

the COOPERPOINT

The Evergreen State College Student Newspaper | October 26, 2016 JOURNAL



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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.cooperpoint-journal.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 The Evergreen State College in room 332 and we have open student meetings from 4 to 5 p.m every Wednesday.

WRITE 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, but we'll do our best to consult with you about any major changes. Thank you!



Families of those killed by police participated in a rally against police violence. TARI GUNSTONE.

Initiative-837 Rally for Safer Policing

By Tari Gunstone

Around 200 people gathered on the steps of the Capitol on Thursday, October 22 to demand accountability for police violence, specifically against black lives and native lives in Washington state. The gathering focused on promoting Initiative-837 (I-837), which would rephrase a Washington statute that makes it incredibly difficult to prosecute police for use of deadly force, aiming to make it easier to take legal action against police violence. Activists are currently promoting the initiative and gathering voter signatures in order to force the Washington State Legislature to vote on it.

Protest signs represented slogans like, "Safer policing, safer community support," "Bullies with Badges," "Native Lives Matter," "Black Lives Matter," and many that read "Justice For Jackie," referring to Jacquelyn Salyers, a pregnant indigenous woman from the Puyallup tribe, killed by police in January 2016.

Throughout the protest many family members of victims killed by police like Salyer shared their stories. It was heartbreaking and powerful to see the vulnerability and courage of the many mothers, fathers, aunts, cousins, and other loved ones that spoke about the effects of police violence. It was also striking to see just how many of them there were and how many others they mentioned that couldn't make it to Olympia that day.

The Seattle Times reported that of the 213 fatal police encounters in Washington between 2005 - 2014 there was only one officer charged for murder. They went on to say that under current

Washington use of force laws "it was nearly impossible for prosecutors to bring criminal charges even if they concluded that an officer committed a wrongful killing."

This is the result of a clause Washington legislators added to the use of force statute to further strengthen the rights of law enforcement in 1986. The added clause, which remains to this day, states that officers cannot be held criminally responsible for use of deadly force unless they had "a good faith belief that such act is justifiable" and in order to prosecute one would have to prove the officer had conscious "malice."

Proponents of I-837 argue that the current use of force law is ripe for abuse, providing a "foolproof shield" for law enforcement since "malice is a state of mind and cannot be proven." In reporting on this law, The Stranger stated that Washington makes it "virtually impossible to charge police officers who kill."

I-837 aims to remove this lan-

guage concerning "malice" and "good faith belief" from the current Washington use of force law. Supporters believe that this will be a huge step toward creating stronger accountability for policing in Washington state, especially within communities of color.

Sylvia Sebon, aunt of Oscar Perez Giron, a Mexican immigrant who was shot and killed by police in Everett, WA in 2014, cried out for her community that, "we are not shooting targets for police."

A father of an African-American man who died in police custody in 2012 due to the results of law enforcement violence and negligence, spoke out about his experience for the first time. He and his family failed to press criminal charges for negligence because of the obstacle put in place by the current use of force law. However, they did receive a settlement of 1.5 million dollars from the city. He expressed dissatisfaction with this outcome, saying that no amount of money

could fix the amount of pain and damage done to his family, and shared, "that money is just an indication that the city knows they are wrong but isn't willing to admit it and take action."

He went on to explain how law enforcement and the media tend to "character assassinate" the victims of police violence by magnifying any flaws they might have so that the public can demonize the victim, further justifying police violence. He believes that the malice clause is significant enough that its removal could have brought justice for his murdered son.

His father was a member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists whose presence was greatly felt at the protest. Many indigenous peoples were there as well, wearing traditional clothing and playing ceremonial instruments. Spoken word poetry was shared by Olympia poet Lenée Reid.

Two Washington state representatives were there showing

their support of I-837, David Sawyer (D) of the 29th district, and Luis Moscoso (D) of the 1st district. Moscoso shared how he introduced a bill aimed to strike the malice clause (HB 2907) to the House Public Safety Committee earlier this year after work done by the Black Alliance of Thurston County in response to the police shooting of black brothers, Bryson Chaplin and Andre Thompson, in Olympia in May 2015.

The Alliance was formed after the prosecutor failed to file charges against the officer who shot Chaplin and Thompson, illustrating what many see as a flaw in our legal system. Along with efforts to support families and communities of those killed by police the Black Alliance of Thurston County began lobbying legislators to introduce laws that would better hold police accountable for unjustified use of force.

However, despite the work of many organizations and community members, HB 2907 never made it out of committee for a vote in the house. Moscoso explained that there was a lot of pressure to ignore the bill from the law enforcement community, including two Republican representatives on the House Committee on Public Safety. He told the crowd that since then, many of his Republican colleagues have admitted that they acted out of fear for not addressing the bill and expressed remorse.

Moscoso, who has fought hard for police accountability but lost the primary election and will be wrapping up his last year as representative, promises to help continue the fight for this initiative to pass. He both cautioned and encouraged the protesters that, "it sometimes takes years for something to pass," but that he believes with enough movement behind it, I-837 can become a reality.

Seattle mayor, Ed Murray has also endorsed the initiative with the Seattle Police Department following in support. Many are calling this initiative pro-community, not anti-police. The initiative needs about 250,000 signatures by the end of December, to go before the legislature in January 2017.

You can find more information about Initiative-837, including how to sign the petition, on the Washington for Good Policing website, at w4gp.com.

News

UP & COMING

WED. OCT 26

Student Activities

2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW. 2pm.
Evergreen Costume Swap

Longhouse

2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW.
2:30pm.
Consent and Boundary
Setting Workshop

Obsidian

414 4th Ave E. 9pm.
Hotel Broslin Presents:
Return of the Living Dead

Le Voyeur

404 4th Ave E. 9pm.
Vomity 104- A Spewky
Halloween ft. Adam Norwest

THUR. OCT 27

Ben Moore's

112 4th Ave W. 9pm. \$7
Halloween Dance

FRI. OCT 28

★ Senior Services

222 Columbia St NW. 6pm. 21+
Rocky Horror Themed Bingo

Obsidian

414 4th Ave E. 7:30pm.
Film Festival of the Year!

SAT. OCT 29

Obsidian

414 4th Ave E. 8pm.
WEED, Chris Cheveyo,
Sawtooth

★ New Moon

113 4th Ave W. 9pm. \$5
NOTAFLOF

Joyride, Brave Hands, Box
Fan, Minor Threat

Capitol Theater

206 5th Ave SE. 8pm. \$15
Night of the Living Tribute
Bands

The Brotherhood

119 Capitol Way N. 9pm. \$5. 21+
Halloween Benefit Ball with
DJ Fir\$ Lady

★ STAFF RECOMMENDED



The shelter at First Christian Church was expanded into an emergency storm shelter by volunteers. JON FITZGERALD.

City Rejects Emergency Storm Shelter VOLUNTEERS STEP IN TO FILL THE GAP IN SERVICES

By Jon Fitzgerald

Last week, members of the community started contacting members of City Hall to open up a shelter for the coming wind and rainstorm, which was expected to have up to sixty mile an hour winds and large amounts of rain. Despite calls for a shelter to open and the general approval by city council members, the city did not take any action, and members of the community stepped up to open a shelter for people in need.

Just Housing, a grassroots movement for housing justice in Olympia, was largely behind the emergency maneuver and have found renewed energy in their successful call-to-action, continuing to rally for action from city council to benefit of the homeless community.

My partner and I stopped by First Christian Church on Friday afternoon. We had heard the shelter had opened out of necessity because of the storm and we dropped off some blankets and socks. Inside there was a space for sleeping, a space for standing, a line into the kitchen, stacks of blankets, socks, and instant noodles. There was stuff everywhere and people everywhere trying to warm up, so we were in and out in a second.

This emergency shelter was something we only witnessed because of one post on social media that was shared by a friend and we happened to see and a decision we made

because we happened to have free time. But we knew we wouldn't be in danger during this storm: weather reports were only warning about things like trees damaging property, not homes blowing away or belongings being destroyed. However, for all the people don't have homes, a large part of Olympia's population, this big storm coming was definitely something to worry about.

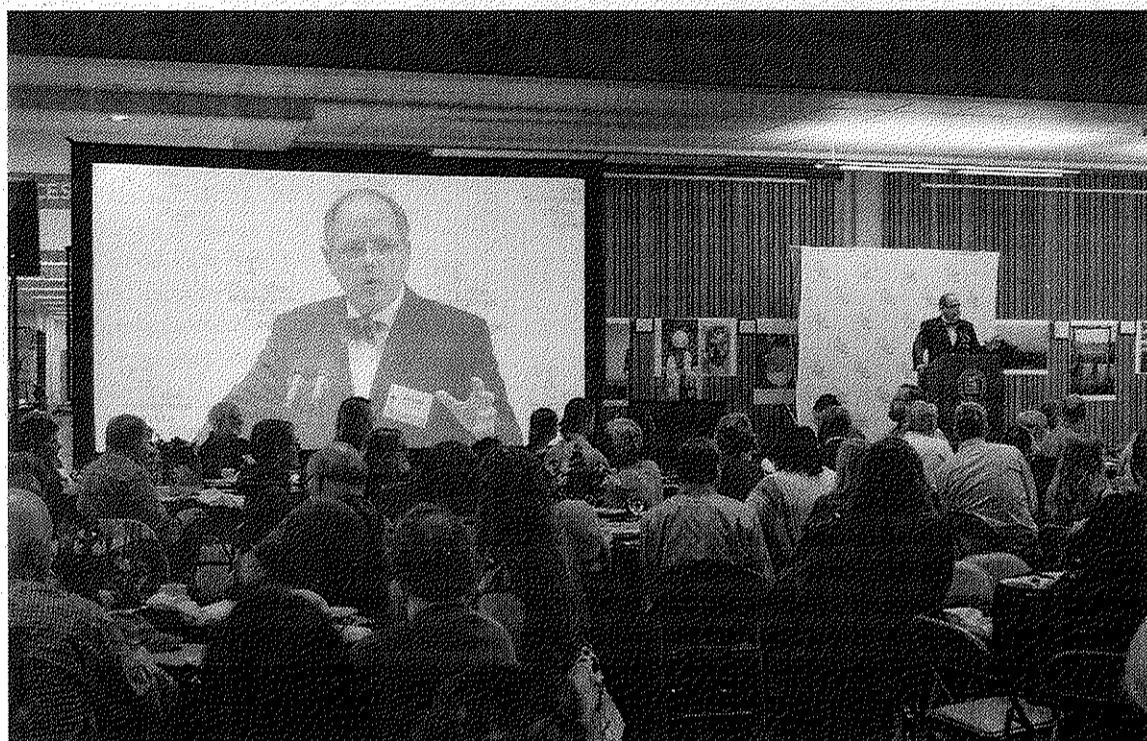
Starting Thursday morning, various community organizers started pressing the city to open up a public building as an emergency shelter. In the meantime, Interfaith Works at First Christian Church, who hosts an overnight shelter as their ordinary mode of operations, opened their shelter space for what they thought would be the one day. Although support among the city council was favorable, the opening of a public space was declined and at that point, Just Housing organizers began re-

cruiting staff to keep the shelter at First Christian Church open through the night and eventually the whole weekend. Approximately 100 people sought shelter each night of the storm on top of the church's 37 year-round shelter beds. The shelter was also able to serve hundreds of meals and provide changes of clothes and blankets, entirely thanks to community donations.

On Tuesday, October 18, Just Housing and other members of the community rallied outside of City Hall and announced their list of community needs with a megaphone before speaking at the city council meeting that evening. The list included repealing the city's "No Sit/Lie" policy- an ordinance that prohibits sitting or lying in public spaces- and designating city land for tents, but also included things like putting policies in place that would implement incentives for landlords who lower screening requirements and

rent to low-income renters. While it seems this storm may have helped bring attention to their cause, Just Housing had already been attending city council meetings and voicing these needs, including the week before.

Although to many the storm may not have been as severe as predicted, even normal winter conditions in Olympia present dangers for the city's homeless, and we have a lot of people suffering through those conditions. In January of 2016, The Thurston County Homeless Point-in-Time Count totalled 586 homeless people during the course of one day. A visible number of our citizens are in need and last week the City of Olympia declined giving up space in a public building for emergency shelter during a storm. As a friend-of-a-friend pointed out, there's a lot of free space in the Capital that could be put to good use giving people shelter.



George Bridges spoke at a brunch honoring scholarship recipients. SHAUNA BITTLE.

Return to Evergreen

ATTENDEES DISCUSS EVERGREEN'S HISTORY & FUTURE

By Chloe Marina Manchester

Return to Evergreen is an annual event entering its fifth year, gathering together Evergreen students, alumni, faculty, and retired faculty for a day of learning as a community, in true Evergreen fashion. The day begun with the President's Scholarship Brunch. It's supposed to be a time for current scholarship recipients to be honored. They were recognizable by the lanyards they were given that say "I am a scholarship recipient, thank you for funding my education!" This was also an event to honor the donors, solicit more donations from them, and encourage other people to donate for the first time. Inside the folders that were handed out with the name tags were envelopes with cards asking how much you would want to donate, with the lowest amount listed being \$125.

After the initial rush at the buffet table had subsided, Evergreen President, George Bridges began to speak. He began with, "I know people tell you never to begin presentations by talking about the weather, but how about this weather? But in this building, you will be safe, warm, and dry."

Bridges spoke about the importance of scholarships in the role of education and then invited a scholarship recipient, Iya Condo, to the stage to speak about her experiences with the importance of scholarships. Condo began by saying that she chose Evergreen because she wanted to go somewhere where knowledge is encouraged. She said she started out at Evergreen by doing the Evergreen Student Civic Engagement Institute,

which let her into the community. She spoke about the importance of education and how her scholarship let her pursue that education. Condo wants to go on to medical school in the field of women's health and ended her speech by thanking donors.

George then took the stage again and presented The Joseph Albert Dear Award to Nathan Gibbs-Bowling. Gibbs-Bowling graduated from the Tacoma Campus in '04 and the MiT in '06, he brought his mother to the ceremony. Bridges said that on the day he visited Gibbs-Bowling's classroom at Lincoln High School in Tacoma where he teaches advanced placement government and human geography noticed that his classroom is socratic, with his discussions feeling more like

and Evergreen seminar than an ordinary high school class. Gibbs-Bowling was the 2015 Washington State Teacher of the Year and a Finalist for National Teacher of the Year.

Gibbs-Bowling began his speech by praising Evergreen, saying "There are institutions in this state where I will not send my children, but I would send my children to Evergreen, I wouldn't be who I am today without this school." He went on to say how important the MiT Program at Evergreen is, and how it prepares students to be teachers more than any other program of which he knows. He was then presented with the physical Joe Dear Award by George, which concluded the President's Scholarship Brunch.

One of the scheduled sessions was A Village Conver-

sation with Maxine Mimms, Stone Thomas, Felix Baffith, and York Wong. It took place in the CCAM in the library building. This event also started on Evergreen time, about twenty minutes after the advertised start time. Maxine Mimms sat down and said, as soon as the audience became quiet, "Well, hello, Oprah!" She went on to equate the conversation with "sitting around with the weed pipe." She said that village conversations are necessary because Evergreen has got to understand that we are a village. Ostensibly, the purpose of the village conversation was to act as a faculty fishbowl seminar, something that was frequent in Evergreen's past.

The seminar was about designing a potential program for Evergreen, though that was pushed to the periphery of the conversation as it progressed. The program was, at the end of it, to be a coordinated studies program, with "lectures being storytelling," as Wong put it. It would be completely student driven, though the students would be required to go into the archives to study the faculty and professors and other parts of Evergreen history that falls through the cracks. It would not be about diversity but about other ways of knowing.

One of the main themes of this conversation was, as Wong put it, "There are other ways of knowing." Which means that one must explore a topic in more ways than what you want, more ways than what comes naturally. He elaborated on this later in the discussion by talking about a time when traditional medicine, rather than Western medicine was what healed his snake bite.

Mimms founded the Tacoma Campus, not program, but campus. She said that calling it a program rather than a campus is a form of degradation through language, especially within the context of the Tacoma Campus being a historically black college. She said that in the beginning of the Tacoma Campus, "In or-

der to keep my enrollment up, I would go to the graveyard. See, whites love numbers, they don't care about what's happening as long as the numbers are there. So I would go to the graveyard and write down names so that when I had eight or nine students, it looked like I had 30 or 40!"

At one point during the interview with Mimms, she called over president George Bridges (whom she says she has no solid opinion on) and started talking to him about how to better run Evergreen. A lot of this was centered on how to bring enrollment back up, how to get more money for the college. Mimms said that Evergreen has no business being empty on the weekends, no business having declining enrollment when there are so many things in the world that Evergreen's curriculum could respond to. Mimms told Bridges that "you cannot be rigorous or scholarly without a community campus. "[The campus] is not open, that's your problem," she said to Bridges.

"Evergreen is no longer radical, it's a maintenance state school and that scares me. I don't think it's possible for Evergreen to change right now, we haven't spent a lot of time getting creative, to get it to evolve. The heart is not there anymore." Mimms declined to respond on the incident at convocation on the basis that she was not there. She did say that we have to stop writing about it, however. Thomas, who read accounts of the student protest at convocation, offered his opinion on the matter. He said that it's good that students are still interested in the struggle, still wanting to bring attention to the struggle. "Marketing makes you think Evergreen is diverse, but something is lacking in the environment to make people of color feel welcome. The bigger issue I see is how do you, if you use progressive language, how do you live up to that language in the climate of the institute. People came here expecting it to be different," said Thomas.

Community



Health Center employee speaks with evergreen student. SHAUNA BITTLE.

Mental Health Help A GUIDE TO LOCAL RESOURCES

By Sylvie Chace

Cold weather has officially descended upon Olympia. While fall marks a time of change, it also marks a time of Seasonal Affective Disorder. Whether the weather has got you down or you need resources for other mental health needs, Evergreen and the greater Olympia area does have some options for those in want of mental health services.

STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES

(360) 867-6200

The main resource on Evergreen's campus for mental health is the Wellness Center. For other health needs the Student Health Center is also available in the same building. Both services are located in Seminar I, The Wellness Center in 2110, and the Health Center on the first floor.

The Wellness Center is where students can go to access walk-in therapy sessions or to schedule time with a counselor.

"They have tea," says an anonymous student on their experience at the Wellness Center.

On Sep. 16, The Wellness Center (previously known as The Counseling Center) sent out an email announcing their union with the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention (OSVP).

"Our goal is to provide better care for students with a fully integrated team and access to services through a single front desk" the email states.

This union entails the same services that were offered to students before, with an addition of expanded hours and consultation for students interested in or needing medication. Students can also be prescribed medication through the Health Center, after making an appointment. Medication can be covered by insurance or billed to your student account. Office hours at the Wellness center and the Health center are available online. To access services at the Wellness Center or Health Center, call or drop-in during their office hours.

The Wellness Center can recommend students to therapists or other health practitioners in the greater Olympia area to make it easier to navigate finding someone who is right for you. However, Olympia already has several organizations in place that can provide services to those in need.

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION EDUCATION

(360) 357-4472

Partners in Prevention Education (PiPE) is an organization in downtown Olympia that provides drop-in services as well as individual or group counseling services for survivors.

Their online mission statement is "To engage homeless and at risk youth and adult allies in the elimination of sexual violence, bias, hate & general crimes as they contribute to homelessness and as they exist in street culture. We achieve this through social change work, violence prevention education, and survivor support services including advocacy, therapy and support groups."

Some of PiPE's available services include advocacy, family therapy, and support groups. PiPE's support groups aim to provide a safe and welcoming space for survivors no matter race, gender identity, sexuality, or age. PiPE also works closely with other Downtown organizations such as

Stonewall Youth, and Community Youth Services. Services for youth and young adults ages 13-30 who have lived through various trauma and are homeless or at-risk for homelessness are free and confidential. To access these or other services through PiPE stop by their offices Downtown at 408 7th Ave SE. If you don't have time to get down there, call or email. Further details about their support groups and other services is on their website at youthchangeagents.org.

SAFEPLACE

(360) 754-6300

SafePlace is a local Olympia non-profit with over 90 volunteers trained to help survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

"Our sexual assault program is one of the oldest in the nation," the SafePlace website states.

The organization operates 24 hours a day and provides support for crisis situations, as well as advocacy, support groups, and safety planning for survivors of

sexual assault and domestic violence. A survivor may choose as many or as few services through SafePlace as they please. SafePlace offers walk-in advocacy and legal advocacy alike as well as a house of 10 bedrooms and 28 beds if a survivor needs a place to stay. SafePlace's house location remains confidential, so contact the organization if you or someone you know may need to access that service.

RAINBOW HEALTH CENTER

Rainbow Health Center has recently opened in a big yellow house on the Eastside of town, 1701 4th Ave E, for mental health services that are more oriented towards the queer community in Olympia. They operate as a collaboration of independent practitioners seeking to serve queer people, as well as immigrant families and unaccompanied refugee minors.

The Rainbow Health Center aims to provide more services than just therapy- their website includes massage therapy, electrolysis & esthetics, and physical health services. However, there are no listed practitioners in these areas. Since the center recently got started, these services will be provided in time, so keep an eye out if any of those services are of interest to you or someone you know. So far there are four in-house therapists listed on their website, rainbowhealthcenter.com. To access services at Rainbow Health Center, email or call their providers directly.

THE CRISIS CLINIC

(360)-586-2800

Last but not least on the list is The Crisis Clinic. This organization does not have office hours, but a phone line that is available 24-7. Their volunteers are ready for any immediate needs you may have. Whether it's a risk of homelessness, or needing community resources, or even if you need someone on the other line while having an anxiety attack, volunteers are trained with information to help various needs. Volunteers can provide services in emotional support, problem resolution, or locating of resources.

The Crisis Clinic also provides suicide awareness presentations to schools and other community organizations to raise awareness and teach others how to communicate with someone who is struggling with suicidal thoughts.



MADDIE FOLEY

Welcome to POC Talk

OLYMPIA COMEDY WITH SUMMER AZIM

By Jennifer Hicks

Hello and welcome to POC Talk! A new column we've created for people of color (POC) by people of color! With issues of representation looming large on our minds lately (and who are we kidding, always) our goal is to focus on the unique experiences POC face at Evergreen and in Olympia. We're here to answer your questions, scour out the best places to buy and get food, help you find shows and events, introduce you to local POC artists and anything else y'all want to hear from us.

We'll be taking your questions and comments and would love to hear from you—help us shape this column into what our community wants to see! When it all comes down to it we're doing this for all of you, representation is key so help us bring the realness. We'll start by introducing ourselves,

Jennifer: age 22, lifelong Washingtonian, second year student at Evergreen studying creative writing and experimental poetry. Part time nerd and full time trash queen/ fashion enthusiast.

Arash: age 20, former Redmond resident, second year Evergreen student studying ??? (because really who's 100% sure at this school) Part time aesthetics aficionado, full time hide and seek player, disappearing master, and slacker off of writing own intro.

In upcoming issues we hope to fill this column with as many of your lovely voices as you are willing to share with us. This being the case please send us your questions/comments/concerns/ cool, bad, overlooked things you want to see talked

about, events to go, and awesome local POC artists to check out! We want this column to be specifically about POC issues; think less how do I educate my white dreaded roommate (or how do I stop being the white dreaded roommate) and more how do I find something even similar to home cooking? Where do I find POC community? How do I make Evergreen classrooms a more welcoming environment? Or even how do I rid myself of white-dread roommate's numerous micro-agressions? We're all for helping POC stay strong through emotionally difficult situations, not so much for just educating white people on how to have understanding around our oppressions.

You can submit to POC Talk at poc-talk@cooperpointjournal.com

This week I sat down with Summer Azim, local Evergreen badass and all around funny person, to talk about the Olympia comedy scene and navigating comedy and performance as a person of color in this very white town.

Tell me about yourself?

My name is Summer Azim, I'm a Libra, a Loving Daughter and Comedian

How long have you been doing comedy?

Sometime in November I'll be a year in.

What was it that got you started?

Comedy is something that I've been wanting to do for a long time. I was particularly interested in writing comedy but I think that starting with Stand-up is a great way to sharpen your skills as a writer and being funny. **So do you plan to pursue comedy writing as a career?**

Yes! Inshallah (God willing). That's the dream. I'd love to create and write a show about Black girls being weird and badass. I grew up watching a lot of Tina Fey and Amy Poehler and SNL in general and while I loved it, I noted that there was a startling lack of POC sketches or sketches relating to POC. I felt like the landscape of TV humor was very white and I'm so glad to be the age I am now and being able to see people like

Issa Rae, Donald Glover, Nicole Byer and Aziz Ansari doing exactly what I want to do.

Would you be willing to pitch a show to me right now, go?!

So my ideal show would follow a Black Muslim woman navigating through life in post 9/11 America and Obama. I would love to have my experiences told in TV show format and in a humorous way. I'm also really annoyed with a certain type of Black girl being portrayed on TV. Like all power to them, but not all of us love Beyonce, Scandal and Drake. Some of us grew up wanting to be a witch, obsessed with skateboarding, graphic novels and Anthony Bourdain. I want to make space for the weird Black girl who got told she was trying to be white for liking Metallica. I also feel it's important that Black muslims are more normalized and represented as regular people who do regular things.

I 100% agree with you, representation is so important, with that in mind what's your fave and least fave thing about comedy?

My favorite thing: The creative outlet. Least favorite: Dealing with YTBoi egos. (Miss me with that, Chad!)

That's very understandable hopefully that ego misses the rest of us too! Do you have a favorite place to perform?

Vornity, Le Voyeur, Wednesdays 9pm. Getcholive.

Its obvious you enjoy performing in Olympia, how does olympia compare to other places you have performed?

I've performed in Portland and Seattle. I would say Portland > Seattle, Olympia > Seattle, Portland > Olympia. Even though Seattle is the closest "big city" we have with a vibrant scene, it can be kind of petty and ignorant. I feel like Olympia is the best place in Washington to do comedy because we have a lot of talent in such a small city that it creates a kind of community.

Because there is a sense of community does living in Olympia affect your comedy?

I feel so grateful to have started in Olympia. The kind of environment here is just so

welcoming and supportive. I feel like Olympia pushes you to be more creative with your jokes and not just go for middle-of-the-road, basic-ass jokes.

So olympia pushes you to be more outgoing in your comedy, how do you go about crafting your jokes, what's your creative process?

I usually have the best ideas about 15-20 minutes after I wake up because I'm in raw Fat Regina George mode. Then after that if I like an idea enough I'll expand on it and then think about it for a couple weeks, trying to see what works or not. Usually, once I arrive at something I'm okay with at the moment, I write it down word for word and then do it that way until I change it.

I love it! What could possibly be more relatable than "raw Fat Regina George mode" Thank you so much for taking the time to talk to me today. Tell us when's your next show?

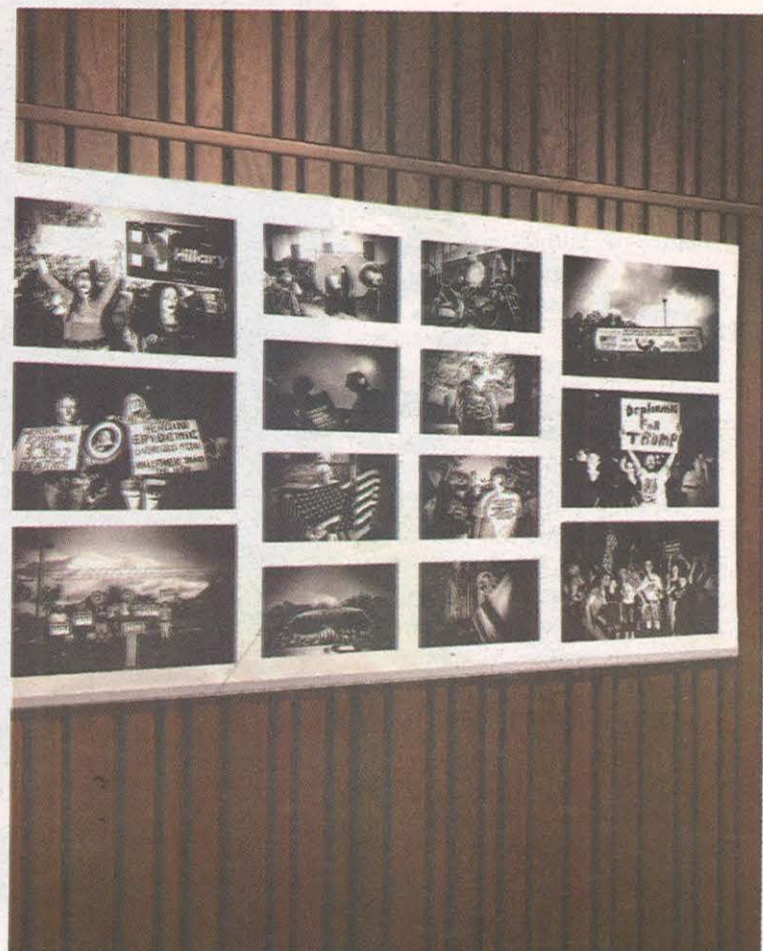
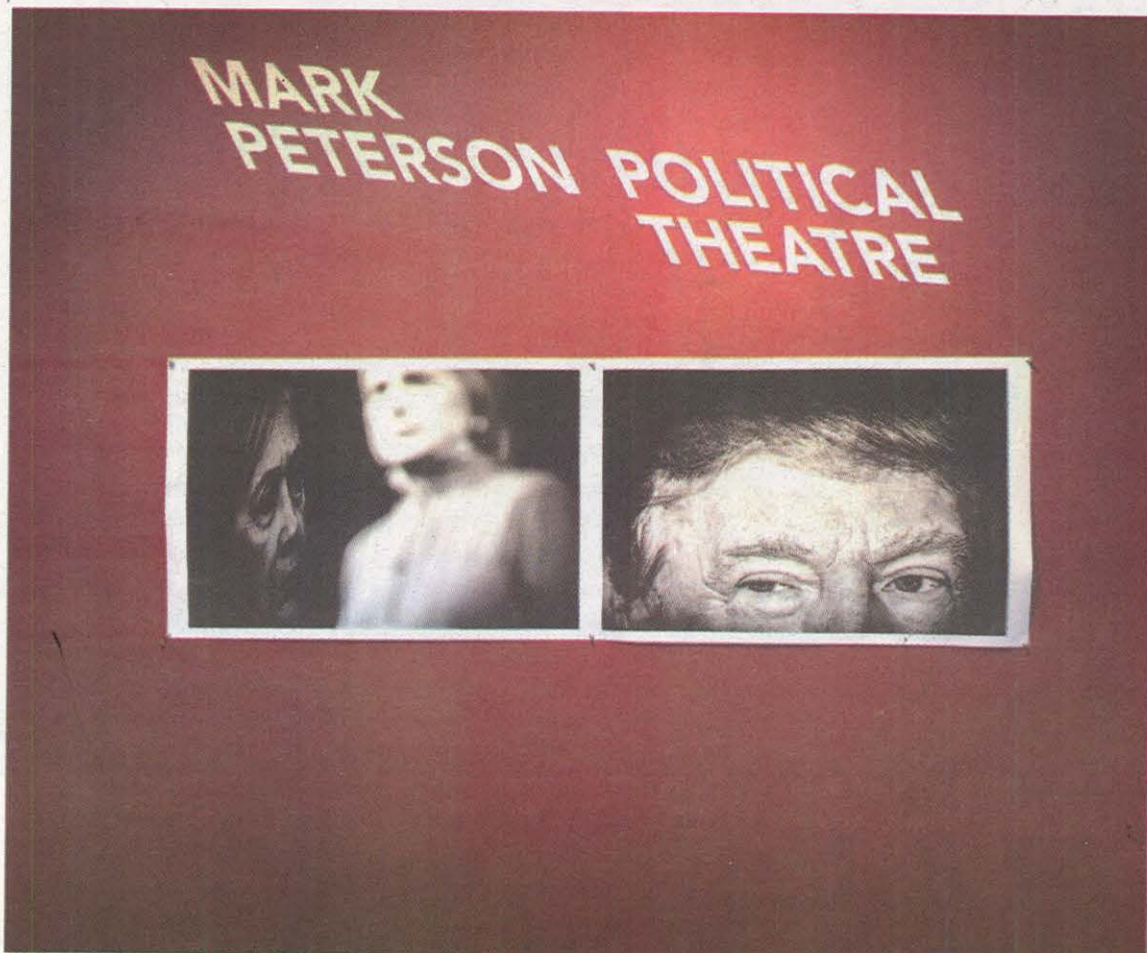
I feel like I'm going to be in Tacoma November 6th, or so? Peeled Bananas Showcase

And Tacoma again in December if I don't go back to Chicago!

Dear White people, please take a step back, no this isn't brown-people-answer-white-people's-questions-hour, we're asking specifically for submissions from POC

Although racism, neo nazis and issues of police abuse and harassment are major issues within our communities. We really want to try and focus this column on being a place for POC without inadvertently making it all about white people and how they treat us. The thing is we don't need our eyes opened to these issues we know, live and experience them personally. We want this to be a place where we can be us without it being overshadowed by the dark cloud that is living under white supremacy and being forced to look at life through the lense and from the perspective of white people. This is why when we do cover these issues it will be in the context and from the perspective of POC and POC only.

Arts & Culture



Political Theater is up outside photoland until December 7. RUBY LOVE.

Dirty Politics Make for Good Art

MARK PETERSON'S "POLITICAL THEATER" NOW SHOWING AT GALERIE FOTOLAND

By Ruby Love

This month, Galerie Fotoland said goodbye to Jim Lommasson's Exit Wounds (if you didn't see it, you should look it up, although you have no excuse unless you're a new student...it was up all spring and summer), which the Cooper Point Journal previously covered. On October 10, Galerie Fotoland welcomed a new exhibit which, while very stylistically different from Exit Wounds, is similarly striking/jarring/show-stopping.

Titled Political Theater, the exhibit is the work of award-winning freelance photographer Mark Peterson, who has been photographing on the 2016 Presidential campaign trail near-daily since its beginning. Political Theater is the product of Peterson's time spent photographing politicians at rallies, press conferences, debates, and town halls.

While hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of images are made of politicians every year, especially presidential candidates, Peterson's stand out. Shot in gritty, grainy black and white, Political Theater takes a "No pandering. No apology." approach to campaign photography. Peterson's

high-contrast, high-sharpness, close-focus images are hilarious and grotesque in a way that makes you chuckle nervously one minute, and draw a sharp breath the next.

Walking along the wall of Galerie Fotoland, you're greeted by the full, almost slimy lips of Donald Trump, pursed to reveal his two front teeth, filling one massive photograph. In another, the face of Michele Bachmann is seen from below; her clumped, mascara-laden eyelashes form gigantic fans above her wide eyes. We can see up her nose - every hair visible to us - and we can even see a drip of spit descending from one of her rear teeth.

At a time when the process

of becoming President seems uglier than ever, Peterson's photographs make visual the "dirtiness" of campaigning. These images are not pretty or idealistic; they emphasize the tight flexing, the forced grinning, and the outrageous boasting seemingly required by the American political process. They serve to lay bare the mechanics of what Peterson calls Political Theater.

What makes Political Theater particularly attention-grabbing is its contemporaneity—these aren't historical images, or even images from last year...they are representing the events of this month; even this very week. While American audiences are used

to images being updated on a minute-by-minute basis online (I watched memes being posted using screenshots from a Presidential debate that was in-progress!), this type of immediacy is not as common in a gallery setting.

I spoke with the Emperor of Photoland and Galerie Fotoland Curator Steve Davis, who told me he was very excited to be featuring Peterson's series. Davis had been emailing back and forth with Peterson over the summer to set up the exhibit, and Peterson was sending fresh images from the campaign trail right up until the day the show was printed at Photoland (One of the perks of having a state-of-the art

photo lab at Evergreen).

Davis told me that the program Playing Politics is visiting the exhibit to reflect on its contents for their program and half-jokingly exclaimed that his hope for the exhibit was that it would inspire, "all you Millennials [to] get out and vote!!"

Political Theater will be on display until December 7 at Galerie Fotoland, located on the first floor of the library. Mark Peterson is represented by Redux Pictures and has been photographing the campaign trail for publications such as MSNBC, TIME, New York Magazine, and Politico. You can find more of his work at MarkPetersonpixs.com.



cover artist statement:

**R A C H E L
C A R L S O N**

I take photographs because they let me represent myself through an image. I feel stronger when I am taking photographs, I feel a sense of purpose. I enjoy documenting other artists at work and my personal work is often about double standards in society, marginalized voices, and longing. My work here is about body image, the teeth are candy and represent the double standards in society about personal hygiene for men and women. The candy represents the arrested psychological development of a young person trying to become an adult. This still life of candy teeth represents body issues and the lack representation of realistic women in popular media and modern art. The empty plate is about body image, double standards in society about food consumption, and how much we waste while others starve. The emptiness of the plate is meant to express spiritual hunger, and a single grape which is a recurring image in my art represents longing for love and acceptance, from the self and others.

Arts & Culture



STUFF 2 DO HALLOWEEN

By Tari Gunstone

WEDNESDAY 10/26

EVERGREEN COSTUME SWAP

Student Activities. 2pm. Free.

Not sure what your costume is going to be yet? Student Activities is hosting a costume swap this Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 2-6 p.m.! You can pick up someone's past costume or get some final touches for one you've been working on. Bring in your old costumes/clothes/masks/accessories and swap them for new ones! Make sure everything is clean and in good condition.

THURSDAY 10/27

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Ben Moore's. 9pm. All Ages. \$7

If you want to get out and dance before the weekend hits, join the weekly Oly Dance crew at Ben Moore's Restaurant. Oly Dance usually focuses on blues fusion dance, but is switching things up for Halloween, featuring DJ's Johnny Cluster, David, Gabriel Stranahan, and DJ Oso. The event is all ages but there is a bar available for the over 21 crowd as well.

FRIDAY 10/28

FILM: HALLOWEEN

Capitol Theater. 9pm. \$9

Get spooked by the ominous mask of Michael Meyers in John Carpenter's 1978 original, Halloween, playing at Capitol Theater for the Olympia Film Society's Fright Club. For those who can't handle scary movies (talkin' to myself here), this seventies horror classic is just the right amount of unbelievable and ridiculous to get you into the Halloween spirit without actually making you shit your pants.

OLY BINGO NIGHT

Senior Services at the Olympia Center. 6pm. 21+

Get on down to the Senior Center for a Rocky Horror themed bingo night hosted by storyteller Elizabeth Lord (best known for Lord Franzannian's Royal Olympian Spectacular Vaudeville Show). Jello shots and a killer costume contest has been promised, but mostly a chill option for Halloween where the only person you have to deal with hitting on you is likely going to be a cute old grandpa. Doors open at 6, with an optional \$5 dinner, bingo starts at 7. Game packs start at \$10, special game cards for the \$100 payout games are \$2/ea. Proceeds fund

the Activities Department for the Senior Center. Make your grandma proud for supporting the elderly, and maybe win some moolah.

SATURDAY 10/29

NIGHT OF THE LIVING TRIBUTE BANDS

Capitol Theater. 8pm. \$15

Capitol Theater hosts this much anticipated Halloween Oly tradition. This year's tribute show features resurrected musical acts like The Moody Blues, Rocket from the Crypt, the Velvet Underground & Nico, Faith No More, Alice in Chains, and Mötley Crüe. All proceeds support future concert programming at the theater. Tickets are expected to sell out quickly. Don't forget to dress up for their costume contest!

HALLOWEEN BENEFIT BALL DANCE PARTY

Brotherhood Lounge. 9pm. \$5. 21+

Dance in costume to old school 90's and early 2000's hip hop and RnB hits spun by DJ Fir\$ Lady at the Brotherhood Lounge. She's got your Halloween dance request covered with a promise to play Thriller at midnight, so you've got a few days to memorize all that classic choreography on youtube. Half of door proceeds benefit Interfaith

Works Emergency Shelter which aims to create winter warming shelters in downtown Oly. The need for emergency shelters was particularly highlighted by the city's failure to provide amenities for the homeless community when weather threats from the big (but not actually so big) storm swept through the area earlier this month. What's better than dancing while feeling good about yourself for helping others? Double dopamine dose.

ONGOING

RUTLEDGE CORN MAZE

302 93rd Ave SE.

Stop by the farm to pick up carving pumpkins and get lost in their maze (\$5-\$7 admission). They also feature haunted mazes at night-time and a zombie apocalypse themed paintball game (prices range from \$14-\$27 per person).

MY MORBID MIND HAUNTED HOUSE

4548 Marvin Rd SE, Lacey.

What started out as an elaborate installment for neighborhood trick or treaters on the porch of a suburban home, now operates one of the scariest haunts in Washington out of an old barn in Lacey. Haunted House Magazine gave it 9 out of 10 skulls for scary factor with one reviewer sharing, "I was worried if I was going to live." The house will be running from from 7-11 p.m. everyday from Oct. 27- 31. Tickets range from \$11-\$14 depending on the day, with fast passes available to avoid lines.

Don't feel like dressing up or going out but want to get into the spirit of things?

Take a drive outside of Olympia with friends to visit some abandoned structures that look like the set of a horror film. The remains of a long-gone logging town slowly being overrun by the forest can be explored in Bordeaux off the Maytown exit on I5, twenty minutes south of Olympia. Check out the mysterious Mima Mounds while you are there. For a longer, more scenic drive, follow 101 two hours north to an even creepier place. Fort Flagler, a military fort built in 1899, has been deactivated since the 50's, but it's dark, empty bunkers can still be roamed. I remember going there as a child and nearly peeing my pants. Bring a Ouija board and light some candles. The ominous energy of the place is offset by long stretches of beautiful shoreline and vast grass bluffs for picnicking; silver lining for the faint of heart.

Arts & Culture

UP & COMING

SUN. OCT 30

★ **Obsidian**

414 4th Ave E. 7pm. All Ages. \$10
Iron Lung, Gas Chamber, Criminal Code, Deprogram

MON. OCT 31

The Pig Bar

404 4th Ave E. 9pm.
Pig Ball Maquerade with Sinkholes, Le Grotto, and Heat Shimmer

TUES. NOV 1

Obsidian

414 4th Ave E. 9pm. \$12. 21+
Nik Turner's Hawkwind, Hedersleben, Ether Island, Quayde Lahue

WED. NOV 2

Media Island

816 Adams St SE. 7pm. \$5-10 NOTAFLOP
Dia De Los Muertos Dinner

FRI. NOV 4

★ **Ralph House**

8pm. All Ages.
Ghost Bitch (tour kick off), Hanford Acid, Gen Pop

Capitol Theater

206 5th Ave SE. 7pm. All Ages. \$20
Built to Spill Benefit Show

SAT. NOV 5

Red House

9pm. All Ages. Donation.
Heat Shimmer (album release), Le Grotto, Airport

SUN. NOV 6

Heavy Meadow

7pm. All Ages. \$5-10
Chris Cohen, Bouquet (LA), Ben Varian & the Washboard Abs

★ STAFF RECOMMENDED

THE
brotherhood
LOUNGE

DAILY HAPPY HOUR 3-7

119 CAPITOL WAY
www.thebrotherhoodlounge.com

an ode to Olympia's music scene from the late 1980's to the mid 1990's.

The exhibit, titled "A Revolution You Can Dance To", showcases the history of bands ranging from Sleater-Kinney to Nirvana, record labels such as K Records and Kill Rock Stars, and festivals like Yoyo a Gogo and the International Pop Underground Convention. The goal Balli had is for visitors to be nostalgic of their former years, represent this pocket of time, and teach younger generations about all that went into this movement, and to hopefully inspire them to keep the legacy going.

The exhibit itself was sponsored by Nirvana's Krist Novoselic and Dave Grohl, with assistance from Francis Bean Cobain, who all helped provide posters, pictures, and other relics from the past. The exhibit itself is a sight for sore eyes, taking you into the past and making you feel like you are finally a part of what we all obsessed over in high school. In fact, it truly takes you into the past with its interactive pieces, such as a zine making station, where visitors can draw, cut, paste, and write their very own little souvenir.

If listening is more your style, they have that too, where you can sit in a "nice", comfortable, worn in chair, and listen to music from landmark Olympia bands like the Melvins and Sleater-Kinney. One of the most exciting parts of the visit is superimposing your photo into the scenery of 1990's Olympia, making you believe now is as good of time as any for another musical revolution to sprout from the streets of our town. The exhibit is a great source of inspiration and the best place to start getting back to Olympia's roots. It also does a great job of representing every aspect of the music scene from the time, not giving too much attention to any particular bands, but instead giving ode to everything from the politics to the posters.

The exhibit opened on September 10, and will be staying at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma till April 23, 2017. For those who love live action, on the Third of every month, there will be a performance at the museum after 5pm from local bands. For those who like to cut costs, true to the Olympia lifestyle, the third Thursday of each month allows free admission from 2pm-8pm. Otherwise the cost ranges from \$8-12, but is well worth it for anyone who has appreciation of music and history.



A Revolution You Can Dance To

OLYMPIA'S ANGSTY YOUTH IMMORTALIZED IN THE WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY MUSEUM

By Sedona Wall

We all moved to Olympia, Washington for different reasons—some of us for school, some for a change of scenery, and some for the Pacific Northwest weather (as hard as that is to believe). But more often than not, when talking to those who have moved here from all corners of the country, many were drawn to the streets of our city by the history and promise our music scene has.

Home to some of the best musical acts, record companies, and festivals this region has to offer, Olympia is a breeding ground for creativity and musical revolutions. If you're anything like me, many of the bands that formed in Olympia were the same bands you first fell in love with. From t-shirts to posters, bands like Sleater-Kinney and Bratmobile helped you find your attitude, friends, and in the long run, even

the place you wanted to call home. Olympia's music scene is unique the way it's formed over the years and what came out of it.

And those who are drawn to be apart of the scene aren't the only ones to notice this phenomenon. The Washington State Historical Society took notice to this important piece of history thanks to former Evergreen student, Len Balli, who suggested an exhibit as

Letters & Opinion

WASHINGTON STATE BALLOT INITIATIVES Go Vote, and Tell Politicians Where They can Stick it

By Asa Kowals Rose

Election got you down? Are you bored by Hillary Clinton, and disgusted by Donald Trump? Is it so bad that you're simply planning to write in "eat my ass" for every race on the ballot? Good news! In Washington State, voters have a way of circumventing those suit-clad garbage piles called politicians. Every year, Washingtonians send a wide array of policy proposals directly to voters in the form of ballot initiatives—a right guaranteed by the state constitution. In doing so, we can proudly tell politicians, "Eat a dick, scumbags; we'll try to fix this stuff even if you're lying asses won't be coming along along for the ride." Isn't democracy great?

To be fair, there are some problems with the initiative process. Since initiatives are drafted by unelected citizens, they can sometimes be poorly written, overly vague, or logistically unworkable. In 2014, for example, Washington voters passed Initiative 1351, a measure designed to reduce class sizes in public schools. However, since the initiative lacked a funding mechanism, it could not be implemented once it was passed. Despite this, many supporters of the measure argued that it was still an important symbolic victory because it allowed voters to express their frustration with legislators' inaction on education policy. Indeed, this ostensibly meaningless legislation illustrates the value of the initiative process as a means to express disapproval with elected leaders, in addition to its function as a means of enacting legislation.

These dual functions are why, despite its problems, the initiative process is a critical component of the politician-constituent relationship. Initiatives allow voters to work around legislative gridlock on issues that lawmakers refuse to act upon. Case in point: the joint I'm going to smoke in order to curb the blood-pressure spike I get from writing about our state legislature comes from a legal, tax-paying business, thanks to Initiative-502. Passed by voters in 2012, this measure was roundly criticized for some of its unclear language, which put the burden on state regulatory agencies to fill in the gaps. Nevertheless, Washington voters were able to give cowardly politicians the finger by enacting much-needed drug reform without their help. And guess what—this year, there are a whole lot more fingers you can give to those asshats in the state capitol. Here are a few you might find interesting.

I-732: POSTPONING OUR INEVITABLE FIERY DEATHS

As most of you know, the planet is getting warmer as a result of rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. If you still somehow believe that climate change isn't happening, I strongly encourage you do some basic research into the matter at your earliest convenience. I'm told that this is much easier to do once you've dislodged your head from your posterior. Got it? Good, because climate change is happening, and it's gonna suck really bad no matter how much you try to ignore it.

Initiative 732 tries to address climate change in Washington by implementing a statewide carbon tax. Basically, this means that certain industries in the state would have to pay for each metric ton of carbon they release into the atmosphere. Over time, businesses would also have to either progressively lower their emissions in adherence to a carbon cap, or pay others to reduce theirs. Sounds good, right? Here's the thing, though. Generally speaking, carbon taxes suuuuuuuuuck. On one hand, the original idea for taxing carbon, rather than simply stopping corporations from slowly destroying the planet, came from conservative economists who wanted a capitalist solution to an environmental problem. In addition to this, carbon taxes are regressive, meaning that they disproportionately burden people with lower incomes. This is because industries affected by a carbon tax can simply transfer its cost to the price of their final product, such as gasoline, thereby raising the cost of living for poor and working class families.

I-732, however, isn't just a carbon tax. It also includes policies designed to mitigate the problem of regressive taxation. In order to offset potential cost of living increases, the measure includes a tax rebate for low income families, as well as a one percent cut to the state sales tax—the mother of all regressive taxes. Given that Washington already has the most regressive tax system in the country, this sales tax cut could do some good. And because the revenue from taxing carbon is designed to offset the lost sales tax revenue, I-732 can make Washington's tax system less regressive without sacrificing critical funding for education and health care. At the end of the day, will a carbon tax be the solution that stops climate change and puts us on a path to surviving the next century? Probably not. But for what it is, I-732 is pretty well thought out. And hey, we might as well try to postpone our imminent climatepocalypse for a few more years. At least until Game of Thrones is over.

I-735: A NICE GESTURE ABOUT MONEY IN POLITICS

Initiative 735 is pointless. Complete and utter bullshit. Period. The measure would urge Washington's congressional delegation (the 12 sad sacks we send across the country to dine with lobbyists) to propose a constitutional amendment reversing the Citizens United decision. For those of you who have

missed every Bernie Sanders speech over the past five years, Citizens United is a Supreme Court ruling that declared political spending a form of free speech, thereby allowing moneyed interests to openly buy politicians under the protection of the First Amendment. So this means that I-735 is an important step in stopping money in politics, right? No. The measure doesn't actually force Washington's congressional delegation propose an end to Citizens United; all it does is ask them nicely to do so. So why should you even waste the ink to bubble in a vote on this? _(_)_/ But you might as well, since you're already voting on ballot measures that actually mean something.

I-1433: HELP LOW WAGE WORKERS NOT STARVE

Initiative 1433 is pretty simple. It would raise the state minimum wage from \$9.47 to \$13.50 over the next four years. It would also require businesses to provide paid sick leave to their employees, so that the person making your Chipotle doesn't come into work and start spreading some burrito-borne flu virus.

Are the reforms proposed by I-1433 adequate to provide minimum wage workers with a decent living? Not at all. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a full time worker would have to make \$23.13 an hour in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Washington State. That's even more than the \$15 minimum wage that the City of Seattle passed in 2014. I-1433 isn't a workers revolution—not even a half-assed one—but vote for it anyway, and keep on fighting to increase the minimum wage down the road. Tip generously in the meantime.

I-1464: WHY SHOULD ONLY RICH PEOPLE GET TO BUY POLITICIANS?

This one's a little counterintuitive. How do we solve the problem of too much money in politics? According to Initiative 1464, the solution is to put even more money in play. How would this work exactly? Some good, old fashioned socialism. If the initiative passes, every Washington voter would receive three \$50 "democracy credits," which they could donate to state house and senate candidates. In order to qualify for these credits, candidates would have to agree to limit their fundraising to half of the existing fundraising cap in their race.

Put simply, I-1464 seeks to democratize corruption. And let's face it, democratic corruption would be a hell of a lot better than the constant politician-lobbyist orgy that characterizes our current political process. The measure would also put limits on former politicians' ability to lobby the offices they held—a phenomenon known as the "revolving door." All and all, I-1464 represents a positive step in curbing the influence of moneyed interests in our political process, even if it doesn't change the fundamental problem of making politicians dependent on campaign donations. So go ahead and vote for it. And in a couple of years, you too will be able to buy a politician.

I-1491: BRACE YOURSELF, SENSIBLE GUN CONTROL IS COMING

Gun violence is kind of a big problem in the country, but thanks to the zealotry of the gun lobby, passing any kind of gun control legislation has proved quite difficult in the past. In 2014, however, Washington voters bucked

this trend by passing I-594, a measure that expanded background check requirements for gun purchases in the state. This year, that same pesky anti-murder lot have hatched yet another plan to cut down on gun deaths.

Initiative 1491 would allow law enforcement officials or family members to file petitions for extreme risk protection orders against individuals they deem to be a threat to themselves or others. Judges would then hold hearings to evaluate these petitions. If they choose to approve an extreme risk protection order, it would require the affected individual to relinquish their guns and bar them from purchasing or otherwise accessing firearms for one year. The measure is meant to keep guns away from individuals who have demonstrated violent behavior toward others, as well as those who might pose a risk to themselves due to mental illness. The measure could also be used to target mentally ill individuals who are considered a danger to others, though these cases are exceedingly rare. The vast majority of those suffering from mental illness do not exhibit violent behavior toward others, and are much more likely to become victims of violence instead.

In short, I-1491 is the epitome of a common sense gun control measure, which of course means that the NRA vehemently opposes it. The good news is that polls are showing that it's likely to pass, so you should take this opportunity to add your voice to the millions already telling the gun fetishists at the NRA to go fuck themselves.

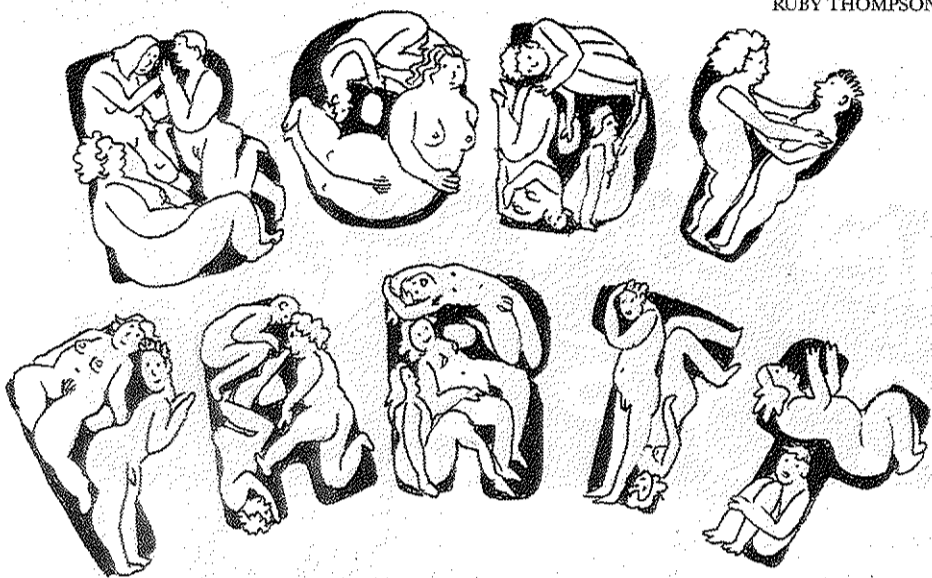
I-1501: YOU SHOULD REALLY CALL YOUR GRANDPARENTS

Initiative 1501 is ostensibly meant to protect seniors and other vulnerable individuals, such as those with developmental disabilities, from crimes like identity theft, but that's not really what the measure is about. Basically, the initiative is a pawn in a dispute between the Service Employees International Union and anti-union interests. It's a long story, but the gist of it is that the SEIU filed the initiative in order to stop the libertarian Freedom Foundation from contacting home care workers and persuading them to stop paying union dues. The measure would accomplish this by exempting the personal data of state-employed home care workers from public records requests, which the Freedom Foundation has previously used to contact those workers.

If this sounds a little ridiculous, it's because it is. So here's the deal. If you are truly passionate about criminal penalties for identity theft against the elderly, you might consider looking further into I-1501. If you don't, but would still like to help seniors, then maybe consider calling your own grandparents. They don't hear from you enough, and it would really make their day if you spent some time catching up. Oh, and here's a tip. When calling your grandparents, keep WebMD open so that you can keep up with all the gross medical shit they tell you about. Your grandfather will be so impressed with your newfound interest in his recent hemorrhoid surgery, he might even leave you his catheter collection in his will!

Letters & Opinion

RUBY THOMPSON



ADVICE ON SEX, RELATIONSHIPS, & MORE

Dear Body Party,

I love my partner and they love me back. Our relationship is new, but it is strong- they are really supportive of me, which isn't something I've felt in past relationships. But when they're not around, I can't help but stalk their ex on Instagram. I can't help but feel like I am in competition with their ex, and honestly, it feels like I'm losing- they just look so confident and so cute and so hot. And while my partner tells me they love me, it's hard to imagine that they are as over their ex as they make out- especially considering the fact that I am not nearly as cool as the last person they dated. How can I stop comparing myself to them and feel more secure in my partner's feelings?

Please help,
Tied for Second

Dear Tied for Second,

"Getting over" someone is a misleading term.

I think understanding that your partner may still think about their ex and remember them fondly is a good start to getting over your hang ups. Expecting your partner to forget their ex entirely is unrealistic. But it is also unrealistic to think that they are spending all of their time with you, thinking about their ex.

Missing people is normal. Breaking up is hard not just because it hurts your feelings, but because it means you have to slowly begin to cut your partner out of your life. And while not hanging out with them is one thing, forgetting them entirely is another one. The process of abolishing an old partner from your thoughts is a tedious one and it can take time.

Most relationships break up for a reason, and any well adjusted adult (here's hoping you're only dating well adjusted adults) should know that. While of course there may be days they miss their old partner, I am sure they do not want them back or wish you were them. You have to trust that they are with you because they want to be with you, not just because they can't be with their ex.

Unnecessary competitiveness is something we all struggle with, romance related or not. It is easy to lose sight of your strengths when you are focusing on someone else's. Excuse the sap, but everyone is unique and different, cute and cool and hot and weird in their own special ways.

I know it can be hard not to measure yourself against your partner's exes, but at some point you need to stop and consider if it's really worth your time wondering. You may feel like staring at their Instagram will eventually unveil something that will calm your worries, but I can promise you it won't. The only thing that cyber stalking them will do for you is waste your time- the more you indulge your compulsions, the more they will eat away at you.

In general, this kind of behavior is a manifestation of masochistic tendencies. You know as well as I do that deep down inside you are not looking for evidence that your partner loves you- you are looking for evidence that they don't.

It is easy, especially in new relationship, to mistake bubbly feelings for something more concrete and then get anxious because you do not feel like you trust your partner as deeply as you should. Obviously you trust your partner, but it is

likely that you trust them because they have never hurt you, the kind of beautiful but ultimately naive trust that newborn relationships foster. You trust them because that trust has never been tested, which is lovely in its own way but can be incredibly deceptive. Real trust takes time, compassion, and patience. It takes years of people fucking up and proving that they are willing to work on themselves. It is not clean and fresh but haggard, the result of reworking and rebuilding. Real trust is not blind but based on evidence- proof that your partner will support you.

Your fears are unlikely to go away. But try to remind yourself that they are just fears, not truths. Move forward and try your best to leave them behind- ignore them and you'll find that their voices will quiet to a whisper. Work against them positively- instead of trying to look for validation for your fears, look for validation for yourself. Make a list of all the things you love about yourself. Ask your friends to contribute. Make your partner tell you why they love you. Tell your partner why you love them. Try your best to believe them, and try your best to believe yourself.

And if all else fails remember: they wake up in your bed and not theirs.

Stay safe and have fun,
-Body Party

Body Party is a positive, open-minded column about everything bodies, sex, relationships, and self love. This column is not written by a doctor but done by a person who has researched the topic and looked into your questions thoroughly. If you have any questions or problems and want advice about sex, medication, love, STD's ect. please submit them to bodyparty@cooperpointjournal.com

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Letters & Opinion

WASHINGTON STATE BALLOT INITIATIVES Go Vote, and Tell Politicians Where They can Stick it

By Asa Kowals Rose

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To be fair, there are some problems with the initiative process. Since initiatives are drafted by unelected citizens, they can sometimes be poorly written, overly vague, or logistically unworkable. In 2014, for example, Washington voters passed Initiative 1351, a measure designed to reduce class sizes in public schools. However, since the initiative lacked a funding mechanism, it could not be implemented once it was passed. Despite this, many supporters of the measure argued that it was still an important symbolic victory because it allowed voters to express their frustration with legislators' inaction on education policy. Indeed, this ostensibly meaningless legislation illustrates the value of the initiative process as a means to express disapproval with elected leaders, in addition to its function as a means of enacting legislation.

These dual functions are why, despite its problems, the initiative process is a critical component of the politician-constituent relationship. Initiatives allow voters to work around legislative gridlock on issues that lawmakers refuse to act upon. Case in point: the joint I'm going to smoke in order to curb the blood-pressure spike I get from writing about our state legislature comes from a legal, tax-paying business, thanks to Initiative-502. Passed by voters in 2012, this measure was roundly criticized for some of its unclear language, which put the burden on state regulatory agencies to fill in the gaps. Nevertheless, Washington voters were able to give cowardly politicians the finger by enacting much-needed drug reform without their help. And guess what—this year, there are a whole lot more fingers you can give to those asshats in the state capitol. Here are a few you might find interesting.

I-732: POSTPONING OUR INEVITABLE FIERY DEATHS

As most of you know, the planet is getting warmer as a result of rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. If you still somehow believe that climate change isn't happening, I strongly encourage you do some basic research into the matter at your earliest convenience. I'm told that this is much easier to do once you've dislodged your head from your posterior. Got it? Good, because climate change is happening, and it's gonna suck really bad no matter how much you try to ignore it.

Initiative 732 tries to address climate change in Washington by implementing a statewide carbon tax. Basically, this means that certain industries in the state would have to pay for each metric ton of carbon they release into the atmosphere. Over time, businesses would also have to either progressively lower their emissions in adherence to a carbon cap, or pay others to reduce theirs. Sounds good, right? Here's the thing, though. Generally speaking, carbon taxes suuuuuuuuuck. On one hand, the original idea for taxing carbon, rather than simply stopping corporations from slowly destroying the planet, came from conservative economists who wanted a capitalist solution to an environmental problem. In addition to this, carbon taxes are regressive, meaning that they disproportionately burden people with lower incomes. This is because industries affected by a carbon tax can simply transfer its cost to the price of their final product, such as gasoline, thereby raising the cost of living for poor and working class families.

I-732, however, isn't just a carbon tax. It also includes policies designed to mitigate the problem of regressive taxation. In order to offset potential cost of living increases, the measure includes a tax rebate for low income families, as well as a one percent cut to the state sales tax—the mother of all regressive taxes. Given that Washington already has the most regressive tax system in the country, this sales tax cut could do some good. And because the revenue from taxing carbon is designed to offset the lost sales tax revenue, I-732 can make Washington's tax system less regressive without sacrificing critical funding for education and health care. At the end of the day, will a carbon tax be the solution that stops climate change and puts us on a path to surviving the next century? Probably not. But for what it is, I-732 is pretty well thought out. And hey, we might as well try to postpone our imminent climatepocalypse for a few more years. At least until Game of Thrones is over.

I-735: A NICE GESTURE ABOUT MONEY IN POLITICS

Initiative 735 is pointless. Complete and utter bullshit. Period. The measure would urge Washington's congressional delegation (the 12 sad sacks we send across the country to dine with lobbyists) to propose a constitutional amendment reversing the Citizens United decision. For those of you who have

missed every Bernie Sanders speech over the past five years, Citizens United is a Supreme Court ruling that declared political spending a form of free speech, thereby allowing moneyed interests to openly buy politicians under the protection of the First Amendment. So this means that I-735 is an important step in stopping money in politics, right? No. The measure doesn't actually force Washington's congressional delegation propose an end to Citizens United; all it does is ask them nicely to do so. So why should you even waste the ink to bubble in a vote on this? _(_)/ But you might as well, since you're already voting on ballot measures that actually mean something.

I-1433: HELP LOW WAGE WORKERS NOT STARVE

Initiative 1433 is pretty simple. It would raise the state minimum wage from \$9.47 to \$13.50 over the next four years. It would also require businesses to provide paid sick leave to their employees, so that the person making your Chipotle doesn't come into work and start spreading some burrito-borne flu virus.

Are the reforms proposed by I-1433 adequate to provide minimum wage workers with a decent living? Not at all. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a full time worker would have to make \$23.13 an hour in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Washington State. That's even more than the \$15 minimum wage that the City of Seattle passed in 2014. I-1433 isn't a workers revolution—not even a half-assed one—but vote for it anyway, and keep on fighting to increase the minimum wage down the road. Tip generously in the meantime.

I-1464: WHY SHOULD ONLY RICH PEOPLE GET TO BUY POLITICIANS?

This one's a little counterintuitive. How do we solve the problem of too much money in politics? According to Initiative 1464, the solution is to put even more money in play. How would this work exactly? Some good, old fashioned socialism. If the initiative passes, every Washington voter would receive three \$50 "democracy credits," which they could donate to state house and senate candidates. In order to qualify for these credits, candidates would have to agree to limit their fundraising to half of the existing fundraising cap in their race.

Put simply, I-1464 seeks to democratize corruption. And let's face it, democratic corruption would be a hell of a lot better than the constant politician-lobbyist orgy that characterizes our current political process. The measure would also put limits on former politicians' ability to lobby the offices they held—a phenomenon known as the "revolving door." All and all, I-1464 represents a positive step in curbing the influence of moneyed interests in our political process, even if it doesn't change the fundamental problem of making politicians dependent on campaign donations. So go ahead and vote for it. And in a couple of years, you too will be able to buy a politician.

I-1491: BRACE YOURSELF, SENSIBLE GUN CONTROL IS COMING

Gun violence is kind of a big problem in the country, but thanks to the zealotry of the gun lobby, passing any kind of gun control legislation has proved quite difficult in the past. In 2014, however, Washington voters bucked

this trend by passing I-594, a measure that expanded background check requirements for gun purchases in the state. This year, that same pesky anti-murder lot have hatched yet another plan to cut down on gun deaths.

Initiative 1491 would allow law enforcement officials or family members to file petitions for extreme risk protection orders against individuals they deem to be a threat to themselves or others. Judges would then hold hearings to evaluate these petitions. If they choose to approve an extreme risk protection order, it would require the affected individual to relinquish their guns and bar them from purchasing or otherwise accessing firearms for one year. The measure is meant to keep guns away from individuals who have demonstrated violent behavior toward others, as well as those who might pose a risk to themselves due to mental illness. The measure could also be used to target mentally ill individuals who are considered a danger to others, though these cases are exceedingly rare. The vast majority of those suffering from mental illness do not exhibit violent behavior toward others, and are much more likely to become victims of violence instead.

In short, I-1491 is the epitome of a common sense gun control measure, which of course means that the NRA vehemently opposes it. The good news is that polls are showing that it's likely to pass, so you should take this opportunity to add your voice to the millions already telling the gun fetishists at the NRA to go fuck themselves.

I-1501: YOU SHOULD REALLY CALL YOUR GRANDPARENTS

Initiative 1501 is ostensibly meant to protect seniors and other vulnerable individuals, such as those with developmental disabilities, from crimes like identity theft, but that's not really what the measure is about. Basically, the initiative is a pawn in a dispute between the Service Employees International Union and anti-union interests. It's a long story, but the gist of it is that the SEIU filed the initiative in order to stop the libertarian Freedom Foundation from contacting home care workers and persuading them to stop paying union dues. The measure would accomplish this by exempting the personal data of state-employed home care workers from public records requests, which the Freedom Foundation has previously used to contact those workers.

If this sounds a little ridiculous, it's because it is. So here's the deal. If you are truly passionate about criminal penalties for identity theft against the elderly, you might consider looking further into I-1501. If you don't, but would still like to help seniors, then maybe consider calling your own grandparents. They don't hear from you enough, and it would really make their day if you spent some time catching up. Oh, and here's a tip. When calling your grandparents, keep WebMD open so that you can keep up with all the gross medical shit they tell you about. Your grandfather will be so impressed with your newfound interest in his recent hemorrhoid surgery, he might even leave you his catheter collection in his will!

Astrology

RUBY THOMPSON



By Sylvie Chace

The pressure is on. With the quarter now halfway through and the Sun in mysterious Scorpio, what makes us feel intense and emotionally charged is what is highlighted now in all the signs lives. Mercury, planet of communication has also recently transitioned into Scorpio. Venus, planet of relationships, is still in the fiery Sagittarius until November 11.

There is a lot of emphasis on Scorpio now as the Sun and Mercury are both in this sign, with a combination of Capricorn's goal-oriented energy in planet of the underworld, Pluto, and Sagittarius's fiery spirit in Venus, this season is starting to look powerful. Power can be channeled into both negative or positive aspects of our lives, but what is most important to be aware of is that it is up to you to control your power and use it as a force of good in your life. With the air getting colder, our inner power should be used to lift ourselves and others up.

ARIES 3/21 - 4/19

The power that this season brings with it is of no issue to someone like you. Lately you've been feeling an inner power, maybe something has happened that has unexpectedly changed you recently? Whether it's rage, joy, passion, or excitement, let that fuel you towards a certain direction. Develop goals for yourself. Remember that not everyone will express their inner power in such a bold way, so it's important to stay grounded by those goals.

TAURUS 4/20 - 5/20

Get moving. There's so much powerful energy around us this season, and it's your job to not let it pass you by while you're taking a nap. It's time to collaborate, to get excited, to get working on something you can put all of your self into. You're capable, driven, and sure of yourself. You have all the makings of success right within you, so start making plans and making connections and put those good traits to use!

GEMINI 5/21 - 6/20

Use your inner power to face the harder things. Look inside yourself and explore those deeper issues around your relationships to others. It's time to stop hiding behind your charm and get into the darker emotions beneath the surface. Talk it out, make a list, make a plan! Get organized throughout the chaos of it all. You may find yourself having a lightbulb moment, or feeling an epiphany you wouldn't have if you had ignored the hard stuff.

CANCER 6/21 - 7/22

Some of your fellow water sign, Scorpio's, traits have been leaking into your life. You've been so focused on your relationships, you're a natural care-taker, but something's off? What needs to be destroyed? Destruction has never been your forte but with all the intensity in the air, you're ready now to think about what to be rid of, what to cut off, let go or change to take these relationships to the next level.

LEO 7/23 - 8/22

Carrying a planner may not be your style, but you need balance. You can have it all! The work and the fun, but you need to get organized. Take a minute for yourself, structure your life and find a way to weave work and play together in a way that feels equal. You have the drive and passion to accomplish bigger goals now, start challenging yourself and take bigger steps towards bigger dreams.

VIRGO 8/23 - 9/22

Doing things with your hands has always helped you feel grounded in times of intensity. Go with it at full force. Don't judge your creations, give yourself room to make it messy, no matter how horrifying a mess may seem to you! You'll find that when you let it all out in the open, you can clearly see what your holding back. What feels good to talk about? What feels cathartic to make art about? Get to know yourself through your work.

LIBRA 9/23 - 10/22

Understand the root of the problem. Sometimes it's not pretty to get deep into things, but in order to break harmful patterns or to understand why things happen the way they do, we have to look into the heart of the matter. Why do you respond the way you do? Why do you care for certain things? Self-reflection is a power, harness it. Take space in a conscious way that helps you understand yourself. Meditate, write, focus. Now isn't the time to escape your thoughts, confront them.

SCORPIO 10/23 - 11/21

It seems like the spotlight is on you and all eyes are watching. Having no privacy sounds like a nightmare, but think of it this way: You are cherished. You are believed and loved by so many. Your words and thoughts and ideas all have tremendous power and now people are truly listening. This is YOUR season, this is YOUR time. Make sure you get your much-needed alone time to ground yourself through all of this, you may find yourself wanting to create something as beautiful as this power makes you feel.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22 - 12/21

With loving venus still in your sign, now may be the time to rest. You're not exactly known for sitting still, but try it out just once? You've been working long and hard for what seems like a huge period of your life. You're making it. Things are working out. You don't need to try so hard. Trust that your natural charm can draw positivity in, rather than running around trying to draw it out.

CAPRICORN 12/22 - 1/19

You may want to take note of the infamous extreme Scorpio traits because Scorpio's ruling planet, Pluto will be in your sign for 16 years. This planet is about secrets, death, and all things mysterious. Don't stay cooped up in yourself right now, let it all out. You have a tendency to hold yourself back because you think other people can't handle you. You are not someone that others need to 'handle'. You are allowed to take up infinite space simply because you need to right now. So be loud, be angry, get ugly! If there was any time to do so, now is it.

AQUARIUS 1/20 - 2/18

Be humbled by your inner power. Everything in your life you have crafted and created by hand and given to yourself. It's been a lot of work, and it must be exhausting, but your power should never be used to self-depricate or self-doubt. You've made it this far on your own, so step back, exhale, and keep moving. You are an unstoppable force.

PISCES 2/19 - 3/20

The ground underneath you has been feeling shaky lately. You need support, but who is there for you? Sometimes you need to step outside of yourself and be the emotional support for somebody else. Maybe it feels like your foundation is crumbling because there's a heavy weight on everyone. Be a force of powerful love. Do what you what you can to lift the weight off of others and you'll see that your true friends will return the favor.

LOAFEDBREAD by Kaya

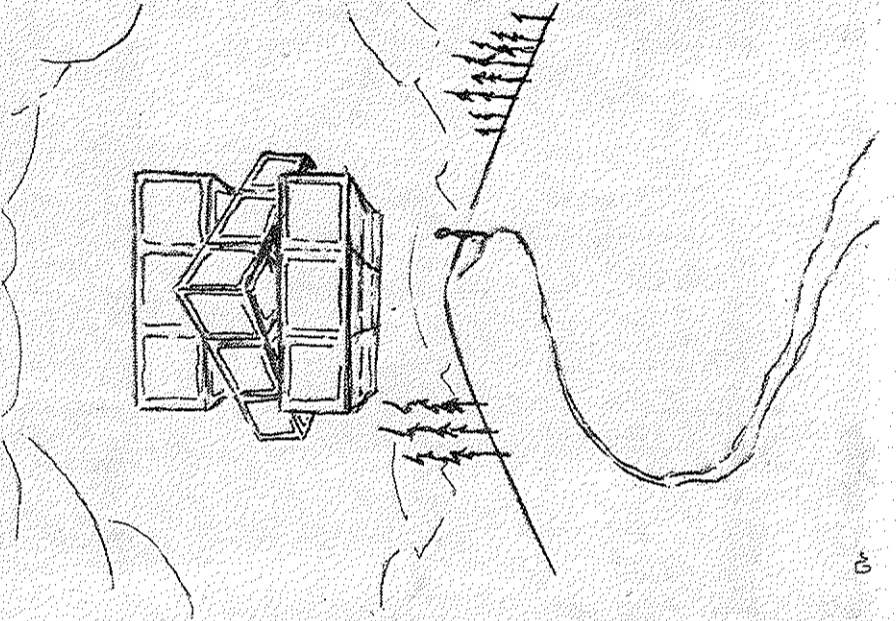


16. first job, burrito barn at theme park. Lady in bikini is hysterical, I cant roll her \$9 burrito for shit.

18. Local mall, heard my name called out. Turned around to see really weird Tinder match.



DOGGY TOYS by Gary Patrick H



FACE FACTORY #2 by Lortz



4 or 8, Seattle Trader Joes, Sample man made rude remark about how many artificial pizza samples I was taking (Fuck him I was young and bored in Trader Joes)

DO YOU DRAW? GET YOUR STUFF IN THE PAPER!

If you draw comics, abstract art, political cartoons, visual poetry, avant-garde expressionism or anything that uses pictures to say something.

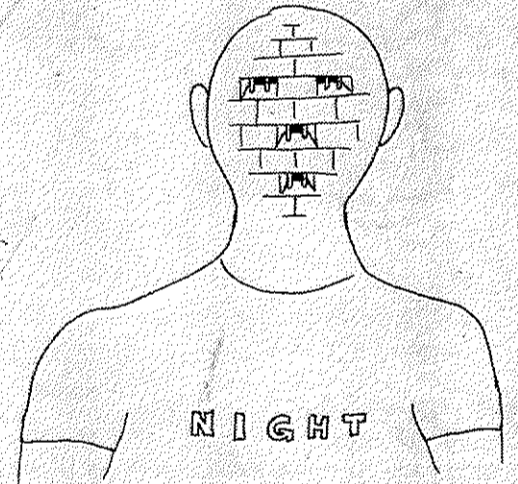
GET IT PUBLISHED IN THIS SPACE

by sending it to: a

cpjcomics@gmail.com

With a TITLE, your PEN-NAME, and any INSTRUCTIONS for how you want it to be published

SEE YOU IN THE FUNNY PAGES



NUDIBRANCH AND FRANZ by Nantz McMillen



DÜBER GAL by River Gates

