

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 Wednesday during the school year and distributed throughout the Olympia area. Our content is also available online at www.cooperpointjournal.com.

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

Our office is located on the third floor of the Campus Activities Building (CAB) at 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!

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Nine Arrested in Mayday Action PROPERTY DAMAGE AND CLASHES WITH POLICE IN DOWNTOWN OLYMPIA

By Sylvie Chace

The evening of May 1 brought with it broken glass and clashes with the police, a time-honored tradition in the Northwest. Nine were arrested after the march, which police dubbed 'a riot', snaked through downtown, blocking traffic and damaging some property.

A little after 6 p.m. demonstrators, mostly wearing black and covering their faces, began to gather on Fourth and Capitol. They had a sound system playing pop music and passed out snacks, standing around and chatting, til the crowd began to get restless and around 7 p.m. with a gush of black smoke they took to the streets. The group marched down Fourth Avenue, carrying signs reading "Become Ungovernable," "Fuck Nationalism," and "Against the Port and its World" referring to the Port of Olympia which has recently come under fire for its shipment of fracking proppants to North Dakota.

The crowd came to a stop at Fourth and Jefferson where the train tracks from the port cross through downtown. After a few minutes, at approximately 7:30 p.m., Olympia Police officers issued a dispersal order, stating that if demonstrators did not leave they would be subject to

arrest. The crowd ignored the order, with some shouts of "fuck the police" and gathered closer behind homemade signs and shields.

The group moved down the tracks toward state, as police in riot gear began forming a line to attempt to disperse the crowd. The police shot pepper pellets and flashbangs into the crowd, who attempted to stand their ground returning the police fire with rocks and other projectiles.

As the police advanced the group fled down the tracks, where there was an altercation between a group of protesters and angry onlookers, who threw bottles and rocks at the crowd. The group then continued around the block toward the transit center where they ran through an alley to evade police, returning to Fourth and Capitol.

This time the march headed up Capitol where the windows of the US Bank, Olympia Fed-

eral Credit Union, and Starbucks were broken by participants. It has been reported that up to two other businesses were damaged but we have been unable to confirm this.

Around 8 p.m., about an hour after the group began marching, they started to disperse near the Olympia Timberland Library, followed closely by police, it was then that 9 participants were arrested. It is believed that most are being charged with malicious mischief, a class B felony, and some may have felony rioting charges.

At 11 p.m. a noise demonstration occurred at the Thurston County Jail to show solidarity with the arrestees. People banged pots and pans, played musical instruments, and yelled in the hopes that those in jail would hear their support.

The signs demonstrators carried that were explicitly against the Port, as well as the choice to stop and attempt to block

the tracks, seemed connected to the weeklong blockade of trains leaving the port that happened a few months ago in Olympia. A flier handed out to bystanders explained this, saying, "The port makes the constant banal atrocities of industrial capitalism possible. The port is part of a machine that alienates us from interacting with the world directly, coercing us into depressed repetitive lives, chasing false images of dreams on the other side of a screen. The port's everyday function forces us into dependency on violent global systems to support ourselves, stripping our autonomy to care for and provide for one another. The port is built on stolen Squaxin/Nisqually land; the systems of exchange that the port facilitates and the values that this exchange reinforces continue to perpetrate genocide against indigenous peoples."

The flier continued to connect these issues to the crowds strong anti-police attitude, saying "The police protect those who poison the water and continue the colonial project. Without the police to repress struggles against fossil fuel extraction, this hellworld would be unable to continue. Without the police, there would be no port."

This all followed a very different daytime event organized by the Olympia IWW (Industrial Workers of the World or Wobblies), in Sylvester Park. They held a community festival with food, speakers, poetry and music from 12 until 5 p.m. Community members such as Lenee Reid, Nomy Lamm, and Kaitlyn Smith were featured as speakers at the event.

The daytime festival in Sylvester Park began with a picnic and open mic, in which members of the local IWW chapter spoke on why the union is important to them and how it has affected their lives in a positive way. Free food was also provided by Food Not Bombs, and other groups such as Olympia Assembly and Socialist Alternative had tables set up in the park to share information and get people involved. Olympia's Really Free Market also held a pop-up shop, where community members could take and give away what they please. The event ended with a community sing-

along to Pete Seeger's rendition of "Solidarity Forever" before cleaning up. Overall the events in the park promoted a sense of community and solidarity with workers.

"Our current condition cannot be taken for granted—people fought for the rights and dignities we enjoy today, and there is still a lot more to fight for. The sacrifices of so many people can not be forgotten or we will end up fighting for those same gains all over again. This is why we celebrate May Day" The IWW states on the flier for this festival.

May Day in America is traced back to the labor movement of the 1860s, when striking workers clashed with police, in the famous Chicago Haymarket affair. The holiday, celebrated elsewhere as "international workers day" has deep anarchist and communist roots.

Peter Linebaugh, author of *The Incomplete, True, Authentic, and Wonderful History of May Day* gives a rich description of older, but equally rebellious origins of mayday festivities, writing, "The farmers, workers, and child-bearers (laborers) of the Middle Ages had hundreds of holy days which preserved the May Green, despite the attack on peasants and witches. Despite the complexities, whether May Day was observed by sacred or profane ritual, by pagan or Christian, by magic or not, by straights or gays, by gentle or calloused hands, it was always a celebration of all that is free and life-giving in the world."

This celebratory spirit was echoed in a report back posted anonymously on Puget Sound Anarchists that said "In the course of an hour we experienced intense joy, desperate fear, and profound sadness... We sent out signals of disorder and showed that the facades of capital—of the Port's world—are not invulnerable to our rage. We honored the memory of the Haymarket Martyrs and the rebellious spirit of May Day. Let this be a lesson in the power of solidarity and passion." This attitude was also heard in the cheers and shouts of simply "MAYDAY!" as the first bank window cracked.

Community



Update on Detention Center Hunger Strike

By Jasmine Kozak-Gilroy

On April 15, the Tacoma News Tribune published an opinion piece by GEO Group vice president James Black regarding recent protests against the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in which he claimed, “The center has a longstanding record providing high quality, culturally responsive services in a safe, secure and humane environment.” The residents living in these “high quality” conditions seem to feel otherwise, as the hunger strike at the Northwest Detention Center continues into its third week. As of April 28, the NWDC Resistance reports that 50 detainees are still refusing to eat, with 100 detainees also refusing to purchase goods from commissary.

James Black attempted to dissuade criticism of the NWDC, saying that the detention center “is subject to routine and unannounced audits and inspections pursuant to national performance-based standards issued by the federal government.” A press release by the NWDC Resistance from April 25 refutes this and similar claims declaring that, “The most recent hunger strikes, part of a history of hunger strikes and activism that dates back years, signals that the NWDC does not meet city, county and state regulations for health and safety. This alone is enough

for Tacoma’s Finance Director to revoke GEO Group’s business license to operate the NWDC.”

In the same press release, a representative from the NWDC Resistance stated that the continuation of the hunger strike was due to the unmet needs of detainees, citing specifically that, “demands included properly cleaned laundry, adequate medical care, reasonable commissary prices, raising the \$1 per day prison wage, more nutritional cafeteria food, and contact visits ‘so parents can hug their children.’” Conditions, detainees say, have worsened under the

Trump administration, and, “The Trump administration has staffed the ICE deportation force with openly anti-immigrant officials with links to white supremacist organizations, leaving people detained with little choice but to put their bodies on the line to fight for their basic dignity.”

On April 25 the NWDC Resistance also called for supporters to attend a Tacoma city council meeting regarding zoning codes for correctional facilities and the NWDC in particular, asking supporters to participate in an organized display of solidarity with the detainees. The City Council

was set to discuss interim regulations that would halt the construction of any new private correctional facilities and expansion of any current private facilities, require special permitting for the expansion or construction of any public correctional facilities, and disallowing the expansion of public correctional facilities into multi-family and light industrial zoning districts. These interim regulations would expire in six months, putting them up for review this coming September.

From the start, Mayor Strickland seemed unwilling to hear the concerns of

NWDC Resistance member and supporters, beginning the public hearing with, “This is not the time to discuss the Northwest Detention Center’s business license, conditions of the Detention Center, or the Federal Government’s immigration policy,” asking instead that written comments be sent to the city clerk’s office. “I sent a letter to the CEO of GEO Group asking about practices there including due process, how people are being treated, both employees and detainees, and asked them to provide a certificate saying that they are complying and doing what they need to do according to city, state, and federal law.” Describing a guided tour trip she took to of the detention center with several other lawmakers, Strickland said, “The detention center was not what I expected. I will just leave it at that for now. There were a lot of services that went on down there that I didn’t know took place. I did not necessarily want to see the people in solitary confinement because I do not think that is respectful.” Then, speaking to elected officials in particular she said, “If you want to tour the facility, take the time to go down there and see what goes on there. There is a lot of conversation about this, there is a lot of political theatre around this, but we have a responsibility that if people are going to be detained, that they are getting the food that is nutritious, and that they are being treated with respect and dignity.”

City Council member Walker Lee, who identified herself as an immigrant rights advocate, stated that what she saw in the tour of the NWDC was “acceptable.”

During the hearing, representatives from the NWDC Resistance, other immigrant rights oriented organizations, and general community members expressed individual concerns and read written statements from detainees. The first speaker identified themselves as a Pacific Northwest native, declaring that they were “dis-

turbed" to learn that there was a detention center in Tacoma, explaining that, "This facility is a part of a system. We are all part of a system. We can recognize that it is a system based in laws and it is just there, or we can recognize it as a system that is maybe unfair and should not be enabled."

The following speaker spoke clearly against the particular injustices faced by detainees stating, "You don't go on hunger strike to falsely declare something," and, defending the detainees experiences being detained in the center against Mayor Striker's and the Council's experiences visiting the NWDC said, "On one hand, you were shown a tour where there's recreation and all this stuff, and there's families saying their loved ones get one hour outside, period. They are saying their loved ones don't get protein, and that's why they have to pay in the commissary," continuing, "Why are we trusting GEO in their presentation to you?"

Another speaker seemingly agreed with this comment saying, "I would encourage you to keep in mind that whenever here's an inspection people are going to be on their best behavior."

In her introduction to the public hearing the Mayor of Tacoma attributed the existence of the detention center and conditions within the center to federal immigration laws and laws that mandate detention centers retain a certain number of beds at any given time. The vice president of GEO Group similarly deflected responsibility to federal law stating, "Local leaders and residents may rightfully have concerns with and objections to federal policies related to immigration and a host of other matters. But utilizing city land-use authority to voice those concerns or objections is not the appropriate process or venue. The city of Tacoma and its leaders should instead invest their time, energy and resources on advocating for policy changes to federal gov-

ernment representatives who are responsible for setting those policies."

A press release by the NWDC Resistance addresses these claims, declaring, "Tacoma City leaders said they have no control over federal immigration policy, but advocates noted that City Council has the power to change municipal code, and the Finance Director can revoke GEO Group's license to operate the detention center."

When asked by Walker Lee if the city has the ability to revoke their license, the city manager said that, "We have that ability regarding any business in the city of Tacoma, that's not what we are talking about tonight, and there has been no trigger to involve us in revocation proceedings with the GEO group in any way shape or form. That simply is not an issue."

A former detainee of the detention center, speaking in the public hearing, discussing his experiences said, "From the war on drugs to the war on immigrants the private prison industry has made thousands of dollars exploiting communities of color. They do not see us a human beings but as dollar signs in a spreadsheet. I have personally suffered that treatment, from lack of food, medicine, visitation rights, even paying three dollars a minute to call my loved ones. I wish that no one else has to. I know there is a lot more you can do."

The April 25 press release similarly describes the situation saying, "Local governments like the City of Tacoma have the ability to choose their own destiny."



EF students study on Red Square. SHAUNA BITTLE.

English First on Campus

By Jasmine Kozak-Gilroy

The EF, or Education First, campus is tucked away on the fourth floor of the Seminar I building, sharing floor space with the relocated Office of Sexual Violence Prevention (OSVP). For Evergreen students who haven't visited OSVP in its new location, the school is all but invisible, save for the non descriptive sign by the vending machines outside the health center and the small flocks of students speaking languages other than english wandering around campus and eating lunch in the Greenery.

Evergreen, after net costs of \$1,001,791, makes a profit of \$195,411 from hosting the EF facilities on campus. The bulk of the costs are associated with housing and feeding EF students. EF has been on the Evergreen State College campus for the past 30 years, and our campus is one of many. The EF facility at Evergreen is referred to on their website as the Seattle campus, despite Seattle being a one and a half hour drive or three hour bus ride away. When speaking to EF students in the past, I have been told that they felt tricked or disappointed by the actual location of Evergreen and its proximity to the Seattle metro area. Similarly, the EF New York City program is in the suburbs of New York, a forty minute train ride away, and the EF San Francisco program is a Mill College in Oakland. These three locations are three out of eleven listed on the EF website and in brochures I was given by an administrator for the EF fa-

cilities at Evergreen.

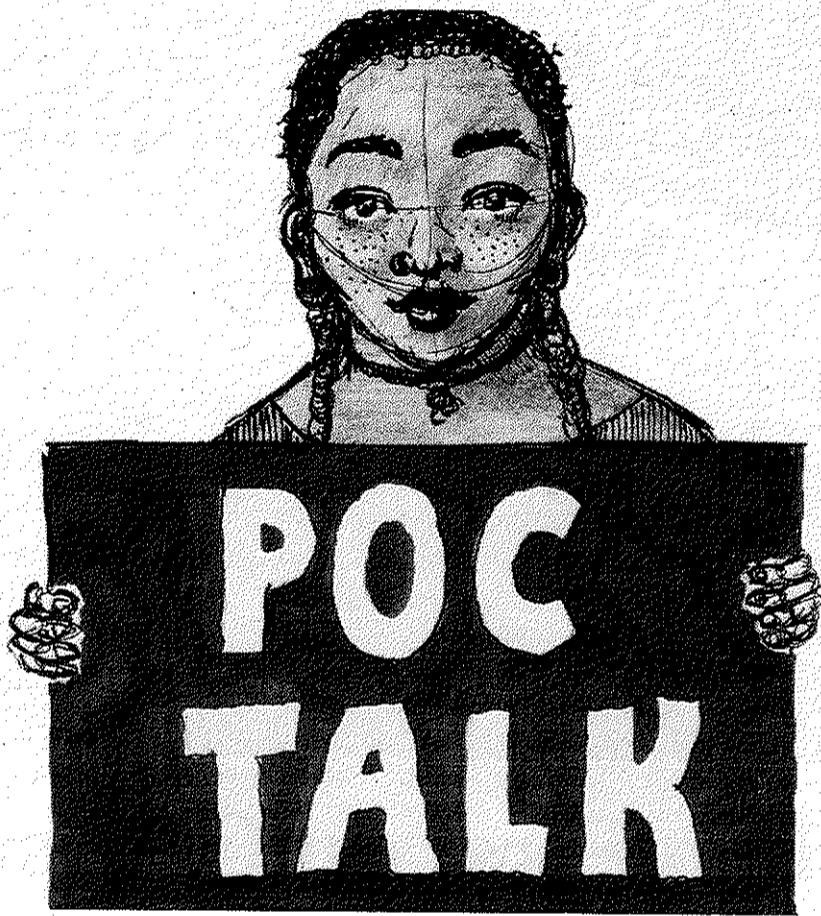
Enrollment has decreased for them and many other English as a Second Language programs, and the current student population hovers around 130, although it will go up drastically in the summer, when students as young as 13 will populate the modular housing and apartments as part of a popular summer program.

Local families who apply and are accepted to be host families are expected to provide breakfast and dinner on weekdays and all meal on weekends, and are not paid or reimbursed for the costs of room and board. Costs and what is included vary from school to school, but for the EF Seattle program, students can choose to either live with a host family or in campus housing for the same costs, with meals included. Of the students currently enrolled, about 47 percent live on campus, with 53 percent opting to stay with host families.

Anonymous students who

have worked for Residential and Dining Services and for EF as Residential Assistants (RA) for the the summer program participants voiced concerns about the lack of responsibility EF takes for their residential students. Over the summer, students can be as young as 13, with student even younger slipping in. They are expected to eat all of their meals at the Greenery, and cannot cook in their living areas because EF doesn't pay to have stoves or ovens in the rooms— although they do pay to supply them with microwaves and tea kettles. Many of these students, they say, are struggling through their first experiences away from home, and much of the responsibility for acclimating the students to living without parental guidance falls on the RAs, including helping students find food and buy groceries, and teaching them how to ride the bus and navigate Olympia.

Community



ODIN COLEMAN

- Do some yoga
- watch a movie with friends
- cook a good dinner for yourself or for that friend that seems a little run down lately
- remember you don't have to join a conversation just because you are knowledgeable
- purposefully make space away from conversations and events focused on injustice if need be
- take a long shower or bath
- take a walk to the beach
- Tea! Tea! Tea! Tea!
- get out in the sun!
- find an animal to cuddle
- deep breathing and physical awareness pat downs

Likewise remember it's okay to:

- scream
- punch a pillow
- call a friend and cry
- be angry

This last one's important—anger is not inherently bad, no matter how many times and how socially acceptable it is to put people down for it. Being angry can be a healthy reaction when dealing with issues that are traumatizing and that honestly should inspire anger.

As people of color we are constantly dealing with issues of injustice, it isn't a sign of weakness to take time for yourself. Even when not explicitly talking, educating or learning about issues of injustice, we as POC are constantly have the conversation put on us and experiencing those same injustices whether we chose to hold conversation or not. That is why it's important to remember you don't have to go to every protest, event, workshop, or lecture. It's important to know it's not a requirement to educate other people all the time, even if you feel like you have to because you have the knowledge. This goes for seminar and class time as well as out in the world or on the internet. You can't be helpful to the cause when you're so worn out you can't take care of yourself.

This is where allies should really come in. As POC we don't have the ability to step

out of the oppression we are fighting against. It's important to remember there are people who do have the ability to step outside of these issues and they can and should be called upon when the weight of the issues starts to be too heavy. I am not saying don't go to these things just because we are dealing with issues of oppression all the time. I'm saying it's okay to take a step back to ensure you are able to give your full energy once you've allowed yourself time to recharge.

Finally, I'm going to take this time to remind you all of something we all need to hear every so often, the work you do is important and appreciated. You are important and appreciated! You're beautiful and we all deserve a world that respects us as human beings. That's why we do what we do!

Until then, we all work really hard to make it so. As this school year heads towards a close if you are feeling like it's too hard to continue your activist work and you'd rather be somewhere you don't have to have these conversations all the time I want to offer you something a friend once told me, "When it feels like an uphill battle you are exactly where you need to be. If it wasn't hard it wouldn't be so needed."

POC Talk is a space to focus on the unique experiences people of color face at Evergreen and in Olympia. It is written by Evergreen Student of Color in an effort to specifically discuss POC issues. We want to center and boost POC voices so if you have something to add you can submit your questions, comments, concerns, or ideas for what you would like POC Talk to cover to poc-talk@cooperpointjournal.com

Self Care When you Want to Scream

Hello and welcome to POC Talk! This week we're going to talk about something I experience often, the little voice whispering I can't do this anymore in the back of our heads, or in other words burnout. When thinking about racial and social justice work we often talk about why what we are fighting for is important. It's less often we focus on how emotionally, and physically, exhausting it can be.

Constantly being immersed in conversations about race and injustice will take its toll. The first time I took an African American history class, I started self harming. I found it completely overwhelming, just trying to deal with the pain caused by constantly thinking about the long list of traumas Black people have faced in this country.

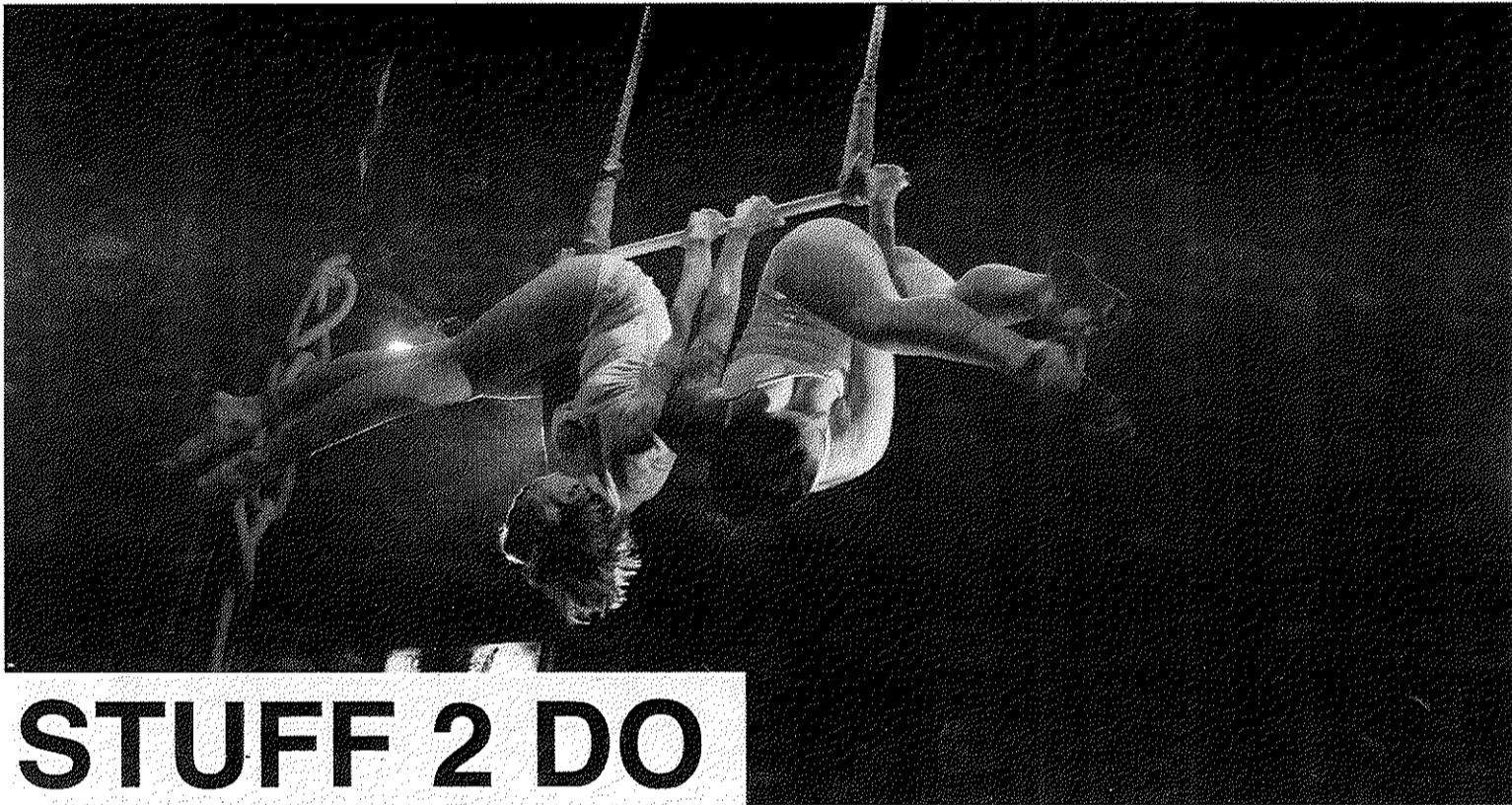
When writing these articles I sometimes find myself having to spend hours researching Neo-nazis, sifting through racist propaganda and legal paper work, or spending hours and days reading the words of faculty members and people in authority who blatantly don't care about the struggles we all face as PoC. I do it because I

know it's important. We all do it because we know how important this work is. It's been proven time and again that if we don't stand up for ourselves no one else will, but I'm not going to lie to ya'll, we all know it's exhausting.

Remember it's okay to take a break or ask for help. Most of us are college students, who are already having conversations around racial justice in class and in our everyday lives. I know it can seem like constantly stomping for the cause is worth the affects it causes to our minds and bodies. I would never imply that this work isn't important but, I need ya'll to be good to yourselves too! There's a mindset it's easy to fall into being a college student

that, sleeping very little, not eating well, working yourself really hard is not only normal, but seen as a positive trait indicative of leadership abilities. This is propelled by a society that values illustrated by being so committed you are willing to run yourself into the ground. When you add social justice work on top of that there's often not much time for anything else left. The amount of sleep you don't get can seem like a trophy of how hard we work, but this can lead to burnout or a break down. None of us are superhuman; we all need time to unwind. So with that in mind please remember to practice self care and remind your friends to take care of themselves too.

Community



Airbound Underground at work.

STUFF 2 DO

By Chloe Marina Manchester & Jasmine Kozak Gilroy

WEDNESDAY 5/3

THE BROTHERHOOD TAKES FLIGHT

The Brotherhood. 8pm. 21+.

From the Event: "Marlo's back in town!!!! Come see what one of Airbound Underground's beloved traveling artists has been up to! Join us at the Brotherhood for all the aerial awesomeness you can handle, and stay afterwards to dance with DJ Fir\$ Lady!!! Don't forget tips for your bartenders and performers!"

SATURDAY 5/6

LAST WORD BOOKS TURNS 15

Last Word Books. 4pm.

Last Word Books is turning fifteen years old! Go celebrate it with them! Potluck banquet extravaganza! Keg of beer by donation, music, poetry, circus, fine literature and good times. \$5 at the door, or a book donation for entrance. Performers include Sam Miller, Circus!, Temple Heathens, and a lot more! Go support your bookstore!

FRIDAY 5/12

GIRLFRIENDS SPRING MARKET

141 Nisqually Cutoff Rd SE Olympia. 10-4pm. \$5.

Be prepared to have your breath taken away when you enter this historic Barn. The best vendors around bring you treasures galore for your home and garden. Vintage, true antiques, mid century, steampunk, upcycled, crafted, rusty, industrial, perennials, and FOOD! Music! Food! Cool Vendors! Cool Location! 5\$ Entry! to stop in the gallery during their open hours. Bring a friend to analyze the paintings with so you'll be sure to look extra smart while enjoying the art!

SATURDAY 5/13

COFFEE WITH AMY GOODMAN

Capitol Theatre. 11am. \$15 students, \$20 general.

Amy Goodman, of Democracy Now! is in town at the Capitol Theatre downtown! Support independent journalism while drinking coffee and eating one (1) donut free with your ticket! KAOS radio, out of Evergreen was one of the first radio stations nationwide to start broadcasting Democracy Now! when it started 20 years ago. From Democracy Now! "In these times of war and elections, movements and uprisings, we need independent media more than ever. The commercial media serves as a mouthpiece for corporate and government interests—giving a platform to the pundits and the pollsters who know so little about so much, explaining the world to us and getting it so wrong."

SATURDAY 5/15

BANNY GROOVE (LA), HOT HEAVY LIQUID, PLEASURE SYSTEMS

Ghost House. 7pm. \$5 notaflof.

This event page keeps popping up on my Facebook page and getting me all excited. It is happening in my backyard, but I have been so tired recently that each time it pops up it hits me like a new and enchanting surprise— finally, I think, the spring time show I have been looking for. Banny Groove is touring across the country and is stopping to spend one whole night to fulfill our most glam dreams. Banny Groove will be joined by Clarke Sondermann, of the Washboard Abs, manifesting as Pleasure Systems, and local Olympia champs Hot Heavy Liquid, performing live for the first time. Show will be starting early to make good use of the sunshine and quell the neighbors, bring money for the touring band— I promise, they deserve it.

UP & COMING

WED. MAY 3

Last Word Books

111 Cherry St Ne. 8pm.

Multi genre reading circle and literary open mic

THUR. MAY 4

Evergreen Longhouse

2700 Evergreen Parkway. 10am.

Indigenous Climate Justice Symposium

SAT. MAY 6

Last Word Books

111 Cherry St Ne. 8pm.

15th anniversary event, featuring beer and performances

SUN. MAY 7

★The Lighthouse

7pm, \$5- 10.

Homebody (Denver), Harrison Basch, the Washboard Abs

WED. MAY 10

Ghost House

7pm, \$5 but notaflof.

gobbinjr (NYC), Pools, generifus

THUR. MAY 11

Ben Moore's

112 4th Ave W. \$0- 5, 6pm.

Olympia People's Mic featuring Taylor Bereiter

SUN. MAY 14

★ Le Voyeur

404 4th Ave W. 7pm. All Ages.

Real Life Buildings (NY), Blood Orphans, Box Fan

Obsidian

414 4th Ave E. 7pm, \$7- 10.

ULTRA (Barcelona), The Exquisites, Mala Racha

MON. MAY 15

★ Ghost House

7pm. \$5 notaflof.

Banny Groove (LA), Hot Heavy Liquid, Pleasure Systems

★ = Staff Recommended

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Arts & Culture



SPRING ARTS WALK

OLYMPIA WELCOMES SPRING WITH THE WEEKEND LONG EVENT

By Ruby Love

T Spring Arts Walk kicked off this past weekend, flooding downtown Olympia with crowds of people. A long-overdue break in the rain on Friday likely contributed to the crowds, as the city seemed to wake from its long hibernation.

We started off our art-seeing, music-listening marathon on Friday evening at Salon Refu, where Washington artists Peter Scherrer and Jean Nagai were celebrating the opening of their joint show. Nagai is an Evergreen grad and a former Cooper Point Journal cover artist, so we were especially excited to see his new work! While they work in similar mediums, Scherrer and Nagai work in vastly different styles, even down to their color choices; but their pieces played off of each other nicely. As usual, it was about a hundred degrees in Salon Refu, and packed with people, so we headed on to other things.

We caught a parking-space-size band in front of Archibald Sisters, performing in a taped off parking space, with all of their limbs and equipment impressively huddled inside.

They were all wearing plastic animal masks— a crow and a unicorn— which was a theme we saw repeated throughout Arts Walk— did everyone agree on animal masks? Is there something we're missing, here? Should we have been wearing masks too?

Next up was Little General, with a very cute and very crowded-around wall of Carrie O'Neill's watercolor paintings. We stopped in for a quick look, and left before we were too tempted to load up on deli goodness. Psychic Sister wasn't on the Arts Walk map, but we noticed their wonderful display of chalked hearts and names of people killed or injured by police along the sidewalk, as well as a banner in support of local brothers Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin, shot by Olympia police officer Ryan Donald— see

the CPJ's continuing coverage of their court case for more information. We headed back over to 4th ave to see the work of Evergreen student and last issue's cover artist Megan Bailey. Their amazing paintings are adorning the walls of Rush In Dumplings. On our way there, we passed a massive group of people crowded in the blocked-off streets around various performers, all of whom happened to be kids.

There was a noticeable lack of classic Olympia townie performers this year, and they seemed to have been replaced by— admittedly adorable— middle school kids doing card tricks and breakdancing. It left us wondering if Arts Walk organizers had made an effort to create a more "family-friendly" atmosphere through pushing out most of downtown Olympia's more colorful

characters. While we enjoyed walking around and seeing the art, we couldn't help but feel a little out of place at events which seemed to be heavily geared towards families with small children.

We had to miss out on the evening Luminary Procession— the more mystical, more glowy version of Saturday's Procession of the Species Parade— but caught some gorgeous photographs of the event popping up on our friends' Instagram accounts that made us very jealous. Saturday's Procession was a huge hit, despite the rain and drop in temperatures, drawing crowds numbering in the thousands, according to The Olympian. While it's difficult to pick a favorite creature, the hit of the parade for us was the massive peacock, whose moveable neck and tail brought it to life, thanks to the

efforts of its many operators holding wooden poles. Olympia resident Kayla Weiss said the highlight of the parade for her was the "sun and flowers float that was at the beginning of the parade," adding, "It was just this sunrise entrance into the whole parade and all of the flower people twirling around the sun was the best possible opening for the whole event." Weiss says she's "never loved Olympia more" than she did while witnessing the Procession for the first time. If you missed out this year, there's always next spring!

To see more photographs of arts walk and both processions by Tari Gunstone, visit cooperpointjournal.com

cover artist

TARI GUNSTONE

Tari Gunstone works professionally as a portrait and event photographer while studying Environmental Photojournalism and Botany at Evergreen. She also writes and photographs for the Cooper Point Journal. You can find her work at www.tarigunstone.com



The poet Mary Oliver wrote that, “to pay attention is our endless work.” That has become my personal mantra for both my photography work and my general lifestyle. This collection of photographs, *Field Guide*, reflects my interest in applying that observation to the forests of the Pacific Northwest. In 2014, I had the opportunity to spend a year living on a Monastic farm in the San Juan Islands. In between farm duties, I explored the vast landscape of wilderness that the remote seven-mile long island I was on offered. With the help of the quaint, volunteer-run library, I equipped myself with enough books to become a fledgling naturalist. I photographed and wrote of my observations of the natural world extensively, weaving in poetry and self-reflection, as I was learning just as much about myself in this wild yet quiet space as I was about its flora and fauna.

I’ve carried this practice with me since then, paying homage to the many field guides that have helped me more intimately understand the non-human characters of my native geography by photographing with a scientific eye. This has led me to my current studies at Evergreen where I’m focusing on Environmental Photojournalism and Botany. Science explains the earth in terms of matter while art voices the human connection to earth in terms of emotion or spirit. I believe a combination of both these disciplines is needed to help society deeply engage in perspectives and lifestyle changes that are redemptive to our planet. My intent for my photographs is that they build awareness and advocacy for their subject matter and can hopefully inspire thoughtful self-reflection for the viewer.

Arts & Culture



Grasping at the Echoes: An Interview with Phil Elverum

MOUNT EERIE'S "A CROW LOOKED AT ME" AND THE STRUGGLE OF ARTICULATING REAL DEATH

By Jeremy Bertsche

D "It's dumb," sings Mount Eerie's Phil Elverum on the first track of his devastating, heartfelt new record, "A Crow Looked At Me", "and I don't want to learn anything from this." Yet just as quickly as the most thematically naked track, "Real Death," eschews the saccharine and redemptive shortcuts we commonly use to render a loved one's death palatable, the song clings to one reassuring bit of candor (cliche perhaps, but for good reason): "I love you." Elverum speaks the words as the song comes to a sudden, unforeseen halt.

Elverum, who has released music under the moniker Mount Eerie for more than a decade, first became known for his work as The Microphones, whose gem "The Glow Pt. 2" put Olympia and K Records in the national spotlight back in 2001. Sixteen years later, with "A Crow Looked at Me", Elverum's Mount Eerie has crafted an album that is as sparse and direct as The Glow Pt. 2 was sonically textured and ornate.

"We're not equipped to talk about death," Elverum told me when we met two weeks ago as he prepared for his show at Obsidian. As we talked, he calmly stacked Mount Eerie and Microphones vinyls, as well as some of

his original art. "It's kind of a thing that people don't talk about."

Elverum lost his wife, the artist and musician Geneviève Castrée, from pancreatic cancer last summer. She was only 35, and Elverum was left with their young daughter in their suddenly drafty and seemingly empty house in Anacortes, Washington. He was wrestling with raw tragedy, battling to make sense of something that, by every definition, just makes no sense. "A Crow Looked At Me", released a mere eight months after Geneviève passed, is the raw, unfiltered account of his struggle.

It was less than a month after Geneviève's death that Elverum started writing music again. He put out of

his mind whether he would release any of it or not. The song-writing was therapy. His guitar strums, his humble croons, were the inevitable product of a person who, as he put it, has "always been making something," has always been "engaged in creativity."

Elverum's work has always balanced on the precipice of mortality, but until now he has only flirted with the concept of death, as if shying from making eye contact. "I used to be hung up on understanding and misunderstanding," Elverum told me. "I had all these songs about me being misunderstood, always trying to clarify and re-clarify—but now I feel like that's all out the window. I'm no longer trying

to say a metaphor. No decorations, no metaphors or observation."

When he ultimately decided to release the music—songs created with Geneviève's own instruments, recorded in the room in which she died: what emerged was something far from anything he had created previously, and, as many critics have observed, far from anything recorded on the subject of death in recent memory. Where other albums tip-toe around such fire, imparting only its warmth, this album aims for the flames head-on—and comes out the other side to remind the listener how very real those flames are. "Very little of it was premeditated, it just came out naturally," Elverum

Letters & Opinion

told me. "I made the decision at one point to just say everything, to not put any thoughts toward restraint." It is a practice he admired in his favorite recent author, Norwegian literary phenom Karl Ove Knausgaard, author of the "My Struggle" volumes. "It's scary to take that leap, but it's worth it."

Jon Caramanica of The New York Times recently questioned whether the tragic, explicit, and frank narrative-based storytelling in the songs of "A Crow Looked At Me" could even, in all politeness, be called "art." Art, he noted, "typically connotes an interest in aesthetics," something it's hard to imagine Elverum was thinking about when crafting "A Crow Looked At Me". The album resembles a difficult conversation one might have with a close friend, or perhaps with someone in one's grieving group, far more than it resembles albums such as Sufjan Stevens' "Carrie and Lowell" or The Antlers' "Hospice". Those musicians' works have been likened to Elverum's hitherto unassuming indie-folk strains. But unlike the quiet, contemplative melancholy of those two similarly themed albums, nothing in Elverum's latest work is quiet besides his quavering voice and the hushed, subtly textured sounds of Genevieve's guitar. "A Crow Looked At Me" is nothing but loud in its forthright and unflinching attempt to articulate death. "You do belong here," he sings in "Forest Fire",

before his voice almost leaves all melody behind to protest: "I reject nature, I disagree."

Other songs capture the grieving process differently. "Seaweed" is a brief vignette describing Elverum, his young daughter in tow, on his way to spread Genevieve's ashes. One senses Elverum struggling desperately to find some solace, some meaning in symbolism and motif: "I can't remember/ were you into Canada Geese?" he asks. "Is it significant/these hundreds on the beach?/ Or were they just hungry/for mid-migration seaweed?" Over and again Elverum succumbs to a realization that this is death, its meaning ever-elusive. As he intones in "Emptiness Pt. 2", "There is nothing to learn/ Her absence is a scream saying nothing."

At one point in our interview, Elverum placed a stack of "The Glow Pt. 2" records on the merchandise table. He paused, looking for the right words, any words that would do. "It's not for art," he said, echoing a line from the album. "It's this raw, superhuman... I don't know." He appeared frustrated with his inability to articulate in words what his album so movingly conveys. "Real death, like actual death, is unsingable."

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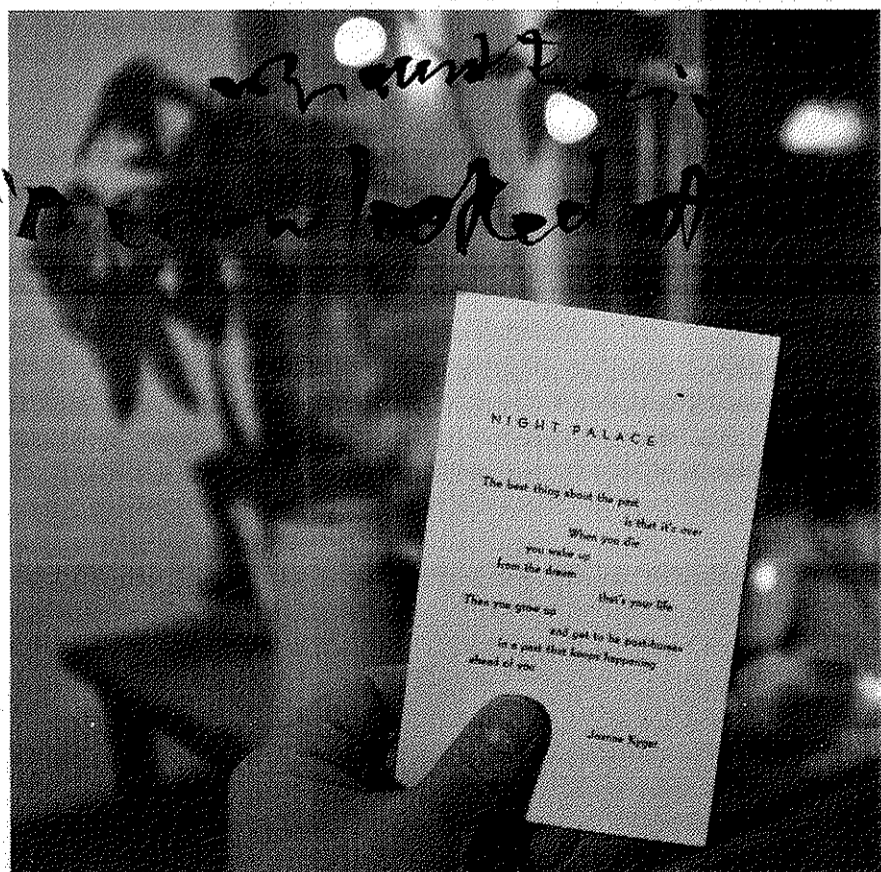
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Letters & Opinion

The image shows the cover of the Cooper Point Journal. At the top, the title "the COOPER POINT JOURNAL" is displayed in a serif font. Below the title, there is a section titled "NOW HIRING FOR THE COMING YEAR" with a sub-header "To apply email a resume or list of relevant experience and brief introduction stating why you would be a good fit for this position to cooperpointjournal@gmail.com with the position you are applying for in the subject." Below this, there are three job listings: "ASSOCIATE BUSINESS MANAGER", "WEB MANAGER", and "STAFF WRITERS", each with a brief description of the role and responsibilities.

DL on the Faculty DL UPDATE ON THE EMAIL CHAIN

The drama on the staff and faculty DL is burning bright as ever and until it dies down we will be bringing you one email each and every issue. This week's email was a response from Anne DeMarken about emails regarding Day Of Absense and Day of Presance previously published in the Cooper Point Journal.

Sent April 11 @ 11:10 a.m.

Hello, all-

At yesterday's Faculty Meeting, we responded to the question, "How can we faculty & staff best build community and trust with each other? With our students?" We appended a simple modifier expressing understanding and acceptance of the Equity Council's work on behalf of the College: "...in order to enact the recommendations of the Equity Council."

I feel grateful to the AC and to those who spoke. Listening to what others had to say prompted me to think more concretely about how to answer this question. I really liked that the size of the group meant that I had to listen more than talk, and to more diverse views than would have been shared in a smaller group. I was able to identify more specifically where my lack of trust is located, which helps me think about more specific remedies. During the meeting and still now I am coming up with ideas, which I bet is true for others.

I am curious what responses to the question you thought of but didn't voice during the meeting...or any that have occurred to you since. If you've got something specific, I'd love to hear it. I'm looking for succinct, concrete ideas that respond directly and in good faith to the question of how to build trust among the faculty, staff, and students. No position statements, please. I'll list some of my own responses below, trusting as always that you will spare yourself the long read if you are conserving your energy for other work.

As before when I wrote to ask about ideas for participating in DoA/DoP [Day of Presence/ Day of Absence], I invite you to reply only directly to me in order to spare colleagues who, for any number of reasons ranging from time-management to self-care, prefer not to be inundated with email notes about even the most worthy topics. I will collect and summarize the responses in a follow-up note.

Thanks,
Anne



By Sylvie Chace

At last, Mercury has stationed direct! While three other planets remain in retrograde, the one that likes to mess with us on a surface-level has now left us to look at the broken pieces we are now needing to fix. The planet of communication is now in the sign Aries, leaving us with a deeper sense of self. Venus has been in the emotional depths of Pisces, while Mars has recently transitioned into the intellectual sign of Gemini. A lot of mixed energy is in the stars, this may leave the signs feeling overwhelmed or confused at which direction to take after such a tense time.

ARIES 3/21 - 4/19

There's a weight on your shoulders, Aries and it's heavy. You may be putting a lot of expectations on yourself to be the best, the strongest, the smartest, the most accomplished. No one is forcing you to take on that role, no one has put this weight on your shoulders except for yourself! You have the world at your fingertips, so let go of expectations and just dive right in.

TAURUS 4/20 - 5/20

It's your season, your time to shine and it's a beautiful day to be a Taurus. You may have been feeling a warmth inside of you, or a need to welcome others in and cultivate a positive space for everyone. But how are you doing way deep inside? Helping others and focusing your energy outwards makes you feel good about yourself, but remember to bring that love back inwards because you deserve it.

GEMINI 5/21 - 6/20

Something's got a hold of you, Gemini. It may be one small thing throwing off the entire balance of your life. Your old methods aren't fixing it, and it's an issue that just won't back off. It's time to change your methods of responding. You are naturally adaptable, so it shouldn't be too difficult to think of new solutions to cut off an old problem.

CANCER 6/21 - 7/22

Feeling trapped may be an especially difficult feeling for someone who cares so deeply. You have an urge to insert yourself into every issue. Every struggle you see, you want to so badly to help. That's a lot to take on, Cancer! You may be hurting yourself by trying to heal something or someone else. Take a step back, there are some problems that need you and some that don't.

LEO 7/23 - 8/22

You've been working hard for something, and you can see a light at the end of this dark tunnel. It's all very exciting for someone who has a taste for success like you, Leo but don't let go just yet. While the light is beautiful and attainable, you still need to push through until the very end. You will have your day in the sun, it's coming, you just need to wait a teensy bit longer.

VIRGO 8/23 - 9/22

You are known most for your diligent work ethic and your ability to keep organized and composed. The idea of sitting still and basking in any success, be it emotional success or tangible success, may feel unproductive to you. But what if you closed your eyes for a minute and just felt the rays of the sun? What if you basked in it while no one else watched and felt the warmth of love shine down on you? Let yourself feel it, Virgo.

LIBRA 9/23 - 10/22

Something challenging may have just fallen on your lap, and while challenges are really opportunities for growth your instinct says "thanks, but no thanks!" Difficult times come whether you want them to or not and leaning into whatever challenges may come won't kill you, it'll take you to the next level, Libra. So lean into the complications and face them head-on.

SCORPIO 10/23 - 11/21

There may be a feeling of holding on to every little thing, of not being able to let go. You may feel like once the weekend comes, then you can relax, but the weekend brings challenges too! You need to learn to have an even balance, Scorpio. For the sign of extremes this doesn't come naturally, but being so focused and so attentive to every single thing is too much and there's no way for you to relax when you're holding grudges or feeling overworked.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22 - 12/21

Your sense of urgency and your ability to not hold back and give your all is your ultimate source of power, Sagittarius. You are a quick and agile mover and right now things are aligned in your favor. If there's something to get off your chest, or some larger plan that you're trying to work out, now is the time to act. Harness your natural gifts and go after what you want.

CAPRICORN 12/22 - 1/19

There's an inner pain that's eating at you, Capricorn. Be it guilt, or endless worries, or just something deep on your mind, it's coming from within and it won't let go. It's vulnerable to feel deeply, so proceed with caution and don't make hasty decisions that will overwhelm you. The road ahead may look rocky, but if walk and don't run you won't fall down and get hurt.

AQUARIUS 1/20 - 2/18

Things are never quite what they seem with you, Aquarius. You are one to dig deeper into the more curious side of life and now you're reconsidering what you have and what you lack. Where in your life do you feel abundance? And where feels empty? You are the water bearer, and it appears there's some aspects you're watering and some you may have overlooked. It's time to reassess and find harmony in your life.

PISCES 2/19 - 3/20

The negative side to being so emotionally in-tune is that it's too overwhelming at times. As a defense, blocking your emotional self from the world seems safe. There's nothing to see here, and nothing comes out. However, you're not letting anything come in. You can't help how you feel, and you can't stop yourself from being intuitive. It's strong to have emotions and you don't need to shut them down completely to be taken seriously.

Humor

RUBY THOMPSON

WASTED ADVICE

Greetings. Welcome to Wasted Advice, wherein you ask for advice and I continue to get drunk and advise you. We both win. You can ask me the questions you can't ask your resident advisor.

Who is your hero? a ME bc i've survived this bullshit social scene and im still here and im still a thriving angel despite all of ur dumbass questions tbhh

What are some good date places in Oly that are wheelchair accessible? what can you do on a date that doesn't require a ton of money or physical ability?a park! having apicnic sounds cool and

i know downtown has like parks and shit around that u can chill in now that it's a nice weather time,, pack a lunch? bring a cutie? have some good talks while u watch ppl walk there dogs??

what is the meaning of life? getting real drunk to answer all yall ppls questions dont we pay philosophers enough to tell us that shit. I'm just a drunk millesimal. *lol* In all seriousness.. idk, ask your mom. I mean, thats what I do .

how do you not turn into an alcoholic week nine? i' m literally writing 4 a column called 'wasted advice'.....seweetie.....

Is it okay to call myself brave and tolerate emotional abuse? tolerating emotional abuse it thee most brave thing you can ever do. you are the bravest. ur strong and i love you.It would burn them... like that scene in Indiana Jones.

Why am I the worst? ur probs not like everyone is the best and the worst. we all have ppl who cherish us and ppl who mindlessly hate us without even knowing us and like that's just a fact of lyfe so like...let it roll of ur shoulders and live ur best life bc ur NOT the worst :)))

what is the meaning of life? we're all gonna die sweatie.....ur gonna die, i'm gonna die, one day no one will live in this town and all of the petty bullshit ppl have to say will be completely meaningless and void. it is all a meaningless void. I ate like so much freid chicken tonight, and i feel fulfilled

Ryan Reynolds or Ryan Gosling? Whomst?????

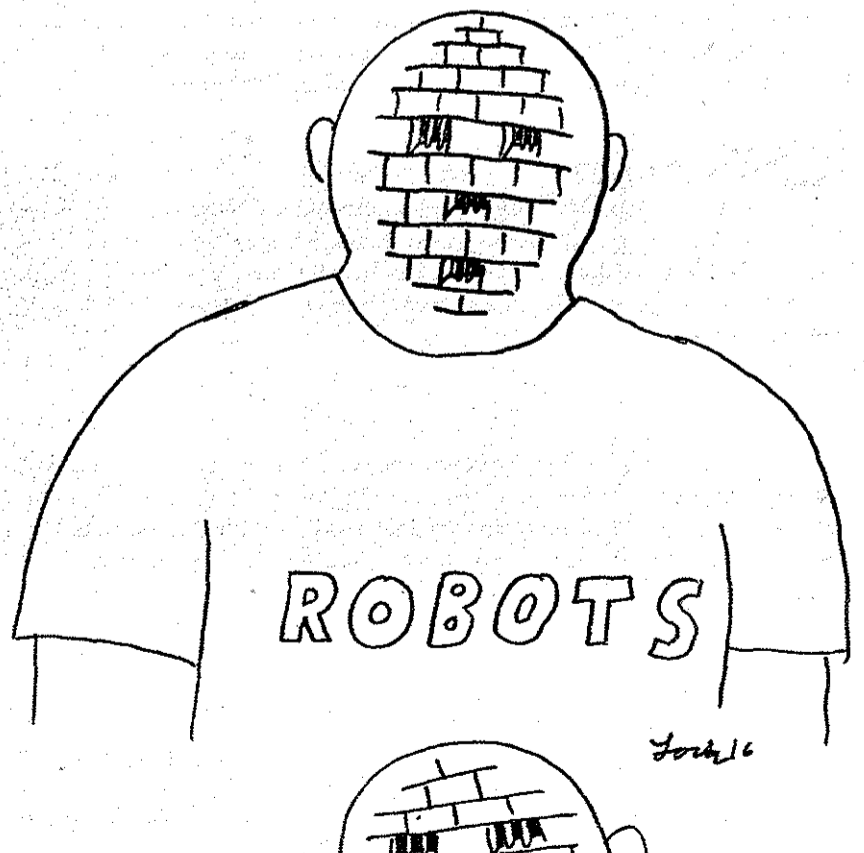
White people with dreads.....? WHOMST?????

Got problems? We can help! You can submit questions anonymously to ask.fm/wastedadvice or email wastedadvice@cooperpointjournal.com.

THE RIGHTEOUS KNIFE by Isaac Hollandsworth

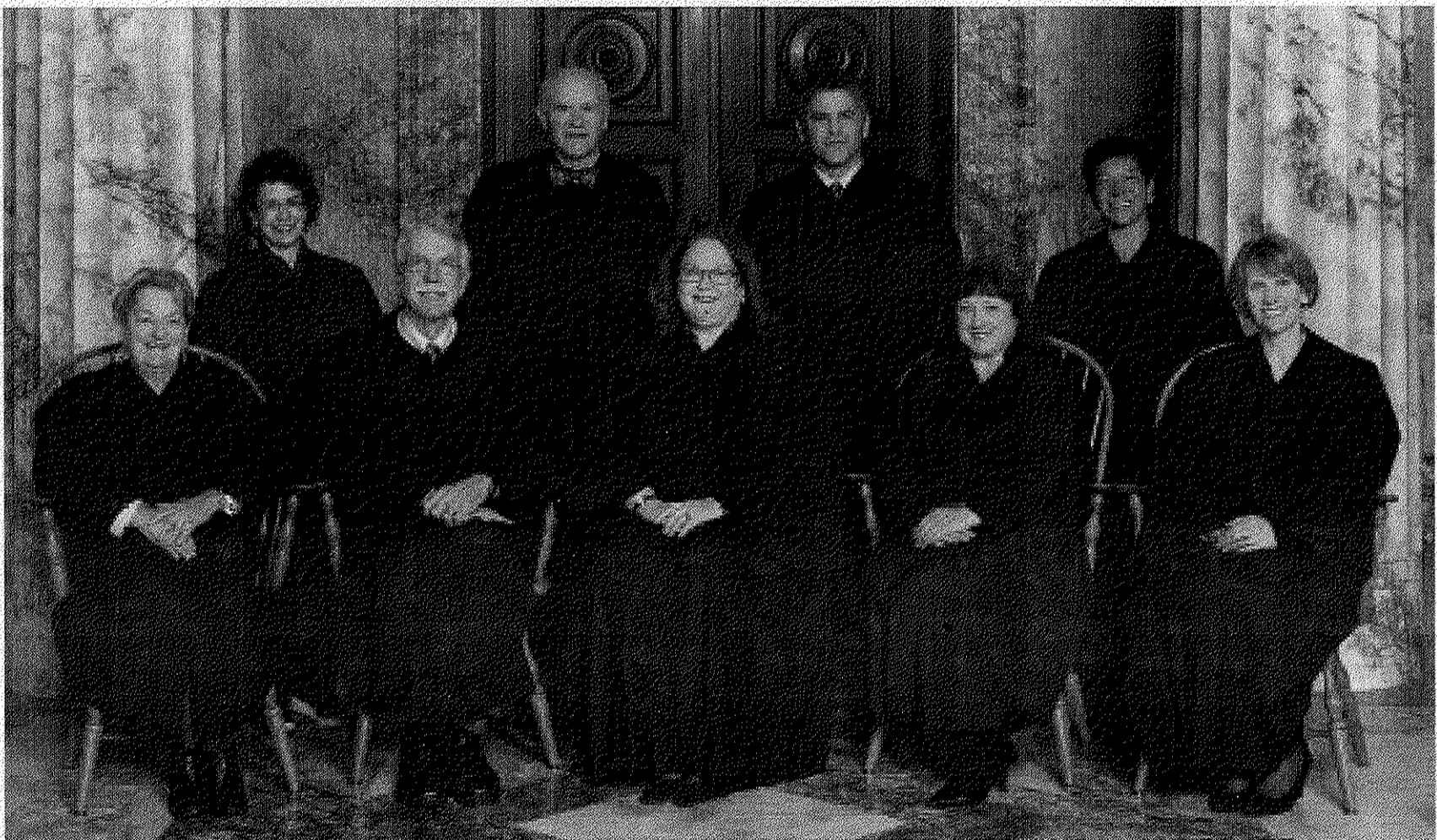


FACE FACTORY #11 by Lortz



In Session at Evergreen

Washington State Supreme Court



The Geoduck Student Union invites you to watch nine elected judges of Washington's highest court interpret the state's constitution on behalf of all the people of Washington.

MAY 8

Attend the Public Forum

Forum with the Justices, moderated by Academic Dean Scott Coleman
3:00–4:00 p.m.

MAY 9

See the WA State Supreme Court in Action

After welcoming remarks by President George Bridges, the court hears oral arguments on three actively pending cases
9:00 a.m.–2:15 p.m.

Attend Q&A Sessions with the Chief Justice

Two sessions, moderated by Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst
10:25–10:55 a.m. and 2:15–2:45 p.m.

Public Events Location: Recital Hall, Communication Building. Overflow seating with live streaming will be available.



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