

the cooper point journal

The Evergreen State College Newspaper Since 1971 | February 6, 2019

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The Cooper Point Journal

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FROM THE ARCHIVES A screenshot from a 2014 Valentine's Day Video made by Shauna Bittle and shared on social media, courtesy of The Evergreen State College Archives.

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Our Weekly Meeting
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HOW WE WORK

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

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

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

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

WORK FOR US

We accept submissions from any student at 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.

The entrance of Jake's On 4th. DANIEL VOGEL.



GAY BAR SCENE DEMANDS ACCOUNTABILITY

Resentment after assault outside Jake's On 4th

By MASON SOTO

On the evening of Jan. 30, four Olympia residents were assaulted outside of the downtown bar Jake's On 4th, leading to a possible hate crime charge. The bar (known locally as Jake's) is the only gay bar in downtown Olympia.

According to reporting by The Olympian, Dwayne Houston was arrested after the incident by Olympia Police Department on suspicion of malicious harassment and other crimes (including against Washington's hate crime laws). Police records list Jake's address and show Houston was arrested for assault in the fourth degree.

Jace Hoag, one of the victims, told the Journal that he and three of his friends were walking along the sidewalk on 4th Avenue as Houston and others stood in the enclave

outside Jake's, where the assault happened. Houston and others shouted anti-gay and racist slurs leading up to and during the assault, according to witness reports.

At least two victims sought medical care for injuries from the attack, including a broken nose, concussion, and eye contusions.

Thurston County Superior Courts charged Houston with second-degree assault, unlawful possession of cocaine, and malicious harassment, with bail at \$25,000.

As word spread of the attack, community members began sharing testimonies on social media about the most recent incident and other similar violence around the area. Bar patrons called for Jake's and its owner Rob Cameron to be held accountable for the

violence that took place, many suggesting the gay-centric branding that Jake's utilizes contradicts the experiences of gay customers there.

Some posts were shared with hashtags like #takedown-yourprideflags and #notasafespace, along with links to the bar's Yelp page. The posts encouraged people to share their experiences on the business review website. Some posts included Cameron's personal contact information as well.

The bar is a staple for nightlife and food in downtown Olympia, with a concession stand attached serving fried confections day and night. Large rainbow flags hang over the area directly outside the bar's front door, close to where the assault took place. There is also a large sign displayed near the entrance that declares the

establishment is a "Hate-Free Queer Bar," welcoming only those who are not homophobic, transphobic, racist, sexist, or "heterophobic," among other traits.

Many who shared opinions on social media about the incident accused owner Cameron of not doing enough to protect patrons, while vouching for most of the other staff. A public post on Facebook by Dan Evans read, "The staff at Jake's are doing their best to maintain safety, but they are often managing hundreds of rowdy people at one time (most of which are not sober) and it is unfair of the owner Rob to burden them with the responsibility of upholding the safety that he promotes on his walls."

In an interview with the Journal, Rob Cameron said he runs a "super safe business." When asked whether there would be a public statement from him or Jake's about the incident or the community's reaction, he said, "Have you read that stuff online? How do I defend myself? I mean, most of it's all lies."

"I have first-hand experienced assault myself," said Evans, who helped establish a local drag troupe named Free Range Drag last year. Beyond his own experience, he said in the ten years he's lived here and worked within the community at places such as Stonewall Youth and Capitol City Pride, he's heard about many instances of discrimination "both outside and inside Jake's."

Evans feels that attacks like this are fueled by a culture at Jake's, which he alleges includes over-serving alcohol, prioritizing money over safety, and lack of accountability for regular instances outside the bar when first responders are called.

In 2016, news organization Seattle PI published a list based on records from the state Liquor and Cannabis Board showing where DUI offenders in Washington last drank before arrest, showing which

venues are mentioned most. Jake's ranks fifth, with 181 mentions from 2012-2016.

Another member of Free Range Drag, Kenzie Reynolds said the frequency of incidents outside Jake's has made the responses ineffective. Comparing it to the habits of any job, they said, "You don't really pay attention, you're just on autopilot, and I think that's sort of the feeling that OPD has about responding to fights or altercations outside of Jake's, because it's so rote and it's so consistent."

Many Jake's patrons have suggested in the online posts and in interviews with the Journal that there should be more of a security presence at the bar's entrance, like security outside The Society, another bar whose patrons often overflow onto the sidewalk surrounding the entrance.

Cameron has no plans to do so. "I don't have fights [at my bar]," he said. There have only been regular staff since the bar opened, and Cameron said, "Thirteen years of that, no violence, you know, it works."

Instead he said the onus of responsibility does not fall on him: "The only thing I'm guilty of is having a popular bar." He said it is a larger problem of downtown, then suggested, "There should be more police downtown, there should be more patrol."

Upset patrons feel the deflection of responsibility for the area surrounding Jake's is central to how these instances occur. Evans said, "This has historically kind of saved them, that it happens directly outside of Jake's."

Evans said the community needs a change one way or another: "We either want responsibility, or transparency that you're either not a gay bar, or you are a gay bar and you do what you're supposed to do to keep the people that you're harboring safe."

Reynolds concurred, "Represent us well, or don't represent us at all."



By MARTA TAHJA-SYRETT

At the beginning of last month, Union Gospel Mission opened a city-sanctioned homeless camp on Olympia Avenue NE and Franklin Street NE. According to K5 News, the owners of four nearby businesses responded by anonymously suing the city for supporting the camp.

As reported by Q13 Fox, the business owners believe that the city failed to notify them regarding the site and also didn't seek out public opinion before moving forward with the project. They also believe that the camp drives away business and attracts illicit behavior.

Just after the official opening of the camp on December 10, Thurston County Judge James Dixon ordered a temporary restraining order, which prohibited new people from entering the site. Later that month the restraining order expired and the camp was allowed to reopen itself to the public, as Dixon saw no reason to further halt the site's operation.

One local business that is not opposed to the camp's presence is Metro, located on 4th Avenue East, close to the site. Manager Dawn Prieto said that the camp

is helping to get people out of the woods and is not affecting her business at all. She said her customers tend to be thicker-skinned, which she is thankful for. Prieto also believes that the new tiny home village, called the Plum Street Village project, will be beneficial for the homeless population.

The Plum Street Village project will accommodate 40-50 homeless people with its thirty homes. It will be operated by The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) and receive funding from the city of Olympia. People who are currently staying at the city-sanctioned homeless camp will be prioritized when it comes to the selection of housing at the tiny home village.

Jack Connors-Kellgren is a volunteer at EGYHOP — an organization, run by volunteers, “that provides emergency supplies, services, and resources to homeless people.” He said that several contributing factors may help to explain the recent surge of visible homelessness in downtown Olympia.

Connors-Kellgren believes that rising house prices are a large contributing factor when

it comes to homelessness. According to Zillow, the value of houses within the Olympia area rose by 10% in 2018. Homes in Olympia currently have a median value of \$317,000, which is significantly higher than nearby towns, such as Shelton, where the median home value is nearly \$70,000 less. The Olympia City Council also notes this trend in Ordinance No. 7147, stating that rising home prices in Olympia, and across the nation, are leaving individuals and families without a place to live.

According to the City of Olympia's website, the rising cost of housing, in addition to the inadequate supply of housing, is having a drastic effect on Thurston County. The Point in Time Census for 2018 found that, within the county, homelessness has increased by 56% since the year prior. These contributing factors are not limited to this area, as they are becoming prevalent throughout the state of Washington.

Connors-Kellgren noted that visibility also plays a role in the recent increase of homeless people in downtown Olympia, as people are coming from other

locations within the city. “People are coming out of the woods because they have a place to be,” said Connors-Kellgren. He also said that homeless camps in the area get evicted “with some frequency.”

“All the camps by the Woodland bike trail got evicted, and then, periodically, there's a pretty big camp on the East side that gets evicted,” Connors-Kellgren said. He noted that evictions happen after sweeps and that “there's an influx of people that come downtown” after the sweeps occur.

Sweeps refer to the destruction and confiscation of property belonging to homeless people, which happens after the property is declared abandoned. According to the ACLU of Washington, property is sometimes declared abandoned “even when temporarily unattended.”

Connors-Kellgren disputed the idea that increases in visible homelessness are caused largely by people moving from places outside of the area. “The population that's coming in from other places is pretty minor compared with people who have been here for a long period of time.”

Connors-Kellgren's personal opinion on the camp is bleak. “It's an improvement in the way that people are allowed to be there, but it's embarrassing because people are still living outside and don't want to be,” said Connors-Kellgren. “It's really the bare minimum and it's a shame that there's so much pushback.”

Before the camp was sanctioned by the City, people were already living in the space on Olympia Avenue NE and Franklin Street NE, according to The News Tribune. Perhaps this is related to the fact that multiple resources, accessible to homeless people, are available within close proximity to the site. The Thurston County Food Bank, located on neighboring Thurston Avenue NE, seeks “to eliminate hunger within our community.” The Thurston County Food Bank offers several programs to the public that provide free food, with no address needed to participate in their services.



“It's an improvement in the way that people are allowed to be there, but it's embarrassing because people are still living outside and don't want to be”



Also located close by, on State Avenue NE, is the Providence Community Care Center. As reported by Thurston Talk, the center offers services related “to housing, primary care, mental health and substance use care.” Just after its opening in 2017, the Providence Community Care Center was offering its services to more than 200 people per day, on average.

With homelessness on the rise locally, the city of Olympia has also begun to implement new legislative measures in an attempt to lessen the burden on those who are currently living without homes. According to the City of Olympia's website, The Home Fund Measure (Proposition 1) was recently passed. This proposition allows for an additional 0.1% tax on sales, with the money going towards “affordable and supportive housing.” Additionally, “The City reduced impact fees for qualified low-income housing development projects.”

HOT SPOT TOO HOT, STOP LAYING ON IT

For real, it could “severely burn” you!

By DJ PFEIFLE

Evergreen’s famous “Hot Spot” outside of dorm building A, has recently come under fire for being not just a little bit too hot.

In an email sent out to Residential And Dining Services (RAD) tenants by RAD in late November, students were warned that: “The paved walkway outside residence hall A is reaching temperatures in excess of 160 Degrees Fahrenheit,” as “human skin can be severely burned at these temperatures”.

This message has been more or less ignored by students who continue to lounge about on the Hot Spot, without a care for the warnings clearly posted around it — but hey, life is too short to listen to dumb signs anyway.

After a simple experiment by this reporter, of placing a bare hand directly on the Hot Spot for 20 uninterrupted seconds, and not having any burns to human skin, severe or otherwise, one can conclude that the Hot Spot is safe at least for the time being. Nevertheless, that begs the question, what caused this immense increase in heat to happen in the first place?

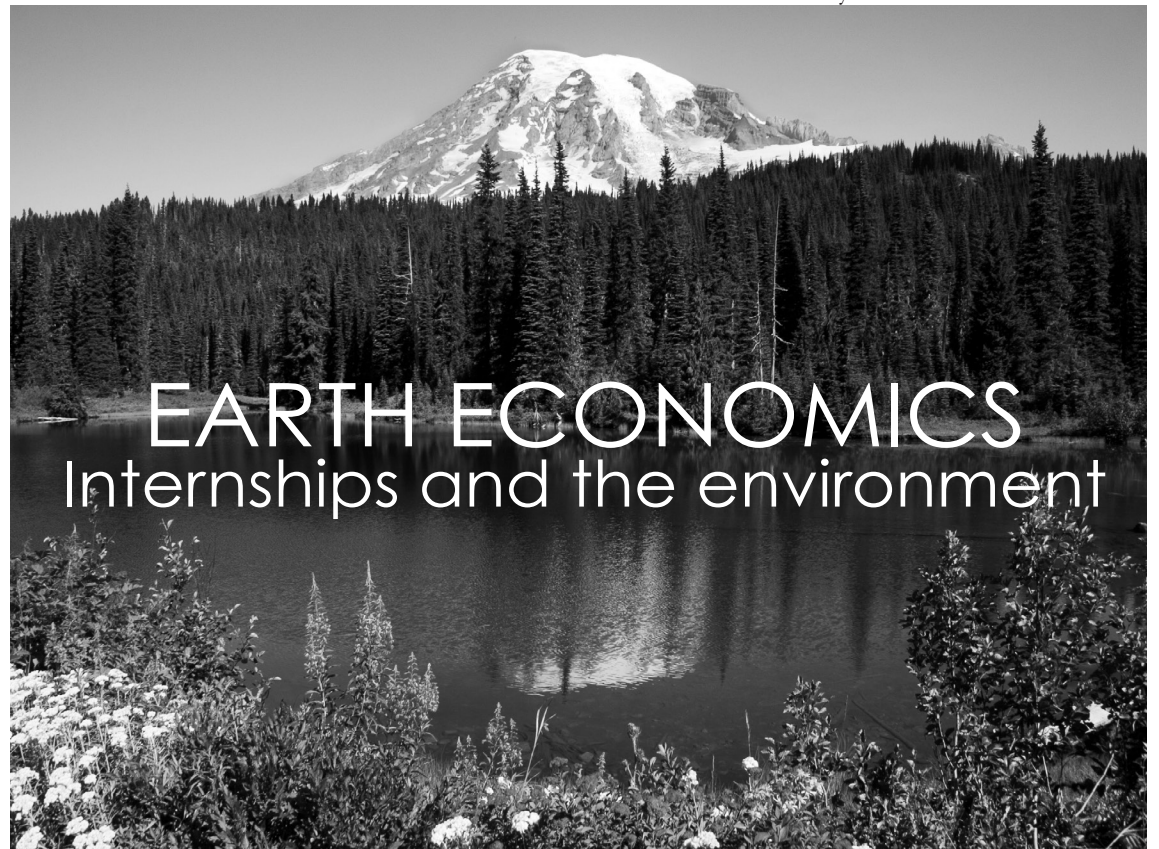
According to the Associate Vice President of RAD Facilities, William Ward, the Hot Spot exists because of compromised steam pipes running underneath the campus. This causes hot steam and condensation to collect underneath the block of concrete nearby residence hall A. The phenomenon heats up the surface, making for a good place to cuddle with your boo or watch the clouds roll by (if you’re lonely).

There are still warnings and barriers set up around the affected area, to hopefully prevent students from getting near it when the heat rises, and the steam pressure has been lowered to the lowest pos-

sible level without losing student housing heat. (For once RAD isn’t giving residents the cold shoulder).

However, this solution is merely temporary. A more permanent solution will be employed when the weather heats up and heating student housing is no longer an issue. According to Ward, “The current Hot Spot near student housing was repaired in 2014. The reason for this Hot Spot area will be known once the area is opened to investigate the root cause of the excessive heat.” So it turns out this has happened before, and it appears that fixing it may require excavation of the affected area to investigate further; Don’t worry however about deadly, deadly steam, as pressure will be shut off before this happens.

The most famous Hot Spot is not the only one on campus. There is another similar locale behind the Costantino Recreation Center. That one is heavily cordoned off, but it seems the same underlying issue is causing both of them. On the bright side, these issues with compromised steam pipes are currently contained in the two previously mentioned areas for the time being. There should be no problems as long as you stay clear of those places — think of it as a chance to try a new route across campus, after all, you don’t want to be caught in the crossfire if the Hot Spot suddenly explodes (though this likely won’t happen). The conditions are constantly being monitored for any changes or abnormalities, but for the time being this is what we know. It appears that administration is doing all they can to fix this issue as soon as possible, but hopefully it won’t mean losing our beloved Hot Spot forever.



EARTH ECONOMICS Internships and the environment

By PRINCIPE GUILTY JR

You experience all the wonders of the environment in the northwest; the rainy days and nights, cold winters, and the absolutely gorgeous parks. It’s not surprising to find many of us Pacific Northwesterners are filled with great joy for the environment. Some people show their love in their words and others in their actions.

Earth Economics does both, and is offering the opportunity for interns to join their team. Since 1998, this non-profit organization has had businesses consult them about making the best decisions, that will do the least harm to the environment as possible.

On a bright Friday morning, I got the opportunity to ask Jean Jenson, an Operation and Research analyst at Earth Economics, a few questions pertaining to internships.

Jenson told me there are three traits they are looking for in an intern. A successful candidate would be “independent, dependable, and intuitive.” Independent in terms of working confidently on your own. Next, I wanted to know how important the role of an intern’s passion for the environment is to the internship. Jenson’s response was that it was very important and that “they should value nature and have a deeper

understanding of the environment.”

According to Jenson, skills that an intern could gain include, “broad interdisciplinary skills such as writing, client relation, and technical skills. Building an understanding of a professional environment, and the dependability involved in showing up to a job. As well as, finding your own passion and being subjected to different career paths.” He added that these were key skills for every student to know.

After speaking to her about what interns get out of this exploratory journey, I wanted to know what ways an intern could be hands-on and what the benefit to that is. This internship offers the opportunity for interns to experience hands-on learning in “[producing] reports and [sending] analysis to clients. One hands-on way interns would be interacting is through geographic information systems (or GIS), this involves mapping and adding layers of data about the environment and informing the public about it.”

There are three internship positions types available: business development, research analyst, and research assistant. A business development intern researches a foundation and finds funding. A research an-

alyst intern’s job is to provide whatever research is needed, as well as help with general needs. This depends on individual project need, but could include a study such as the one Emily, a former intern, did on biodiversity in tropical tourist settings. The right person to fill the research assistant intern position would be someone that has good client relations.

When asked whether jobs are offered to interns after the internship has ended, Jenson explained that “Anyone is welcome to apply for jobs with Earth Economics after the internship, but jobs being offered depend on Earth Economics’ financial situation. Bestowing a permanent position is difficult for a nonprofit.” Jenson herself started as an intern at a different non-profit and through those past connections, she ended up working at Earth Economics. An internship with Earth Economics can open doors for future work with the environment and nonprofits.

If you are interested in applying for an internship at Earth Economics, you can send an email to jjenson@economics.com with your resume, cover letter, a writing sample and letter of recommendation.

Community

Conversations For Community

Intersex Voices At Evergreen, Part 2

By Mason Soto

In planning this article and asking for interviews, I wanted to showcase academic and activist work that I saw happening in the communities around me. After the presidential memo in October that attempted to redefine sex as immutable, biological, and binary, the need to uplift and engage with intersex, trans, Two Spirit, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people seemed all the more urgent.

Thus, the following conversations with two intersex students are not about a singular experience, but about who these students are and what they are up to, as well as their thoughts on language, theory, beauty, survival, and more. Hopefully, these transcripts can open up chances for further recognition and collaboration across our community. Look for the rest of these long convos in our next issues!

(This is the continuation of interviews published in our previous issues.)

Augustine

*Any plans for Intersex Awareness Day?
Showing up.*

A resolution in California recently affirmed intersex rights against genital mutilation, the first state to do so. What do you hope to see happen for intersex people in the future with regard to medical processes and understanding?

Respect. Awareness. Love, compassion, tenderness.

*I mean, what more can you ask?
Right.*

So I want to talk about the recent presidential memo that would define sex as either male or female, unchangeable, and determined by the genitals a person was born with. It's been an effort to limit trans people's protections, but this memo seems to ignore and contradict what already goes on as far as medical intervention with regards to intersex people. Indeed it seems to ignore intersex existence altogether. What are your thoughts on the memo and the state of intersex rights?

He doesn't get to decide. Going back to the idea of showing up. I mean, I will fight everyone, including him. And I will become an X-Men, I will become stronger than anything that has come before. He doesn't get to decide what belongs and what doesn't belong,

where, and what. He doesn't get to do that. Because I wake up every day, I am standing in opposition to it.

You have incredible style. I always see people complimenting it, and I'm one of those people. So what do style and beauty mean to you?

Everything! Everything, it's all there is. I think about it in terms of metaphor, how we alchemize our existence, and we adorn ourselves. Fashion, style, is a communication, and it's also a context. It's something that we're aware of, and that we wish to not only inhabit, but exhibit. I think about that realm of exhibition, of being like a perpetual exhibition. We get to be art. And that means — you know, everything bows down to beauty. Everything. Even the rain. When you bow down to something there's a devotion, there's also a comfort. You find a home within the context of comfort. Beauty and style is one of those subliminal significances. It means that there's hope, because there's effort.

Amazing. Like wow. So as someone who doesn't see people like themselves represented in media, what does it mean to navigate the world and social media representing your authentic self?

Going back to X-Men strength. We're mutant and proud. That's the whole point

of art, isn't it though? Doing something that's never been done before. So yes, it's going to be erroneous, and yes it's going to look like perhaps existence in and of itself is fault. However, that in and of itself can be stylized, and become charming and cute. And when I go through this world, there's a power in my fight to belong. I don't have any point of reference. No one has ever been Augustine before. I'm gonna get it wrong, but maybe I'll get it right — in terms of not going the way of Virginia Woolf.

Yeah. Yeah, I mean you better! Even as representation increases, people have talked about the limits of representation, tokenization and commodifying aspects of it. How do you think the community and its goals can overcome or see past that?

Stop being afraid of ourselves. Post-structuralize it. Get the fuck over the limits. There's no limits.

Alright, tell me about your writing, your work as an artist. What's important to you about your voice?

That I have one. Period.

You and I often talk about how language can be simultaneously a limit and a catalyst for understanding, and for me this notion is really relevant to identity politics.

Yeah, in terms of like, we just want context, language itself is a trajectorial metaphor for something that we want access to in terms of identification. Like, what I say to you, you could perceive as powerful. The metaphor therein is that I want to be that powerful, I want to feel that powerful. But if existence is failure, I don't know. Maybe I fail in my pursuit of power.

Anything else you want to talk about?

I think what's important about being intersexed is identity being a suspended thing. And going back to survival, I've always had to go into the realm of epigenetics, and chemistry, biology, molecularism, to say that my anatomy, my atomic number — I can't seek societal validation. I have to seek cosmic validation. To go back to my atomic number. The fact that our genes and molecules made us; we have purpose regardless of what society says. They don't matter. I mean, they matter, but we matter. Literally, we are matter.

Jonathan

So you got to help professors that you met through conferences shape curricular. How so?

Shaping curriculum to be more intersex inclusive by telling my story. Talking about how in biology it was hard for me in high school. I would refuse to do the DNA swabs and stuff like that because I thought, they're going to think that I'm weird, like, it'll come out. So talking about that and in sex-ed in high school, for the people that are fortunate enough to get it, the need to not talk about just the two sex dichotomy. And not being like, this is a male, this a female, this is what their bodies look like, but knowing that that there are bodies in between that, far over, wherever they're at. There is not a body that is going to look identical, and growing up I still think that I never thought about that, that people aren't identical. Kind of just invalidated my own existence to assimilate and feel okay, feel with everybody.

I got to talk to a professor and a social worker, and they were like, thank you so much. Once they thanked me it set in. I was like, okay this is something amazing. From then on, I was like, I gotta do more. I started a whole circuit of conference after conference. I've been to Rutgers University, I've been to Yale, I've been to Harvard. It's been really cool just to do it.

Are you still working with interACT Youth?

Yes, I am still a youth member with interACT. I do a lot of work with them when it comes to traveling or hosting workshops. Most of them are about interACT, how I've been involved with them and how that organization has not only helped me grow but given me opportunity to help shape the organization. I got to help coordinate our youth program development, and that was amazing to get input and shape a program that's going to last and have more capacity to take on more intersex youth, and to develop resources that we don't have.

And you're a GLAAD Campus Ambassador as well, what does that involve?

Helping to accelerate equality, acceptance of the LGBTQ community — they still haven't added the 'I' in

their mission statement, which is a mess, but we're working towards it. Specifically on college campuses across the U.S., there's, I think, about 140 campus ambassadors altogether. Last year, I was by myself Evergreen's campus ambassador, and I did a lot of work the Trans and Queer Center to actually put on events and host a couple Intersex Awareness Day things, as well as some film screenings and stuff like that to do education that I see is lacking, extremely lacking.

And now there's two campus ambassadors, me and So'le Celestial. We get to train and learn about media, and how telling our stories in writing can actually reach masses. We learn from GLAAD on media institutes and learn how to write to grab people. And especially activist writing. Activist writing is, you're standing strong in your point, you're not wavering but you're giving details and information, and you're also being relatable in anyway you can.

In a video for GLAAD for Black History Month, you said of your blackness, "I have to claim it because I was given it. It's a gift." Can you speak more to that?

Yeah. I think being black, my black identity, my black ancestry, in general just is a gift. It's that culture, that connection to the world. Knowing that my people have been so resilient across the world. It's a gift to be able to be affiliated and be a part of that history, and to help add to it, has been amazing. I'm so joyed, I'm happy, I'm living and just knowing that my black identity is so important to me and it's something that I've learned to love.

Because growing up it was like, 'Oh you're black, cool, that's all, we're done.' But never talking about the nuances of black identity and the resilience of black folks. Not only in America, but the Caribbean where my family is originally from. Beyond the Caribbean. From the continent of Africa, and just knowing that black people exist in every part of the world.

And also just how all-encompassing black identity is because it is a very international thing. Where we talk about the break down of black and African American and what that is. Black identity is held by so many people and there's

no monolith of blackness. It's a gift, I think. It's amazing. It's reinvigorating to think about whose come before me to take the steps for me to be able to continue. Just knowing that gives me motivation to continue and to reach out, especially to those black intersex youth that haven't had the resources or don't talk about it.

Because in the black community a lot of times we don't want to talk about anything that could be seen as wrong with you because everyone already sees you as violent so it's pushed away. Like mental health is pushed away, intersex variations are pushed away. Anything that to them is out of the normal or out of the conversation.

So it's just amazing to be a part of the resistance and be a part of a legacy of not only my black identity but my grandmother's, my grandfather's. It's really cool to know that I'm the next step. That however my life ends, kids, whatever that may be, that I get to pass that on. And I get to gift them something that can never be taken away. And hopefully they'll have a place where they learn to love it from the beginning and not halfway into life, or twenty years into their life.

You talked about activist writing, and I think that reading some of your stuff, there's this certain quality to it where it's positive. Not unwaveringly positive, but I think you have an optimism to your writing. Do you think that's true, and for you, what is important for your voice?

I know that I am a very unique individual. Been told that a long time, very outspoken, I say wild things and perceive things in an interesting way and I include that in my writing as much as possible, like I want it to be my voice. I don't edit my work. I don't go back and revise because I don't believe in that. Obviously some grammatical stuff, but I don't believe in second-guessing my heart in my own writing because I think that's a very colonial structure and its a way that white supremacy was able to erase a lot of history. By making people take that out, add something different. Like who came up with the writing process? Guarantee its a white man. 100% guaranteed.

And so, me fighting back and making my writing as accessible and relatable as pos-

sible is so important. So I try not to use big words. I try to talk from my heart, and I try to talk from a non-academic standpoint because it's a privilege that I get to be here in the academy, having a job here, understanding how it works. It's a big privilege and I want to be able to reach more people.

I loved your letter to Big Freedia, and how you weaved together these ideas about representation, dance, joy, self-expression. Can we talk about, as you put it, the 'real world implications that pop culture can have'?

Yeah, I think pop culture is what shapes our conversations. Pop culture is what is remembered. Pop culture is what I think can have the opportunity not only to shape conversations but to shape education, to shape curriculum, to shape politics, as we've seen. To shape movements, and that includes Beyonce, Jay-Z, Rihanna, people that we don't think in a sense have power. Rihanna's empire is growing, Fenty, all this other stuff and how those have become such a big part of pop culture that they've began to actually help people that don't have voices, help people that don't have access to things. Fenty lingerie being plus size, and having the right color of nude, multiple nudes for different skin tone. It starts to change things.

It has implications if we talk about racism. And now its been with Trump and all this extra stuff, that's starting to become an integral part of conversation now, for everybody. Even if some people are like, I'm tired of it, or whatever, it's starting to become a part of the conversation every time. Now it's a part of the mainstream culture for us to bring up racism. And that's a conversation that needed to be brought up and pop culture has done that.

That includes musicians talking about it, making analogies in their music about it, or artists making beautiful murals and stuff about racism, and what happens, the hurt and the trauma that its caused. To educate people, and reach, and reach until people are actually learning and able to have discourse and nuance, and start to shape a perspective on it. I think that pop culture in general has a lot of real-world implications that we a lot of time

forget.

There are one hit songs that people will forever remember, that people say bring people together. Like the Cupid Shuffle. That's a song that everyone learns the dance, when they see people dancing they go and try. It's one of those songs that was very popular in pop culture and now has moved into a community building song, but no one says it has, it just happens.

That's a really cool perspective. So, you're always serving in photos. What does style and beauty mean to you? How does it intersect with your notions of self?

I used to, and I still do sometimes latch on to things like, 'I want to look like this person.' But knowing that nothing has ever been for me, nothing's ever been created for me, nothing in the fashion industry. I've never had clothes made specifically for me, for my person, for my identities or anything. Being a big person, being intersex, having breasts and still trying to dress masc — and I'm not going to wear a binder, I embrace having breasts and it's a part of me that I love and continue to love.

How do I change the narrative by how I dress is something that I think about all the time actually, because when I want to shop there's maybe five places I can shop. I can't go anywhere in stores, I have to pray things come in the right size. I think style and beauty — we always say beauty's in the eye of the beholder, but I think that's a super simplified version of how it really works. It all comes down to social conditioning.

Like us knowing that we're beautiful inside and out, knowing that we're gorgeous human beings, knowing that we can show however we want to show. But it's scary to know that it's still in someone else's hand to help you move forward and live your life, whether that's getting a job or whatever.

Even if we talk about queer media. Why does every popular person in queer media, in magazines, Teen Vogue, whatever. Why are they skinny? Why are they conventionally attractive? Even if they're people of color, they're people you would put on a magazine. They're people you would put as a headline. So why is it that

way? That's people's perception of beauty and the continuation of upholding these beauty standards that are eurocentric, but now have hopped onto terms like 'diversity' and 'inclusion.'

'We need a brown person, lemme check that box,' but no one is going to say they're doing that. Especially with queer magazines and big LGBTQIA media. 'We're here for this.' Are you really? Your whole staff is skinny. Like, what?

I work with HRC [Human Rights Campaign] and they just did a shoot with J Crew. Why is everyone in that shoot thin and conventionally attractive? There's like no blemishes, no acne. The type of people you see on magazines anyway. Even though it was a fight to even have brown and black people on magazines, now that they're there, that's all we have is skinny folks. When we look at trans representation, skinny folks. Any queer representation, its skinny people. Even intersex representation is usually a skinny white femme.

Beauty is a complexity of its own. It is what you make it and how you think and how you feel. But we also for some reason all want to have the same style, but with little tweaks because of our personalities. We all want to assimilate to that one idea of style. 'I wanna be a model', so you're going to try and dress like every model you've ever seen. But we all buy the same clothes also. The complexity is that stores sell everything the same, we don't make our own clothes. Like there is no uniqueness a lot of the times to our clothing. That's just a complex whole thought of, what is beauty, what is style?

And then relating it to LGBTQIA stuff, you have to be stylish to get somewhere in the queer world. You have to look — the queer look. Whether that's putting nail polish on and being masc presenting, or being thin, or wearing heels, it is what it is.

You and other GLAAD ambassadors signed a letter to Congress about gun violence. I thought it was interesting to see how that intersects with queer issues. What about that, and other larger cultural issues — how do you see queer intersections as important or invigorating for those causes?

I think it boils down to me listening and learning from elders, and the amazing words

that elders say, especially black and indigenous elders, about how we're not liberated until we're all free. In mass shootings, school shootings, gun violence, police brutality, I guarantee it happens to queer people. There is a guarantee that people of all intersections of life, walks of life, cultures, deal with gun violence especially in America.

And then the increasing numbers of gun violence specifically with certain populations, as in black trans femmes, trans women in general. Just how one community that I'm apart of is constantly targeted, that makes it a very intersectional issue. Whether its gun violence, or fatphobia, or the efforts of decolonization — its a queer subject.

So California recently banned intersex genital mutilation, the first state to do so. How was finding out about that, and how has the medical industrial complex effected your life?

Wow, that's a big one. So, with the resolution that they had, it's one of the biggest misconceptions: it's not banned. They didn't ban the surgery. It's the first state to recognize that intersex surgeries are human rights violations. It's like the first stepping stone to create an actual policy, like a law.

For me, specifically being a survivor of intersex surgery, its near and dear to my heart. Being able to write my own testimony, that was not only used in the Washington Blade, but used as testimony for why it needs to be banned in California. It's mind blowing to think about how the medical industrial complex not only did surgery on me but does it on babies every day, every minute around the world. It's not just an American issue, it's an issue for everyone. Everyone can have an intersex kid, and so what are we gonna do?

And it's like, how much power the medical industrial complex has over society as a whole, it's insane to me. Especially in America, if you wear a white coat you have the end all, say all.

(These interviews are posted in full on our website.)



Oscar Abbott

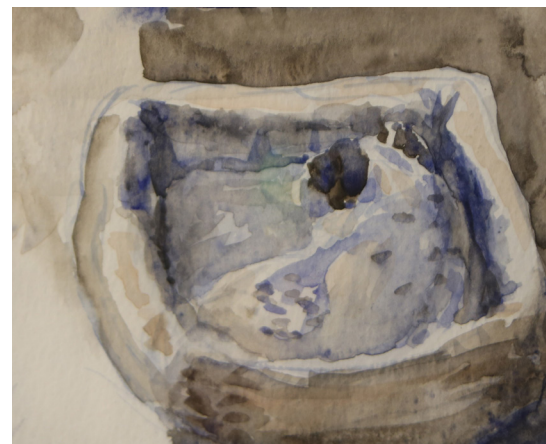
artist interview by
Brittanyana Pierro
on page 13

“It runs all over the place and the colors just run with the water. It’s really hard to make corrections, so if you make mistakes you just have to roll with it.”






“I first started drawing dinosaurs. When I was like 4. I think I saw Jurassic Park or something and it got me obsessed.”



“It’s unruly. You kind of have to work with it. It’s really chaotic and difficult to control, and so you have to kind of like work with its chaos, instead of trying to control it too much.”

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Illustrated portrait. Courtesy of Danny PiG.



By Zainab Ummie Sillah

SATURDAY 2/9

CHIBI CHIBI CON

CRC, Purce Hall, & Recital Hall 12 p.m. - 11 p.m.
All Ages. Free!

What's funner than a day in cosplay? Sponsored by the Greener Anime Society (GRAS), Chibi Chibi Con is a student-produced anime convention. Events include a cosplay contest, lip-sync contest, an EDM & disco dance, plus much more! Between events check out cool costumes and great vendors.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Capital High School. 4 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. All Ages.
Students \$ 10; GA \$15

2019 is the Year of the Pig! Join the Olympia Area Chinese Association as they ring in the lunar new year with fun activities and delicious food. Performances by the Chinese School!

FINISH HER! A DRAG COMPETITION

Speakeasy Bar & Bistro. 8 p.m.
18+, \$

Join Episcene and friends as they lip sync for their life. Performances by Delyla Dalyte, Autumn Rainz Hart, Carrie Morningwood, Candace Lexia, Alpha Q Awlk-night, DanaLou, Dutchess Beck, Selena Synthetic, and hosted by Episcene. Watch as these ladies battle for the title of Queen of Olympia!



Happy Black History Month!

WEDNESDAY 2/6 - THURSDAY 2/7

IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK

Capitol Theatre. 4 p.m.

All Ages.

It's Black History Month! Kick it off by viewing one of the most talked about films of this year. Based on the novel by James Baldwin, *If Beale Street Could Talk* follows Tish as she fights to prove her fiance's innocence, as she carries their first-born child to term.

Can the power of love bring about justice? And is there such a thing as the Black American Dream? There are two viewings on WED 2/6 at 7 p.m. & THURS 2/7 at 4 p.m. Tickets are available at the box office ½ an hour before showtimes.

THURSDAY 2/7

BLACK HISTORY PRESENTS:

THE MUSIC OF J DILLA

Rhythm & Rye. 9 p.m., 21+

THURSDAY 2/21

BLACK HISTORY PRESENTS:

SOUL, FUNK & DISCO

Rhythm & Rye. 9 p.m., 21+

TUESDAY 2/26

BLACK HISTORY PRESENTS:

WOMXN'S NIGHT

Rhythm & Rye. 9 p.m., 21+

SATURDAY 2/23

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME:

I AM MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Barnes and Noble

1530 Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY 2/27 - 2/28

WCLM, PRESENTS:

**ROSA CLEMENTE, ORGANIZER,
POLITICAL COMMENTATOR**

Media Island International

816 Adams St SE, Olympia. 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m



Heart made of plantlife collected in Evergreen forest. Courtesy of Evergreen archives. SHAUNA BITTLE.

Evergreen

Overshares

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

This woman who wouldn't stop looking at her phone. She even called her mom while we were eating at a restaurant. I drove all the way to Tacoma for this shit.

Jeni, Senior

Junior prom. My partner didn't eat any of the food that I bought. She didn't dance with me at all. We didn't take any pictures. And she kept trying to sleep with me the entire night.

Anthony, Student Activities secretary

Someone from my improv team. They were SnapChatting their ex-girlfriend the whole time.

Tiger, sophomore

Someone I'd gone to high school with. He just talked trash on all of my friends the whole time.

Jess, sophomore

This person I thought was on a date with, but then they asked out someone else right in

My worst date was...

Moya, sophomore

My first, quote unquote, "date". This guy had just enough quarters to buy himself a slice of pizza and I watched him eat it. That was it. That was

Lexi, Sophomore

This guy who took me to the beach, but he just wanted to go Pokémon Go hunting.

Daisy, Freshman

Going to see Eragon with this girl I'd been dating. She tried to tell me she just wanted to be friends, but I was an idiot and didn't pick up on the signs. She emailed me a few days later to say we were done. Didn't help that the movie sucked

Drew, Alumni

Someone I met on Tinder. We met at a restaurant off the highway in Tacoma and then he said he'd show me somewhere we could take photographs. I followed him around in my car for like an hour and a half. And when we got there, the place wasn't that spectacular.

Keely, Senior

This boy I met at my work. He took me to the waterfront and he wanted to go skinny dipping, then afterwards he brought up marriage. I was too scared to have him at my house, so I asked him to drop me off at work

Brooklyn, freshman

Kind of an accidental date. This guy asked me to get Thai food and I didn't realize it was supposed to be a date. As we were walking down the street after, he kissed me. He had never kissed anyone before and it was really slobbery.

Zoe, junior

Someone invited me to watch Netflix and they asked me to have sex three minutes into watching that Bird Box movie. I immediately left. It was really awkward and we haven't talked since.

Martha, junior



The Other Hot Spots

By Brittanyana Pierro

Love can't wait, and sometimes neither can we. Here are few places on campus to make your luv private in time for Valentine's Day. Hypothetically, of course. Whatever you're up to come the 14th, the Cooper Point Journal is not accountable for any debauchery.

Roofs

- Library Roof

The best part of going up to the roof of the Library building is getting lost trying to find your way there. Make a whole day of sneaking past janitors and admins, and reward yourself with a colorfully backlit night.

- SEM II Roof

The roofs of SEM II are surprisingly easy to get to, and they have a great nighttime view. Bring a couple of chairs, maybe a blanket and a bottle of wine (non-alcoholic, of course, Officer) — you're ready to interrupt some classes.

Basements

- Library Basement

The most versatile of spots, in my opinion. The basement can make your Danny Phantom fantasies come to life, and the photo studio has some untapped video making potential.

- CAB Basement

The basement of the CAB has a lot of long dark hallways and random empty rooms. Also if you happen to find a way into the storage closets, you just found the perfect place for a secret rendezvous, and like, lots of free shit. Again, hypothetically.

Soccer Field

A late night stroll around the field turned into something more? The bleachers on the far east side of the field are the way to go. Or, if you're lucky, the small soccer gym will be open.

Forest

Get down and dirty with Daddy Nature.

Communications Building

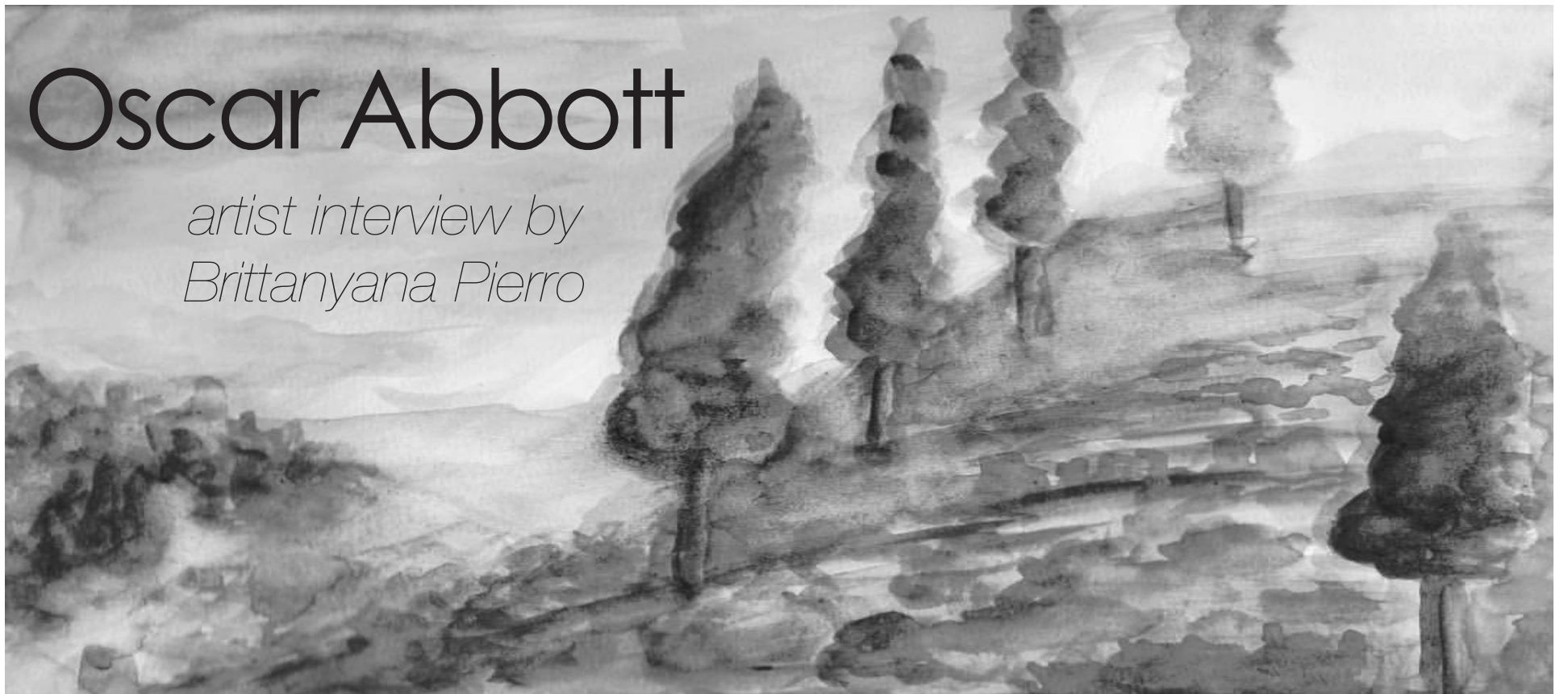
The Com. Building is definitely your best bet when it comes to finding privacy. There are a plethora of rooms available for two-hour 'check outs', and even a few dance studios if ya feeling freaky. An anonymous student source recommends trying out room D410.

Honorable mentions

- Single Stall Bathrooms
- Third Floor of the Library
- Any Empty Classroom

Oscar Abbott

*artist interview by
Brittanyana Pierro*



When did you start painting?

I actually didn't really paint until, like, a couple years ago.

But I've drawn my whole life kind of. At first, I got interested in oil painting, because you can get all sorts of rich colors and value changes and stuff. And then I got watercolors to travel with, because I was going on a trip to Minnesota and wanted to bring painting stuff because I was like, trying to learn how to paint and you can travel with watercolors. And it was really difficult. I didn't like it at first, but now it's kind of my favorite medium.

Really? Why?

It's unruly. And you kind of have to work with it. It's really chaotic and difficult to control. And so you have to kind of like work with its chaos, instead of trying to control it too much. If that makes sense.

What appeals to that like idea, I guess, of working with the chaos?

I guess it's more fun. Like, if I look at projects that I'm working on right now (and different parts of my life), if I'm working on something creatively, a lot of times my work area, or whatever I'm working on will just be really messy. Which, I know a lot of people like that. But I think that that's perfect for watercolor because it just runs all over the place. And the colors just run with the water throughout the entire paper. And then it's really hard to make corrections. So if you make mistakes, you just have to

roll with it.

When did you start drawing and what was some of your inspiration?

I first started drawing dinosaurs when I was like, four-ish, I'd imagine, and I would draw like, their skeletons and stuff inside of them. I think I saw Jurassic Park or something, and it got me like, obsessed with dinosaurs. And my sister was an artist. I think I [started drawing] as a way to, like, have an activity to do with her. I kind of was inspired by her.

What kind of artist is she?

At the time, she was really into, like, anime and stuff. And now she actually like works drawing for, like, a manga company, which is cool. So I mean, she ended up working in a field that she liked. She was drawing anime stuff for a long, long time. Yeah.

I would kind of draw in school. I won a competition when I was really young for this really awful, crappy cowboy drawing that I'm actually using in my project in Media Works, as a joke.

What's the project you're doing in Media Works?

It's a self representation video project.

And what are you doing yours on?

Well, I'm kind of doing it on me I guess. How I've learned to approach things creatively is that it has to be fun for me, at least in class. And so part of it is representing like, my approach to differ-

ent aspects of film in a fun way that kind of is meant to leave a fingerprint of like, who I am through the process. Which is kind of the opposite of like, how I am with watercolors, because I feel like my watercolors never meet my expectations. It can be like a negative process painting because I'm so inspired by very particular painters. And I know all the ways that I kind of messed up on the way to completing a picture.

And so no matter what, I can always be like, "It's a failure." But I can recognize its merits to I think I've learned to do that. Or else I would just stop painting all together.

What is your creative process? When you're starting to paint a piece, how do you get to that point? And what do you do at that point?

Well, it depends on where I'm at. Kind of right now, whenever I'm approaching the painting, I look for something to draw from life. And I look for something that's kind of at my level of understanding in painting, as far as, how light is affecting the form and value patterns, and things like that. Things that are really good for me right now are chairs. Starting out with a simple composition, and then thinking about how light is kind of like turning the form. And then once I have a full conception of what I'm trying to do when I'm painting, then I start to paint. That way I can just — every brushstroke can be on purpose, everything's there for a reason.

I enjoy really holding the bar high for myself or at least trying to do that. When I paint, I'm to the point where it's,

like, not as fun as it would be. But every painting becomes an opportunity to, learn more about what I'm doing. I approach it as a way to study how to paint things.

And that's fun. For me, I think.

What does that mean to you, the idea of being intentional?

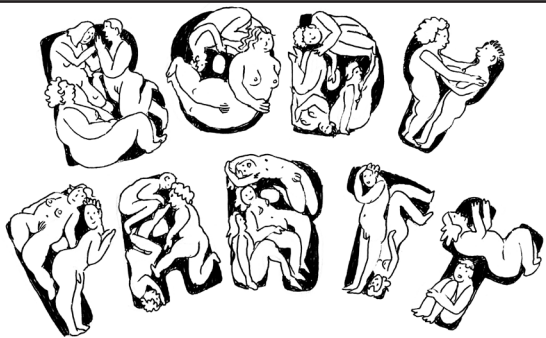
The thing that you recognize as skill with a certain medium is when you know how to do what you want to do deliberately, then in the most effective, efficient way as possible. Like when you're painting something, and you think about it, how you're going to approach it. Thinking about what approach you're going to take, and how you're going to get certain effects visually, and planning it out like that, before you even start painting.

I like the idea anything in your field of vision or anything you come across is worthy of painting. It's worthy of being a subject, you just have to take time to study it, or have care enough to look at it in a certain way and learn about it.

**Mary Kiss, JJ Hilder, and John Singer Sargent are three of the painters Abbott is influenced by in their work.*

Letters & Opinion

RUBY THOMPSON



Dear Body Party,

My partner and I have been going steady for a while and we've been getting along great. Long walks on the dock downtown, looking at Mt. Rainier together at sunset, all that cheesy shit. Recently, they finally popped the big question... They want to have Anal Sex. I'm excited, I really am! I mean, so far we've only done non-ass activities but I trust them enough to show them my asshole and honestly, I think it'd be sort of sexy! But I must confess... I've never done butt stuff before! What should I expect? And more importantly, how do I, like, not shit on my lover?

Help,
Ready For Fifth Base

Dear Ready 4 5th,

Wowee! How romantic! Anal sex can be one of the more vulnerable sex things you do with a partner and it can be really special to share that experience with someone! But (haha, butt) I agree, it can also be super stressful to do it for the first time. There is a lot of weird, shitty misinformation floating around out there about butt stuff and sorting through what is real and what is not can leave one feeling a little pooped. Worry not, you're talking to me, the mASStEr, Booty Party.

First, my biggest piece of advice is to prepare beforehand. Make sure you're comfortable with anal stimulation by taking some time by yourself to explore the great outback. Allowing yourself to do some gentle touching and rubbing of your sweet rose bud while you're loving on yourself (by this, I mean masterbating) can help you Pavlov yourself into associating your ass with, like, sex and not just pooping.

Also, if you're going to be exploring this new land, keep in mind that not all toys are made for your butt. Some can even be super dangerous to stick in there! Only toys with a flared base, meaning the base is much thicker than the actual toy itself, should be used for butt stuff. This is because your butt has no end. It goes on forever and ever and things can (and frequently do) get stuck up there. You don't want to have to go to the ER with a vibrator up your ass, do you? Imagine trying to get your insurance to cover that.

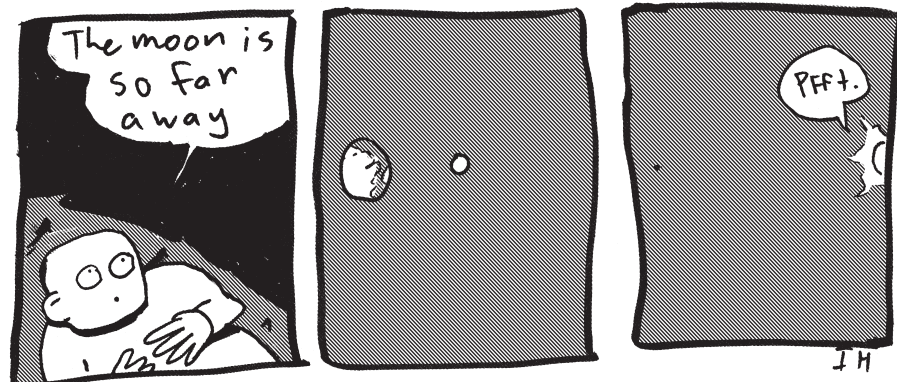
Now that you're acquainted with your hidden hole, you might be feeling ready for some good, old fashioned penetration. But not so fast! Aren't

you and your dry ass forgetting something? Lube! Lube is going to be your best friend when it comes to anal sex. Unfortunately, unlike the other cool and fun holes in your body, your booty does not lubricate itself. Wouldn't that be kind of hellish if it did? Yikes. But for better or for worse, the only way that (gender neutral) bad boy is getting slippery is by your own accord. So why be conservative? Put a big ol' glob on your partner's finger(s)/flared based toy/penis/other and go ahead and cover your asshole with it too. There is really no such thing as too much lube here and trust me, it'll make things go a whole lot more smoothly. Just a tip.

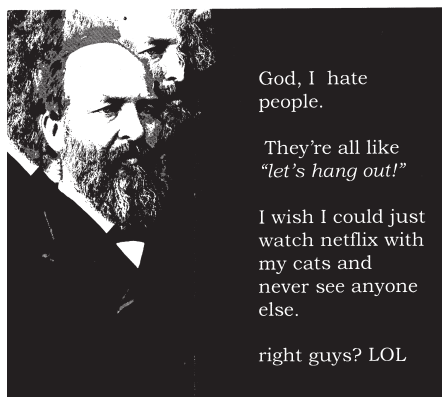
Speaking of just the tip, always remember that you can go as slow as you want or need. Although you may want to go straight into lustful and enlightened dagger-time now that you're an Anal Sex Haver (™), consider not doing that! I know, I get it. Anal sex can feel so cool and grown up but you're not quite there yet, pardner! Go super slow at first, and use shallow thrusting until you feel SUPER comfortable with this new addition to your life. Starting in a spooning-like position can be really sweet and romantic, and it can really help you relax and just let things slide. Again, only once you're super comfy with everything should you move to something more advanced like doggy style.

Now, I know what you're thinking. What about the poop? What if I poop on my partner? What if I poop on my bed? What if I poop in class like that one nightmare I had? Poop is this big, scary villain of society, a weird and stinky taboo. But let me tell you a little secret, here first: Poop isn't a big deal. Before I get ahead of myself, you totally will not outright shit on your sweetie. Eating light foods the day prior, making sure to empty your bowels before sex, and showering will all help your lower rectum be empty for the big moment. But I think it's a bigger issue. If you let yourself spend the whole time you're having sex worrying about tiny things in life like a little bit of doo-doo, you're never going to go anywhere in your life. A little bit of shit never hurt anyone (as long as you're, like, not actively sick) and you can't let tiny things rule your life. Be free. Ascend. You're an Anal Sex Haver now! Repeat after me: It is okay if there is poop! I am lovable even if there is poop! I am sexy even if there is poop! Say it out loud! I poop and I am proud!

Cool :-) Anyways, good luck! Bye!
Body Party



by Annie



God, I hate people.

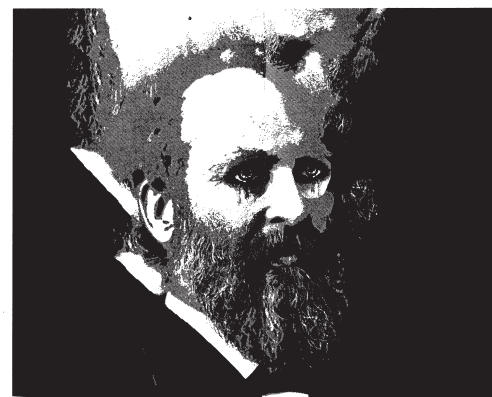
They're all like "let's hang out!"

I wish I could just watch netflix with my cats and never see anyone else.

right guys? LOL



Guys?



Isaac Hollandsworth



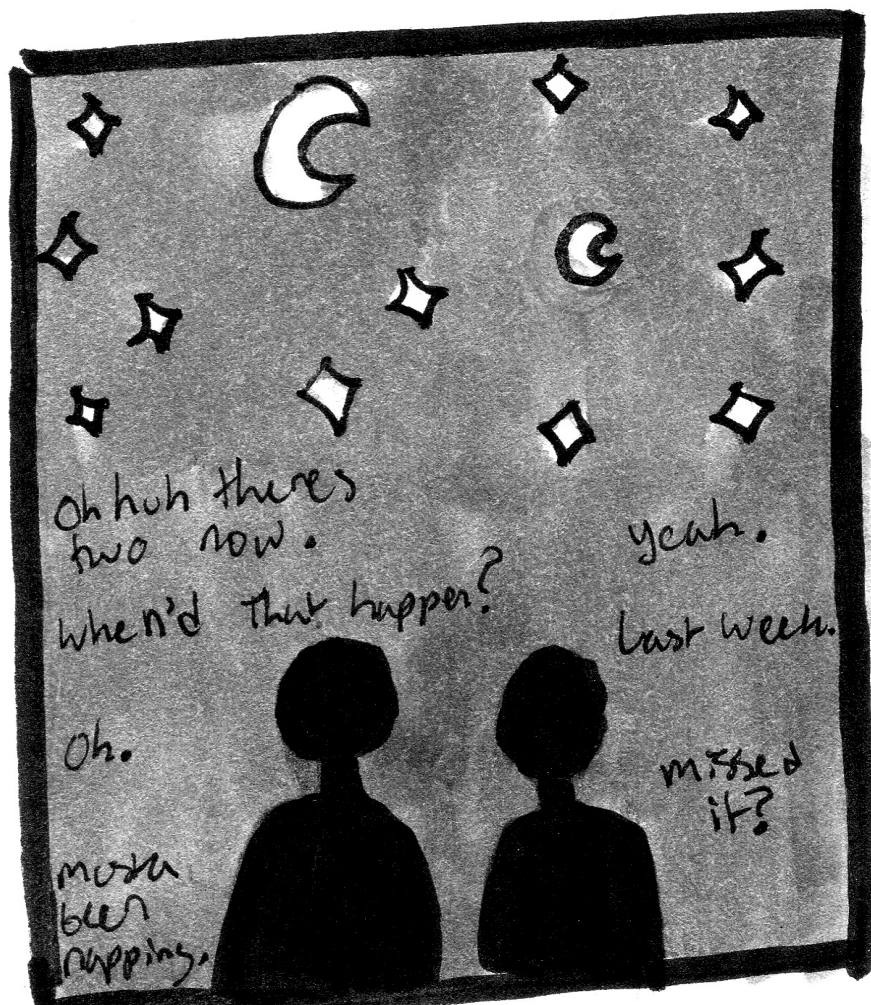
By MARIAH GUILFOIL-DOVEL



Comic by Marcrossart and the Graphic Novel Union



by Kelly



The Moon, Two

by Ella

ARIES 3/21 - 4/19

Love is in the air, but we didn't have to tell you that. Aries are such a dynamic sign that it's hard for you to stay single for long. Well, that is if you stop hibernating and actually leave your room for once. Aries have a great time with most people so your zodiac love interest can't be narrowed down to one. Aries are guaranteed to have a blast with... Aquarius, Sagittarius, Leo, and Gemini.

TAURUS 4/20 - 5/20

Taurus' are definitely an acquired taste. Taurus tend to be very needy in relationships so they are not down to be with too fiery or independent signs, but if that partner can also be cool and collected like a Virgo or a Pisces, then it will be a match made in Evergreen heaven. Signs like Virgos and Pisces will be the perfect pairing to balance out the Taurus. This is a powerful couple.

GEMINI 5/21 - 6/20

Gemini are very compatible with Aquarius' and right now we are smack dab in Aquarius season! Take your crush out on their birthday and make it a night to remember! Gemini's have a calming presence about them that the Aquarius love of your life will be instantly connected with.

CANCER 6/21 - 7/22

Scorpio and Cancer know how to bring joy to one another. Like the perfect first fall of snow and school is actually cancelled! Or the perfect cup of chamomile tea while you snuggle and read silently together about the injustices that plague our world and plan to start a nonprofit together that will finally bring water to the parts of the world that don't have any. You and your Scorpio bae are certified 100% fresh.

LEO 7/23 - 8/22

Who can't a Leo have a good time with?! That's the real question. Leo you are the fun. You bring excitement and energy everywhere you go so why should your love life be any different. While you may have fun with a lot of signs you're gonna need a babe who'll hold you down to reality and appreciate your brain just as much as your other attributes. Virgo's gonna be a solid win for ya. But if you like a challenge hit up a Sagittarius because they can get bored easily and a Leo is sure to keep them on their toes.

VIRGO 8/23 - 9/22

Leo is your fun and fiery soulmate. If you are looking to connect physically, spiritually, and emotionally Leo is your pal. If you're looking for an easy going time, you won't find it in the Leo partner but you will find someone so loyal it'll be worth all the high maintenance moments. Leo's and Aries are some of the few signs that will be able to match a Virgo's intensity. While Virgo is known to be more of a thinker the Leo or Aries match will balance them out by being a whole lotta feelings.

LIBRA 9/23 - 10/22

Arguably the most charming of all signs, perhaps it is time to withdraw from the dating world. Taking time to reflect and recenter is a very noble art. Sometimes it takes more strength to be alone than to rush into a relationship. Libras thrive in a relationship built on honesty and trust, for this a Capricorn or Aquarius will be a great match.

SCORPIO 10/23 - 11/21

Scorpio and Cancer have twin water signs that will be as soothing as a walk by a lake and as passionate as a pounding waterfall. While Scorpio is the most likely to be single this Valentine's Day it's not because they're boring or unattractive. The opposite in fact is true! Scorpios are powerfully charming and seductive and have a hard time staying in one place with one person but when they do it's magnetic.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22- 12/21

Sag's are beautiful and bold and live to explore un-adventured destinations. They get bored quickly with people and find it hard to commit to just one person. Being with an Aries or Leo will help Sagittarius live the wild and free life they crave while still connecting on a very deep level.

CAPRICORN 12/22- 1/19

The symbol of the Capricorn is the Sea Goat, the animal is always on an upward climb from the sea to the mountain summit. Just like you, always on a noble quest. Also, did you know you were the GOAT? So look no further Capricorn to find another Greatest Of All Time, you need another Capricorn in your life. Pisces are also a great fit, and it is perfect timing for you (as always) because it's about to be Pisces birthday. Use this time to find the perfect birthday gift for the Pisces crush in your life and you might just have found your soulmate.

AQUARIUS 1/20 - 2/18

This is your season lover! Be bold in your quest for true love. If you're in a relationship make a grand gesture this Valentine's Day! You already know they like you so there's no reason to be scared! If you're not yet in a relationship it might not be time for you to stand up on a table and serenade your crush while the college's choir and swing band play, BUT that doesn't mean you still can't go up to them and strike up a conversation. Give them a Valentine's Day card and they'll be sure to accept your gesture. Aquarius will vibe the most this V-Day with Gemini and Libra.

PISCES 2/19 - 3/20

Your ability to be in long term relationships is almost unmatched. You know how to hook 'em and reel 'em in. Take things up a notch in your love life though. Don't settle for the same routine. Try doing something that will stimulate your partner like taking an art class together or mountain biking. Anything that will get the creative juices flowing will be a win win this Valentine's Day. Taurus and Capricorn are great matches for a Pisces.

