http://torchthemusic.com) and if you are interested in Kolbo's art you can visit [scottkolbo.net](http://scottkolbo.net)