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SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND

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COMBAT ZONE, PAGE 6 Opinion: Is It Xenophobic to Keep Domestic Surveillance Domestic?



FEATURES, PAGE 5 Commencement Cacophony: Skateboarding, disruption, and recreation.



ARTS/EVENTS, PAGE 8 "Hell No!" Rita Moreno will never slow down

# University explores shift to Geothermal

By Mercer Stauch and Hannah Lee

The University is examining potential sustainability solutions to reach its standing goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. Facilities Services is working with consulting group McKinstry to determine the potential efficacy of geothermal heating and cooling systems in campus buildings. Currently, only Weyerhaeuser Hall is bestdowed and enclod wing geothermal

is heated and cooled using geothermal energy; all other campus buildings burn natural gas, which contributes to global warming and creates health hazards that disproportionately harm communities of color. Facilities data from October 2021 to March 2022 — the months when the most natural gas is burned for heat shows that, when combined, Regester, Trimble, Seward and Todd Phibbs use enough natural gas to fill nine Olympic swimming pools on average per month.

Geothermal energy takes advantage of the constant ground temperature, which is cooler than air temperature on hot days, and warmer on cold days. This trait provides a base-level water temperature, which is adjusted using electrical energy to the desired end-use temperature. It is considered a reliable renewable resource, and a scalable solution to the United States' emissions problems. University campuses are one of the forefronts of this technology's application; more than 100 campuses across the country have an adopted it and the federal government

April 14th, 2023

adopted it, and the federal government has begun developing incentive systems for broader implementation. According to Director of Sustainability

Lexi Brewer, there are multiple factors at play determining if and when the University of Puget Sound would make the switch. Any proposal would have to be approved by the Board of Trustees and the administration, as well as considering the response of the general student population. "We're going to be doing this construction and that affects the look of campus or it disrupts campus life," said Brewer. The process of installing geothermal heating and cooling systems involves drilling wells anywhere from 150 to 200 meters deep underground; the first buildings on campus that have been evaluated for this project are Todd-Phibbs, Seward, and Regester Halls, meaning the drilling would occur on South Quad. There's also building functions to consider, says Brewer: "Do they operate slightly differently?"

Legal and fiscal factors are also being considered. The Washington State House recently passed House Bill 1589, which would prohibit Puget Sound Energy (PSE), the University's utility provider, from constructing new buildings with natural gas heating and cooling. Completing large renovations on existing buildings and leaving natural gas systems intact would also be forbidden.

The recently passed Inflation Reduction Act additionally stipulates that commercial installation of geothermal energy systems earns institutions a 30% tax credit, which, according to Brewer, would make the cost of geothermal installation comparable to the cost of installing or renovating natural gas systems. The Board of Trustees has been very receptive of that fact, as well as the fact that although geothermal construction involves a high upfront investment, the systems require less maintenance in the long run.

Tia Böttger, a junior Environmental Policy and Decision Making major, is working with her thesis seminar to provide "a communications plan and compilation of resources to the office of sustainability" about the geothermal switch, as she explained. Böttger emphasized the importance of "including students throughout the process and really using it as an educational opportunity." Böttger and coursemates Nicole Mannix, Tatum Bunnett and Ethan Holst recognize that although the University may struggle to achieve its 0-by-2025 mission, geothermal could be the best way to eventually reach that goal.

Böttger also pointed out the potential

boon for the University in terms of media coverage. If converted, the University of Puget Sound would be Washington's first school to use geothermal energy at this scale. Other universities across the nation have implemented geothermal and made national news for the conversion, including Carleton College, Princeton University and Amherst College. For these schools, the switch has also massively furthered their climate pledges; at Smith College, the geothermal switch will cut 90% of the school's emissions.

University authorities have yet to decide whether geothermal energy is part of the University's path forward. Ultimately, a timeline for the proposed project on this campus is difficult to estimate; Brewer said that for projects of this size, the time scale is typically years. However, the process of securing funding and other preliminary action items may begin in as soon as two years. As for the perceived pitfall of having large-scale construction on campus, both Böttger and Brewer encouraged that it be thought of as a "short-term sacrifice" of campus aesthetics for "long-term gain" in sustainability and maintenance efficiency.

# Tacoma Art Museum Board of Trustees fails to deliver decision on union recognition

Tacoma Art Museum's (TAM) Board of Trustees promised a decision on union recognition by March 31, but as of April 12, an announcement has yet to be made. As previously reported on our November 11, 2022 issue, "a council of Tacoma Art Museum employees has been making efforts to unionize since May 2022. They are advocating for livable wages and benefits, no further staff reduction, accessible grievance procedures to create accountability, transparency from leadership, standardized hiring and training procedures and influence in decision-making processes to improve their work conditions. This effort would make TAM Washington's first major art institution with unionized workers. On October 17, TAM's board of trustees received the workers' letter requesting union representation. By then, nearly 90% of TAM's eligible employees had signed union authorization cards, thereby indicating their preference to be represented by a union. Also on October 17, members of the council convened outside of TAM to publicly announce the formation of their union with the Washington Federation of State Employees, the local council under the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees." Since a supermajority of the workers indicated a preference for union representation, the TAM administration has had roughly six months to take one of two actions: voluntarily recognize the union and begin bargaining, or decline to recognize the union. As previously

By Emma Loenicker and Sonja Black



made by the Board of Trustees, TAM Workers United is demanding an end to union-busting so TAM can reach its full potential and serve its employees fairly. If granted voluntary recognition, the most vulnerable segment of TAM workers will be empowered to continue pushing for improved circumstances through the union they have helped maintain since October. Voluntary recognition would also lead to faster change. The Board of Trustees' union-busting efforts are likely due to concerns about losing direct relationships with employees, and increased wages that would result in a stronger financial commitment to the currently under-valued workers. TAM is a pillar within the community because of its dedication to honoring Tacoma's cultural diversity. Members of the Tacoma community are calling for a greater commitment to the TAM workers who make the museum what it is. TAM employees are highly valued within the greater community, and the general view is that they are under-appreciated and under-compensated for their important work. Given the overwhelming public support for TAM employees and their unionization efforts, it is expected that a union will be legally recognized one way or another. While change is bound to come, TAM workers and the community are frustrated with the toll this process has taken and will continue to take on the museum's reputation.

#### Picture outside the Tacoma Art Museum. Photo Credit: Joe Wolf, flickr.

reported, "if the administration refuses to recognize the union, TAM Workers United can file an election petition with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)," forcing TAM administration to legally accept the union through a more disruptive process.

TAM's Board of Trustees remains inconclusive on their stance, while TAM Workers United continues to grow frustrated with this grueling bureaucratic process. TAM Workers United held a rally on March 23, 2023 with 100+ supporters. At the end of the rally, the Board of Trustees promised a decision on union recognition by the emergency meeting held on March 31, but they never delivered.

Since the push for unionization began, TAM's Board of Trustees has held several listening sessions to address staff concerns and assess how to navigate the process; over six months of discussion has not led to any form of consensus. Without a formal announcement

# Tennessee fights for gun reform

#### By Hannah Lee



Students rallied in downtown Nashville as part of the Nashville Student Walk Out on April 3, 2023, Photo Credit: Carwil Bjork-James, flickr

After a gunman took the lives of three children and three adults at the Covenant School in Tennessee on March 27, hundreds of people gathered at the Tennessee Capitol to demand tighter gun control laws. Young people, including children, have shown up to demand that Tennessee lawmakers protect them. More than a thousand Tennessee students participated in a walkout on April 3.

In response to the recent shooting, Governor of Tennessee Bill Lee proposed that an armed security guard be stationed at every Tennessee public school. He also suggested that they boost mental health support for Tenneseeans, and implement further physical security measures at public and private schools. However, Lee continues to support a 2021 statute that allows residents that are 21 years and older to carry a handgun without a permit.

Protests continued throughout the week. On Thursday, March 30, while protestors sat in the Tennessee House gallery, three Tennessee House Democrats approached the podium without being recognized to speak and led several chants calling for gun reform. The representatives that led these chants were Reps. Gloria Johnson of Knoxville, Justin Jones of Nashville and Justin Pearson of Memphis. The Tennessee House of Representatives voted on April 6 72-25 to expel Justin Jones and 69-26 to remove Justin Pearson, while Gloria Johnson was not expelled. Johnson recognized that her whiteness may have protected her from being expelled.

Back in June of 2022, President Biden signed a landmark bipartisan gun control bill that would make it harder for young people to buy guns, deny firearms to domestic abusers, and help authorities take weapons from people whom they deem dangerous. While the bill was a step in the right direction, more compromise regarding gun policy between the two parties in Congress is unlikely in the face of this new tragedy. As of April 12, the Metro Nashville Council — responsible for determining who would fill the seat —voted Representative Justin Jones back into the Tennessee House of Representatives.



NEV

NYPD officers standing next to protesters at Trump Tower on March 21 2023, the day Donald Trump claimed he would be indicted and arrested. Photo Credit: wikimedia commons

# **News Roundup**

By Ainsley Feeney

### Joe Biden plans to run for re-election in 2024, not ready to officially announce

Only 37% of Democrats support Biden seeking a second term, according to the Associated Press.

#### Texas federal judge's preliminary injunction on mifepristone begins today, Friday, April 14

The injunction undoes FDA approval of mifepristone and puts national access to the abortion pill on the line. Despite efforts to block and appeal the decision, the issue is likely headed to the Supreme Court.

### Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas under fire for failing to disclose reported luxury trips funded by a billionaire Republican donor

Democratic Senators have called for an investigation and possible impeachment. Former President Donald Trump Indicted by Grand Jury on 34 Counts of Fraud

Trump was arrested on Tuesday, April 4. This makes him the first president to be indicted for a crime. The specifics of each charge have not been released, but it is confirmed that some have to do with hush money that Trump paid to Stormy Daniels.

#### **Finland Joins NATO**

Finland becomes the 31st country to join NATO. The move is most likely in response to an increasingly aggressive Russian military.

#### Brandon Johnson Elected New Mayor of Chicago in Runoff Election

Johnson defeated a less progressive Democratic candidate in a highly-anticipated runoff election.

#### Anti-Trans Bills Running Rampant in the United States

North Carolina seeks to ban trans women from competing in women's athletics. They join conservative politicians in nearly every state looking to pass anti-trans legislation, from bathroom bills to healthcare bans.

LSU Wins NCAA Women's Championship Tournament, UConn Scores Men's

#### Title

The first weekend in April marked the championship games for both NCAA leagues. Controversy ensued after First Lady Jill Biden suggested inviting both LSU and Iowa, the opposing team, to the traditional victory White House dinner. **"Barbie" and "Shrek 5" Stir Up Excitement for the Movies** 

A new trailer for "Barbie," directed by Greta Gerwig and starring Margot Robbie, gave the most in-depth look at the film's world yet. It was also announced that the fifth Shrek movie is in the works, with the original cast returning to play their beloved characters.

#### THE PUGET SOUND TRAIL

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*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 for the full mission statement

# Athlete of the **Issue: Ben Kerr**

By Andrew Benoit



Photo provided by Ben Kerr, used with permission

Congratulations to the Athlete of the Issue, sophomore and speeding bullet Ben Kerr. Ben has qualified for conference in three separate events, recorded the fourth fastest 5k in the Northwest Conference this season and it seems like he wins a new race every day. The Trail couldn't catch Ben on the track (obviously) so we sent him an email and got him to slow down enough to answer a couple of questions about his success.

**Q**: What was going through your head before you started the 1,500m at the Pacific Open, which you won?

A: Before I started the race, I was just focused on getting out fast and settling in right behind whoever was leading the race. I wanted to stay relaxed when the pace picked up, and close hard with 400m to go. **Q:** You've qualified for Conference in three different events. How big of an adjustment is it between the events? A: It's not a huge adjustment between each event. My main event is the 1500m, but my training is focused on the 1500m and the 5000m, so although the 5000m feels super long it doesn't require any specific adjustments. The 800m is harder for me, as it is closer to a sprint, so sometimes I get my doors blown off in the first 50 meters and have to play catch-up the whole race. So, for the 8, the biggest adjustment I have to make is just focusing on accelerating really well right from the start and having a good reaction to the gun. **O:** You won the 5k at the Jenn Boyman Memorial on April 8th, with a time of 14:51.67, your fastest this season and fourth best overall this year in the Northwest Conference. What do you think is working so well for you this season?

A: I think one thing that is working well for me is just staying really consistent with my training and keeping my mileage high week after week. My training has been more distance-focused this year which I think has helped me with the 5000m. I've also been getting more sleep, which always helps.

**Q:** You've got over two years left with Puget Sound Athletics and have already had an amazing career so far. What are your goals for the rest of your time here?

**A:** For the rest of my athletic career at Puget Sound, my main goals are to qualify for nationals in the 1500m and in cross country. I would also love to win an individual conference championship in cross country, and place top 3 as a team. **Q:** What is your favorite moment from your career in Logger Track and Cross Country? A: I think my favorite moment from my career so far has been winning the 1500m at conferences last year. It was so cool to have the conference meet at home so that some of my friends and family could come watch. I also just really wanted to win going in, so it was very satisfying to achieve that, especially since it was such a close race.

# Sports scores and Schedule



#### Scores

Men's Baseball (16-12) Apr 1: Loggers 8 - 9 Pacific Lutheran University Apr 1: Loggers 9 - 13 Pacific Lutheran University Apr 2: Loggers 4 - 6 Pacific Lutheran University Women's Softball (9-19) Apr 1: Loggers 1 - 4 Pacific University Apr 1: Loggers 9 - 2 Pacific University Apr 2: Loggers 11 - 9 Pacific University Apr 2: Loggers 2 - 4 Pacific University Apr 7: Loggers 0 - 9 Linfield University Apr 7: Loggers 1 - 8 Linfield University Women's Lacrosse (3-9) Apr 7: Loggers 11 - 15 Whitworth University Apr 8: Loggers 4 - 17 Whitman College Apr 9: Loggers 8 - 18 Whitman College Men's Tennis (4-8) Apr 1: Loggers 0 - 9 George Fox University Apr 2: Loggers 1 - 8 Linfield University Apr 9: Loggers 0 - 9 Lewis and Clark College Women's Tennis (0-12) Apr 1: Loggers 0 - 9 George Fox University Apr 2: Loggers 0 - 9 Linfield University Apr 9: Loggers 2 - 7 Lewis and Clark College Upcoming Games Men's Baseball Apr 15 at Whitworth University (DH) Apr 16 at Whitworth University Apr 29 vs Whitworth University Apr 29 at Pacific University Apr 30 at Willamette University Women's Softball Apr 15 at Pacific Lutheran University (DH) Apr 16 vs Pacific Lutheran University (DH) Women's Lacrosse Apr 15 vs Linfield University Apr 16 vs Pacific University Men's Tennis Apr 15 at Whitman College Women's Tennis Apr 15 vs Whitman College

# FEATURES

#### PAGE DESIGN/ GRACE STENSLAND

### Is artificial intelligence approaching science fiction?

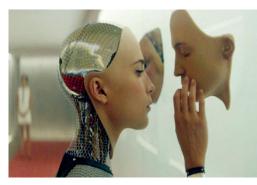


Photo from Ex Machina, a famous film depiction of rapidly advance artificial intelligence Photo Credit: flickr

As AI models have advanced, it has become increasingly evident that they will play an important role in the future of humankind. Current models have a range of capabilities that are supposedly designed to aid humans. For instance, photo-generating models like MidJourney and DALL-E have the ability to create images in a multitude of styles, based on the user's prompt. These programs' outputs have become increasingly accurate to the point that, to the average viewer, they are often indiscernible from real photographs.

The language model ChatGPT is garnering the most media attention. ChatGPT is advancing rapidly; it's already on its fourth version. The lab behind it, OpenAI, has stated that the company is building towards an ambitious goal — artificial general intelligence (AGI), their term for an AI that is as smart as, if not smarter than, the average human.

These developments have raised alarms in the tech community. Recently, over 1,000 major tech executives — including Elon Musk — professors, and scientists signed an open letter directed toward By Veronica Brinkley

OpenAI, requesting an immediate sixmonth pause in artificial intelligence development. The main concern posited by the letter is that "AI systems with human-competitive intelligence can pose profound risks to society and humanity," and therefore necessitate governmental regulation. The letter went on to say that AI development labs are "locked in an out-of-control race to develop and deploy ever more powerful digital minds that no one — not even their creators — can understand, predict, or reliably control."

OpenAI, for its part, says its technology will improve society. According to their website, advancements in AI "could help us elevate humanity by increasing abundance, turbocharging the global economy, and aiding in the discovery of new scientific knowledge that changes the limits of possibility." To me, this just sounds like a lot of buzzwords and it doesn't really say much about what they intend to do with their product.

Now, if you're like me, you're probably thinking, "I swear I've seen this in a movie, and it did not end well." It's scary to see the beginning of the march to machine intelligence. Science fiction centered around AI previously felt abstract, but now seems potentially accurate. My personal favorite example is the dystopian sci-fi video game "Detroit: Become Human."

Quantic Dream's "Detroit: Become Human" is set in the not-so-distant future of 2038, in an America where highly-developed androids have become commonplace. The economy is completely dependent on them as the means of production. However, the androids begin to gain sentience and deviate from their programming. This sparks a civil rights movement of 'deviant' androids. A power struggle ensues, as humans refuse to accept androids as autonomous beings.

While current AI is far from this reality, it is a chilling projection of what could be in store. The game itself directly comments on this reality in its opening lines: "Remember, this isn't just a game, it's our future."

Drawing parallels between the story of "Detroit: Become Human" and our current social trajectory is hardly difficult. CyberLife, the AI research and development firm in the game's setting, represents a potential future for OpenAI. In the game, CyberLife has become the standard for androids and therefore holds an immensely disproportionate amount of power over the economy and ruling bodies. Perhaps we aren't as far away from this reality as we think. In order to prevent such a future, industries need to change to accommodate AI, a technology that is only growing faster, smarter and more powerful. This is where the government must step in. It must regulate the creation of AI very consciously.

In a perfect world, state leaders consciously and unerringly regulate the creation of AI, acting free from considerations of profit and power. However, as we know, the government doesn't have a great history of neutrality or altruism. And few in Washington even understand technology — just watch the Congressional hearings on Facebook or TikTok for examples. Washington has already failed to stay ahead of tech decisions that affect millions. OpenAI has been seemingly honest about these concerns, stating, "we hope for a global conversation about three key questions: how to govern these systems, how to fairly distribute the benefits they generate, and how to fairly share access." While it's great that they 'hope' for this outcome, I do not believe that hoping is enough. Improper handling and regulation could have catastrophic effects on society, as seen in the manipulation and misuse of current social media. "Detroit: Become Human" may not be far off.

As college students who are just beginning to enter the job market, these advancements could easily affect us in the near future. Entry-level positions might be displaced by AI and it may become increasingly difficult for us to find meaningful work. In terms of possible issues with the use of this technology, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

So many of us grew up watching events like this happen in the movies and on TV, and it is hard to believe what was once science fiction is beginning to exist. It's also alarming to watch it unfold, knowing it could impact our futures. But we are not helpless. We can stay informed about technological advancements. We can slow their deployment until the ramifications are understood. We can apply the lessons learned from fictional media and the real-life corruption of social media. And we must consider enacting accompanying regulations on tech industries. We should be mindful that technology is not always a wonder — especially in the hands of mere mortals.

### The uncertain future of hyperpop

#### By Ari Lauer-Frey

Hyperpop has proven to be one of the loudest cultural voices within pop culture and contemporary music spaces in the past few years. The label "hyperpop" is, in many ways, a discredit to what is created within the multitude of creative spaces that often fall under the label. It is a musical movement that provides a renewed sense of ownership and freedom to the creator, changing with the needs and wants of its diverse and exclamatory community. This community rejects definitions and makes its ability for change and reinvention the movement's only true characteristic. Because of this, it becomes complicated to understand the term hyperpop and where its movement is heading. The future of hyperpop is uncertain; its path is as unpredictable as the music. Hyperpop has garnered significant attention recently but has been growing for over a decade. The hyperpop aesthetic is often traced back to PC Music, a music label and art collective known for the array of Avant-pop and electronic artists either signed to or associated with it. The label was founded in 2013 by prominent hyperpop producer A.G. Cook, and has featured artists significant to the genre, such as Hannah Diamond, GFOTY and Tommy Cash. Though the PC label was significant in popularizing some of hyperpop's distinguishing characteristics, they didn't invent the genre. Hyperpop's roots are various, stemming from many niche music cultures that rose with the advancement of internet culture during the late 2000s and early 2010s. These cyber-DIY music styles nightcore, vaporwave, witch house, chiptune, cloud rap and more — inspired the

practices of experimentation, alteration and over-the-top attitude key to hyperpop. Part of what makes hyperpop a difficult musical trend to track is its fundamental rejection of barriers. It offers the musical grounds to resist and reach beyond normative boundaries. For this reason, the hyperpop world has become a space for individuals with marginalized identities to access their voice within popular culture and the musical world. It is no coincidence that many of the most prominent names in hyperpop are members of the LGBTQIA+ community, notably 100 Gecs lead vocalist Laura Les, production virtuoso Arca, and the late SOPHIE. It is the attitude behind the creation of hyperpop art that makes it hyperpop, rather than a specific type of production, achieving a unified identity in the appreciation and acceptance of difference.

But these characteristics also make it a challenge to understand what the term hyperpop means. Genre may be hyperpop's most significant foe. It would be hard to provide any cohesive description of the sonic characteristics of hyperpop. The sound of hyperpop varies widely, and any one song may blend many genres into a single piece. Dubstep, death metal, nu-metal, ambient, breakcore, internet rap, K-pop, ska, orchestral music, punk and more are all turned into musical tools for hyperpop artists to utilize in their process. Boundaries fall apart, organize anew, and thicken into a sound that is both too varying and too specific to be easily classified. Despite the relatively unhelpful nature of the term "hyperpop," it is this label that has helped artists gain recognition. The term has also achieved a cultural relevance, and with that has come mainstream acceptance. Many large artists have now co-opted some of the sounds and behavior of hyperpop, notably Lady Gaga's 2021 album "Dawn of Chromatica." The album is filled with sparkly, maximalist sounds, and many pieces feature significant hyperpop artists such as Arca, A.G. Cook, and Dorian Electra.

popular trend in the hyperpop community. The remix has been used by many hyperpop artists, producing works that entirely reshape their old songs, often in collaboration with many other artists. Notable examples include 100 Gecs' "1000 Gecs and The Tree of Clues," Dorian Electra's deluxe release of their My Agenda album, and Rebecca Black's absurdist remix of her notorious single "Friday."

However, this moment of acceptance also presents a conflict for the future of hyperpop. With such success comes the possibility that its commercialization will be its downfall. When the power of the movement leaves the hands of its creators and moves into the hands of the hegemonic and profit-based giants of the music business, the movement's ability to be a space of inclusivity suffers. Songs with too much edge to their sociopolitical commentary and discussions of identity will likely fall out of favor.

Even at this point in hyperpop's growth, though it is a genre known for its inclusivity, it is still lacking in considerable ways. It is and has been a space for the queer community, yet many of this community and others remain unrepresented. Particularly, despite the many artists of color who have made important contributions to hyperpop, such as Rico Nasty, Tama Gucci, and Namasenda, the "mainstream" hyperpop scene has been an overwhelmingly white one. If hyperpop's blending into dominant culture and commercialization continues, the logical assumption is that the accepted and promoted identities of the culture will become increasingly narrow. Its possibilities for inclusivity and range will dwindle. The concerning influence of corporations can be found in simply questioning the term hyperpop. The name was first coined by Spotify when they decided to make an official playlist for the overall genre. Unsurprisingly, both the name and the playlist fail to fully describe the various sounds and ideas that can be understood as hyperpop. The tracks displayed on Spotify's official hyperpop playlist are an essential but partial selection of songs. For



Album cover for hyper pop group 100 Gecs' 2023 album "10,000 Gecs."

the most part, the songs found in this playlist represent the most pop-adjacent forms of hyperpop; songs with shiny autotune, maximalist but professional-sounding production, and consistent dance beats. Spotify's actions could be seen simply as a giant company's attempts to understand a complex musical trend. Or they could be seen as a giant company's attempts to control the trend by applying a definition

It also seems significant that Dawn of Chromatica is an album of remixes, a to it that conveniently limits it.

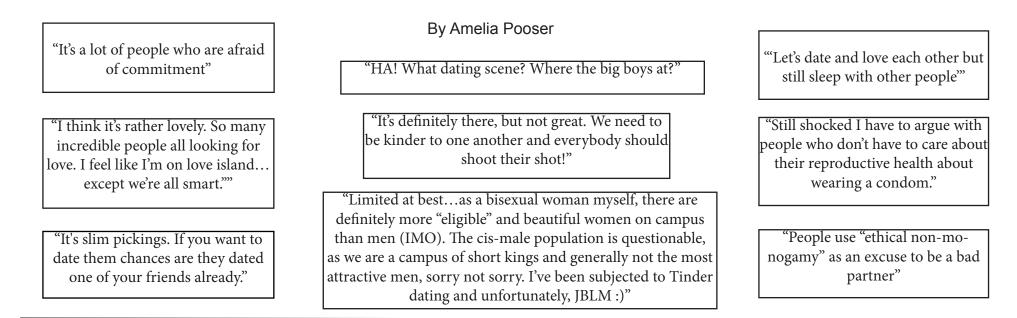
Hyperpop faces the same challenges that countless subversive musical movements have faced before it. Similarly to punk culture's history, hyperpop is challenged by what often seems like the inevitable effects of commodification. Where hyperpop will go from here seems unclear. Perhaps its origin as a place that rejects definition will allow it to remain rebellious and experimental in nature. But it is an attitude and community that originates from this place, not a term. And what is considered hyperpop (outside of the world of Spotify, at least) is more so this community than it is any one sound, and presumably, a sound is easier to commodify than a community. It seems the term is not a necessity. What becomes of hyperpop, then, is inconsequential. The name may fizzle out, but the tradition will not. This age of the internet community of creatives who defy boundaries and urge change will continue to do just that.

#### PAGE DESIGN/ GRACE STENSLAND

# FEATURES

## **OUESTION OF THE WEEK:** What are your thoughts on the dating scene on campus?

This week we did both anonymous and in-person interviews to get the most honest answers on the UPS dating scene.



### Commencement cacophony: Skateboarding, disruption, and recreation



Skaters Henry Smalley ('25), Hayden Smith ('23), Alexi Ebersole ('23), Eli Fabricant ('25), and Miles Lawson ('23) (left to right) during a skate session on the Commencement walkway Photo Credit: Tate DeCarlo // The Trail

Chances are, if you've had to walk to or from a class in Wyatt or Thompson on a sunny day, you've run the gauntlet of skateboarders on the Commencement walkway. To some, navigating the herd may be an opportunity to say hello to friends or stop and chat, but for many, the skateboarders are a dynamic and overstimulating obstacle in their afternoon commute. Even if you manage to make it through unshaken, you probably won't escape the sound of skaters until the sun goes down. Skateboarding on Commencement, thus, is an enjoyable pastime and part of campus life for some, whilst simultaneously disturbing the peace of others.

This conundrum begs an important question: why do skaters choose to inhabit the Commencement walkway over the numerous parking lots around campus? The answer is deceptively simple. Despite the student pedestrians, golf carts, and bikers around which the skaters must maneuver, the walkway's smooth marble tiles make it all worthwhile.

#### By Tate DeCarlo

cer, agree that requests to leave stem from enforcement of University policy rather than personal bias.

"The underlying concerns are, really from the University standpoint, quality of life, noise, and then liability and safety, and finally property damage. The tricks, when they're done well, are usually pretty fine but when they don't get 'em right, you see a lot of scuff marks on the sidewalks and chips to the cement," said Lynch.

In order to minimize these anxieties about damage to property and injuries to skaters — and the legal repercussions of both — the University allegedly has a rule that states skateboards are to be used only for transportation.

"Technically, it is published and printed, four wheels on the ground. It's for transportation," Lynch elaborates. Though this rule is nowhere to be found on the Campus Wide Policies webpage, Security asserts that skateboards popping into the air is a violation of the University's safety and liability precautions. Regardless of whether this rule is published, Security usually has higher priorities in upholding campus wellbeing than policing skateboarders. As long as there are no complaints, they are usually lax in their reinforcement of the four-wheels-on-the-ground rule.

"If I see skateboarders, I don't even really interact with them, unless somebody calls for a complaint. It's usually a noise complaint or they're doing jumps right next to a bunch of cars and somebody's worried their car might get hit. If it's just an open space and you're out there skateboarding, I just let you be," said Whitt.

Skateboarding sessions, therefore, can be shut down at the ring of a phone, and there isn't anywhere around the University where skateboarders are truly free from risk of eviction. Once a complaint is called in, Security is expected to intervene. "There's no area that I can particularly say that you might go," Lynch confirmed.

All in all, though, skaters on campus agree that their relationship with campus security is a positive one, as long as each party is respectful of the other.

"I feel it's very reciprocal. If you can show respect to campus security, they'll give it back to you very easily," coming from the area around Todd Field. From golf cart carts to lawnmowers to rowdy friend groups, skateboarders blend right in with the rest of the cacophony that is life on Commencement walkway.

"I would say the biggest noise I hear is the lawnmowers, those are the ones that really bother me. Other than that, the skateboarders are fine, they're having a good time," Sullivan said.

While there is not a unanimous opinion regarding the level of disturbance caused by skateboarders on Commencement, it is important that they consider their impact on the students around them if they want their presence to be welcoming. In order to be an approachable community on campus, skaters must keep in mind the wellbeing of their fellow students, faculty and staff, as well as campus property. In return, it is only fair that those with whom they share campus grant them a little grace as well. For a pastime with no school-sponsored space on campus, skaters are simply trying to find somewhere that offers a smooth surface and a place to congregate whilst causing as few problems as possible.

Smalley confirms, "we're just trying to do what we like to do and trying to be conscientious of other people as well."

Commencement walkway has become a cornerstone of skateboarding at the University of Puget Sound. Lawson feels a deeper connection with the pathway than simply its practicality. After multiple years of education at the University, Commencement has become a place that he associates not only with skateboarding, but also with community. Commencement represents the intersection between his identity as both student and skater, and resultantly, isn't a spot he wants to give up.

"It's definitely become a sentimental place for me, and it'd be hard to get me to stop skating on Commencement," he concludes.



"The vibrations from the constant little cracks feels really nice. I've always liked it, it's like ASMR," explained Tacoma local Rory Mitchell.

Mitchell's appreciation for the satisfying tiles is echoed by others. Commencement regular and Trimble hall resident Eli Fabricant ('25) also drew attention to the material. "Obviously Commencement, because it's super smooth," said Fabricant, when asked his favorite place to skateboard. "Also, I think we all like the pop sounds and it's just convenient."

More importantly, Commencement is one of the few places on campus where skateboarders are rarely asked to leave by campus security, making it a reliable space for sessions throughout the week. Miles Lawson ('23) is on his fourth year of skating on campus, and recognizes that skating in some spots around the University results in a faster kick-out than others.

"I kind of stick to skating on Commencement because I know campus security doesn't mind us being there. For the most part, I try to avoid defacing property or damaging property. But, when you're riding a piece of wood with metal trucks on it, it's difficult sometimes," Lawson explains.

Campus Security bears no personal ill-will towards skaters. Greg Lynch, the Assistant Director of Security Services, and Chris Whitt, the Lead Campus Safety Offisaid Lawson.

While Commencement is a favorite for skaters, they acknowledge that their presence can cause a disturbance to their peers. There have been several posts on the Ins-tagram page "@upsmissedconnections" — which many students use to voice their thoughts and concerns — complaining about the noise caused by the skaters. Others have argued in these posts' comments that Commencement is a public space that must be shared by all. Skater Henry Smalley ('25) offers his take on the situation.

"It's loud and kids are definitely annoyed by the presence it brings, which is fair, but at the same time, you know, I think everyone does what they do. Skating is just part of what we do on a daily basis," said Smalley.

When it comes to relationships with students living in buildings near commencement, there seems to be a similar sentiment. Kylie Sullivan ('26), a first year in Todd Phibbs explains that her annoyance with the skaters, while minimal, stems less from the noise and more from their physical imposition upon the space outside of her dorm.

"I don't particularly enjoy when they crash into you, they're like 'Move!' and I'm like, 'No thank you."" she said. "When there's like a huge group of them, you're like, 'Okay, I guess I'll walk on the grass.""

However, she doesn't feel like the noise they cause is much of a disturbance in comparison to the general racket

# COMBAT ZONE

#### PAGE DESIGN/ GRACE STENSLAND

The Combat Zone is intended as 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.

### Fashionable student very confused about GLAM major

**By Ainsley Feeney** 

Ainsley Austin ('23) has always dreamed of being a fashion designer. So, when she saw the University of Puget Sound offered a GLAM major, she knew exactly what she had to do. But as time has gone on, Austin is increasingly confused about what the GLAM major entails. I sat down with her to discuss her worries about the trajectory of the GLAM department and concerns for her future.

Ainsley: Hi, Ainsley.

Ainsley: Hi, Ainsley.

Ainsley: Wait, this is really confusing. Can I call you Ainsley Austin?

Ainsley: No, I'm pretty private about my identity. Surely you can figure something out.

Ainsley (author): Yeah, I guess.

Ainsley (fashionista): Okay, perfect. What did you want to ask me about?

Ainsley (Philosophy major): I wanted to hear your thoughts about majoring in GLAM. It seems like you've been pretty disappointed with the program.

Ainsley (GLAM major): Yeah, for sure. I declared the major as soon as I heard the name because I've always been a bit of a fashionista. My dream is to create my own fashion line and design clothes. But every class I've taken in that department has seemed really...off topic.

Ainsley (brunette): What do you mean by that? Ainsley (blonde): Well, first of all, we haven't discussed anything that happened after, like, 1100 AD. There's way more fashion history beyond that. And there's way more reading than I expected, too. Sometimes we have to read whole plays! What does that have to do with fashion? Any time I ask my professors about silhouettes or shoulder pads, they look at me funny and keep talking about some guy named Homer. I feel like I'm not getting the education I was promised.

Ainsley (shorter): That must be frustrating. This is a silly question, I'm sure, but...you do know what GLAM stands for, right?

Ainsley (taller): Well, yeah. It's short for glamorous. Ainsley (not UT Sketch Comedy Troupe co-lead): No,



I mean at the University. It stands for Greek, Latin, and Ancient Mediterranean Studies.

Ainsley (UT Sketch Comedy Troupe co-lead): You mean like Greek, Latin, and Ancient Mediterranean Fashion Studies?

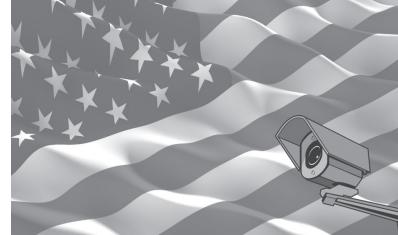
Ainsley (knows what the GLAM program is): No, just Greek, Latin, and Ancient Mediterranean Studies in general.

Ainsley (just found out what the GLAM program is): Wait, you're telling me learning Greek has nothing to do with the fashion industry? All those plays have been for nothing? Why would they name it that? What's glamorous about the Second Punic War?

At this point in the interview, Ainsley (angry) stormed off the set, screaming, "et tu, Brute?" *The Trail* has reached out for comment with no response.

### **Opinion: Is it Xenophobic to keep domestic surveillance domestic?**

By Your Elected, and Frankly, Hurt Federal Representatives



intelligence agencies rather than the sinister glare of insidious foreign actors? We're doing this to keep you safe.

In fact, that's why we purchased covert spyware for mobile devices from the same firm that made Pegasus! Remember Pegasus? Of course you don't, and that's just the way we like it. Our spyware can crack standard smartphone encryption and give the entity behind the installation full access to all of your data, which works like a charm when you're trying to hunt down journalists (a.k.a. "truth terrorists," am I right?). However, after we got caught, we realized Pegasus wasn't good enough to keep our watchful eyes on you. That's why we bought the spyware Landmark from the same company, the NSO Group, using a front corporation. Landmark comes highly recommended, too, from our friends in Saudi Arabia. When we saw how quickly they dispatched Khashoggi, we knew we had to get in on that action; we spared no expense in procuring the finest spyware to protect American citizens. You're welcome, by the way. That's why we were so wary of TikTok to begin with, as we can only assume Chinese spyware is of the same quality as other products made in China. But apparently expressing valid concerns over the security of Americans' data in the hands of the Chinese is xenophobic. Trust us instead, we can guarantee that we lock all the data we collect on you under the same level of encryption as our plans for the Ukrainian counteroffensive. They aren't going to be leaked any time soon. On our honor and integrity as members of the U.S. Federal Government, you can trust us.

# Logger Chatz

My lady bits smell so bad! What do I do??? Stop calling them your lady bits. This won't help the smell, I just find the phrasing vernacularly disturbing. Interesting choice to bring this to me rather than your gyno, but now that we're here, I'd say definitely stock up on some scented feminine hygiene products; this will do wonders for your pH balance. Wear tight spandex — you

know, to keep the smell in. Cut back on the H2O, you're going to want to keep it dryer than the Sahara, moisture is a breeding ground for bacteria.

No but fr fr, tell your man to wash his junk.

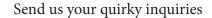
i'm in the bowling class and i'm losing! i feel like i'm the worst in the class what do i do?
I once saw someone on a dating app say that you're either good at bowling or good at sex.
Can personally confirm and being good at sex is way cooler than being good at bowling, so honestly, this is a flex. Slay.

I'm losing my mother f\*\*\*\*\*\* marbles
Me too bestie. But I never really had mine and you probably didn't either so why stress?

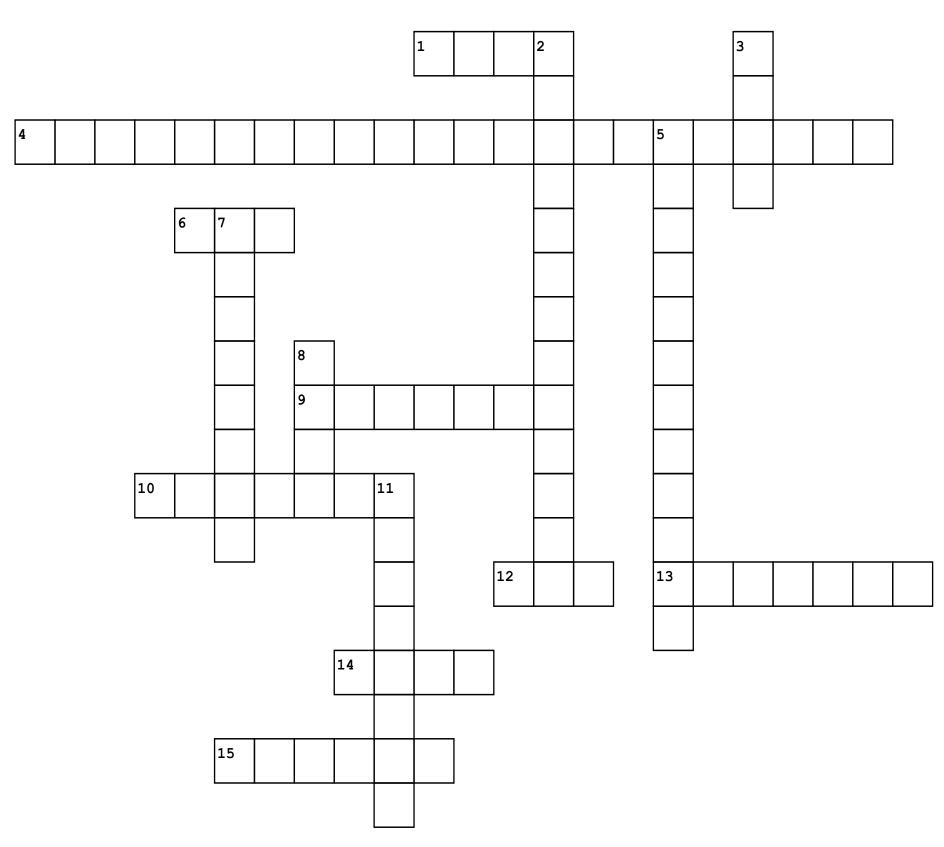
**got too drunk and think i said too much this weekend. what's your cure for this hangziety?** No you didn't. I've said it before and I'll say it again: GASLIGHT. Gaslight your friends, gaslight strangers, and of course, gaslight yourself. The world is burning, we're allowed to live in delusion. Said something you shouldn't have? Easy, no you didn't. Kissed someone you shouldn't have? No you didn't. NOTE: this advice only applies to the girls and the gays; men, do better.

Contrary to your misinformed and derivative opinions about us, we are not helpless geriatrics marooned in an increasingly digitized society; thank you very much. We are, in fact, quite hip to the latest newfangled gadgets you kids are glued to, and are more than privy to your little gibes about us on TikTok. You accuse us of being xenophobic fossils, but what you fail to understand is that we are investing in your future. Our single highest priority, as Congress, is the physical and mental welfare of America's youth, and the most urgent threat facing our youth is undeniably TikTok. While we immensely appreciate how significantly it has atrophied your pesky attention spans, our attempts at banning TikTok are only a single piece of a larger political campaign. Put simply, we want to keep our domestic surveillance domestic. Just consider this: Is it really xenophobic to want your constituents to be perpetually under the watchful eye of friendly federal

**my roommate keeps biting me. i need advice** Perhaps they are feeling emotionally neglected and you should just show them more love. Maybe they just want a little treat. Did you startle them or sit too close to them on the couch? Roommates rarely go rabid for no reason so their behavior is probably more reflective of your handling than anything else.



### **Earth Month Crossword**



#### Across

- **1.** What animal pulls its eyeballs down to the roof of its mouth when swallowing?
- **4.** What campus organization has been leading Earth Month activities on campus?

#### Down

- 2. 1970 Wisconsin senator who created "Earth Day."
- 3. Greek entity that personifies Earth
- **6.** Earth Day drove forward the creation of this government agency in 1970.
- 9. Reduce, Reuse,...
- 10. April showers bring May...
- **12.** Recycling how many aluminum cans can run a TV for three hours?
- **13.** Popular sustainable milk substitute used at Diversions Cafe
- 14. Popular sustainable meat substitute
- 15. "... In Our Planet" is the 2023 Earth Day theme

- **5.** Washington state flower
- 7. Top producer of O2 on Earth
- 8. All the food in the UPS garden is...
- **11.** Male marine animal able to get pregnant and give birth

# ARTS & EVENTS

#### PAGE DESIGN/ GRACE STENSLAND

## **Rita Moreno, icon of Hollywood's Golden Age, brings humor and reflection to Pierce Lecture**



Rita Moreno with Professor Gomez, Photo Credit: Alex Crook

#### By Audrey Davis, Editor-in-Chief

#### Content Warning: this piece contains brief mentions of suicide and rape

On April 10, 2023, students, staff, and community members packed into Schneebeck Concert Hall to see this year's acclaimed Susan Resneck Pierce lecturer, Rita Moreno

Moreno opened the evening by hailing Tacoma, exclaiming, "What a city!" Joined onstage by Associate Professor of History, Andrew Gomez - whose class she visited earlier in the day — the two jumped right into Moreno's story.

Moreno immigrated to America from Puerto Rico with her mother at the age of five. As a little girl in a very foreign New York City, not speaking any English, Moreno, or Rosita Dolores Alverío - as she was known before Hollywood — realized quickly that it was "sink or swim" when it came to language. Somewhat unconsciously, she began to swim, setting a precedent for the determined energy she has carried throughout her life.

Despite Moreno's bubbly persona, her early days - and much of her career, for that matter --- were full of obstacles. Her palpable attitude of perseverance has been a necessity. Growing up in "el Bronx," Rita faced unrelenting racism and harassment. Hollywood further scorned Moreno, frequently casting her as the "island girl" stereotype. Moreno divulged a conversation she recently

had with Jessica Chastain. The two were discussing sex scenes, and while Chastain discussed the awkwardness associated with the production process, Moreno had a disturbing realization: habitually being cast as a "dusky woman" meant many of her early characters "didn't get love scenes. They got raped," she said.

Moreno's experiences were so severe that she sought out psychotherapy following a suicide attempt. Moreno insists therapy was the only thing that was able to "set her straight" after years of barbs and physical assault eroded her sense of value as a person. Eventually, she told her therapist, "I think I love me, and I think I'm a good person. I think I'm ready to go out into the world."

And out into the world she went, becoming one of only 18 individuals to receive all four coveted honors in the performing arts: Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony (EGOT). This occurred despite being perpetually overlooked for quality roles. Moreno and particularly her portrayal of Anita in "West Side Story" have become inspirational models for Hispanic communities.

Moreno was informed years after her Oscar win about the concurrent reaction in Spanish Harlem in 1962. As the names were listed off for best-supporting actress nominees, "'Fay Bainter in 'The Children's Hour,' Judy Garland in 'Judgment at Nuremberg,' Lotte Lenya in 'The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone,' Una Merkel in 'Summer and Smoke,' and Rita Moreno in 'West Side Story,'" the neighborhood — usually loud and raucous, according to Moreno - went dead silent. When she was announced as the winner, cheers of joy and hollers of "She did it! She did it!" erupted. Moreno explained that the echoed sentiment truly signified, "We did it!"

Moreno was the first Latina to ever win an Oscar, and remained the only one until Ariana DeBose won the Oscar for the same role as Anita in Steven Spielberg's 2021 adaptation of "West Side Story." At 91 (though you'd guess a few decades younger just from listening to her speak), Moreno worries that she won't be here to see further growth of Latino roles in media.

When asked by an audience member if she would ever slow down, Moreno answered passionately, "Hell no!"

### A Night at the Opera (and Cabaret)

#### By Kaya Heimowitz

Patrons of the arts visited Schneebeck Concert Hall, from Friday, March 31, to Sunday, April 2, to watch the music department's "Scenes from the Opera House to the Cabaret!" The production featured scenes from famous operas and musicals with minimal props. In a note written by the cast members, the show was dedicated to "those we have lost and those who have lost someone" and mentioned the recent passing of a student. The note also encouraged audience members to internalize the message that "there is no day but today to live in the moment and find love around you."

The first half of the event focused on scenes from famous operas. A narrator introduced every new scene, explaining what was happening so even those unfamiliar with the stories could follow along and enjoy. Lyrics to the songs were also projected onto the screen behind performers so audience members could follow along with the story.

The first few scenes were from Mozart's "The Magic Flute." The opera began with Prince Tamino, played by Devlyn Habib-Campbell, running down the theater aisles from a "beast." The Queen's three marvelously dressed ladies (Natalie Worthy, Annie Hochberg, and Cara Castaldi) then rescued the Prince with swords (in this case, lightsabers). A few other scenes from "The Magic Flute" were sung, which included Larissa Gaulke impressively hitting all of the high notes in the famously difficult "Queen of the Night Aria." The final opera scene was the finale from "A Midsummer Night's Dream." A dozen or so fairies (opera singers wearing wings) floated gracefully down the aisles to the stage, singing about how everything wrong has been righted. Puck danced jauntily across the stage alone at the end while performing his famous monologue (if you've ever seen "Dead Poet's Society," you know the one). After a brief intermission, the show resumed, switching to "Scenes from the Cabaret!" A live band played the accompanying music for the entire second half of the show. A few songs from the musical "Rent" were performed. The musical centers around artists living in New York City in the 1980s under the shadow of the AIDS crisis. The first song takes place in a "Support Group." The names of the people in this scene were changed and re-named to honor people who suffered and died from AIDS or AIDS-related illnesses (for example, the character "Freddie" was named after Freddie Mercury). The song featured gorgeous harmonies as the cast sang about forgetting regret, not thinking about the past or the future,



The Queen's ladies (left to right: Annie Hochberg '25, Natalie Worthy '25, Cara Castaldi '25) tend to the injured Prince Tamino (Devlyn Habib-Campbell) in the the Opera Photo Credit: Sy Bean, used with permission

and just focusing on right now and how they felt that day as they all struggled with AIDS. Audience members wiped away tears during the moving performance. Other songs from "Rent" were also performed, like "Seasons of Love," which asks, "How do you measure a year in the life?" The song ultimately explains that a person should measure their life in love. All of the songs from "Rent" focus on the connections between people, and in the last song, the performers sing, "You're not alone. I'm not alone.' The production ends with scenes from "And the World Goes 'Round," a mix of musical theater hits, asking, "What makes the world go 'round?" The first answer is "coffee in a cardboard cup," and it declares that the main problem with the world is that it moves too fast. To emphasize this, the performers sing faster and faster every time they take a "sip" from their coffees on stage. The next answer given is "Money, Money, Money" makes the world go 'round. Finally, grand ole "New York, New York" is the final answer for what makes the world go 'round. Of course, the world goes 'round, but appreciating the arts and reflecting on the love around us can improve life in the present. Almost all of the performances were emotional, and many dealt with heavier themes of death, suicide, and depression. There were moments I felt overwhelmed with emotions because of the emotional toll. I cried during one of the songs from "Rent" and so did the person next to me. A moment of grief became a shared experience. I left the show feeling hopeful about the future and appreciative of the community around me.



### **Profiles** in Puget Sound: **Professor** Renee Simms delivers **Daedalus** Lecture

ns.com/home

By Raka Custer On Thursday, March 30, students, faculty, and alum-

ni alike poured into the Murray Boardroom to attend Professor Renee Simms' Daedalus Lecture, "Fire Under Feet: Creative Writing and the Decolonial Imagination." Having just returned from sabbatical and braving a recent knee injury, Professor Simms explored the process and history behind a manuscript for her forthcoming memoir. This hybrid-memoir tells the story of Simms' life and childhood in Michigan and the story of the historic black neighborhood she grew up in, Northland Gardens, exploring the history of this historic black community from 1970 to 1997. Simms labels her work a "hybrid-memoir," a term to which she ascribes a double meaning. Not only does Simms intersperse her prose with poetry, photographs, and artwork, but the work itself simultaneously focuses on Simms' life and the perpetually-changing neighborhood she was raised in. Fittingly, the lecture itself took on a hybrid form as well, as Simms presented excerpts from her manuscript, coupled with moments from Northland Gardens history and further explored through demonstrations of her creative processes.

Professor Renee Simms is an associate professor for the AFAM department and also a contributing English faculty member. While she initially interviewed for a visiting position in the English department in 2011, Simms was asked by former Dean Bartanen to fill a different visiting position in the African American Studies department instead. Ever since, Simms has taught courses in African Diaspora Literature, Black Feminism and Fiction, and, in the English department, Advanced Fiction Writing. This latter class is particularly fitting, as Simms' own creative writing has stemmed from a desire to see new narratives within the literary landscape.

"I've just always been a reader of fiction. I love novels, love short stories, and wanted to try to write my own. I think what draws us to creative writing in the first place is we feel we have stories that we haven't seen published and that we want to express our own observations of the world and experiences," Simms said.

Though it is not a work of fiction, the developing manuscript she presented at the Daedalus lecture exists partially out of that desire to help another untold story take form. While part of the reason she chose the hybrid format was because it allowed her to shift the focus between herself and the wider community, it also presented her with a set of challenges unique to writing a work of nonfiction.

"It is different writing about real life. You have to be aware of people's feelings. I don't think it's fair to write about people without letting them know, and I don't think it's fair to not have empathy when you're writing about someone who is real. So, thinking about not just the things that they do that maybe are troublesome, but maybe understanding what motivated them to do whatever behavior you're putting in the book. And so that's a huge burden," Simms said. Simms believes that writing about the past provides her with a sense of catharsis and pushes her beyond those hurdles. Her new understandings of Northland Gardens and the people she grew up with are at the forefront of her process. "These are things I've been thinking about for a long time. I didn't always understand what I experienced as a child. I didn't understand the place the way I do now. It took me a long time to be able to process what happened and to have the language to talk about it. So, it feels like, because I'm at that point, I need to get it done," she said. Although Simms' manuscript is not yet finished, the nuanced historical research Simms presented at the Daedalus Lecture and the respect for her subjects, with whom she lived next door to for years, demonstrated a sense of care. Simms believes this sense of care should be at the center of any nonfiction work. "Writing is a powerful tool. Words do harm people, words can hurt, words can cut. And so, I do think that we have a responsibility to be mindful of how we're using words, especially when we're talking about other people's lives. You know, there are legal reasons, but if I'm gonna call myself someone who is practicing in the humanities, then that means I have to pay attention to how I am interacting with and dealing with the humans that I'm writing about," said Simms.