

# the COOPERPOINT

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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 Thursday during the school year and distributed throughout the Olympia area. Our content is also available online at [www.cooperpointjournal.com](http://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 The Evergreen State College in room 332 and we have open student meetings from 5 to 6 p.m every Monday and Thursday.

## 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 students onto our staff, who write articles for each issue and receive weekly learning allotments.

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](mailto: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!

# College Affordability Program Would Save Students Money, But Could Hurt S&A Funding

By Blaine Ewig

**R**umors are abuzz around Evergreen—at least if you hang around the Student Activities office—about the College Affordability Program, which would slash tuition, which includes S&A fees, for in-state undergraduate students from the current \$7,833, to \$5,245. This would be a relief from the constant tuition hikes and declining state support that have doubled tuition rates in the past ten years, and cut state funding to all time lows.

But because of a legal technicality, the law could have the unintended consequence of cutting Evergreen's Services and Activities (S&A) funding—the money that goes to student groups like KAOS, The Office for Sexual Violence Prevention, and the Childcare Center—along with tuition.

The Washington State House and Senate are currently hashing out the details as they craft the state's two-year budget in a special session at the capitol. (They couldn't get a budget passed before the end of the regular session in April—largely because of conflict over education funding—and they might have to keep extending their session into June to get it all worked out). Amongst the many details of each budget is the question of how funding for higher-education will be dealt with, particularly because college tuition is at a historical high. Both the House and Senate budgets propose answers to this problem. The House budget calls for a freeze to current tuition rates for in-state undergraduate students, and offers more funding to financial aid through new taxes. The Senate budget contains a bill called the College Affordability Program, which proposes a reduction to in-state undergraduate tuition while also providing state funding to cover lost revenue from lowered tuition.

If the College Affordability Program goes into action, tuition for in-state college students would be reduced to 14 percent of the state's average income for research institutions, like University of Washington, 10 percent for regional institutions, such as Evergreen, and six percent for community and technical colleges. The state would then be required to pay the difference to the colleges, making up for the lost revenue from tuition. However, the budget has not yet

been passed, and it is too soon to say which higher-education plan will be chosen, and it is likely that a compromise between the two plans will be reached.

Both the House and the Senate's budgets would consist of some unintended cuts to colleges' services and activities funding. As it stands now, S&A funding cannot be raised unless tuition is also raised. This also means that if tuition is low-

registered student groups and organizations like KAOS, the Flaming Eggplant, as well as the Child Care Center, and the Office for Sexual Violence Prevention. However, under the College Affordability Program, the cuts will be much greater, and that is what the S&A office is preparing for. At the CPJ, we're concerned about this, because the cuts could take away money that pays for things like printing and

The Associated Students of the University of Washington, and The Graduate & Professional Student Senate submitted a letter to the Washington State Legislature requesting either a removal or an amendment to the law that ties S&A funding to tuition. On May 6, Evergreen's own S&A Board sent a similar letter, not requesting, but demanding that S&A fees and tuition be decoupled.

If the College Affordability Program passes without a decoupling of tuition and S&A fees, tuition will be rolled back, but S&A funding will be lessened as well. That will mean a 6 percent cut to S&A's 2015-2016 budget—about a \$188,000 cut. And that's after the 4-6 percent cut S&A already took this year.

"Students here have been very good stewards of their money. And they've always kept a reserve to where if we have to take a cut like that next year, we'll be able to weather that storm. It's the second year [2016-17] where we'd see a \$452,000 cut. That would be wiping out our student employment," Mercado said. "The things that students expect will no longer be there," he added.

have been asking for clarification about why cuts are a problem.

"The concern that's coming from the legislature is that if they do work to reduce or hold tuition down, they don't want institutions then to use the fee as a way of increasing the cost to students through a back door," said Julie Garver, director of government relations at Evergreen. An inability to work with cuts to funding might also be seen by legislators as an administrative shortfall, but the current coupling doesn't account for inflation and isn't flexible to adapt to the wants and needs of the people it most affects: students.

"At Evergreen we've been trying to bring attention to this problem for the last couple years," Mercado said. He added that he reached out to the Washington Student Association in June 2014 noting this problem and asking for help in uncoupling the fee. So far, Mercado said, the Washington Student Association has "been silent."

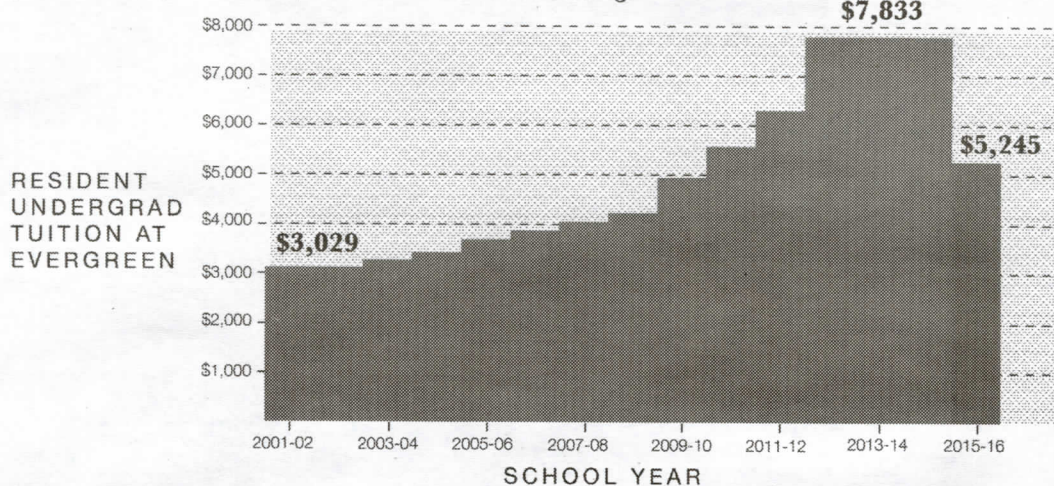
If S&A fees and tuition are decoupled, fees will be voted on by students and added onto the cost of tuition. Mercado says that he believes "if [the decoupling] doesn't get passed this legislative session, it will get passed in the next two years," because schools will begin to feel the cuts and see the reality of them when planning for their future budgets. Mercado adds that "all we're asking is 'please, roll back student tuition but also please, leave student autonomy.'"

The resources that may be cut if the College Affordability Program is passed without a decoupling of S&A fees from tuition are resources which are vital to the education of many students. Student clubs and organization are learning laboratories which supplement education and teach students skills which they can't necessarily learn in the classroom. Further cuts to student employment and student organizations certainly won't help with Evergreen's already-troublesome retention rates. And cuts to resources that students rely on, such as the child care center, the office of sexual violence prevention, and students jobs could hinder students' abilities to attend classes, find childcare, and find jobs that work around their class schedules. Gaver noted this rather succinctly—"the irony is that the problem aligns completely with what policy makers are trying to talk about. Like, 'how do we make it so students don't have to take out debt?' Well, you need to be able to let them work."

Students, staff, faculty, and community members who oppose the cuts to S&A funding should contact legislature and express their concern.

## Proposed Tuition Cuts in Washington Senate

The College Affordability Program would limit in-state tuition at Evergreen to \$5,245 next year, 10% of Washington's average income, after years of steep increases, but also affect S&A funding.



ered, S&A funding will follow suit. Many administrators and students are calling for a movement to delink tuition from S&A fees, so that fees can remain at current at current levels and be raised in the future without raising tuition.

Students and college staff alike agree that a decrease in tuition is a positive move, but without a separation of tuition and S&A fees, under both the House and Senate budgets, Student Activities at Evergreen will take cuts. S&A pools student fees and redistributes them to

staff. S&A fees are coupled with tuition in the law RCW 28B, which put S&A fees under the same category as building and maintenance fees. Tom Mercado, director of Student Activities at Evergreen, said that the current language of the bills is "problematic as it restricts Student Fee committees from having the right to recommend raising their S&A fees."

Other colleges around the state are also worried about the problem of S&A funding cuts. On April 21,

Maxwell Merchant, Evergreen student and services and allocations board coordinator, reiterated Mercado's point, "I'm not sure at this point how student organizations could continue to function if these cuts were put into place."

The problem with the decoupling of S&A fees and tuition stems mostly from a misunderstanding. While many are in favor of a lowering of tuition and of the College Affordability Program itself, they are not in favor of direct cuts to S&A funds. Legislators don't quite understand what S&A fees do, and



# ON THE RISE

City hall wants a denser, more affluent downtown—  
What will it mean for us?

By Issac Scott

**A**fter dark on Friday night, downtown Olympia bustles and hums with a disoriented mood that creeps out from cafes and bars, casting in stark relief the city's conflicting identities.

Olympia is the flowing spring of Northwest outsider art and radical activism. Drums echo through an alley murmuring with graffiti and cans and cigarette butts. Twenty-somethings clad in stained thrift store attire linger smoking beside a sea foam doorway, watching their friends hustle amps and instruments inside.

Is it an "All American City," as the sign on the freeway welcoming visitors likes to declare, or is it consumed by heroin and poverty? A family steps out of a theater, a mother ushering her children hurriedly to the car, past tattooed kids petitioning for spare change and hassling traffic. Two stern police officers wander through the crowd, stopping to question a slouching crew clasping open containers.

Maybe it's the seat of Washington politics? State workers and business people chat over craft beer and gourmet burgers on the sleek patio of a new brewery, warm light reflecting in the

industrial windows of loft apartments.

Above that scene, a crane rises illuminated from the concrete shell and scaffolding of a new building, under construction at Fourth Avenue and Columbia Street. Reaching seven floors, the 123-4th Building will be the tallest addition to Olympia's skyline since 1972, maxing out the city's building height limits. When it opens next spring, it promises 138 deluxe apartment units with new shops and cafes at ground level, designed to attract affluent professionals to the block.

If Olympia feels like it's entering an identity crisis, then the city's urban planning process helps to explain why. City planners and developers have big ideas to reshape Olympia into a denser, more affluent regional center, and the politics of downtown is at the heart of the upheaval.

When it comes to city planning, the Comprehensive Plan is the city's most basic text, put-

ting to code what it says are the community's values, goals, and identity. It outlines in extensive detail how Olympia should grow over the next two decades: where more houses and apartments should be built, what natural areas should be preserved, where there should be more buses and bikes lines, where people should live and work. (You can look at the Plan online at [www.codepublishing.com/wa/olympia](http://www.codepublishing.com/wa/olympia).)

The new edition of the Comprehensive Plan was just approved in December, extending city's vision to 2035. It goes through a laborious revision and update process every 20 years.

What is clear from the new Plan is that Olympia is on the edge of rapid population growth and urbanization. In the next 20 years, the city expects 20,000 new residents to move to town, double the rate of growth since 1995, a 50 percent increase in residents between now and 2035. And if rising costs in nearby cities and climate change in nearby

states drives people en masse to Olympia, that number could be much higher.

Downtown will likely be at the crux of the growth, with population in that neighborhood expected to more than triple. Rather than keep building urban sprawl outward into strip malls and highways, the city wants to build up downtown into a denser, more vibrant city center. Indeed, the city government hopes that at least a quarter of new residents over the next two decades will live downtown, meaning about 5,000 people could be moving downtown. That's a giant increase in the number of people living there—right now only about 2,000 people live in downtown, four percent of the city's population—and city hall is rolling out new policies and programs to encourage the redevelopment of downtown buildings into housing.

"By focusing our employment and population growth into centers and corridors, we can support transit, save money, and preserve rural lands in our county," said Amy Buckner, Olympia's senior planner. In April, she gave a presentation at city hall outlining plans to create a Downtown Strategy, which will gather public input on specific measures to accommodate for population growth, starting next fall.

The city government, she said, imagines a denser downtown where more people will be able to walk or bike to work and shopping, rather than drive, and enjoy a greater variety of cultural amenities.

Housing in downtown has already increased dramatically in the past year, with 210 housing units either newly open or under construction, representing a more than 16 percent increase in overall housing stock. All of these new units are shifting the balance between affordable and upscale housing in downtown. Until recently, 80 to 85 percent of housing there was either directly subsidized or classified as affordable housing. Now that number is closer to 70 percent. And city officials want to see even more market rate housing built going forward.

For many, these changes trigger fears of gentrification and rent hikes similar to the transformations seen in cities like Seattle and Portland, threatening Olympia's identity as an affordable cultural hub. As the economy picks up speed after a nearly decade-long recession, Olympia is sandwiched between two of the

fastest growing cities in the country. In Seattle—which just overtook Boston in population—rent and housing prices are quickly climbing out of reach. Investors from all over the world are pouring money into the Puget Sound real estate market, fueling worries that gentrification will metastasize to Washington's capitol, foreshadowed by projects like the 123-4th Building.

"Olympia is in a weird transition phase," Max Brown told me recently. Brown is one of the people heavily involved in strategizing Olympia's future as chair of the Olympia Planning Commission, a group of volunteers appointed by the City Council to advise them on implementing the Comprehensive Plan and a variety of other planning issues. "We want to see our downtown transition a little bit, but we don't want to lose our culture in Olympia. People do want to see a safer downtown, but not at the expense of turning us into a city that we're not."

Brown is something of rising prodigy in the Olympia political scene. A boyish 25 year old, it only took him a couple months after joining the Planning Commission to be elected its youngest ever chair. He's an almost cartoonishly wholesome guy. Married to his sweetheart from Capitol High School, he's a vegan triathlete, and when I asked if he planned to run for City Council, he shrugged it off with a modest

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"We want to see our downtown transition a little bit, but we don't want to lose our culture in Olympia."

- Max Brown

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smile, citing obligations to his young family.

"I've heard from the community that Olympia has its quirks and its problems, but that's also what makes Olympia unique," he said. "So how do you hold that tension between having a safer, more welcoming downtown for families, where it doesn't become corporate, yuppy, you know, Kirkland or something? Olympia has its own culture and you have to make sure it doesn't die."

In trying to get a wider segment of Olympians to live down-

*Continued on Page 6*

"Development" continued from Page 5

town, city hall is working aggressively to address perceptions that downtown is dangerous and unclear. That narrative was reinforced by a high-profile article The Olympia ran in September 2014, by Andy Hobbs titled "Downtown Olympia: Taking back the streets." It depicted the neighborhood as becoming overrun with frightening criminals, drug addicts, and transients, sidewalks littered with dirty needles, and "blood on business doors."

"The city is a center for government and commerce, culture and entertainment. In recent years, it's also grown a grittier side," Hobbs wrote. "The homeless and the criminal are blamed for driving people from downtown, forcing retailers to close and keeping police hopping."

Recently, the city has put forward efforts like the Downtown Ambassador Program, police walking patrols, increased penalties for drug possession, banning camping on city property, and anti-graffiti teams in attempts to render the neighborhood more palatable to middle class sensibilities. Critics say these measures criminalize homeless and other marginalized people, and tend to exacerbate social issues rather than solve them.

But how unsafe is downtown really, and has it become suddenly more dangerous? In numbers, Olympia's crime rate has actually been on the decline for the past two decades, according to the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs, which releases an annual report tracking crime across the state. In 2013, Olympia's crime rate hit its lowest point since records began in 1980, although 2014 did see an apparently anomalous spike in incidents. While property crimes, like burglary and theft, are a bit more common than national averages, the violent crime rate in Olympia has always been well below the country as a whole. And Olympia altogether remains one of the safest cities in the state, statistically much safer than many nearby towns, including Shelton, Bremerton, Aberdeen, Longview, and Centralia.

Meg Martin, program director of Interfaith Works Emergency Overnight Shelter, told me stigmas around homelessness and mental illness have fueled political action to push vulnerable and low-income populations

out of downtown on the premise of improving safety. She has been involved with street outreach in Olympia for over seven years, much of that time with the Emma Goldman Youth and Homeless Outreach Program, and at Interfaith Works, which offers shelter to the city's most vulnerable populations at a church at Franklin Street and Seventh Avenue.

"Any problems that we have

times the national rate of homelessness, absorbing the vast majority of Thurston County's homeless population, according to the Thurston County Homeless Census. In 2014, the Homeless Census counted 499 homeless people in the county, with 70 percent of those people in Olympia. That means at least 0.8 percent of Olympians were homeless last year, compared to 0.2 percent of all people in the

some newer community groups, like SideWalk and Interfaith Works, have helped introduce more effective solutions to homelessness—like directly offering people housing—in Olympia, other kinds of social services have become less accessible due to political pressure to push those who need them out of downtown.

"What I've seen is we've gotten smarter about social services," Martin told me. "But what

funding rapid-rehousing programs to get people off the street and connect them with social services.

When I talked to Keith Stahley, director of Olympia's Community Development and Planning Department, he agreed that safety and economic conditions in downtown have been a focal point of public debate for a long time in Olympia.

"Someone here had an article from a newspaper from 1994, and it had the exact same concerns," Stahley told me. "It has been a place where there has been conflict in the past between different kinds of users."

Enthusiastically, he showed me color-coded map of Olympia indicating public and private investment in downtown. Since 1994, the city has poured tens of millions of dollars into downtown—the Artesian Commons (\$253,000), the Heritage Fountain (\$4 million), Percival Landing (\$17 million), the 4th Ave Bridge (\$36 million), the new city hall (\$55 million)—in the hopes of attracting private development, which is now coming to fruition with projects like the 123-4th Building.

"In the past four or five years, we've really focused our efforts on making improvements downtown. That's out of a simple recognition that it is an important place," Stahley said. "It's where our waterfront is, where our state government is, where we have most of our cultural and historic resources. We want to make sure it's a place where all people feel comfortable."

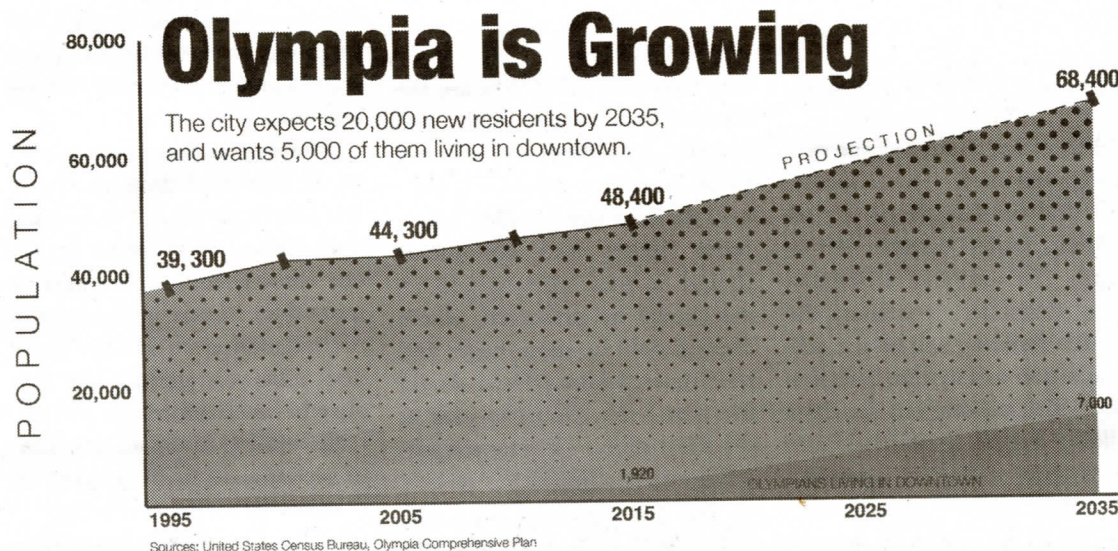
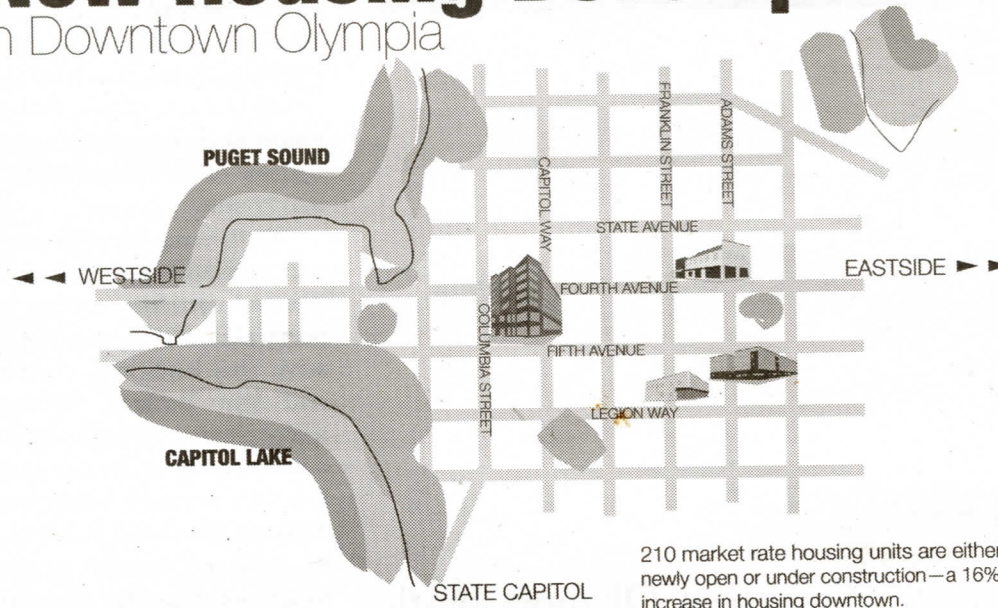
He excitedly pointed out the Cunningham Building, centrally located at Fourth Avenue at Adams Street, as an example of what the city's desired urban renewal looks like. Until recently, the building had been vacant for a long time, its windows boarded up and paint peeling, a symbol of urban blight in downtown.

"We thought it was going to fall down or catch on fire," Stahley told me.

In 2014, a developer who took an interest in Olympia's downtown acquired the property and renovated it. Now the building offers hip studio apartments, and the Deschutes River Cyclery just moved in to the ground floor, next to a hair salon and a shop that sells fancy olive oils.

But to live there costs \$625 a month for only 350 square feet of space, equaling about \$1.85

## New Housing Developments In Downtown Olympia



are actually the same kind of problems that all places in our country are having right now," Martin said. "In our city, there's been a conversation for a long, long time that there's, like, a concentration of undesirable people downtown, and we need to figure out how to get them out."

Downtown's reputation as a place where homeless people congregate is borne out in the numbers. Olympia has many

United States.

"When people get stressed out about anything, it's a natural human tendency to make rules to control the environment," she said. "On a city level, that's when you start to see criminalization of homelessness, criminalization of people of color—that's when cities start to gentrify areas, which moves people out who have been there for ever and ever."

Martin said that although

I've also seen is that we've gotten even less access to chemical dependency treatment and we've gotten even less access to mental health services. So I've noticed in my time here that there's a lot more really serious mental health symptoms happening downtown. And that's a direct result of the restriction of access to services."

Martin argues that the city could effectively ameliorate homelessness in Olympia by



The Franklin Lofts building, on Legion Way, is one of several new mixed-use projects that hopes to attract more affluent residents to downtown Olympia. BLAINE EWIG

per square foot. Even quickly browsing Craigslist for housing nearby, I found a two-bedroom house three times the size of the Cunningham apartment for just over \$1000 a month, about \$1.12 per square foot. The contrast between the new and the old is even more stark when you consider the large proportion of people in downtown who depend upon government subsidies to pay their rent.

It remains to be seen if higher-end housing projects will even be able to attract renters in Olympia. Apartments at 123-4th will likely cost closer to \$2 a square foot, based on the “designer finishes,” “landscaped plaza,” and “water, mountain and city views” touted by their website. The concept image of the apartment looks like a chic Bellevue pad, with elegant wood floors and a naturalistic modern color scheme. (The architects and developers of the building are based in the Seattle area, with money from Chinese investors.)

Despite hints of trendy new development and city policies aimed at gentrifying downtown, Brown and other involved in city planning doubt Olympia will see

a real estate boom on the scale of Seattle or Tacoma in the near future. Even with the population growth predicted in the Comprehensive Plan, Olympia’s cost of living will likely stay relatively stable for the time being.

“If anybody’s going to see it last, it’s going to be Olympia,” Brown told me. “Seattle’s the target and the further away you get the less likely we are to see a lot of development. I don’t think Olympia’s going to see a major boom. It’s not our city, it’s not our market.”

Economically, the city is inextricably linked to the state government, which is the largest employer in the Thurston County. More than a third of non-agriculture workers in the county are employed by Washington state, according to the State Employment Security Office. With the Washington strapped for cash, despite the national economic recovery, a flood of new money into Olympia driving up prices seems improbable.

“We’re so dependent on state income, and last time I checked we’re not getting any raises,” Brown said with a laugh.

Additionally, with the public

sharply divided on development and city planning issues, political support for changing city codes and regulations to make the overnight transformation of downtown Olympia into a mini-Bellevue is unlikely to materialize.

When I talked to Roger Horn, the longest serving member of the Olympia Planning Commission, he told me that public opposition has dampened attempts at what he sees as downtown revitalization.

Two of the biggest recent controversies were over proposed high-rise condominiums on the isthmus, and legally-questionable closed-door meetings city officials held with developers.

In 2008, public opposition to the proposed condos ousted a number of elected officials and became a focal point of subsequent elections. Critics argued that the condos would obstruct prized views of the sound and the Olympic Mountains, and could be built in any number of other downtown lots, particularly since the isthmus is vulnerable to flooding and climate change-related sea level rise.

“The public went nuts,” Horn

told me. “The Council completely turned over. I won’t say it’s 100 percent because of that issue, but within a few years the Council totally turned over and that became a big election issue, of whether you supported or opposed tall buildings on the isthmus.”

Last year, city planning controversy boiled over again, when then-Commissioner Judy Bardin spoke out against closed-

“In our city, there’s been a conversation for a long, long time that there’s, like, a concentration of undesirable people downtown, and we need to figure out how to get them out.”

- Meg Martin

door meetings city officials held with developers. The meetings, which included mayor Stephen Buxbaum, and members of the City Council, Planning Department, and Planning Commission, were directly ahead of a vote on changing zoning codes that would have benefited the developers. The Planning Commissioner who organized the meetings was on one of the developer’s payroll as a consultant at the time. Critics, like Olympia Power & Light’s Matthew Green, argued the meetings flouted laws requiring city government meetings to be open to the public and on the record, and that they were intended to hash out secret deals to benefit the developers.

“I just pointed out that I thought the meetings should’ve been open to the public,” Bardin, who is now running for City Council, told me recently. “We should conduct our business in front of the public eye. I questioned having the meetings designed so that there wasn’t a quorum. It didn’t seem open or transparent.”

“The land use decisions we make now will have impacts for generations to come,” Bardin said. “I really think we need to bring our neighborhoods and our communities into the decision-making process.”

Brown maintains he ensured the conversation at the meetings

did not touch on any individual projects, but was a general discussion of how the city could better facilitate development. He told me that the meetings stemmed from frustration at city hall over lack of communication between city government, developers, and other segments of the community. Developers had been invited to speak at public meetings, he said, but were hesitant to talk on the record because of the history of public antagonism toward them, such as during the isthmus controversy.

With more city planning decisions to be made as Olympia’s population grows, communities with a stake in downtown’s future face an important choice: either get involved now to shape the direction of development and policy in the city, or organize later against decisions made on behalf of those already invested in the process.

“I think the biggest challenge is—well, have you ever been to a Planning Commission meeting?” Brown asked me. I shook my head. “They’re boring as hell.”

The open house on the Downtown Strategy I went to did offer free fruit and cookies, but I was certainly an outlier in a crowd whose median age I estimated at around 50. With a lack of younger people involved in the process, it’s no wonder the city’s plans seem geared toward the middle-aged and retired: they’re the ones who show up.

In our conversation, Roger Horn asked me what concerns I hear at Evergreen around development and city politics. Through writing this article, many students told me they were afraid of gentrification and the criminalization of homelessness, and losing Olympia’s arts culture if rents rise.

He nodded in acknowledgement. “It would be great if Evergreen would come get involved,” he said, “rather than criticizing from the outside.”

Max Brown echoed this sentiment. “I think Olympia is often defined by what we’re against as opposed to what we’re for, and that’s just how we work,” he told me. “Instead of trying to figure out where can we come to common agreement and start figuring out how we can move forward as a community without getting stuck in the past. I think we’re getting closer to that point but we’re not there yet.” ♦



Demonstrators, largely from the Evergreen community, marched to city hall on Thursday, May 21 to protest the police shooting of Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin in Olympia. BLAINE EWIG

## Police Shooting in Olympia Sparks Protests

By Felix Chrome

**T**he shooting of step brothers Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin by an Olympia Police Officer on Thursday May 21 set off large protests, garnering national media attention. For many in Olympia, the shooting fit into a nationwide pattern of excessive police violence against people of color that has caused major public uprisings this year.

This event happened in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, and high profile protests from Ferguson to Baltimore, over police murders of young black men.

This shooting also comes in the context of a longer conversation about systemic racism in policing and criminalization policies. Olympia is not immune to racial disparities in policing, according to arrest statistics released by the city in 2014 10 percent of people arrested were African American, despite making up only 2 percent of Olympia's population.

### Shooting & Investigation

During the early morning of Thursday May 21, two men, step brothers Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin, were shot by an Olympia Police Officer. Officer Ryan Donald shot the brothers around 1 a.m. Thursday after re-

sponding to a call about alleged shoplifting from the Westside Safeway, not far from The Evergreen State College.

The two men, Thompson, 24, and Chaplin, 21, were taken to area hospitals, both with bullet injuries to the chest. As of Thursday evening, police officials said Thompson was in stable condition since he was admitted and Chaplin was listed in critical condition. It was later confirmed that he suffered multiple bullet wounds. The stepbrothers are both expected to survive, although there have been few updates on their condition, and both remain hospitalized.

Police responded to a 911 call claiming the brothers attempted to steal a case of beer from Safeway for the second time that night, and then threw the case at an employee. This was originally characterized by the police as an assault but security footage shows one of them dropping the beer on the ground when confronted, not

hitting the employee.

Much of what is known about the incident after this comes from dispatch calls during the incident, released by the city. After arriving, Officer Donald saw two men on skateboards fitting the description given by the employee, a couple blocks from Safeway. About 30 seconds after Donald made contact he stated that shots were fire. "I believe one of them is hit, both of them are running," he said.

At that point, the dispatcher asked Officer Donald if they had a weapon, to which he replied, "No, he was assaulting me with a skateboard, I tried to grab his friend. They're pretty aggressive, just so you know." This will be central to the investigation, and to the feelings of the public. Many people believe the shooting is not justified since the men only had skateboards, and Donald was completely uninjured.

Chaplin and Thompson ran into the woods as Donald chased them through foliage along the

edge of Cooper Point Road. Donald caught up and told dispatch, "I got one at gunpoint," then called for backup adding, "I have both of them, I need assistance!" About 10 seconds later he told the dispatcher there were "shots fired, one down." Less than a minute after Donald said he saw the brothers again he says, "I got two down. I got two shot."

In the end, one brother lay on the edge of Cooper Point Road, near the woods where he had them at gunpoint, and the other lay in the middle of the street.

Police and medics arrived on the scene and took Andre Thompson to Tacoma General Hospital, and Bryson Chaplin to Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, before he was later sent to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

It was later reported that Donald also shot a nearby house with a stray bullet, shattering the window. Resident Kyle LeCasse told *The Stranger* that if his roommates had not run out of their rooms upon hearing gun shots one of them could have been struck.

Officer Donald was not interviewed about the shooting until Tuesday May 26. At a press conference on Thursday May 21, Thurston County Chief Deputy Brad Watkins announced that they would wait, stating that this is not abnormal. "We don't conduct interviews with officers involved right after a critical incident because there has been a great deal of study that shows within the first 48 to 72 hours, you are remembering this more clearly as a little bit more time passes, not a lot of time, but a little bit more time," he said. However, waiting until Tuesday is significantly longer than standard procedure which he said "is normally a 48 to 72 hour waiting period."

Watkins went on to say that "we would offer that same opportunity to witnesses, victims, it's no different with the officer." Although at the time of this press conference investigators had already interviewed Andre Thompson in the hospital, less than 14 hours after the shooting, apparently contradicting this statement.

Chief Deputy Watkins is part of the Thurston County Critical Incident Team that is in charge of investigating the incident. The team is made up of detectives from a number of nearby municipalities, who will investigate the shooting then give their findings to the prosecutor's office.

This investigation is only responsible for determining if criminal prosecution is warranted. The OPD will then conduct its own investigation to determine if any further administrative action needs to be taken.

At the press conference, Watkins did not give a specific timeline for the investigation but said it is "not unusual" for investigations similar to this to take three to six weeks before they are complete. On May 26, the investigative team released a more specific timeline, stating, "The investigation is in its final stages and should be completed by the end of next week with the exception of the WSP Crime Lab Report," which will take "at least four to six weeks if not more" to produce results.

The same press release said that when the Critical Incident Team completes its investigation, it will take the Thurston County Prosecutor's Office two to four weeks to review the findings. This means that a final conclusion will not be available for at least a month and a half, although more information should be released as the investigation continues.

While Chief of Police Ronnie Roberts has said the Critical Incident Team is independent, speakers at the protests expressed the concern that a committee made up of law enforcement officials will not fairly investigate other police.

In an effort at transparency the city created a new website providing information and updates on the incident and investigation. "I appreciate the community's patience as the investigation moves forward. I invite you to access all the information on this page. We are posting information as it comes in and information that may be helpful in understanding the process of investigating an officer-involved shooting," said Roberts

### Protests & Response

Olympians awoke on the morning of May 2 to news of the shooting, and began organizing throughout the day, culminating in a march to city hall, where the Olympia Police Department is headquartered.

Throughout the day people gathered to discuss the event. While some began organizing protests, others attended community forums set up by colleges and local groups.





Marchers shut down Fourth Avenue, chanting "Black Lives Matter," and calling for the indictment of Officer Ryan Donald, who shot the two unarmed stepbrothers. An investigation of the incident is underway. BLAINE EWIG

Many of these were at the urging of Mayor Stephen Buxbaum, who said, "I have personally spoken with the Presidents of The Evergreen State College and South Puget Sound Community College, as well as members of our Faith Community. They have all agreed to set up places where members of our community can gather."

The biggest response, however, was a protest that began around 6 p.m. in Woodruff Park, directly next to the Westside police precinct, and about a mile from the site of the shooting.

As hundreds gathered—predominantly from the Evergreen community—they formed a circle around organizers and community members who spoke about their experiences with police, the larger national context of police violence against black people, and organizing and resistance tactics. The speakers continued to discuss these issues over a megaphone as the crowd swelled to an estimated 400 people by 7 p.m. when protesters took the street on the corner of Harrison Avenue and Perry Street.

Protesters marched down the hill, blocking traffic in both directions on Harrison Avenue, while yelling and chanting "Black Lives Matter" and "No Justice, No Peace, No Racist Police."

Crossing the Fourth Avenue Bridge into downtown, the crowd's numbers reached an estimated 500 to 800 people, shutting down Olympia's main thoroughfare on their way to the city center.

Once in downtown, protesters stopped and held the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Columbia Street, sitting and becoming quiet for four and a half minutes of silence, symbolic of the four and a half hours Michael Brown's body was left in the street after being shot by police earlier this year in Ferguson, Missouri. Everyone sat silently in the street, before beginning call and response chants of victims names: "Andre Thompson, Bryson Chaplin, we honor you."

When the demonstrators reached city hall, they blocked the intersection of Fourth

Avenue and Cherry Street, many demanding that Ryan Donald be indicted for his actions. They continued to hold a rally in front of city hall for nearly an hour, with more speakers and chants, before marching back through downtown and over the bridge to Woodruff Park.

On their way back, at least two motorists instigated confrontations with demonstrators, but the march resolved peacefully, with people dispersing between 9:30 and 10 p.m.

Later that night, a smaller number of protesters rallied again at the Artesian Well and occupied the intersection outside city hall. Most wore all black and covered their faces, marching behind a large banner reading "Cops=Murderers," and "Judges=Executioners," and emblazoned with a circle A, an anarchist symbol.

This group was more antagonistic towards the police, and the situation escalated when they began to clash with pro-police demonstrators in front of city hall. Police then used flash grenades to disperse the crowd at about 12:15 a.m. Friday morning, leading to moments of chaos in downtown as demonstrators and confused bystanders scattered, running and yelling.

Since May 21, there have been small gatherings of people supporting the police in front of city hall. These have spurred small counter protests by those who believe that the shooting was unjustified and racist, and wheat-pasting of signs that say "Go Home Racist Scum" and other similar slogans.

There have been no demonstrations as large as the initial response, but on the evening of Tuesday May 26 an estimated 100 to 200 people gathered in front of city hall. They showed continued support for Andre Chaplin, Bryson Chaplin, and their family, and condemnation for the shooting, in anticipation of a city council meeting. Organizers plan to facilitate more events and protests in the future.

# NIKKI MCCLURE

By Issac Scott

**How did you decide you wanted to be an artist?** I want to say something like, “Because you get to sleep in” [laughs]. But when I was little I always wanted to be an artist, but it never really seemed possible, just because I didn’t know people who were artists. So I decided I would become a marine biologist, in fifth grade. I went on this voyage in Puget Sound and looked a plankton, and it blew my mind. In eighth grade I went to an alternative junior high school, and everyone was talking about Evergreen, so I’m like, Okay I’m going to go to Evergreen and I’m going to be a marine biologist. It’s the only place I applied to. The first class I took was sailing every week. And we looked at all the seabirds, and all sorts of stuff and it was really amazing. But it also opened my eyes to all the other types of sciences. So every week I wanted to be a different kind of scientist. But the whole time I was drawing, and drawing, and drawing detailed field sketches, and looking at things in the microscope, and drawing. And I did a couple summers doing field work on different bird studies. When I graduated, I got a job at the Department of Ecology. I worked there for one year, doing an internship, and when that was over I was just like, Ugh. All the field work had its moments of exasperation for me like, How could I be collecting objective data when I’m just not an objective person? And then, working at the Department of Ecology, the more paperwork side of science just did not appeal to me at all, or being in an office. But by then, I had become very good at drawing ducks for people, and drawing different things, so I decided to just draw, and do my science that way, by drawing and showing people these moments of time and seasons and life that they’re missing, overlooking. And kind of being a scientist that way.

**I noticed you talk about the first time you started cutting paper in terms of neuroscience, that you felt your neurons were lined up through cutting the paper. Are there other ways your scientific background has influenced your process or what you choose to focus on?** Oh yeah, completely. My work is sort of a reduction to the basic elemental line or shape of that creature, or that tree—so kind of reducing it, and think about what makes it unique, what makes a song sparrow different from a junco. Like, for most people they wouldn’t even think of that: the beak shape, and its head shape, and body shape, as well as its coloration. How to make it sort of simplified. And the subject matter is very much—I want to say nature-based, but that just seems so limiting these days. So outside experience-based, not inside walls, not inside a roof. So my subjects are very much informed by the science. Or just my education at

Evergreen of looking and observing.

**Did you keep pursuing science during your time at Evergreen, or did you shift more into art?** I didn’t take any art classes, although I did take one quarter where I made a hand-printed book [laughs]. But I received minimal instruction on that. And it was a book about wetlands, it was a wetland educational primer. I studied science. And I still do. Like this weekend I just went to Malheur bird refuge in Southeastern Oregon, with Steve Herman, my old ornithology teacher! From way back when. So I still do dabble in, at least dabble in appreciation of the world. Everyday.

**The early ‘90s in Olympia fostered a lot of very influential artists who were all involved in underground music and art, and more socially aware kinds of art-forms. How was your work influenced by those other people coming up at that time, the music that was happening with Riot Grrrl, Calvin Johnson, and all those people?** It was this electricity in the air—everybody was making things around you, and it was hard not to make things. That was how we expressed ourselves, even to each other and within the community: by writing a song, or by making a picture, or by making a poster. It was this moment that was really electrifying.

Another reason I decided to come to Evergreen was Beat Happening. I was like, I want to see Beat Happening play in Olympia. Because I grew up in Kirkland, and went to shows in Seattle. But I knew that the shows in Olympia were 500 times better than the shows in Seattle. I knew it, just knew it!

I was influenced by seeing Calvin, and by this other artist Stella Marrs, making their own communities around their work, and making their work in ways not compromised at all by anything, even by production. You have the means of production within your own hands. For Calvin it was tape decks in his bedroom, and for Stella it was scissors and glue and National Geographic magazines that she made postcards with. And it wasn’t the idea that you needed to have a record label and press records, or that she would even need to go to a printer and get things printed. That would stop so many people, thinking that you needed those things. But they didn’t. They didn’t need those things. They didn’t need the world to make what they wanted to make.

Also at that time, there was Kathleen Hanna, Megan Kelso, who was a cartoonist—just so many people. These artists, I was hanging out with them, and they all got to sleep in, but I had to be up at eight o’clock for chemistry class [laughter]. And I’m just like, Ughh. We were all busy making our own dreams real. It was a great time. It was fun.

**And you’ve stayed in Olympia since then.** Yeah. I’m rooted. I think part of it is I moved around a lot when I was a kid, so now I’m here and I don’t want to move again. I really love this landscape. I just came back from Southeast Oregon, just yesterday, and being all enveloped in the green, and it’s just so nice. The air, the salty tang of low tide. I really like that.

**You work in such a tangible medium, using your hands to cut paper intricately with a knife. In today’s world, digital art-making technology is so prevalent, and the illustrations you make, maybe a lot of people looking at them might take them as digital illustrations. How do you think this digital technology has changed the way people respond to your artwork, and to visual art in general?** For my artwork, once the sort of magic part is revealed, they’re sort of stunned by it because it is something that uses your hands so much, and a lot of people have lost skills that way.

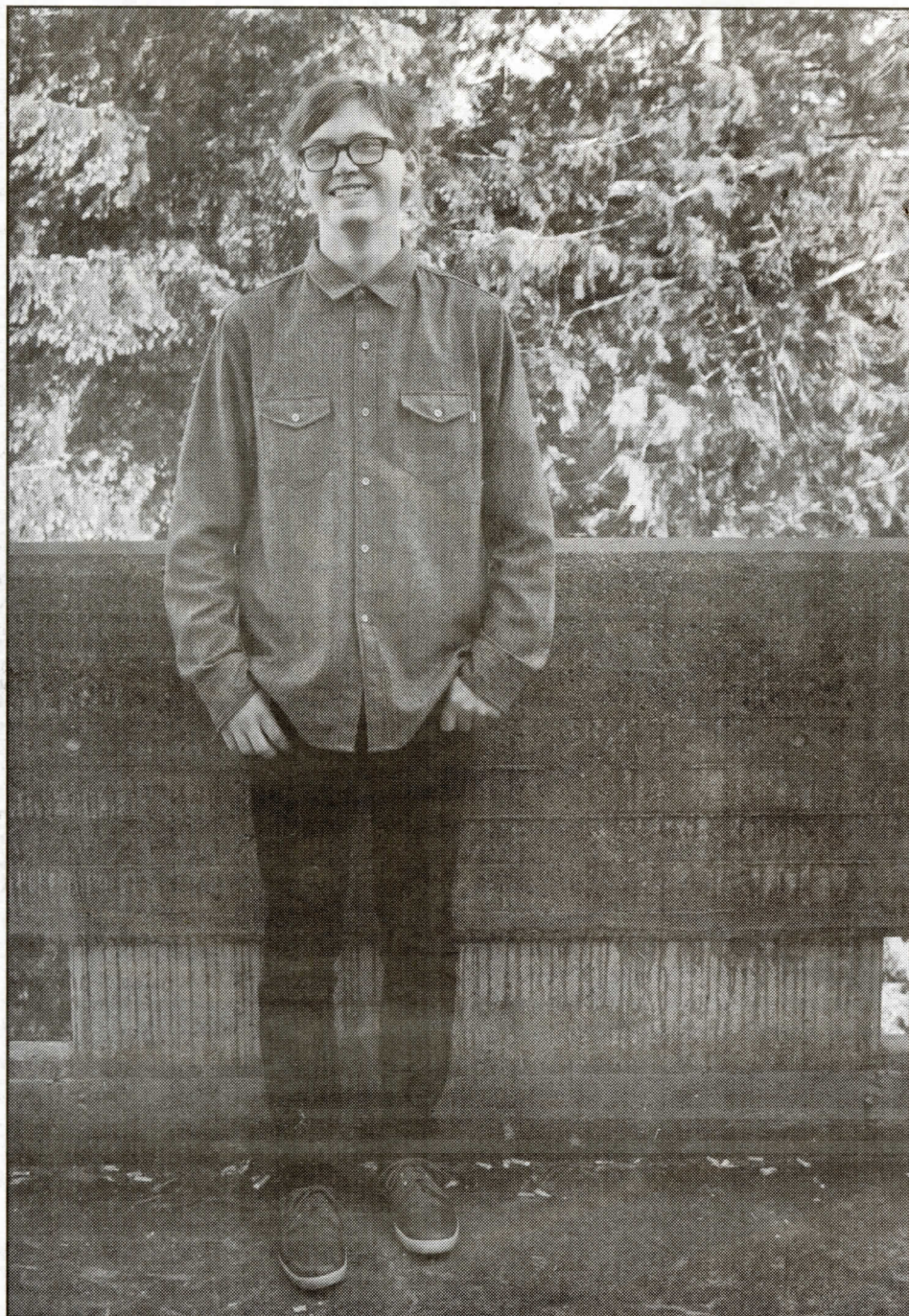
I want to say I use the computer a lot, but I don’t really use the computer a lot. I scan them and then my friend digitizes them and cleans up the scans. So actually what most people see of my work has been digitized. It’s the original paper cuts that when people see those they—if they look at them really close they start to understand what I do. People are so used to seeing something on a screen now, they forget the physical object that they’re making, and the scale of that physical object that they’re making.

We just drove through Southeast Oregon and up to the Columbia River, and then across. And going through this area where, ten years ago there wasn’t a windmill in sight, is now full of giant, giant windmills, just hundreds—thousands of them. And we were just in an area, through John Day, where there’s 29 million years of history—like an ash flow happened. You’re looking at a scale of time that is epic and then you pass through these windmills and you’re thinking, Do we need that power, is it really worth it to do that to this land? That landscape will have those for a thousand years. So design, not just graphic design, but life. What we make in this world. People forget.

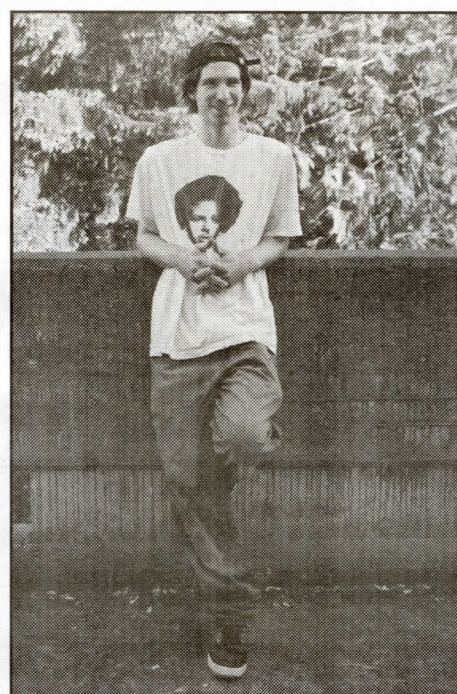
**Do you have any story behind the image on our cover, of the person reading in the field?** Well, it’s my son, who reads a lot. The book he’s reading is Usagi Yojimbo, a cartoon about a rabbit samurai. But it’s just this idea of, you know, go read outside [laughs]. There’s just so much more adventures that happen outside.



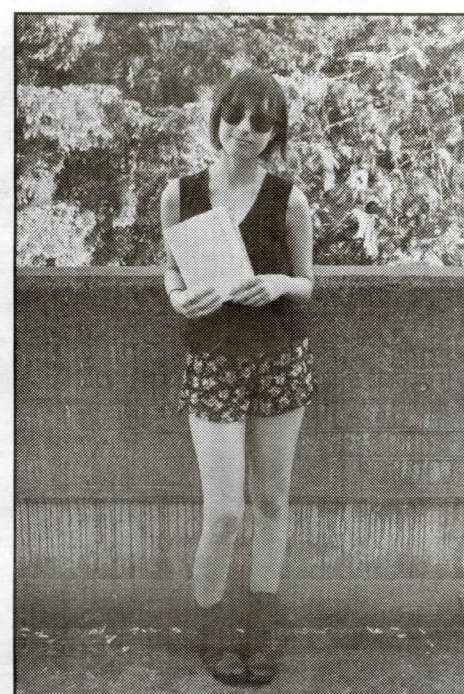




**ISSAC SCOTT** Editor in Chief  
 1. *If your aesthetic were like a newspaper or journal, what would it be?* JSTOR  
 2. *Nicki Minaj, Beyoncé, or Rihanna?* Beyoncé



**RIVER GATES** Comics Editor  
 1. *Favorite article of clothing?* Socks  
 2. *Style/fashion icon?* James Murphy

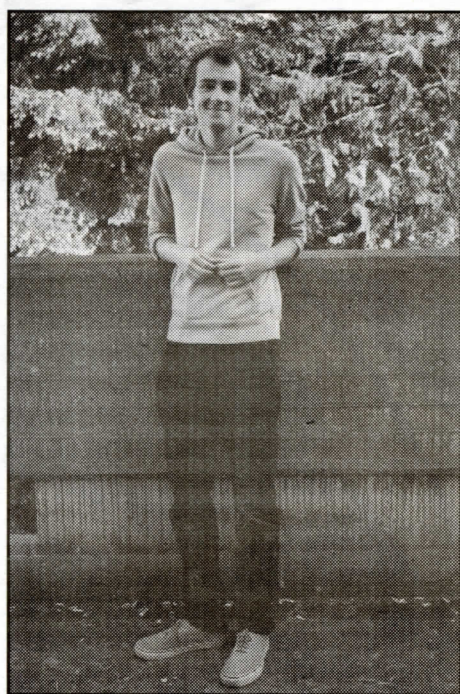


**SARA FABIAN** Columnist  
 1. *If your aesthetic was a National Park, what would it be?* Luxembourg Gardens in Paris.  
 2. *If you could wreck a car what would it be?* Toyota Prius

# STAFF STYLE

By Sara Fabian  
 Photos by Blaine Ewig

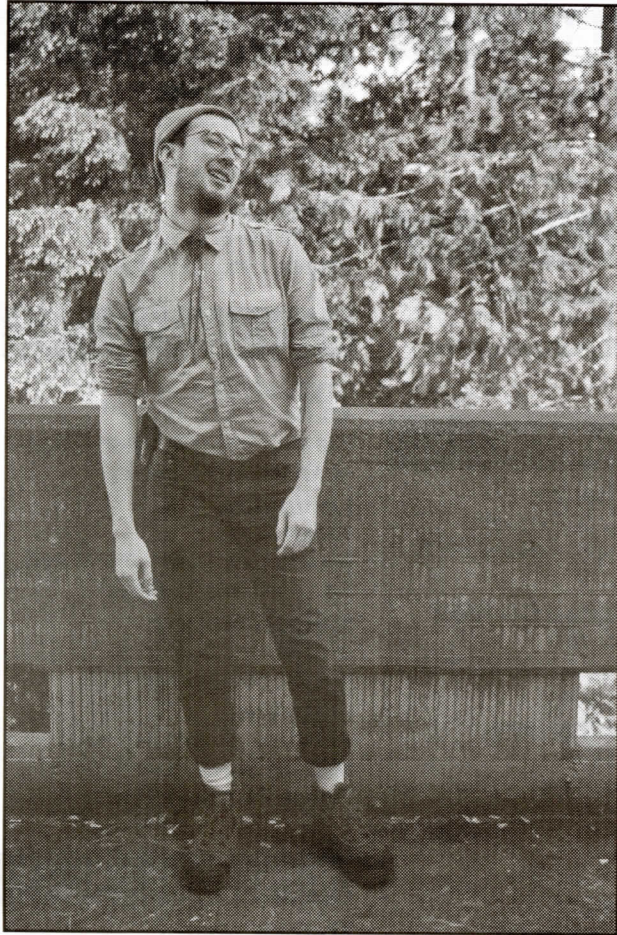
**A**s part of our concluding issue, the CPJ staff and I thought it would be fun for you to get a glimpse into the staff who make the paper what it is today. And what better way to entertain you than to make the staff feel slightly silly and take part in my fashion column. After all, the column is a place of freedom of self expression. Some of the staff are graduating, some are moving on to different things, and for some, a promotion awaits. So here it is, a collaboration with my coworkers whom I've come to know as some of my great friends. Enjoy!



**IRA ZUCKERMAN** Writer  
 1. *Favorite article of clothing?* Hat  
 2. *If you could go to dinner date with a famous writer who would it be?* Bill Waterson

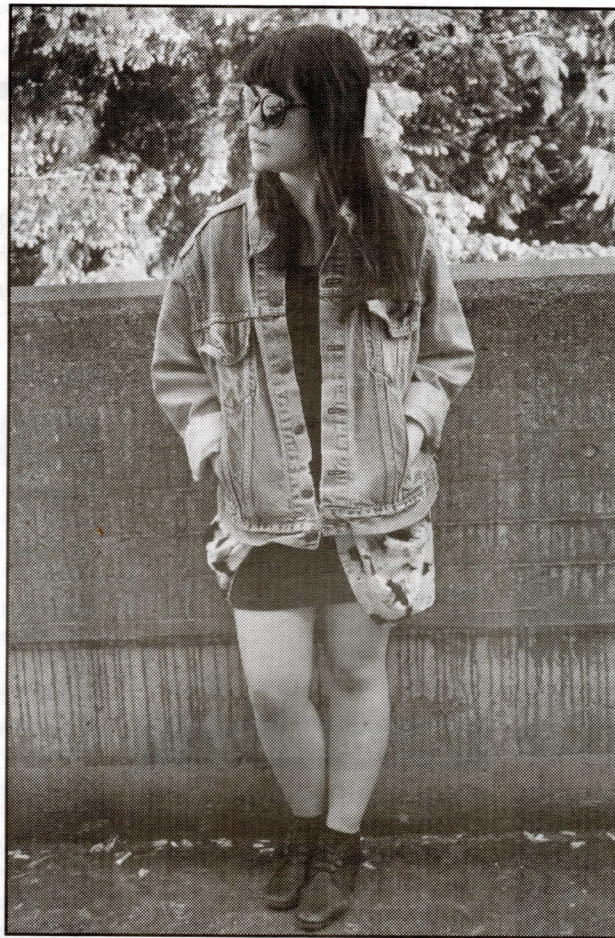


**ARIA CUMMINGS** Writer  
 1. *Style/Fashion Icon?* Taylor Swift  
 2. *Best excuse for turning in something late?* Forgot to print it out in the Library



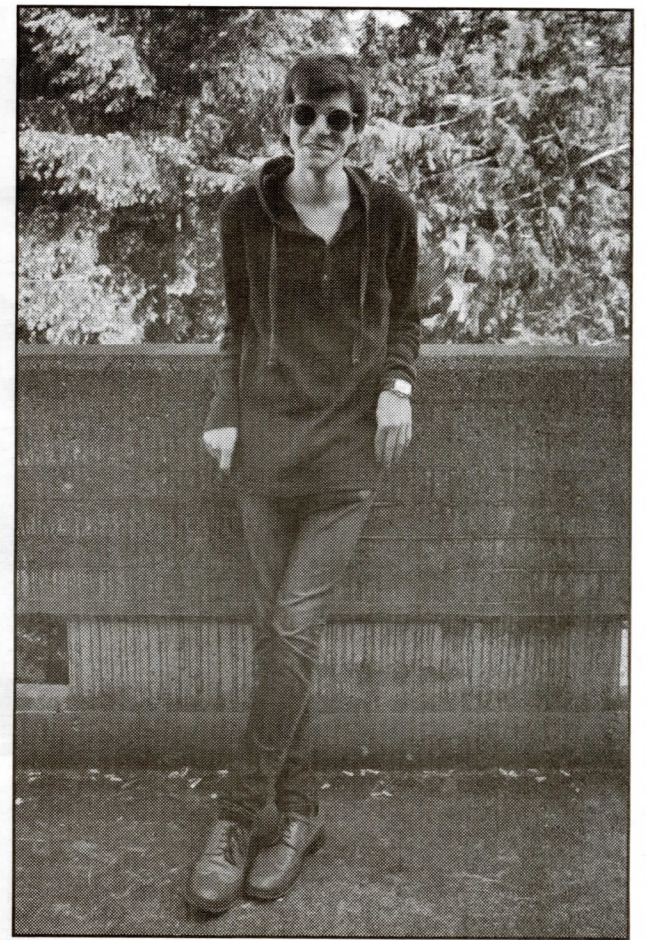
**GARRETT BEKEMEYER** Writer

1. *Best excuse for turning in something late?* Anarchist march
2. *Favorite article of clothing?* Is a knife an accessory?



**BLAINE EWIG** Managing Editor

1. *An article of clothing you couldn't live without?* I don't need clothing
2. *Nicki Minaj, Beyoncé, or Rihanna?* Nicki



**ZACH NEWMAN** News Editor

1. *If your aesthetic were like a newspaper or journal, what would it be?*  
Rained-on copy of Esquire, 1973
2. *Favorite and least favorite font?* Favorite, Times New Roman because I'm boring. Least favorite, Papyrus



**FELIX CHROME** Associate Business Manager

1. *A style period you would most want to be a part of?* The future, 2095
2. *If you could be a vampire and live forever at one age, what would it be?*  
19 forever!!!!



**AEVEE BEE** Student Publications Adviser

1. *Favorite and least favorite font?* Favorite, Times New Roman. Least, Papyrus
2. *An article of clothing you can't live without?* Sunglasses



**JOSH WOLF** Business Manager

1. *If your aesthetic were like a newspaper or journal, what would it be?*  
Minimum Rock n' Roll
2. *Style/Fashion Icon?* Ariel Pink



Be Calm Honcho from San Francisco plays Thursday, May 28 at The Red House.



Dogbreth from Arizona plays Sunday, May 31 at Palace Flophouse. Daniel Munoz



The Olympia Comics Festival happens Saturday, June 6 at multiple locations.

## UP & COMING

### THUR. MAY 28

**Deadbeat Records**  
226 Division St NW  
Montana de Oro, Kids, Mouth of Snow, Ugly Lovers

★ **The Red House**  
8pm. \$3-5  
Be Calm Honcho, The Snake Tree, Gourmet

★ **Obsidian**  
414 4th Ave E. 10pm. 21+  
Friction: Twins

**Urban Onion**  
116 Legion Way SE  
Olympia People's Open Mic

### FRI. MAY 29

**Deadbeat Records**  
226 Division St NW  
Ant'Ird, Kyle Landstra, Terrapin, The Jesus Rehab

**Le Voyeur**  
404 4th Ave E  
Le Voyeur 15th Anniversary Party

★ **Obsidian**  
414 4th Ave E. 7pm. ALL AGES  
Vexx, Aeon Fux, Gloss

**The Stump House**  
9pm  
Hellships, Holy North American Motor Highway, Adam Kassel

### SAT. MAY 30

**Deadbeat Records**  
226 Division St NW  
Hellbelly, Lozen, Mutiny Mutiny, Facsimile

★ **Obsidian**  
414 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+  
Shadows, C-Average, Fall of Electricity, Buffalo Voice

### SUN. MAY 31

★ **Palace Flophouse**  
8pm  
Dogbreth, Dozer, Box Fan, Generifus

### MON. JUNE 1

★ **Le Voyeur**  
404 4th Ave E  
Lumpy & The Dumpsters, GAG, Mongoloid, Nasti

### TUE. JUNE 2

**Deadbeat Records**  
226 Division St NW  
Six Mile Station, Forest Pooky, Pigeon Parade, The Hams

### WED. JUNE 3

**The Evergreen State Col.**  
CAB 3rd floor. 1 - 4pm.  
Spring Clothing Swap

**Le Voyeur**  
404 4th Ave E  
Vomity Open Mic Comedy

### THUR. JUNE 4

**Deadbeat Records**  
226 Division St NW  
Least of These, Hearts Like Lions, Redeem the Exile

### FRI. JUNE 5

**Deadbeat Records**  
226 Division St NW  
The Lunch, Sun Blood Stories, Clayface

### SAT. JUNE 6

**Capitol Theater**  
205 5th Ave E. 10:30am. \$6  
Olympia Comics Festival 2015: Stage Show

**Danger Room Comics**  
201 4th Ave W. 6pm.  
Olympia Comics Festival 2015: Cartoonist Signing

**Deadbeat Records**  
226 Division St NW  
Girls In Love, Scissor Vision, Hot Rush

**Obsidian**  
414 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+  
TUSH Burlesque

★ **Olympia Center**  
222 Columbia St NW. 1:30pm. FREE  
Olympia Comics Festival 2015: Cartoonists Expo

### SUN. JUNE 7

**Deadbeat Records**  
226 Division St NW  
Joshua Powell and the Great Train Robbery, Gabriel Wolfchild, Anna Gordon

**Le Voyeur**  
404 4th Ave E  
The Long Knives, robotsvs-ghosts, We Are Mountains

**Obsidian**  
414 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+  
Church, A God or an Other, Isenordal

### MON. JUNE 8

### TUE. JUNE 9

**Deadbeat Records**  
226 Division St NW  
Elkthymir, Progentior, Heathen Washington, Primordial, Atrocity

### WED. JUNE 10

**Le Voyeur**  
404 4th Ave E  
Vomity Open Mic Comedy  
★ **The Old School Pizzeria**  
108 Franklin St NE. 11pm.  
Pure Disgust, Barge, Hard Stripes, GAG

### THUR. JUNE 11

**Deadbeat Records**  
226 Division St NW  
Ali Baker, Johanna Warren, Eleanor Murray, La Fin Absolute du Monde

### FRI. JUNE 12

**Metcalf Manor**  
2110 Amhurst St SE  
Justin Lucas and Moonshine Jelly, Lana McMullen  
**Obsidian**  
414 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+  
Dispirit, Lycus, Predatory Light

### SAT. JUNE 13

**Cryptatropa**  
421 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+  
The Drip, Brain Scraper, A God or An Other, Anthropocene

**Le Voyeur**  
404 4th Ave E  
Appalachian Terror Unit, Viveka, Ain't Got Time To Bleed

**Metcalf Manor**  
2110 Amhurst St SE  
Waubly, Beatrix, Hot Cops

**Obsidian**  
414 4th Ave E. 7pm. ALL AGES  
Mischief Brew, Harley Bourbon, Pigeon Parade

### SUN. JUNE 14

**Metcalf Manor**  
2110 Amhurst St SE  
Jesika Von Rabbit, Dimensions of the Temple, Black Lung, Larua Noel

### MON. JUNE 15

**Metcalf Manor**  
2110 Amhurst St SE  
Silm, Meurv, Brumes

★ = Staff Recommended

# KNOX 89.3 FM TOP 20

May 18 - 24



- 1 v/a - Don't Think I've Forgotten
- 2 Shana Cleveland & the Sandcastles - Oh Man
- 3 Unknown Mortal Orchestra - Multi-Love
- 4 Anna Gordon - Tuck Your Bones In
- 5 Thee Oh Sees - Mutilator Defeated at Last
- 6 White Eyes - White Eyes
- 7 v/a - Lows in the Mid Sixties, Volume 54
- 8 v/a - Linear Labs: Los Angeles
- 9 Nosaj Thing - Fated
- 10 Chui Wan - Chui Wan
- 11 Shamir - Ratchet
- 12 Kamasi Washington - The Epic
- 13 Amanaz - Africa
- 14 Flavia Coelho - Mundo Meu
- 15 Kate Tempest - Everybody Down
- 16 Speedy Ortiz - Foil Deer
- 17 Lila Downs - Balas y Chokolade
- 18 Alceu Valenca - Molhado de Suor
- 19 Knxwledge - Hud Dreems
- 20 Nocturnal Sunshine - Nocturnal Sunshine

## Get Immersed in Medieval Living

By Aria Cummings

Ever wanted to know how things were done in the Middle Ages and how it differs from shows like “Game of Thrones” or the like? Well, there is an organization that can do that and so much more called the Society for Creative Anachronism, or SCA for short.

Founded in 1966 in Berkeley, California, the SCA is dedicated to researching and re-creating the arts, skills, and traditions of pre-17th century Europe. Its members study and take part in a variety of activities such as combat, archery, equestrian activities, costuming, cooking, metalwork, woodworking, music, dance, calligraphy, fiber arts, and more.

Another interesting thing about the SCA is the active participation in the learning process. For example, if you want to learn about the clothing of the 14th century, you research the fabrics. And then you sew it and wear it to an event. If you want to learn about combat (which also includes fencing and combat archery), you put on homemade armor and learn how to defeat your opponent by practicing with whatever type of weapon is used for that type of combat. And if you want to learn about brewing you create your own wines, meads and beers by using period-style methods and in-

gredients in order to make sure that they taste just right.

There is also a branch of the SCA that got its start at Evergreen in 1981 called the Barony of Glymm Mere, which is located in cities such as Olympia, Lacey, Rochester, Shelton, Tumwater and Yelm. It also has a monthly newsletter called “The Looking Glass” and an e-mail discussion list called Everclear.

To learn more about the SCA visit their website [www.socsen.sca.org](http://www.socsen.sca.org), where you can learn about the terminology (i.e. the language and culture), advice about certain subjects, finding a local SCA group, what to wear, things to do, getting acquainted with the SCA and other topics for newcomers. You can also come to their latest event, Mayfaire, which will be happening from May 29 to 31 in Tenino, or June Faire, which will be June 5 to 7 in Port Gamble.




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Evergreeners tells stories of coming out at queer.

## Coming Out

By Jonathan Thach

**C**oming out can be the hardest part of identifying with the LGBTQ community, but it doesn't have to be. It can be a very scary thing to admit to the people around you that you are different but the people that really care for you aren't going to dismiss you for being who you really are.

The person I thought was the most important to come out to was my mom, but I don't have much say with that experience. My mother read my journal and snuck my sexuality into a conversation while we were gardening one day back when I was in high school. It wasn't very sly actually, she blatantly said "Jonny, you better not be hooking up with older men," and at the time I brushed it off thinking I heard wrong. I definitely didn't and I realized my journal was gone a couple days later. The controversy was based around the violation of trust and not the fact that I identify as a gay male. In this article I will be writing about the experiences of four LGBTQ identifying members of our community here in Washington, three are associated with Evergreen and one is my brother.

**Mel S:** I don't really know what coming out means. I think people usually assume it's when you tell your parents about your queerness, but for me that's not really an option right now. Someday it will be.

When I was 16 and I got my heart broken for the first time, it was a huge secret because a girl did it. When I called my best friend and said I had to tell her something that she couldn't tell anyone else, she said, "You don't have to. I know."

After a year at Evergreen, I started dressing like I had always wanted to but couldn't. One day my roommate told me if they saw me walking down the street they'd know for sure that I was queer. I'll always remember how happy that made me. I never realized how great it would feel to come out every time I walk down the street.

**Jonah Barrett:** I first came out when I was 14. I had been enamored with my best friend all summer, which was a bit awkward

because all of 8th grade our primary method of bonding was making homophobic jokes and bullying the flamboyant boys in our class for being "fags." After spending my day giving other boys crap for being possibly gay, I'd promptly go home and look at pictures of naked men. But I was still totally straight. I just enjoyed the aesthetics of the male form, or at least that's what I told myself. You know, like Michelangelo's David, or some shit. It wasn't sexual at all, just pure aesthetics, or something like that. You make shit up to avoid the truth.

Anyway, my friend and I got even closer during the summer and one day we were talking about gay people. My friend was talking about how he couldn't even imagine what being attracted to another man was like. And—this is the part where I surprised myself—I just kinda shrugged and said without thinking "I dunno man, I'm kind of bi-curious." And then we sat in silence for a good 30 seconds. I was pretty much just as shocked as he was, but it felt great admitting that. Even if it wasn't the full truth it was a definite start. It was nice not lying to myself. I think the weirdest part for me was when he didn't react in disgust, he just said it was cool that I was open minded like that. And then he started asking questions. What is it about men that you like? Why not girls? Do you think you'd be a top or bottom? How much money do you think you'll be saving on not using condoms? Are you gay? Bi? He just kept asking and asking over the next few days. And the thing was I had no idea how to answer any of these questions, so I just made shit up as I went. By the end of the week I had come out as bisexual. He told me he didn't care, and that I was a good friend of his.

And then I fucked it up and made things weird by admitting I had a crush on him. WHOOPS.

It took me a whole year from that first admittance to actually

labeling myself as gay. I was friends with this one girl, who turned out to actually be a pretty manipulative and toxic friend, and one day she trapped me in a small space and wouldn't let me out until I admitted to her that I was exclusively gay. When I did that, she said she was proud of me, and I spent the next seven years labeling myself as a homosexual.

The cool thing about college though, is that you dump those shitty friends, and you get to experiment more. I don't think coming out is really just a one time thing, and sexuality is fluid. So while I mainly just tell people I'm gay because that's easier than getting into the fine details, I more identify as queer these days. (Everyone should try a vagina at least once in their life; they're actually pretty bomb.) So, in short, coming out isn't a super big deal, in the Pacific Northwest at least. I think you need to take into consideration that we kind of live in a liberal fishbowl here. Coming out in say, Kentucky, or somewhere like that, is probably a much bigger deal than it is here.

With that being said, as a queer person, I "come out" all the time. To new people, to my friends, and to myself. I also think it's important to not let others label you what they think you are, that shit is unhealthy.

**Brian Amaya (my brother):** "I'm bisexual." As simple as that, my best friend had come out to the world, to our inner circle, to me. His admission lacked any apologetic hues in its tone. On the contrary, his declaration was unabashedly bold. We had reached a precipice in our lives and Miguel had jumped to the other side. At that moment I felt I had to choose—I could stay behind, or jump.

The end of the school year was approaching fast, heralding summer, and the promise of growing up. As soon as July both Miguel and I would turn 15. For three years prior we both explored every raw emotion that ran through us—anger, hurt, fear, longing—by declaring war on school officials, practicing truancy. We were ticking time bombs who were easily provoked into school yard feuds, defending one another, always with our backs to one another looking out at the world. What we didn't do, and couldn't do—did not know how to do, was turn around and face one another, to help each other talk about what we knew. We protected ourselves, and each other the best way knew how to.

"Yeah I'm bi, too," I had jumped. My cool tone concealed the explosion of emotions that rang within me. I wasn't yet sure if I would survive that jump. I wasn't sure what the repercussions would be. Miguel had provided a platform for me to explore what I had hidden for so long. I never imagined I would come out as bi-sexual as had always practiced coming out as gay. Close enough, I thought.

Upon turning 15, Miguel and I rescinded our rage, as we tended to new friendships and bonds that blossomed around who we were becoming. A new set of challenges set in, and with my newly formed alliances I set about to tackle them head on. By fall, it was hard to look back and remember how it was before. Along with the cool October breeze, I let all the anger go.

**Emma Weichman:** I never really dated anyone in high school, I knew I wasn't straight but wasn't sure what I was or what that meant. I never wanted to date boys but wasn't sure if I wanted to come out if I was questioning. My freshman year I fell hard for an amazing girl. Calling my mom and telling her was scary. She had never said homophobic things but is not an ally. We just didn't talk about it. When I called she was more surprised that I was dating anyone than finding out I that I was queer. I casually mentioned doing something with my "girlfriend" on a phone call with my brother. He wasn't surprised. I'm still not "out" to everyone in my life. I came out to the people I am closest with and care about the most. My extended family doesn't know about my sexuality and gender identity because they don't know me. I keep myself safe.

These diverse experiences show the struggle of true expression within the LGBTQ community. Coming out can be a difficult experience but when you surround yourself with people that truly love you for who you are, it tends to go a lot smoother than what plays out in your head. With the right kind of community you can strive to be the person you really are and express yourself in a light you wish to be seen in. If you decide to come out, don't be worry because in the end you're still you and you shouldn't be afraid to be yourself.





Our news editor, Zach Newman, is leaving Evergreen. BLAINE EWIG

## Why I'm Leaving Evergreen

By Zach Newman

**T**he question would always get asked: “How did you hear about Evergreen?” Being from New Jersey, it was warranted, but by my third month in freshmen year, I had the answer down rote. So, how did I hear about Evergreen?

I read Michael Azerrad’s book *Our Band Could Be Your Life* because I was an American teenager with a love of guitar and indifference for Akon. The book documented important American indie bands and their scenes. While discussing Beat Happening, Calvin Johnson and K Records story and importance, Azerrad formally introduced to me The Evergreen State College.

“The school, which keeps no grades and urges students to determine their own courses of study, has attracted free thinkers, self-starters, and neo-hippies from all over the country since its founding in the early Seventies,” Azerrad wrote, unknowingly sowing the seeds of a bright future for me.

No grades? Free thinkers? For a high schooler with grades only getting worse, this sounded like a real life cheat. In researching the school more and more, I read all the success stories and personal accounts, and crashed on a dorm bed on the tenth floor of A building during an overnight visit when I knew—this was the college for me.

That’s how I found Evergreen. I

was accepted in January 2013. I fell in love with it almost immediately.

It must have helped that nearly everyone on my dorm floor knew how to play some instrument, and how the outgoing-ness of the average Washington state resident would in time shake my grumpy East Coast attitude, but Evergreen to me was a wonderful, vibrant community. I didn’t take a math class or a science class—I learned about native storytelling, discovering through the studies that I wanted to tell stories and write my own. That spring, I took a class on political economy, and learned the truth of the inequities of the world today. As a young Jew, I found it hard but all the more important to have the truth about Israel completely understood, discovering I wanted to be a journalist.

No longer was I circling the drain in classes. Evergreen showed me how well I can learn when I put my mind to it. It showed me how well I can foster relationships with professors. It showed me I was the dynamic student my parents always swore I was.

So, thank you Evergreen. Sin-

cerely. My two years here have taught more inside—and outside the classroom with friends—then I ever thought to imagine. That’s the kind of spirit I knew I would find when I enrolled here.

So here’s why I’m leaving.

The entire future of The Evergreen State College is unstable. I know my future doesn’t have to be.

Often around the living room table in my house, my friends and I would talk about our futures at Evergreen with increasing unrest and negativity in tone. When we talk about Evergreen, it’s not about a 16 credit class or how excited we are about our academic statements or anything Evergreen has offered/required at face value, but something beautiful that underlays those things. We talk about that very spirit that drew me in, that drew all of us in. We talk about the community that united us together, the seemingly ceaseless privileges to point us in new directions of critical thinking and discourse. Because to us, Evergreen is about that soul as much as it’s about 16 credit classes.

That soul is very much in danger. While Evergreen has made me

the better student I am now, and made me certainly more comfortable in thinking of my future, The Evergreen State College I knew and loved is giving away to something that is only Evergreen in name.

The Evergreen State College gets its funding from both the state and tuition. Ideally, the larger portion of funding should be from the state, like it was in 2007 to 2008, for example—the state paid for 68 percent of the budget while tuition foot the bill for the 32 percent rest.

Then the economy tanked. So while the state is still paying for Evergreen’s funding, it is barely helping. For the past school year, 2014-2015, students paid 62 percent of Evergreen’s funding. Being from the other side of the country, this means I paid \$21,603 in tuition, whereas I would have paid about \$14,000 in 2007-2008.

All this data comes from a story the Cooper Point Journal ran in October 2014, highlighting that Evergreen “may now face major cuts next year, threatening staff layoffs, bigger class sizes, and even higher tuition rates.” One of the proposed cuts, the Evergreen Art Gallery, in the library, nearly came to fruition, until students and alumni petitioned to keep the gallery in the budget plan.

While the gallery is safe as of writing this, Evergreen must now look at what it has to fund and what it will cut. Evergreen is as only as good as its courses, and how varied each course offered really is. Throughout the years, Evergreen has offered multitudes of courses with a wide array of subjects, such a Buddhism, directing, and even the-much-sought-after journalism. In the 2005-2006 year, there were 143 subjects a student could learn from.

As Washington runs out of money, Evergreen has offered fewer and fewer courses. While the website touts “programs and courses in more than 60 fields of study,” this is just a shadow of Evergreen’s former, more optional self.

In recognition of its lack of money, Evergreen is showing signs of an identity crisis. After Les Purce announced his retirement, Evergreen spent a whopping \$70,000 searching for a new president, settling on the disappointing George Bridges. With degrees in criminology and sociology, Bridges’ credentials sound foreign to the progressive nature of Evergreen. His main goal? Balance the budget of course—the job of virtually every politician.

It’s not that Evergreen should be expected to be exceptional, but does George Bridges’ statement, from the CPJ’s interview, “I’m looking forward to working with staff, faculty, and students in seek-

ing private support for the college,” sound hopeful, or does it sound defeatist? He wants to privatize Evergreen?

Then there’s always the George W. Bush-ian, “The students have a very active voice, and I listen to students very carefully, and staff, and faculty in this process. This kind of process is hard, though, when you have to make cuts, because ultimately someone’s got to make very hard decisions. You can listen and hear their opinions, and you must, but someone has to make the final decisions on those issues, and usually that ends up being the president.” He might as well directly quote Bush and his infamous “I’m the decider.”

These facts all point to the same worrying fact: the entire future of The Evergreen State College is unstable. With the forced resignation of esteemed woodworking professor Daryl Morgan and retirement of political economy professor/radical activist/Evergreen touchstone Lawrence Mosqueda, there is a sense of Evergreen losing its ties to its past.

Even worse, Evergreen Admissions has been allegedly boiling down applications to two categories: Beiges and Polka Dots.

A Polka Dot is probably you. Never quite so good at sciences and math, a Polka Dot has passions that are unique to them, but are aligned with others at Evergreen. The loveable underdog of the educational world. The weirdo journaling in health class. Bill Murray in the 1970s. A Beige is the opposite. They could go to University Of Washington, and excel in micro macro business. A Beige probably drinks Diet Coke, or worse, Pepsi. The Admissions office no longer wants Polka Dots. They want more Beiges; the ones with thick wallets, and oh look, it’s our basketball team warming up. Did you know sports are very big here? Apparently, Admissions wants you to believe they now are, and do not want any more Polka Dots to have their lives changed at Evergreen.

Because then they would lose me. A kid without a stellar background turned hopeful journalist with earned critique under his belt, eager to take his critical thinking skills to bigger and bigger places. And it’s all thanks to The Evergreen State College, for letting me in, and showing me how well I could do after all. It gave me a future—it deserves a better one coming. There’s things I’ll miss—especially the Cooper Point Journal—and some things I won’t miss. Maybe there’ll be, like, less cigarettes at my new college.

Oh who am I kidding, I’m moving to North Carolina after all.

# Letters & Opinion

## WASTED ADVICE

Greetings. Welcome to Wasted Advice, wherein you ask for advice and a different member of our talented staff answers each week—drunk. We both win. You can ask us the questions you can't ask your resident advisor.

### How does one become confident in their day to day life?

wow i wish I knew. I think confidence is mostly about pretending that you're confident and eventually that becomes real. like sometimes when I feel like everything is hopeless I just pretend that everything is great and usually that does work but sometimes it does? idk. wear more crop tops.

### i constantly feel like im running out of time and like im a complete waste of space, help

Hey guess what. I feel that all the time. You are a perfect snowflake and I love you so much. yr not a waste o space because space is there to be inhabited okay??

### how can the CPJ become interesting / relevant / less hopeless

Honestly are you fucking kidding me right now?? Like don't come at me with this if you're not going to fucking capitalize the first letter of this sentence?? And like how about you learn to punctuate your shit?? Maybe fucking learn how to ask a proper questino then come back later. Like the CPJ could become more interesting if ignorant assholes like you weren't reading it tbh

### I recently applied to transfer out of Evergreen and got accepted! Now I have second thoughts. What should I do ?

get out while you can Gerorgey B is going to ruin everything and evergreen is going to have frats so like hopefully you got accepted to a place where there aren't frats

### If I have \$10 in my bank account how should I spend it with a YOLO attitude?

don't fuck-

ing buy fireball that's for sure it tastes like crap. I suggest buying some of the really shitty \$4 groc out wine and buying yrself a dessert snack such as brie and apricots. Idk if that's yolo enough though.

### I want a cat, but my roommate's allergic. What should I do?

get a new roommate, obtain five cats

### My girlfriend won't stop singing to me whenever she drinks wine. How do I make her stop?

wow it sounds like you are doing your girlfriends a great disservice. I wish I could be confident enough to sing to people while I'm drunk. you should break up with your girlfriend so she can date people who appreciate her more

### Does Rene Magritte really have a pipe?

dude literally take an art history class. he never specifies if he has a pipe, he just says it's not one. Like, I'm sure Magritte has a pipe. Bro probably 420 blazed it erryday. how the fuck else would have thought of son of man? But that's like not the point you know. ceci ne pas une pipe is about representation and authenticity and like it's paint on a canvas, not a pipe, and that's so beautiful because people always fuckign take art so literally and it's not literal all the time okay??

### how does one create change within the government?

Be a rich white cis dude. buy a suit. ?????

Got problems? We have a new amazing way to anonymously submit questions for us to answer! Just go to [www.ask.fm/wastedadvice](http://www.ask.fm/wastedadvice) and type away.

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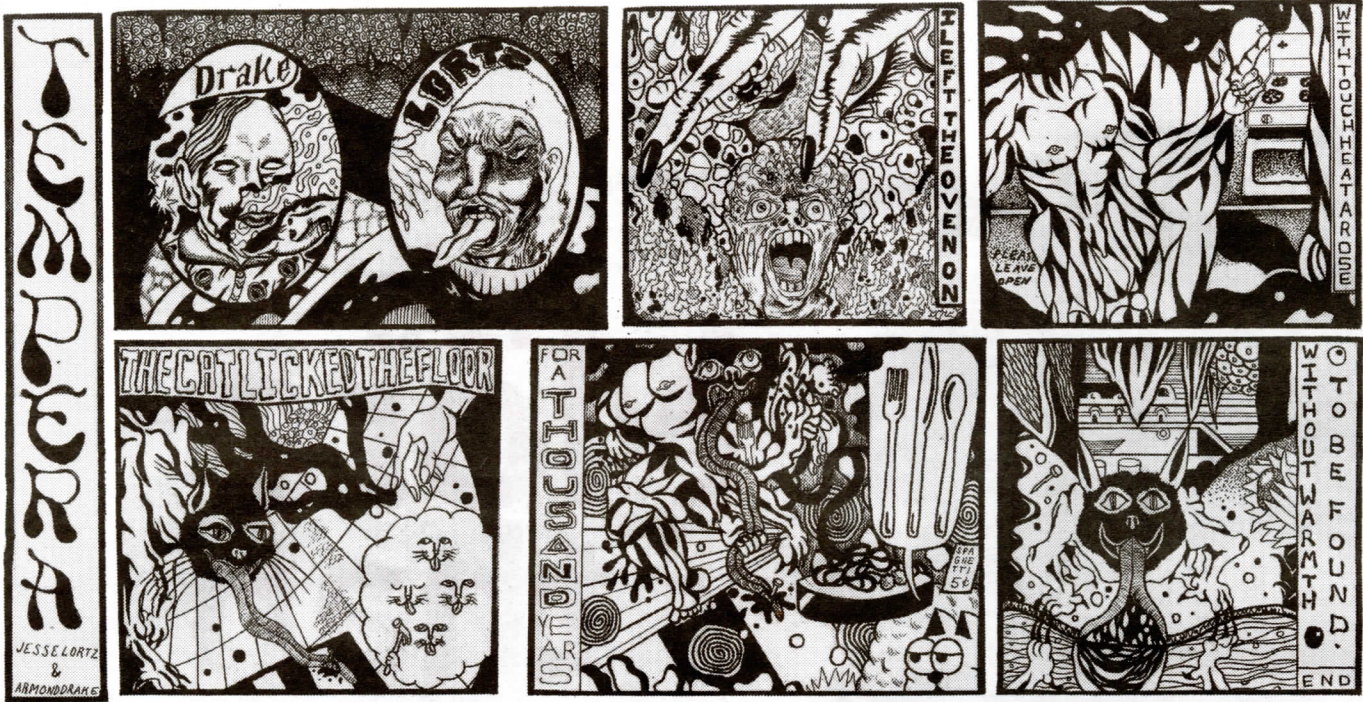
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DRACULA'S FLUTE by Jesse Lortz

Nerd Problems: Time for Summer!!



"SERIOUSLY?! THIS BOOK DOESN'T HAVE AN INDEX?!"  
- T.L.O.M.L.

"SERIOUSLY?! THESE GLAZE RECIPES AREN'T CROSS REFERENCED?!"  
- T.L.O.M.L.

Japs on Cars (CARS) (JARS) (ON)



THIS WEEK'S ENTRY SENT IN BY

Pamela Davis

OF OLYMPIA, WA (THANK YOU, PAMELA!)

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DÜBER GAL by River Gates



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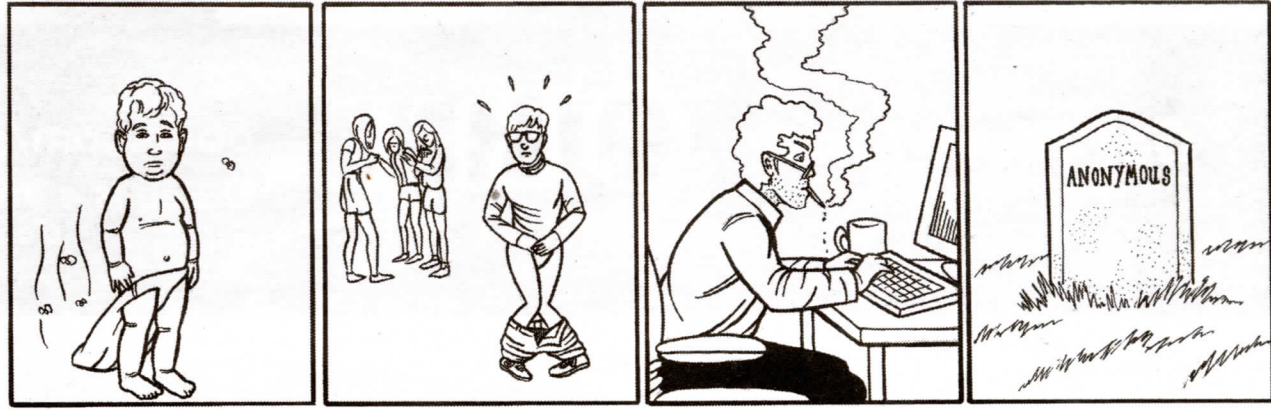


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DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK





BY JARED CLARKE



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