

the cooper point journal

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FROM THE ARCHIVES “Students in the Tacoma campus program *With Liberty and Justice for Whom?* end fall quarter with a mock trial on Tues., Dec. 7, 2017. They argued the speech rights of NFL players to protest during the National Anthem.”

HOW WE WORK

The Cooper Point Journal is produced by students at The Evergreen State College, with funding from student fees and advertising from local businesses. The Journal is published for free every other Wednesday during the school year and distributed throughout the Olympia area.

Our content is also available online at www.cooperpointjournal.com.

Our mission is to provide an outlet for student voices, and to inform and entertain the Evergreen community and the Olympia-area more broadly, as well as to provide a platform for students to learn about operating a news publication.

Our office is located on the third floor of the Campus Activities Building (CAB) at Evergreen State College in room 332 and we have open student meetings from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. every Wednesday. Come early if you'd like to chat with the editor!

WORK FOR US

We accept submissions from any student at The Evergreen State College, and also from former students, faculty, and staff. We also hire some students onto our staff, who write articles for each issue and receive a learning stipend.

Have an exciting news topic? Know about some weird community happening? Enjoy that new hardcore band? Come talk to us and write about it.

We will also consider submissions from non-Evergreen people, particularly if they have special knowledge on the topic. We prioritize current student content first, followed by former students, faculty and staff, and then general community submissions. Within that, we prioritize content related to Evergreen first, followed by Olympia, the state of Washington, the Pacific Northwest, etc.

To submit an article, reach us at cooperpointjournal@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We want to hear from you! If you have an opinion on anything we've reported in the paper, or goings-on in Olympia or at Evergreen, drop us a line with a paragraph or two (100 - 300 words) for us to publish in the paper. Make sure to include your full name, and your relationship to the college—are you a student, staff, graduate, community member, etc. We reserve the right to edit anything submitted to us before publishing,

Structural Issues



OSHA Investigating At Evergreen Among Worker Complaints, Admin Response

Degrading pink pipe insulation with possible asbestos containing material in campus facilities. Courtesy of Ricky Haney.

by Mason Soto &
Georgie Fehringer

News

Certain names of Evergreen employees have been changed for fear of retaliation from administration

On Mar. 20, 2019 the U.S. Department of Labor opened two investigations at Evergreen regarding health and safety complaints.

These investigations follow a Facilities Services employee lodging a number of claims including: lack of training, exposure to numerous hazardous materials, and a “Wild West Culture” regarding accountability from the administration, safety of the employees, and ecological hazards.

The labor dispute also relates to the ongoing restructuring of facilities, as well as, worker experiences during the snowstorm that closed campus this February. During the suspended operations, employee Ricky Haney suffered a hernia while working a 51 hour shift, and student workers were involved in fueling emergency generators throughout the utility tunnels along with Haney and others.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

Facilities Services main functions are groundskeeping, construction, custodial work, engineering, and maintenance services throughout the college, as in places such as the Central Utility Plant, which contains the school’s industrial heating and cooling equipment. Ricky Haney has worked at the school since 2016, and currently works at the Central Utility Plant. He alleges that during his time here he has seen a deterioration of procedures, administrative accountability, and worker morale.

As a Maintenance Mechanic 2, Haney’s duties include operating

“This has been an ongoing thing for so long that the running joke we have between each other, you know, the gallows humor, is we know what it smells like.”

and maintaining the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and as an assistant at the plant, though he said he often works elsewhere, and finds himself doing more than what he signed up for.

Over the past few years of budget cuts, multiple workers allege the consolidation of positions and increase in individual duties, with little or no change in job classification or pay.

Haney said his supervisors convinced him to go through the Cole Industries program “Full Steam Ahead” to start as a boiler operator, and secure a job among the layoffs in the summer of 2017. After he completed training and began work assisting the single current boiler operator, he realized that his job classification did not mention steam, nor was his pay adjusted for the work he was doing.

Haney says this is a problem in other departments as well. “We’re talking about a substantial amount of compensation they’re not getting because of the way they classify the jobs.”

Drennon told the Journal that boiler operations are minimal and more safe since the system was automated in the past decade, and that the school has had trouble hiring more full time operators. “Would I love to have another boiler operator? Yes. But worst case scenario, [we lose

the current operators], we would just contract out to Cole Industries,” said Drennon.

OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS & ASBESTOS

On Feb. 20, Ricky Haney sent a list of complaints to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The list includes employees working alone, with no radio, in hazardous conditions and mechanical operations; a lack of proper training or a system for tracking the trainings; lack of proper protective equipment; inadequate disposal and handling of hazardous materials; chemical spills; false reporting and safety tests; disabled safety monitoring; and high voltage panels exposed to regular flooding. They also allege repeated exposure to deteriorating asbestos in facilities, and exposure to the pathogenic bacteria legionella in the cooling towers, with no tracking of these exposures.

Last November, samples from the utility tunnels that run beneath campus were tested by an external company NVL Labs, and tested positive for asbestos. Asbestos is legally allowed to be around workers if undamaged and properly contained, but photos shared with the journal by workers from the tunnels show damaged insulation and fibrous material poking out from around pipes. Multiple employees we spoke to alleged routine contact with asbestos, as well as chlorine exposure in the pool operations without protective gear and legionella exposure in the cooling towers.

Haney said of working with asbestos, “This has been an ongoing thing for so long that the running joke we have between each other, you know, the gallows humor, is we know what it smells like.”

One worker, under the pseudonym Jacob, said that he was never directly told by Drennon or Ward that there was asbestos or what the exact dangers were, and that it is still difficult to understand what danger the workers have been put in. Jacob saw emails confirming identification of asbestos in November, and abatement in January, but none of this

info was shared widely. “That’s one of my biggest complaints, that if it is dangerous to be down there, nobody told us, and nobody is telling us to this day.”

Evergreen’s asbestos procedures from 2010 say that asbestos inspections “must be given to employees working on in-house construction, renovation, demolition or repair before the project starts.” It also states that workers are not authorized to clean up asbestos containing material, and that depending on deterioration affected areas should be isolated.

“All my staff know, if you see anything that you think is asbestos, you have to assume it is, and you have to report it for testing,” Drennon said. He explained that there are regular abatement contracts, including two currently being scheduled.

Main Switchgear

Haney expressed concern about conditions of the Main Voltage Switchgear as well, which distributes power to campus and is located outside the Central Utility Plant, running to transformers in the utility tunnels. Evergreen’s 2014 Master Plan also mentions the need for updates to the switchgear and panels in the buildings dating back to the 1970s, which were “at or beyond their expected usable life.”

Besides being outdated, Haney said the main switchgear is infested with rodents and has been operated by workers without proper training or protection. Another facilities worker, under the pseudonym Joshua, said that he has witnessed workers with little training using sticks to maneuver the contractors at the switchgear that are dangerous to touch.

Drennon told the journal that work on the switchgear is contracted out to Taurus Industries, and that no Evergreen staff have worked there for two years, though this could not be confirmed in time for publication. The school’s Critical Power plan from 2016 outlines a number of updates to safety operations and calls for a new main switchgear, with new buildings to protect its elements. Drennon did not offer a timeline for this plan, but said, “We’re getting rid of what I would call an old potentially dangerous switchgear to a new reliable medium voltage switchgear.” The new switchgear will be operable from fifty feet away from the breakers.

Haney said that OSHA investigators told him they are sending High Voltage Investigators to report on these claims.

RAD Complaints

Student RAD workers have also come forward with complaints of safety issues and cover-up. Following the alleged flooding at the HCC Mechanical Room, multiple workers who have asked not to be named said they saw exposed electrical panels and power tools submerged in water. The students also allege that then-Assistant Director of Residential Facilities Jaymie Lacina called lead student workers into a meeting to tell them to keep quiet about the incident, or risk losing their jobs. One student worker told the journal that Jaymie directed workers to keep the doors of the Mechanical Room closed so that people would not see what was going on, as well as to not spread information about the hazardous conditions.

Hot Spot

Safety issues around what is referred to as the Hot Spot, marked off by fencing and signs near Student Residences B Dorm, have also come up as part of the workers’ worries. Haney said he began checking the surface temperature without a work order, “so people would eventually make enough noise to make something happen.” Still, since Haney and a few others were sent to work on the active steam line, cutting through the concrete — then ordered to stop due to billowing steam — there has been no noticeable work at the site. In video shared with the journal, the surface temperature registers at over 160 degrees fahrenheit. Human skin burns at 106 degrees. Haney said he fears a ‘catastrophic disaster’ if no action is taken.

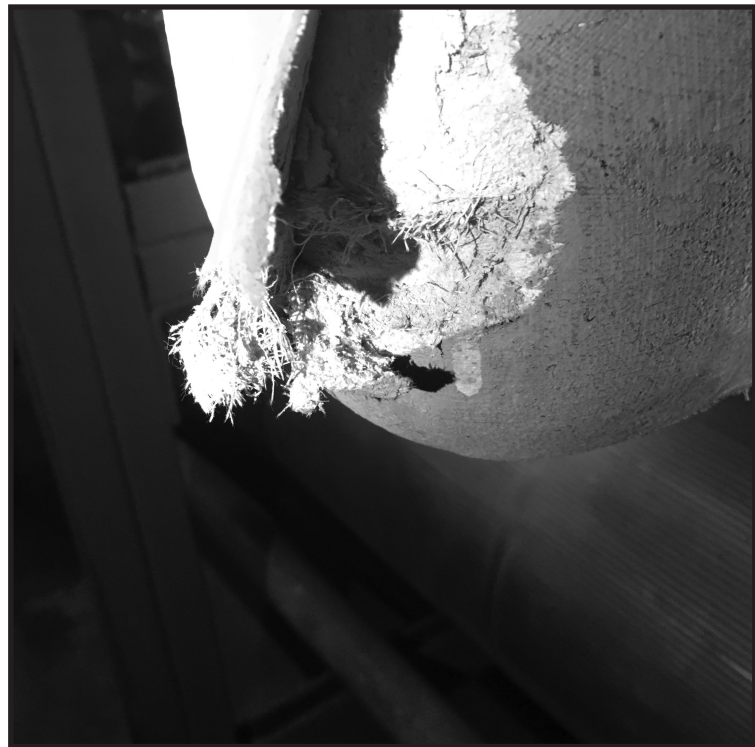
These allegations from various facilities groups are particularly concerning since Evergreen’s Health and Safety Committee in charge of dealing with these issues has not been fully active since 2016. Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator Matt Lebens sent an email in April that said, “Member participation rate (~50%) and overall committee output have been, and continue to be, insufficient.”

SNOWSTORM

The mid-February snowstorm that closed campus centered many of the complaints workers shared. While most campus activities were closed during the storm, many facilities staff were still scheduled to clear snow and keep the campus generators working. Haney and fellow fa-



Duct taped and degrading sign labeling asbestos insulation in campus utility tunnels. Courtesy of Ricky Haney.



ilities employees were part of this group, though he and many others had not done suspended operations work before. During the weekend from Feb. 9 to Feb. 11, the number of people on campus dwindled, and Haney worked for 30 hours before getting a break. While working what would be a 51 hour shift, Haney suffered an inguinal hernia for which he filed a claim through Labor & Industries.

According to Haney's report, the hernia happened after he was refueling emergency diesel generators in the utility tunnels for hours, in a static position. Drennon officially doubted these claims in communications with Human Resources, where he said that the generators have been fueled the same way for 28 years, that he and William Ward both told Haney to go home and get some rest ahead of his injury, and that, "this was not anything that we asked him to do." Drennon was not on campus during this weekend, as text messages between Central Utility Plant workers confirm. Drennon did send a message to the group of workers on the evening of Feb. 10 saying, "Please make sure before you all go home that we have the generators tops [sic] off and the fans scheduled to run 24/7."

Workers and Drennon have also told the journal that student workers were directed to re-fuel the diesel generators in the tunnels beneath campus during the suspended operations.

Kyle Flynn, a worker in the construction group within facilities, who was also there during the snowstorm said he spoke to student workers during that time, and was told that Drennon had requested them to help re-fuel. Flynn worked

alongside students loading diesel onto the cart vehicles for travel through the tunnels, and said that he found the work "unusual." As he said, "I would describe it as, frantically driving up and down to fill up the diesel, and driving it back under the tunnels, and constantly doing that all night."

Haney explained he was uncomfortable with students working with the diesel generators without protective equipment, and took on the static position that caused his injury to avoid involving student workers in the process.

Flynn said it was dirty work, with diesel spilling onto the workers' clothes. He knows that having not done that work before, his training was limited, and the students' training even more limited.

Workers also described questionable calls by Ward during the storm, including having janitorial staff clearing snow without the required clothing, since their footwear and outfits are meant for indoor work. At least one Resident Assistant has alleged similar issues, including threats of job actions if workers did not show up to shovel snow, for twelve hour shifts throughout the week. The worker felt they were not compensated fairly for their time, and that the dining credits and "RA Appreciation Day" offered by administration after complaints did little to quell resentment.

After the storm ended, facilities workers expected the same pay allotted during previous suspended operations, including time and a half plus hour-for-hour paid time off. Many did receive these hours, but were later told by management that the hours had only shown up because of a computer glitch, so they

were removed. One worker said he saw more than 30 hours removed from his paid time off. Eventually workers were told that they would not receive paid leave compensation. Another worker, under the pseudonym Steven, said, "If people knew they weren't going to get paid [like they expected], they wouldn't have stayed and worked fifty hours."

On Mar. 6, staff protested the lack of pay from the snowstorm in a rally on Red Square, organized through the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union and supported by the IWW General Education Union. When they delivered a letter of grievances to the President's office, they tried to meet with Bridges, but ended up leaving the letter with the secretary. "The only fair thing I can say, I agree that I think compensation for the work that they do in situations like that, I would love to see my staff get paid more," Drennon said, "but that's between them and the union."

David, another facilities worker under a pseudonym, said that when workers reached out to the Washington Federation of State Employees union representative for help drafting the list of grievances, they received little support. The union representative could not be contacted in time for publication.

RESPONSE

On May 7, Ward sent a staff email that listed a number of plans facilities intended on implementing in the future, including research into new emergency generator procedures, new snow equipment, elevator safety compliance, and the formulation of a new safety council.

Haney responded in another email, and said, "This sudden outward interest in health/safety is clearly a smokescreen you are putting out to cover the fact that TESC has been in non-compliance w/ OSHA safety & health regulations for many years and on several different fronts."

The journal sent a request for comment to Ward, Drennon, Bridges, and other administration

regarding worker complaints. On June 1, Public Relations Manager Allison Anderson sent a response, which included the statements that, "No students were required to work in utility tunnels," and, "Evergreen remains compliant in safety requirements and immediately marks all zones with asbestos or any other hazard for sampling and analysis."

In response to issues around the snow days, the email said, "In the spirit of community during the unusual weather event in February, students and staff came together and worked to support refueling generators during the snowstorm. They were under direct supervision. Those who did not wish to participate were not required to do so."

On June 11, Evergreen's Classified Staff Union are holding a "Brown Bag Lunch event to support Ricky Haney and his return to work," per a group email. The email calls classified workers to show their support for Haney during his meetings with Labor and Industries, and to show the administration that retaliation will not be tolerated. The email also includes allegations about ongoing safety issues, saying, "There are very serious safety concerns on campus relating to asbestos abatement, chemical spills, etc. especially in areas on campus most out of the public eye. We all need to be able to work in a safe environment and have the proper training and equipment to do our jobs with minimal risk of injury or illness. The safety issues currently make this impossible. This must be addressed immediately!"

TEMPS AND MORE PROBLEMS

Beyond the wider issues, multiple workers have told the journal of being assigned tasks outside of their classification, such as, felling trees, performing managerial tasks, and time tracking of fellow employees.

These new responsibilities for employees come as the school hires more temporary staff and makes cuts all around, leaving positions unfilled as workers retire. In response to this allegation by employees,

Drennon said, that for the Central Utility Plant, "To say that we prefer temporary staff would go against everything we stand for."

Drennon explained the general loss of staff throughout facilities as follows: "Because of low enrollment and our budget being cut, it's been very difficult to replace people that have left on retirement, or people that have gotten jobs elsewhere."

One facilities worker, Adam (a pseudonym), is concerned about the way the college uses temps, and said, "I think it can create some safety issues because they're not used to working with the crew. We spend a lot of time training temps, fixing things that get messed up, and then they ship them off and bring in others," said Adam. "That whole concept of how they treat people, they don't have to pay them any benefits." Adam also felt that some workers who are classified as temps should be offered full time positions, and, mentioning a fellow employee, he said, "In my mind, someone who's given ten years to the college should not be a temp."

Safety is a major concern for workers as staffing decreases, as one worker in the motor pool explained he has had to work alone in the shop a number of times. He expressed fear of what would happen if he was alone and an accident occurred, "It could be a day or two before anyone finds me, ya know?"

A few motor pool employees believe that they are being pressured to quit so that the school can close the operations and contract the work out, while workers in other facilities have similar worries about the transition to less unionized workers. There is sentiment among at least ten facilities workers we spoke with that the school is interested in contracting, cutting corners, and approving inadequate operations for the sake of saving money.

Others described years of safety violations: below standard safety procedures, lack of training, standing on milk crates, faulty ladders, and a lack of sufficient clothing to protect from hazardous conditions.

Workers say that Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator Matt Lebens and Maintenance Supervisor Michael Drennon have known about these issues for years, but made no change. There was also a strong perception among employees that things have worsened in the past year since Associate Vice President of Facilities Services William Ward took over management, and many accused Ward of bullying and intimidation.

"That's one of my biggest complaints, that if it is dangerous to be down there, nobody told us, and nobody is telling us to this day."

Socialist Trucker Joshua Collins says Hell with Heck



Olympia Capitol Building,
courtesy of Evergreen Archives.

by
Daniel Vogel

Joshua Collins is a truck driver, a democratic socialist, a small business owner and he's running for congress – at 26 years old.

Collins is challenging incumbent representative Dennis Heck in the Democratic primary. Heck, an Evergreen grad, has represented Washington's 10th congressional district since the state legislature carved out the district in 2012.

Collins says Heck has failed to represent and communicate with his district, which centers on Olympia. "I've been in his office over the Green New Deal, trying to get him to take the fossil fuel pledge, trying to get him to stop taking money from fossil fuel companies, and to support a radical, bold plan to actually deal with climate change on the scale that's necessary. And he won't even meet with someone," said Collins.

So Collins decided to run himself.

Coming of Age in the Recession

In his words, Collins grew up "in the poorest city in the poorest county in Kansas." At 14 he moved to Las Vegas to live with his mom, who had just established herself as a nurse. "We had one good year," said Collins, before the housing market crashed.

"My mom was married, and they were fighting about money all the time all of a sudden. Just out of nowhere. I never had seen them fighting about that," said Collins. "I feel like a lot of people kind of watch this stuff happened. They lost the house."

Collins said his mom "was hard on herself" for being unable to help Collins with college. Collins got his first job at 15, and planned on joining the Air Force before complications from a car accident disqualified him and left him with a \$20,000

emergency room bill.

"I tried to pay my own way through school and spent two years going part time while working full time 60-70 hours a week," said Collins. "It ruined my way to pay for school. Every penny I needed was to get by. That was a big burden on my finances that made it so I was denied financing for a car, denied housing."

Then Collins' grandmother became ill while he was working at a glass factory in Vegas. He got time off approved to see her, and began the three-day drive to Virginia where she lived. "When we got halfway, I got a call from them saying I was going to be laid off if I didn't get back to work within a couple of days," said Collins. "Shortly after I'd already turned around they said I was still being let go. So not only did I not see my dying grandmother, I was now out of a job."

Having spent the last of his money on gas to get halfway to Virginia and back, Collins decided to go to trucking school.

The Radicalization of Joshua

Collins has been an owner-operator for the past year, meaning he owns his own truck and has some leeway to choose which shipping contracts to fulfill.

"I believe that workers should have more freedom and more say in how their workplaces run. And there's, there's no one in this country who kind of understands that more than someone who's an owner-operator truck driver," said Collins. "All the money, the wealth that I generate with my labor goes to me." Collins says socialism means that workers control the workplace, not the government.

Although his experience running his small trucking business has informed his politics, this is not his

first foray into the political arena. In high school Collins volunteered for a state senator in Nevada and worked with other students to push back on a bill that moved money from the education fund to private prisons.

"We got 1100 students to occupy the legislature, so I guess it could be considered part of the occupy movement," said Collins. "Ultimately, we were unsuccessful, and that this was when I realized that a lot of politicians, they're unmovable, because their donors are against what the people want."

Collins regularly criticizes his opponent for accepting campaign contributions from the fossil fuel and finance industries. Political contribution tracker OpenSecret says Heck received more than a hundred thousand dollars each from the securities, insurance and real estate industries in the 2018 election cycle. Heck did not respond to a request for comment.

Collins has raised almost \$12,000 on CrowdPac from 360 donors, with an average campaign contribution of \$33 dollars. He says he was inspired by the small-donation campaigns of Bernie Sanders and New York's Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

A Policy Wonk

Collins campaign may run on small donations, but he's a man with big ideas.

He wants a \$20 minimum wage by 2028 and a two-year 100% tax break for households making under 80k a year balanced against taxes on the rich "at least as high as FDR."

In his view, school funding should be disentangled from property taxes and teachers paid substantially more. Fossil fuels should be owned and managed by the government. The federal Housing and Urban Development department should be re-empowered to build new public

housing to combat homelessness. He wants Medicare for All, free college education for people of all ages, and for all medical and student loan debt to be erased.

Collins wishes Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez were more vocal about foreign policy. Collins himself wants the defense industry to be nationalized, the US to pull out of overseas bases, and for the CIA to be investigated, prosecuted and abolished. "The CIA is an unaccountable, unelected group of spies with a very dangerous agenda, who have overthrown governments and have likely assassinated politicians and political figures in our own country," said Collins.

For the trucking industry, he wants to ease the process of automation by empowering the government to offer interest-free financing for truckers to purchase their own clean-energy trucks. "It would create the largest worker owned industry the world has ever seen."

He compares this transition to the ongoing yellow vest movement in France, which was sparked by a fuel tax increase and the French government's plans to move away from diesel engines. "We saw in France when they just tried to impose carbon taxes to get diesel trucks to try to transition. What that did was it screw over a lot of truck drivers, even just regular employee truck drivers," said Collins. He wants a worker-first Green New Deal.

"My philosophy with policies is never asked for what you want. Always ask for more," said Collins. "You always aim for more than what like what people think is possible. And we don't know what is until we do it."

Internet Prescience, IRL Presence

Like many DSA members, Joshua Collins is extremely online. Collins cites interactions on twit-

ter with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez as directly inspiring his decision to run. "In November, I started using it to follow Alexandria, Casa Cortez – I already followed her on Instagram. "I tweeted out or twice. And both times, she retweeted me. And this took my followers from 34 – mostly spam accounts – to like 800. And from then I decided to use that for the campaign," said Collins, whose twitter account is @Joshua4Congress. "I got that up to 8500 by just expressing my opinions and saying things that I feel like everyone kind of already agrees with. Leftist things that should be obvious."

Collins tweets exclusively from an android smartphone that he nervously fiddled with during an interview at downtown Olympia's Batdorf & Bronson. He's posted 2,000 more times than his opponent, despite joining the platform two years later. Heck posts from a number of different twitter clients, which may indicate that his social media accounts are managed by his staff.

Collins has done "ask me anything" interviews on reddit under the username SocialistHiker. He's a regular poster to the ChapoTrapHouse reddit, a subreddit for fans of the leftist Chapo Trap House podcast.

"With our generation there isn't really isn't that much of a divide between online stuff and real life," said Collins. "For older folks, they don't really expect it to be the same. And I think that also gives me the advantage over my opponent, who won't expect how much support I have in real life. Because he feels like probably like most my support just online people show up."

Collins is recruiting volunteers and hopes to knock on every door in the district. Interested people can sign up on joshua2020.com.

Teddy Soe is a visual artist and poet raised in Portland, originally from the country of Burma (Myanmar). Soe has been drawing for a large part of their life and started taking professional art classes, last year while they were attending Portland State University. Their first ever college art class was taught by a powerful woman of color named Una Kim. Kim taught her class in an actively decolonial manner that gave no time restriction, nor did it subscribe to the guideline of a singular process. "With art itself, there's like gatekeeping. It's boujee," Soe said. "A lot of art that you see in museums is done by white people, for white people, of white people. It feels gated, like it's a White hobby." In Kim's class, however, Soe felt as if "there wasn't a fucking a box" that they were constricted by when making their art. "She told me that some students can't abide to the Eurocentric structured academia we have... Every art class in college that I've ever taken has been taught by a professor that was a woman of color and that impacts my experience so much."



Teddy Soe

@thatchinkybitch @lilsleepypoo

At Evergreen, Soe has taken classes with both Aisha Harrison and Mukti Khanna. In the class Studio Arts for Expressive Arts Therapy: Developing Cultural Competence, Soe was able to merge their interests major interests of drawing, poetry, and critical race theory. Much of the art they presented in this feature was made in this forementioned class, and is a combination of both their drawings and poetry; centered around the processing trauma and deconstructing thought. Below are a selection of the poems featured in many of their drawings, and some that we're written unaccompanied by visual art.

Artist
Interview
by Brittanyana
Pierro

TO FEEL HOMESICK
BUT TO NOT KNOW WHERE HOME IS

I DON'T BELONG
I WANT TO GO HOME
WHERE IS HOME

DENIED THE RIGHT TO FEEL
COMFORTABLE
DENIED THE RIGHT TO FEEL
SAFE
DENIED THE RIGHT TO FEEL

TO FEEL HOME.

TO FEEL
PUSHED AWAY
FROM A PLACE
AND NOT WELCOME
IN ANOTHER.
WHERE DO I GO
FROM HERE.

BEING A STUDENT OF COLOR
IN HIGHER ACADEMIA
AND MAJORLY WHITE SPACES
IS TRAUMATIC
AND I FEEL LIKE
IM LOSING MY MIND
IM LOSING MY MIND
IM LOSING MY MIND

A NOTE TO SELF.

DON'T LET SOMEONE IN UNTIL YOU'RE
SURE
THEY ARE CAPABLE OF SHOWING YOU
THEY RESPECT YOU
THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF DOING THE
LEGWORK
OF ACTIVELY ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR
PRIVILEGES
CAPABLE OF ACTIVELY BEING ANTI RACIST
BEING ANTI OPPRESSION
CAPABLE OF DOING THE LEG WORK OF
ACKNOWLEDGING
THE COMPLEXITIES OF YOUR IDENTITIES
THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF
RESPECTING YOU
FOR WHO YOU ARE
AS YOU ARE.

P.S. MEMORIZING MY PRONOUNS IS NOT
ENOUGH

AT MY CORE
I RECOGNIZE MY OWN EXISTENCE
AS RADICAL
AS RESISTANCE

AT TIMES I FEEL IM NOT DOING
ENOUGH
OR AS MUCH AS I CAN
I REMIND MYSELF
SOMETIMES JUST EXISTENCE IS ENOUGH.
I AM DOING WHAT I CAN
IN A SYSTEM BUILT TO DESTROY
MY EXISTENCE
AND MY BEING.
SOMETIMES WHEN PEOPLE KEEP
DENYING YOU OF RESPECT
YOU START TO BELIEVE YOU'RE NOT
WORTH IT. IM TIRED.

PEOPLE CHANGE
AND PEOPLE GROW
AND PEOPLE GET BETTER

BUT YOU DO NOT
OWE THEM
MORE CHANCES

YOU DO NOT NEED
TO LET THEM BACK IN

YOU DO NOT OWE THEM
YOUR PRESENCE
OR YOUR LABOR

PEOPLE LEARN
BUT IT DOES NOT
NEED TO BE AT
THE EXPENSE OF
YOU HURTING.

YOU DON'T OWE ANYTHING.

I AM FORGETTING
PARTS OF MY CULTURE
OCCUPIED WITH FIGHTING STRUGGLING
TO SURVIVE.
ONE DAY I WILL REMIND
MY CHILDREN
THE THINGS I FORGOT.

AND THEY
WILL TEACH THEIRS.
AND I WILL
BE GONE,
KNOWING
THAT I WILL
PASS ON
THE PARTS OF ME
I ALMOST FORGOT.

IT'S INTERESTING TO SEE
HOW WHEN WHITE PEOPLE
SHARE STORIES OF TRAUMA
AND EXPERIENCES OF
SYSTEMIC OPPRESSIONS

IT'S MOST OFTEN TIMES
ANOTHER PERSON'S STORY
A STORY OF SOMEONE
THEY KNOW.
INTERESTING TO HEAR
PEOPLE TAKE UP SPACE
IN PLACES THEY
CONTRIBUTE POWER DYNAMICS
SHARING STORIES
OF TRAUMA
THAT AREN'T THEIRS.

"COLONIZING TRAUMA / GENTRIFYING
RACISM"

I AM NOT
INTIMIDATING

YOU ARE JUST
INTIMIDATED
BY ME
MY VOICE
AND MY EXISTENCE.

I AM NOT INTIMIDATING
OTHERS ARE INTIMIDATED.

I AM NOT AT FAULT
FOR WHITE PEOPLE SCARED
OF MY VOICE AND MY PRESENCE.

JUST BECAUSE
I'VE BEEN HEALING
PAST THE TRAUMA
I HAD GOTTEN FROM YOU
DOES NOT MEAN I FORGIVE YOU
DOES NOT MEAN I FORGIVE YOU.

TO GROW UP
WATCHING THE PROCESS
TO EXPERIENCE THE PROCESS
OF THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU CHANGE
HOUSES TORN DOWN AND REBUILT
REBUILT AND OUT OF PLACE
AND THE SPACE THAT'S OUT OF PLACE,
GROWING
PUSHING US OUT

I COULDN'T STAY
AND KEEP WATCHING
SO I LEFT
BUT I MISS MY NEIGHBORHOOD
SO, SO MUCH
IT'S NOT THE SAME
IT'S DIFFERENT
IT'S GONE EVEN WHEN
I GO HOME.

NIGHTS OUT

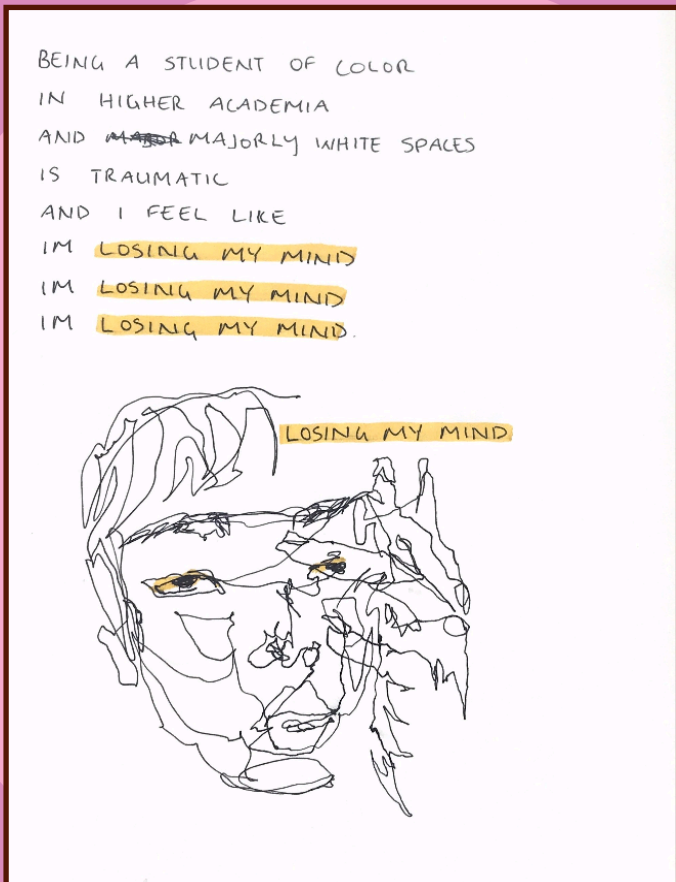
DOING THINGS
I WASN'T POST TO BE DOING
MEMORIES WITH
FORGOTTEN FACES
I HAVEN'T SEEN IN YEARS
IN PLACES
THAT ARE NO LONGER THERE.

DO NOT APPROACH
THE PEOPLE
IN MY LIFE
IF YOU CANNOT
ACKNOWLEDGE
ME
MY PRESENCE
AND THE
PAIN YOU CAUSED.

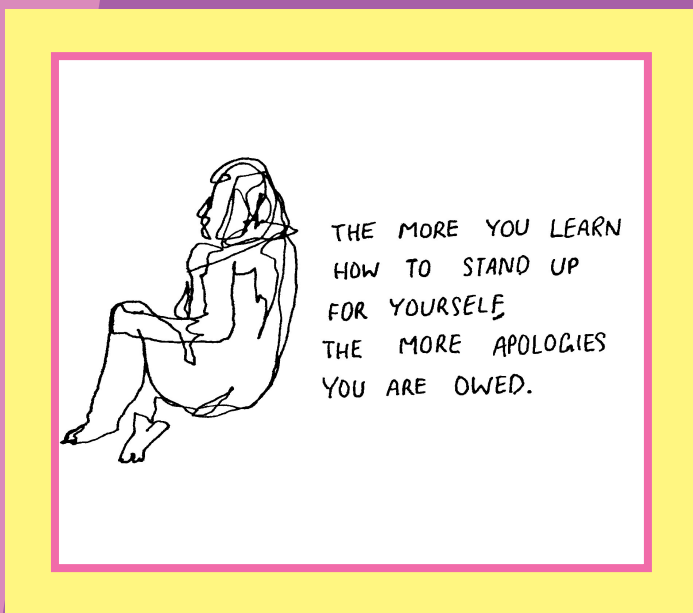
unlearning past ways,
and teaching yourself
how to take better care
of you and your body
is a process...
healing isn't linear
and sometimes it's easy
to forget that.
the journey of self
acceptance, self love,
self recovery, and self care
is a difficult one.

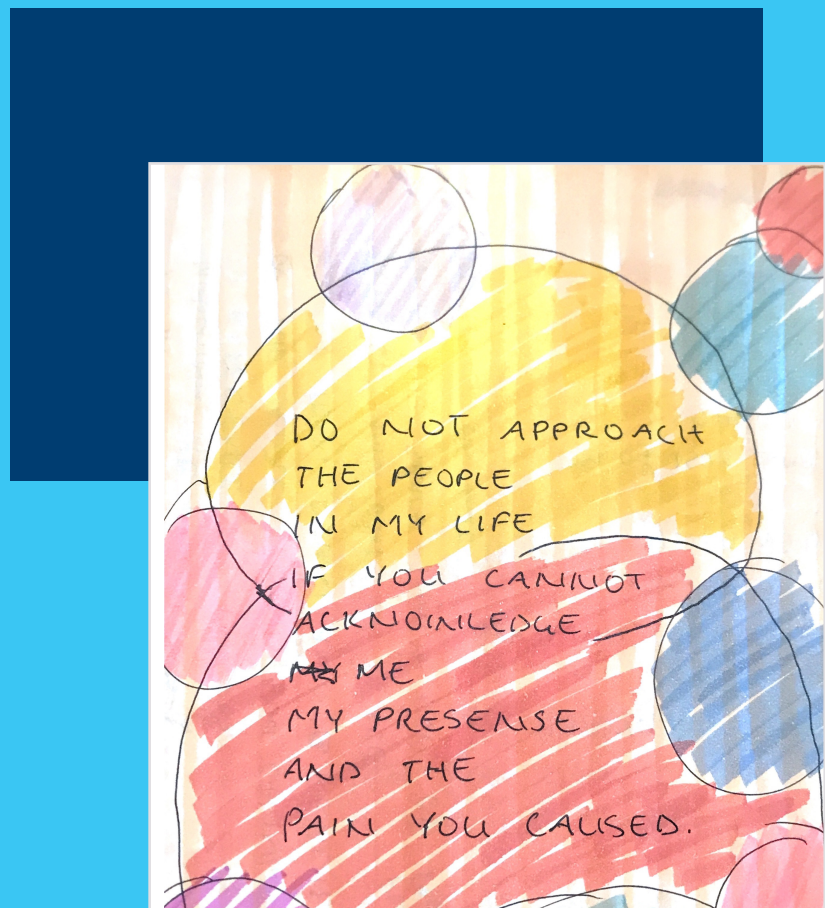
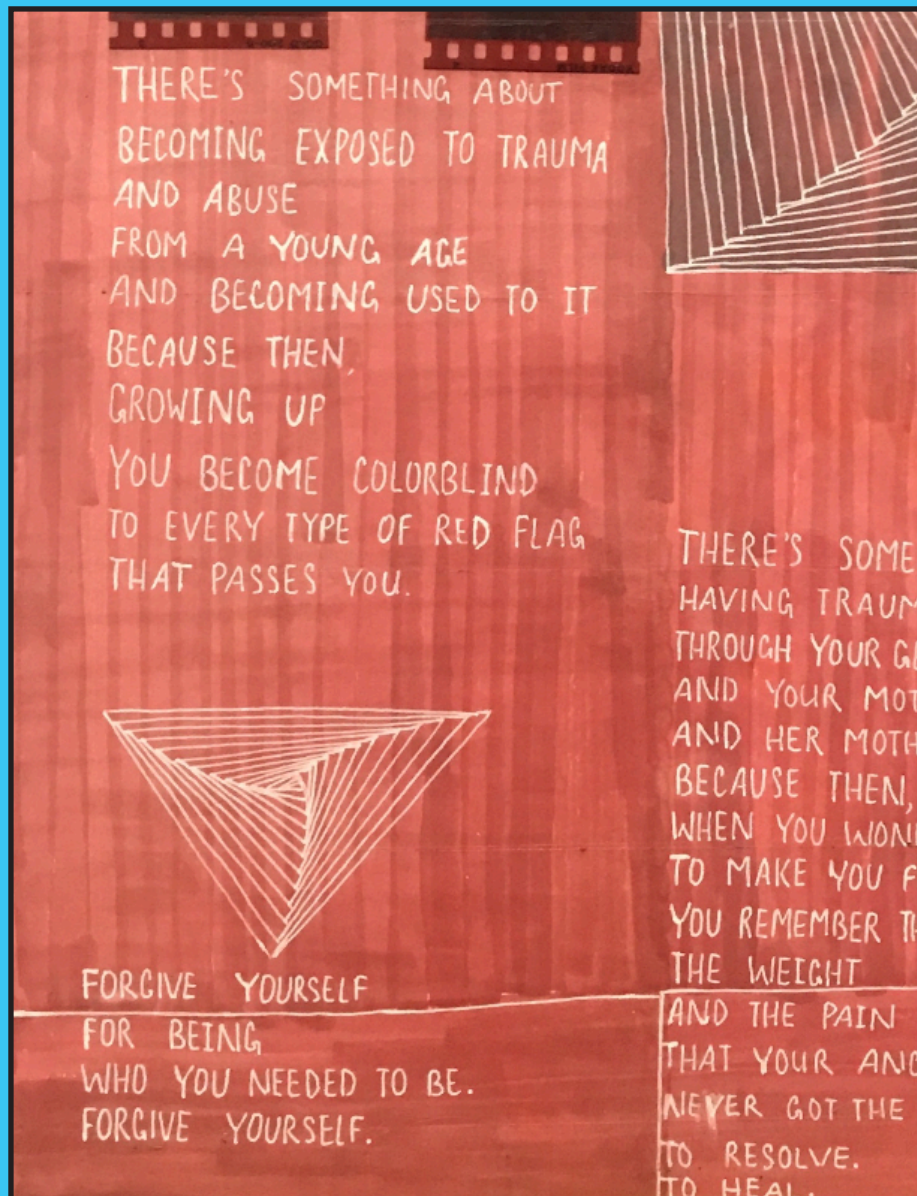
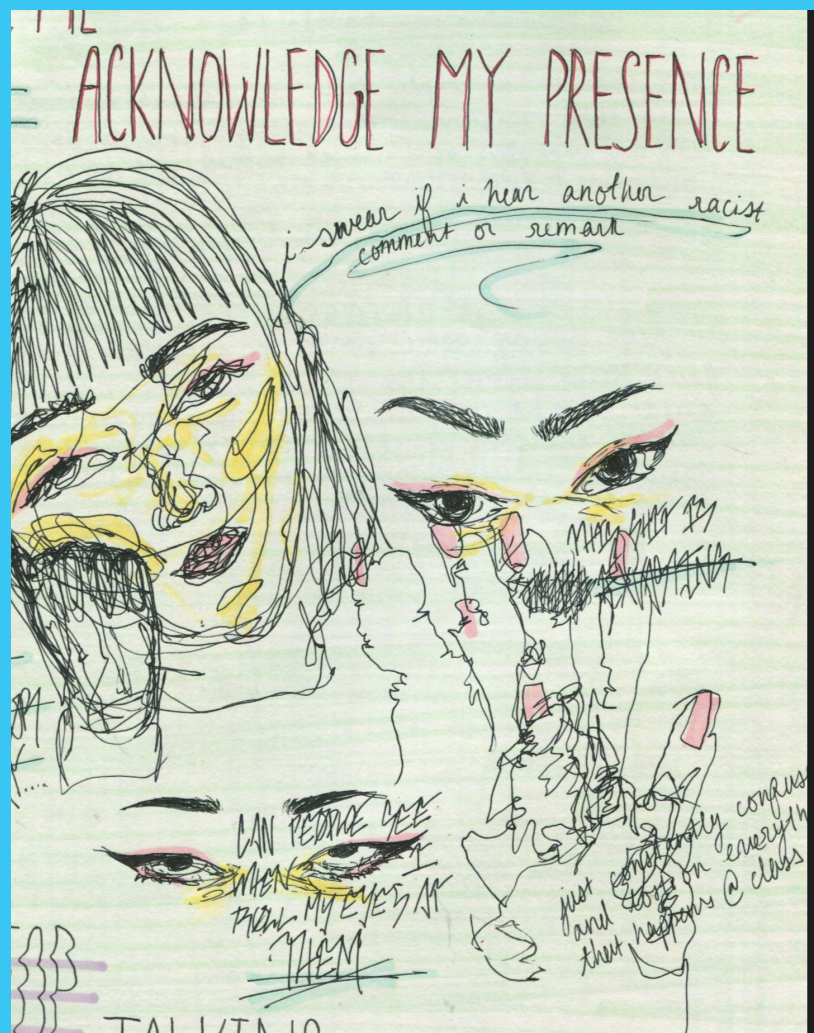
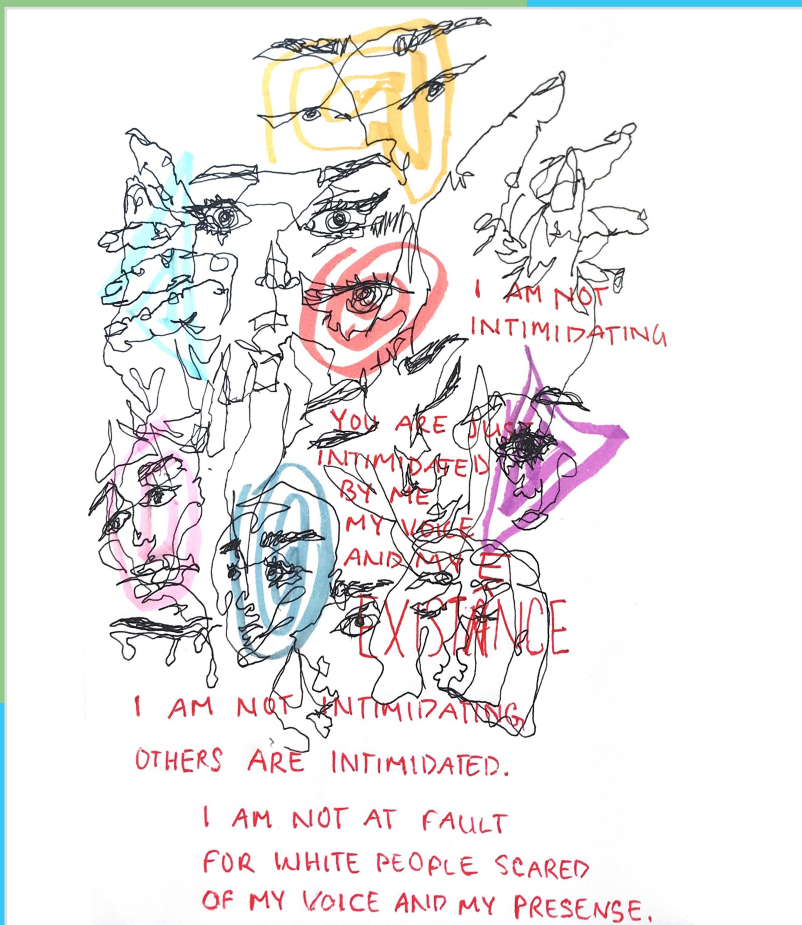
*there's something about
becoming exposed to trauma
and abuse
from a young age
and becoming used to it
because then,
growing up
you become colorblind
to every type of red flag that passes you.*

*there's something about
having trauma passed down
through your genes from your mother
and your mother's mother
and her mother.
something about feeling it
beating deep within your chest
feeling it flow through your veins
feeling it fill your lungs
ache your bones
water your eyes
and brings down your heavy heart.
because then,
when you wonder what you did
to make you feel this way
you remember that you carry the weight
and the pain
that your ancestors never got the chance
to resolve.
To heal.*



TEDDY SOE





Georgie



How long have you been at Evergreen and what do you do here?

4 years. I studied Creative Writing and I'm currently the Editor in Chief of the CPJ.

What is your most Evergreen experience?

- 1) One time I heard someone in class say "I touched this gum and then I was like 'ew'. Then I thought 'the gum probably doesn't wanna touch me either.'"
- 2) Got lost in the woods
- 3) I helped start a national controversy. Still slightly traumatized from that.
- 4) I took a class on memes and Queer Vidding.
- 5) I read a book from the 1500's about Margery Kemp having sex with Jesus

Is there someone or something at Evergreen that deeply impacted you?

Miranda Mellis and Stephen Hendricks we're incredibly encouraging and transformative profs. Access to the letter press studio. The CPJ, I've gotten pretty much all of my working journalism and design skills from here.

How do you feel about Seminar?

It really depends on the professor and the people in your class. It's far better to discuss things with other people who are also trying to learn rather than listen to someone lecture.

What is one of your greatest accomplishments at Evergreen?

I published two books. One of my own work, the second one with Mason is an anthology with 5 contributors. And we started a small press. I also got to teach a class. During my time at the CPJ I published and designed 15 newspapers.

How can Evergreen keep encouraging students to learn here?

The PR and Administration departments should take the time to understand students. Also influencing students to take different types of classes and ILCs. Offer some Summer classes during the regular year so they don't cost a bajillion dollars.

Where are you going from here?

Me and Mason are still going to run our press, @PixelandFragment on Instagram. I'm moving back to Seattle, but my main goal is to get into a fully funded MFA program so I can become a professor.

How long have you been at Evergreen and what do you do here?

3 years. I'm the creative director at the CPJ.

What is your most Evergreen experience?

Lying down in a gymnasium with my entire class and screaming/moaning into the void, collectively, in order to gain inspiration. It was disturbingly... poignant.

Is there someone or something at Evergreen that deeply impacted you?

Evergreen has cemented my idea of what I wanna do later in life. Working at the CPJ given me an intense amount of design and writing skills that I could not have gotten anywhere else at this school.

How do you feel about Seminar?

Seminar is a trip. Seminar is a great place to either show off that you read, or show off that you never have to read. I find myself seminar-ing with my friends at the bar every time I go out.

What is the most Olympia thing you've incorporated into your life?

Mccoys and LaCroix

What is one of your greatest accomplishments at Evergreen?

I turned in this mess of a 50 page collection of source material, quotes and original writing to my professor. In my eval he said "Mason's project profoundly speaks about the reading mind, reading itself." If people can think of my stuff like that, then I must have accomplished something while I was here. I also designed the paper every two weeks, so that's cool.

How can Evergreen keep encouraging students to learn here?

To not let the current trends of higher institutions strip Evergreen of its quality as a 'Sandbox' for learning; where you have to find your own way and learn what you want to learn by actively creating the means for that learning. Also fire the cops.

What would you tell your freshman self?

Flirt more. Finish more books instead of putting them down 1/2 way thru. Cause you're just gonna end up rereading them.

Where are you going from here?

Falling flat on my face. Haha I'm just kidding. I'm moving to Atlanta. I'm probably going to go back to the corporate job I was working before I got here, but with hopeful applications to any, and all, writing opportunities. So if you have any Atlanta contacts in publishing, do reach out.

Mason



Daniel



How long have you been at Evergreen and what do you do here?

I've been at Evergreen for two years, also known as two years too many. And I study computer science and media studies.

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment here at Evergreen?

I convinced Evergreen to let me study memes. I did an ILC that focused on when Ted Cruz accidentally liked a porn tweet. And since then, I've studied memes about It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia, and The Office.

How can Evergreen keep encouraging students to learn here?

Students do a lot of learning at Evergreen, but not necessarily from Evergreen. So the more institutional support that can be given to students pursuing independent studies, or incorporating existing coursework into their independent studies, the more students will actually learn.

Is there someone or something at Evergreen that deeply impacted you?

I think working at the CPJ as deeply impacted me. You know, in my reporting, I've gotten a lot of pushback from staff administration who are nominally intending to be transparent and progressive. They use this strategy to deflect from their actions, which are not progressive. So the impact of that has been realizing that, as it is used in institutions today, progressivism is more of a marketing strategy than an actual commitment to do good.

What is your most Evergreen Experience?

My most Evergreen experience is arguing with vegans and avoiding known abusers.

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Black Panther members at the Capitol protest unconcealed weapon ban, 1969. Courtesy of Washington State Archives.

Guns Aren't Just for White Conservative Men

How Gun Ownership Revolves Around Power, Self-Sufficiency — Not the Liberal and Conservative Divide

by Marta Tahja-Syrett

When marginalized people are deterred from gun ownership, they are actually being deterred from a particular avenue of power. This same avenue has long been utilized by the United States government, and individual citizens, to enforce and maintain lethal systems of oppression.

In slivers, and flashing moments, my father has instilled in me the notion of sticking to your guns: standing behind your beliefs, and holding tight to the things you feel cannot be compromised. My father taught me what it was like to live as a *coonass* (for those who don't know, *coonass* means a Cajun person, and is a term that reflects either connotations of pride or prejudice), with a fierce heart and a need for self-sufficiency that originates from trauma and poverty. He also taught me to cling, with white knuckles, to my identity and my right to live as a woman. I know that this information, imparted from him to me, was rooted in my father's life — informed by both his individuality and the collective sense of strength and outspokenness that stems from his rural Cajun-ness.

My identificatory narrative has been formed, in part, by the stories I grew up hearing about my great-grandmother. My great-grandmother, who was referred to by her racist son-in-law as "Blackie" Bertrand, owned a gun just like everyone else in the south. Her marbled wood-grain shotgun, now collecting dust in my parents' closet, was once utilized as

a tool — both a source of concentrated physical power and self-sufficiency. For prolonged periods of her life, my great-grandmother, Bernadette, lived alone. She needed to keep herself protected from the woes of Texan dusk, where the shimmering pelts of panthers shuffled bushes, cooing like crying infants just beyond the back porch. Her gun kept her safe from home invasions, and it signaled to the abusive, betraying hands of men that they weren't welcomed. Bernadette's black walnut shotgun also kept our family off the brink of starvation — no baby goes to the crib hungry when their ma's equipped with great aim and a hankering for some rabbit gumbo.

In terms of staying full during times of financial drought, my father, Toby Syrett, articulates a similar attitude surrounding gun ownership. Through the pages of writing once long-forgotten, my father conveys to his readers a sense of his life.

"When I was in the 3rd grade, my Uncle Richard was on the run from the law and he'd come to live with us. He spent most of his time hiding in the Southeast Texas woods along the gumbo-muddy banks of Cow Bayou using the skills he picked up in Vietnam to lay low. It was 1981 and for Christmas he gave me a present: a Benjamin .22 caliber air rifle. Some would call it a BB gun, but it was far more than a BB gun," Syrett states.

"He entrusted me with the responsibility of possessing a useful and dangerous tool,

one that carried great responsibility. This tool was like a passport into the woods and bayous of my youth. Without it, I was just a kid running around playing. But with it cradled in my arms, I became a biologist, connecting with and learning from rabbits, armadillos, squirrels. I became a scout, walking the woods and neighborhood, taking in information, detecting trends, watching for trouble. I became a provider, putting food on our kitchen table many times as a pre-teen."

I am fully aware that these narratives may catch someone dazed with fright, heart-racing at the thought of "Blackie" and her gun — the image of a poor Cajun boy utilizing weaponry to feed his family juxtaposed with gun violence statistics and school shooting photographs. Perhaps the onset of cold sweat inducing fear is not just the liberal "oh no, guns!" alarm sounding; it may very well be a reflection of white-progressivism-fueled racism and sexism. According to Lara Witt's 2017 article published by Harper's Bazaar, white liberals fear confronting "how white supremacy protects them" and how "they still benefit from generational wealth and privilege from as far back as 400 years ago." "Well-intentioned" anti-gun liberals will likely struggle to address the reasons why my great-grandmother needed to own a gun, as many of them find it easier to reject, rather than accept, the blatant truth that the United States continues to uphold, on a very deeply rooted and systemic level, vio-

lence against women and people of color.

Although there is validity in the statistical evidence surrounding homicidal violence against women, many narratives concerning these statistics fail to examine the ways in which sexism should be dismantled, seeking instead to disarm women as a means to end femicide. These narratives seem to serve as a warning, a cautionary tale, that asserts the belief that women — women whose safety has been compromised (beyond the inherent safety risks that come with being a woman, no matter the individual context) — shouldn't be looking to weaponry in terms of protection. Writing for *The Atlantic* in 2014, Evan Defilippis cites a 2005 study to back up his claim that guns are not "a great equalizer between the sexes." The study found that two-thirds of femicides committed by an intimate partner end in suicide. Drawing his conclusion from this statistic, Defilippis states that mental help for men at-risk (of killing women) needs to be viewed with great immediacy. He goes on to state, "that owning a firearm may make a household more vulnerable than ever."

But does the issue of violence perpetrated against women really lie solely in debating the mental health of men, or is it possible that it also lies in the very systemic policing and oppression of women? Is it the gun that makes the household vulnerable, or is it really just the man?

Barring oppressed groups of people from gun ownership far predates these aforementioned narratives surrounding the need to disarm households where women live, in an attempt to end gendered violence. In his 2018 article written for *The Root*, Michael Harriot addresses legislative attempts to prevent black gun ownership. To support his argument that "White men have always been afraid of armed black people," Harriot highlights Ronald Reagan's fight "for gun control legislation after another group of black men called Black Panthers marched on California's Capitol carrying shotguns."

Marginalized gun ownership isn't the solution to dismantling and overturning systemic oppression, but it is a tool that some seek in regard to protection — protection from both interpersonal violence and systemic violence. We should never deny the people who have long been brutalized by our nation the right to deal with their oppression as they choose. To quote Toby Syrett, "Until we make the world safe for everyone, we have no business telling someone that they can't carry a gun to protect themselves."

Submission: Legislative Success for Evergreen

by Annie Landis

From King 5 to the New York Times, Higher Education in Washington has been making headlines throughout the nation. The bill behind all the buzz is E2SHB 2158, sponsored by Higher Ed champion and Representative from the 23rd Legislative District, Rep. Drew Hansen. This piece of legislation is the most progressive Higher Education investment in State history, and will positively impact thousands of students throughout Washington, including students of The Evergreen State College.

The bill will replace the State Need Grant (SNG) with the Washington College Promise (WCP), the difference being that the College Promise is fully funded. Last year, over 20,000 eligible students did not receive SNG funding due to the shortage of funds invested by the Legislature. Now, after a long and hard fought battle by key Legislators, students, and other Higher Ed Stakeholders, every eligible student will get the aid they are entitled to. With over half of our student body qualifying for financial aid, this is big news for Evergreen.

The WCP isn't the only great part of 2158 either. The bill also creates a Student Loan Refinancing Program which allows the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) to contract with financial institutions to provide more favorable loan conditions. It would allow Washington Residents to finance their existing student loans as well.

For our Student Veterans, 2158 will raise the mandatory tuition waiver from 200 to 250 credits, enabling students to get a double major or stay in school an extra year. The waiver also applies to children, spouses, and domestic partners of service members who died during service, became fully disabled, or have a POW or MIA designation. It also expands the definition of eligible veteran for the purpose of tuition to include Veteran or National guard members who were discharged solely on the basis of gender or sexuality (this is especially relevant in light of Trump's ban on transgender people in the military).

Another section of the bill allows Federally recognised American Indian Tribes to contribute to the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship fund, enabling all participating tribes to receive a 1 to 1 monetary match from the state to fund scholarships for Native Americans.

All this legislative progress would not have been possible without the hard-working student lobbyists representing the Public Four Year and Community Colleges, including two Evergreen stu-

dents. Almost every day of the Legislative Session, at least one member of the Geoduck Student Union (GSU) was at the Capitol, meeting with Senators and Representatives and advocating for the students of Evergreen.

In addition to 2158, the Legislative Team successfully lobbied for various other bills as well. 2SSB 5800, sponsored by Senator Emily Randall, implements a study for providing wrap-around services for formerly homeless and foster care youth in community and four year colleges. These services would include short term housing, access to laundry facilities, reduced meal plans, and case management services. The idea came from an Evergreen student, Charlie Adkins, the Director of Legislative Affairs for the GSU. As someone who had experienced homelessness in high school and lacked reliable support from his family, Adkins struggled to find the resources he needed when he started college. Wanting to prevent other students from facing the same struggles that he faced, Adkins turned to Senator Randall, who was happy to help craft the legislation, and together they pushed 5800 through both houses and onto the Governor's desk, who signed the bill on May 9th.

Evergreen students also successfully advocated for a \$350,000 study in the Transportation Budget for a passenger only ferry. The ferry would go from Olympia to Seattle and is estimated to take 90 minutes, one way. It would help travelers skip the traffic on I-5, and would allow carless Greeners and community members an alternative to buses. They also lobbied for the creation of State Public Lands Day (HB1449), on the 4th Saturday of every September. On that day, Discovery Pass fees would be waived at State Parks.

Other Legislative success include close to \$30 million per year for the College from the state operating budget. Close to \$3 million more than the previous biennium even with declining enrollment. An additional \$6 million for the building of a new Health & Counseling Center, \$5 million for making the college more affordable for our students, and close to \$20 for other critical upgrades & maintenance for facilities throughout campus.

All in all, this has been a successful session for the Evergreen State College and its students. The days, nights, and early mornings spent tirelessly advocating at the Washington State Capitol have paid off. Now it is time for our GSU Legislative Team to take some time to relax before preparing for another busy session next year.

KAOSTOP 30

89.3 THE WEEK OF May 27

- 1 Aretha Franklin - Amazing Grace (Soul/Funk/R&B)
- 2 Magela Herrera - Explicaciones (Jazz)
- 3 Lee Fields And The Expressions - It Rains Love (Soul/Funk/R&B)
- 4 Sneaks - Highway Hypnosis (Electronic)
- 5 Analea Brown - Queendom (Reggae)
- 6 The Cash Box Kings - Hail To The Kings! (Blues)
- 7 Jamila Woods - Legacy! Legacy! (R&B)
- 8 Ex Hex - It's Real (Rock)
- 9 Christone Kingfish Ingram - Kingfish (Blues)
- 10 Maybird - Things I Remember From Earth (Rock)
- 11 Rodrigo Y Gabriela - Mettavolution (Alt. Latin)
- 12 Tacocat - This Mess Is A Place (Rock)
- 13 Amon Tobin - Fear In A Handful Of Dust (Electronic)
- 14 The Mountain Goats - In League With Dragons (Rock)
- 15 Johnathan Rice - The Long Game (FCB)
- 16 The Big Cheese Band - Among The Stars (FCB)
- 17 Sasami - Sasami (Rock)
- 18 Lambchop - This (Is What I Wanted To Tell You) (Pop)
- 19 Low Life - Downer Edition (Punk)
- 20 Mellow Mood - Large (Reggae)
- 21 Syml - Syml (Pop)
- 22 Lucille Furs - Another Land (Rock)
- 23 Vouna - Vouna (Loud)
- 24 Helms Alee - Noctiluca (Loud)
- 25 Charly Bliss - Young Enough (Rock)
- 26 Rare DM - Vanta Black (Electronic)
- 27 Relove - Music On A Mission! (Reggae)
- 28 Pow! - Shift (Punk)
- 29 Greys - Age Hasn't Spoiled You (Punk)
- 30 Joanne Broh - Live (Blues)



Evergreen

Overshares

A column where we ask folks at Evergreen an uncomfortable question and publish the answers. We hope that sharing those less-talked-about things here, with each other, can be cathartic. Be warned, some content may be triggering.

When my parents sent me to a residential treatment facility.

Celeste, junior

My hamster dying when I was five. Rest in peace, Thunder.

Chase, junior

When I was a kid, I kept asking my dad to take me to Disneyland and he said they were going to open one in Seattle, so I told my all my friends for weeks and weeks. When I finally found out he was messing with me, I was crushed.

Kristoff

The complete lack of the writing and arts programs that I was promised as a high school senior going into Evergreen.

Aidan, senior

Losing a soccer championship.

Alvero, alum

Bombing my candidacy paper.

Gavin, MES student

Not being there for my sister when her friends were killed in a mass shooting.

Gavin, junior

Realizing that my childhood idols are just humans, with all the flaws and contradictions that come with humanity.

Hali, junior

My birth.

S, senior

Getting let down on my final high school project.

Nathan, junior

Probably the 2016 election.

Carly, junior

The worst disappointment I've ever experienced was...

The first time I ate at the Greenery.

Kate, junior

Spending my whole spring break texting a local radio station for concert tickets, then being unable to claim them because I was in class when I would have won.

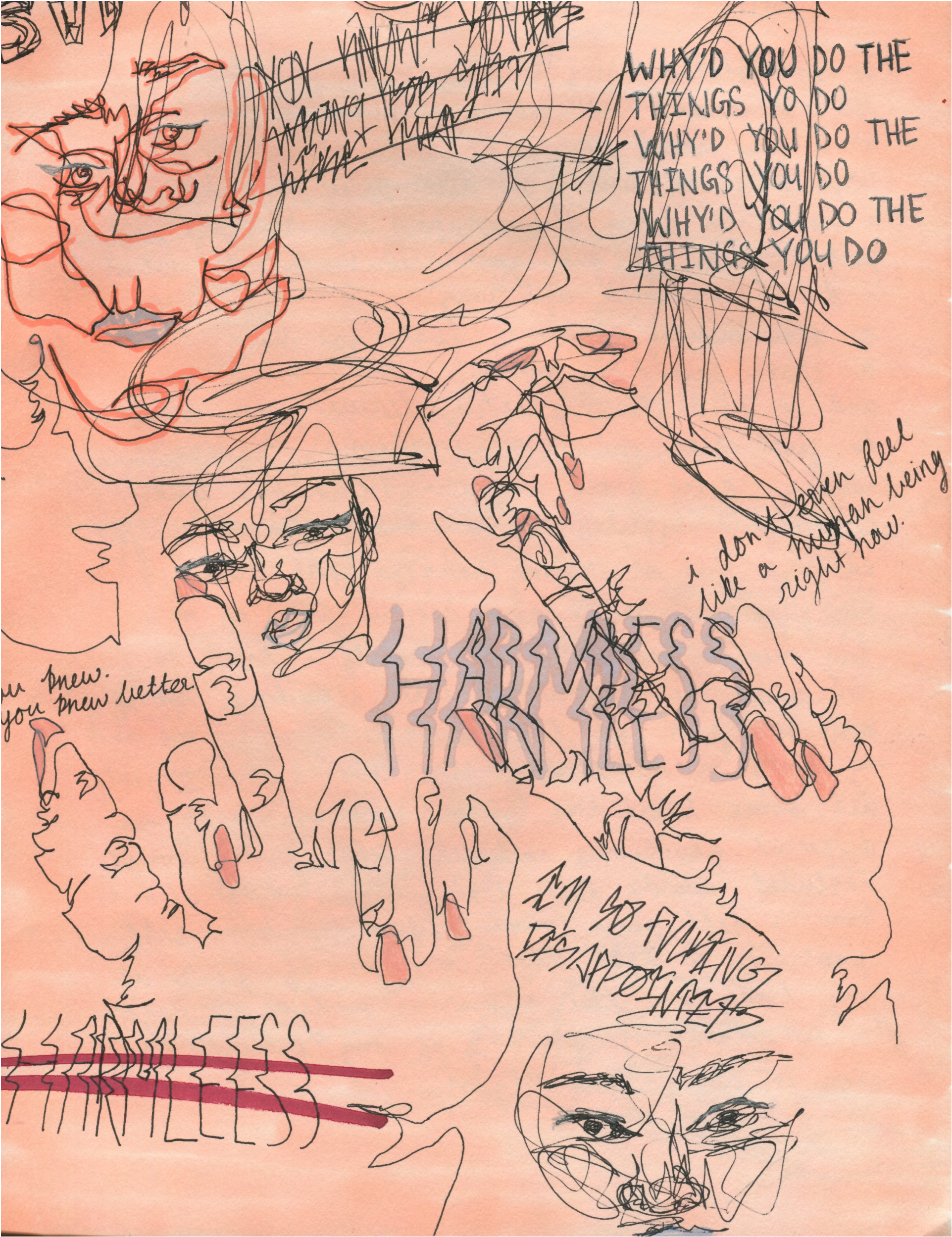
Mariana, junior

My grandfather not getting to see me get married.

Janie, senior

My dad.

Eli, junior



~~NO KING~~
~~WHY'D YOU DO THE~~
~~THINGS YOU DO~~

WHY'D YOU DO THE
THINGS YOU DO
WHY'D YOU DO THE
THINGS YOU DO
WHY'D YOU DO THE
THINGS YOU DO

i don't even feel
like a human being
right now.

you knew.
you knew better.

AM SO FUCKING
DISAPPOINTED

