

the COOPERPOINT

The Evergreen State College Student Newspaper | April 19, 2017 JOURNAL



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HOW WE WORK

The Cooper Point Journal is produced by students at The Evergreen State College, with funding from student fees and advertising from local businesses. The Journal is published for free every other Wednesday during the school year and distributed throughout the Olympia area. Our content is also available online at www.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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Supporters camped outside for the duration of the hunger strike. Photo courtesy of NWDC RESISTANCE.

Northwest Detention Center Detainees go on Hunger Strike

SUPPORTERS SET UP CAMP OUTSIDE THE IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTER

By Felix Chrome

On Monday, April 10, inmates at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma Washington began a hunger strike in protest of what they consider to be inhumane conditions in the Detention Center and unjust long detainment periods prior to seeing a judge or being assigned a court date. Some inmates with jobs in the Detention Center, for which they are usually paid one dollar per day, refused to work along, and many are refusing to purchase items from commissary along with the hunger strike.

The strike began with just over 100 inmates and by April 13, Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) Resistance stated that 750 inmates had joined the hunger strike, representing over half of the inmates estimated to be currently held in the Detention Center.

At the beginning of the strike inmates circulated a list of demands in the Northwest Detention Center. These demands included higher quality food, lower commissary prices, improvements in hygiene such as the ability to wash clothes, increased recreation time, better access to medical care, increased wages for working

detainees, and improvements to the speed of legal processes.

A letter written, originally in Spanish, by someone currently being held in the Northwest Detention Center, released on April 12, addressed this final demand, writing they want "not to be detained for so long, if we are to be deported so be it and to be given a chance to stay and pay bond, or any other way possible to remain. We don't want to be engaged for so long, we believe this is unjust."

The detainee explained the current situation of long detentions prior to court dates writing, "All cases at a mini-

mum are taking at least month and a half to two months just to see a judge who will only read the charges against you, and then you wait for another month to give you a court date, and then decide whether they will deport you or you will get a bond." Maru Mora Villalpando, NWDC Resistance organizer echoed this, saying "They really do not have access to due process."

Non-incarcerated supporters of the hunger strike organized rallies in front of the Detention Center for everyday the hunger strike continued. Some activists involved in the issue set up an encampment

in front the Center, sleeping in tents, in order to have a continued presence twenty-four hours a day for the duration of the strike. Although it was reported that most detainees began eating again on Friday, April 14, the encampment continued until Saturday.

Detainees requested support from those outside the Detention Center, as one wrote in a letter, "We ask the community that is outside to help however they can, help accelerate our immigration process to either deport us or release us on bond. This [prolonged detention] is harming us physically, mentally, morally, and emotionally to people detained and to our families with the simple act of keeping us detained for too long."

Some family members of those currently held in the Detention Center joined the rallies and encampment outside. One child of a detainee addressed the crowd, then spoke to their father directly, saying "Dad if you are seeing this right now, I love you, and I am going to be here for you."

Villalpando highlighted the importance of 'being there' for those incarcerated saying, "The reason why we decided to stay the night is because we wanted to make sure that GEO and ICE know the people inside have real support, real solidarity. We also want to watch out for any kind of retaliation." They said that along with getting messages of those on hunger strike out to media, and making sure attention was focused on the protest, they had legal teams prepared to aid inmates who faced retaliation for the strike.

On Wednesday April 12, Villalpando said the hunger strike has already seen results, telling Pacifica Radio show Rising Up, "People who have been sick are finally being seen by a doctor and people who had their court dates postponed are finally being scheduled."

The Northwest Detention Center is a privately owned and run by the GEO group,

one of the largest private prison companies in the United States. According to the GEO Group's website they currently oversee "the operation and management of approximately 75,000 beds in 64 correctional and detention facilities." The Northwest Detention Center has a maximum capacity of 1575, although some detainees have said they believe at times 1700 people have been detained there, and the facility was overcrowded. Currently there are an estimated 1450 people incarcerated there.

There is currently a class action lawsuit against GEO group alleging that forcing those detained in private immigration facilities to work for a dollar or less per day is slavery, violating federal law. The lawsuit also alleges some detainees were made to work without any compensation, and were threatened with solitary confinement or other punishment if they refused. The class action lawsuit could impact up to 60,000 immigrants who current of former detainees in facilities operated by GEO Group.

There was another hunger strike at the Northwest Detention Center in 2014, which lasted 56 days and garnered a great amount of media coverage. NWDC Resistance began in order to support the inmates in the Detention Center during this strike and has been organizing actions against the Detention Center and deportations generally ever since. In 2014, activists who were not incarcerated also blocked buses taking detainees to be deported, and disrupted other transport.

A representative of GEO Group refused to comment on the hunger strike, referring us to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE said they would provide us with their public statement on the issue, but did not do so before publication of this article.

Community

Trial for Andre & Bryson Begins

By Chloe Marina Manchester

The trial for brothers Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin, two young black men who were both shot by white Olympia Police Officer, Ryan Donald, in May 2015, finally began Monday, April 10, almost two years after they were shot. Both Thompson and Chaplin survived the shooting but Chaplin was left partially paralyzed. Now, Thompson and Chaplin are both on trial for second degree assault in relation to their altercation with the officer who shot them.

The trial was delayed numerous times, because of a hospitalized judge with a toe injury, approaching holidays after he was released, and then the judge's retirement. The trial is expected to continue multiple weeks, through the beginning of May, near the two year anniversary of the shooting. As of Monday April 16, Officer Donald has yet to testify.

As stated in a previous issue of the Cooper Point Journal, Thompson and Chaplin now face assault charges from an alleged attack on Donald, in which he claims they threatened him with a skateboard. At the time Prosecutor Jon Tunheim stated, "In my view, the way the skateboard was described as being used meets the definition of deadly weapon under Washington law." Thompson is also being charged with one count of third degree theft and Chaplin is being charged with three counts of theft and an additional charge of third degree assault for allegedly attacking a supermarket employee.

They both face a second degree assault charge and Chaplin faces an additional third degree charge for allegedly throwing beer at the Safeway employee who confronted them about alleged shoplifting. Chaplin faces three counts of third degree theft and Thompson faces one related count of third degree theft.

In an article in San Francisco Bay View titled "Two sons shot in the back by police: A mother's cry for justice," Thompson and Chaplin's mother, Crystal Chaplin, writes "I was afraid for André and Bryson and remain so to this day. Bryson is now a paraplegic with a bullet in his back from the Olympia police officer who opened fire on him and his brother. When I

learned that he couldn't walk and saw the x-ray that showed the bullet in his spine, my hurt turned to anger. In my heart, I knew the police had lied." Chaplin says the police originally said her sons were shot in the chest, but this was untrue, calling into question Officer Donald's story that the shooting was in self defense.

The officer who shot Thompson and Chaplin was put on administrative leave, but later returned to work in his full capacity. In February of 2016, Donald was one of five officers involved in the detainment of a man who died in police custody.

Court sessions take place from 8:30 in the morning to 4:30 in the evening. Monday through Thursday with a morning break, afternoon break, and lunch break. According to the court support for Andre and Bryson Facebook page, maintained by Olympia SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), the family of Andre and Bryson have requested supporters attend court to show solidarity for the brothers.

Crystal Chaplin commented on the first week of the trial, saying "Sitting in the courtroom during this trial has been overwhelming, exhausting and traumatizing all over again. To watch the Olympia Police testify and lie about the scene is terrifying to us all."

She told us "I thank the Creator for both my sons lives" but expressed a feeling of injustice that Thompson and Chaplin are the ones in court after "they survived police brutality and attempted murder at the hands of Officer Ryan Donald that night."



The facility is in the basement of the Lab 1 building. VAL ARIAS.

Hidden Marine Treasures EVERGREEN DEBUTS NEW STATE OF THE ART AQUARIUM FACILITY

By Val Arias

If you dare enter the labyrinth that is the connected basement of LAB I, II and the Arts Annex, you may happen upon a remodeled wing of this eerie space. Located directly one floor below the biology and chemistry lab spaces on the first floor of LAB I, Evergreen has installed a 13,000 liter recirculating seawater aquarium system, made up of five main "systems," each containing tanks filled with marine life both from the Puget Sound and the tropics.

Though the aquarium facility is often bustling with students in marine science programs, when it is empty and the lights are off, the tropical tanks come alive with beautiful purple tetras and clownfish hiding in anemones. Your eye is then immediately taken to the even more mesmerizing glowing bodies of the native moon jellyfish in the circular planktonkreisel tank, which are nearly transparent in fluorescent light.

The facility was first put to use by the winter quarter program Aquaria: Science and Society, taught by marine science faculty Erik Thuesen and Amy Cook, the first time this program was offered at Evergreen. It was designed largely in part to help establish this new aquarium space, and take advantage of the resources available to teach students about aquarium husbandry, aquarium chemistry, and the ethics of keeping animals captive. Each student was assigned a system, in which some had their very own tank to establish, take care of, and test

every week. The larger tanks— one 1,100 liter tank, one plankton kreisel, and one lone freshwater tank— were taken care of by teams of three or four students and were filled with live rock, Aurelia species of moon jellyfish, and local marine organisms such as plumose anemones, acorn barnacles, ochre sea stars, and various types of crabs. The freshwater tank was filled with different types of aquatic grass and freshwater fishes.

The tropical system, comprised of three medium-sized tanks, were filled with sand and live rock, and were filled with organisms that inhabit the warmer waters— damselfish, and various types of tropical arthropods such as shrimp and crabs.

Throughout the quarter, the students in Aquaria tested the different components of aquarium chemistry— alkalinity, nitrate, dissolved oxygen, phosphate, salinity, temperature— to create a standard for each tank and a foundation for future programs that make use of the facility. At the end of the quar-

ter the students turned in final aquarium technical reports, which will serve as handbooks for husbandry throughout the years to come.

This spring the facility is being put to good use by the program Marine Biodiversity, which will benefit greatly from having large tanks of marine organisms, as a major component of the program is filling a sketchbook with over one hundred drawings of different phyla of marine life. Throughout the summer, Gerardo Chin-Lee's Marine Biology program will be handed the reigns to the aquarium, and when the new school year starts up again, the two-quarter program Marine Life will take over.

If you find yourself wandering around campus and would like to find this hidden gem, head down to the basement of Lab I and you will see room 043 on your left, more often than not filled with students sketching the wonders that lie hidden under Evergreen.



The street downtown where the Darby's parklet used to be. SHAUNA BITTLE.

City Finalizes Downtown Design Guidelines

By Jasmine Kozak-Gilroy

Recent events like the removal of the parklet in front of Burial Grounds and the wall a local business owner built around her neighboring spice shop have peaked my curiosity about the City of Olympia's downtown Strategy and the city's priorities for downtown. On Wednesday, April 12 I attended the City downtown Design Guidelines update open house in an attempt to glean more information about the City's downtown project and the conversation in the broader Olympia community.

The downtown project is the broad name for a collection of separate plans all aimed at accomplishing the City's established vision for downtown. The vision is repeated over and over again on their website and pamphlets in several different variations. One version, a narrative statement encompassing the vision in terms of what local residents deem important states, "Olympians value neighborhoods with distinct identities; historic buildings and places; a walkable and comfortable downtown; increased urban green space; locally produced food; and public spaces for citizens in neighborhoods, downtown, and along our shorelines." The list of guiding principles provided on the City's website for the downtown Olympia area mimics this statement almost

exactly, but also includes a point relating to affordable housing—"Ensure that people from all socioeconomic backgrounds can live downtown". Despite this holistic vision, the plans themselves revolve around increasing economic development and providing the grounds for new development. Growth in density is considered a priority in order to provide the living spaces necessary for a growing Olympia population.

The downtown design guidelines are being updated in accordance with this vision and, when finalized, could theoretically dictate what developers can and cannot build, and will provide direction and recommendations for what both public and private development projects should build. In cities around the world, localized building

codes and guidelines have been used to limit the destruction of historic buildings and the aesthetic homogenization of neighborhoods and towns.

The open house was divided into two parts, the first of which was a short update on the status of the guidelines, which will be recommended to City Council for them to vote on April 25. The second portion was a forum made up of a general discussion and then an exercise that involved the moderator showing the audience different theoretical buildings and design ideas and having the audience rate the design's viability for different parts of downtown. Voting was done using small remote controls which allowed for the results to be broadcasted on the screen immediately, voting was followed by a short discussion

about what attendees liked or disliked about the design idea.

During the discussion participants were asked to contribute desires and concerns for development in downtown. When asked what folks were concerned about in terms of development, one audience member cited "Gentrification," to which the moderator replied, "Certainly the social issues, right," before moving on, looking for other answers. In general the conversation was directed towards conversations centered around aesthetics and tackling the issue of a need for density in order to house the population of Olympia as is expected to grow in the coming years.

A couple of people in a crowd of 30 or so brought up concerns around access to fresh, affordable food downtown, asking that the city work towards maintaining access to real food. One community member saying they hoped that the city would "not allow food deserts", a comment that was also touched on in several discussions relating to the lack of access to affordable groceries downtown, and a conversation regarding community gardens, which the moderator seemed to mistake for a desire for space to garden as opposed to a space for free and open access to growing your own food and fresh vegetables.

When I brought up that my concern was the lack of affordable housing options in downtown Olympia and the fact that the pamphlet provided to me detailing their objectives seemingly did not address that, the moderator informed me that concern was outside the scope of the design guidelines. Similarly, questions of capping building height and changing outdoor public spaces were outside the scope of conversation, although questions of using sustainable building materials, the prioritization of single family housing, and the construction of spaces in accordance to Community Policing Through Environmental Design (CPTED), were not outside of the City's scope.

CPTED refers to a set of guidelines and suggestions that are supposed to cultivate the feeling of being watched constantly in an attempt to deter crime, a tactic heavily promoted

by City initiatives, including in the past providing grant money for owners of downtown businesses to paint their buildings.

Parklets came up just once, when one appeared as a design option and during the discussion a self-identified downtown business owner said that parklets are complicated to maintain and that they would continue to be against their installation "until the business owners and the city are on the same page."

In general, there seemed to be a real dissonance between the conversations the city wanted to have regarding questions of density and painting buildings, and the conversations that seem urgent and relevant to the majority of the community, regarding providing homes for folks without them, access to food for those who lack access, and bathrooms for everyone. One participant announced a desire to "decrease homelessness in the downtown area," but the request was oriented more around feeling uncomfortable downtown, and hoping to decrease the visibility of homelessness in the area rather than a desire to provide housing or resources to houseless folks.

On several occasions, the moderator made it clear that development was inevitable, and that these design standards were just a small measure in an attempt to moderate construction downtown and were unlikely to provide any restrictions for developers, instead focusing on providing guidance and encouragement.

If you are interested in reading more about development in Olympia, I recommend checking out 2015 the Cooper Point Journal article On the Rise: City Hall Wants a Denser, More Affluent downtown—What Will It Mean for Us?, which was written around the time of the 2015 revitalization of the comprehensive development plan, and is available on our website. There is also plenty of information available on the City of Olympia website, where you can also sign up to be notified of future meetings.



Students protest the Keystone XL Pipeline at graduation in 2012. RILEY SHIERY.

Rising Spring Convergence

CONFERENCE BRINGS DISCUSSION OF PIPELINES, COLONIZATION TO CAMPUS

By Sylvie Chace

The Black Cottonwood Collective is hosting the Rising Spring Convergence, an event spanning three days, from April 21 to the 23. The Rising SPRING (Stopping Pipelines and Resisting Infrastructure on Native Ground) Convergence is an event and opportunity to listen to and learn from indigenous water protectors. The experiences of those on the frontline of this struggle will be highlighted and shared in workshops, presentations, and discussions. Each day brings events and workshops that require no registry to attend.

When asked about the significance of the convergence, The Black Cottonwood Collective stated, "Though the camps at Standing Rock may have been evicted, the struggle against fossil fuel infrastructure continues. Every day that passes is another day where pipeline planning and construction continues. There are multiple fossil fuel infrastructure projects slated for the Pacific Northwest and, as in Standing Rock, local Indigenous folks are at the forefront of the resistance. The liquefied natural gas terminal proposed for the Port of Tacoma is opposed by the Puyallup Tribe; the proposed oil terminal slated for so-called Grays Harbor is opposed by the Quinault Nation; the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Expansion in is opposed by a coalition of First Nations peoples across so-called Canada and the US."

Author of 500 years of Indigenous Resistance, Gord Hill, will

kick off the convergence as the keynote speaker on Friday. Hill's book offers a concise history of the colonization of the Americas and the resistance that came with it. Saturday involves workshops held by the Water Protector Anti-Repression Crew, a committee who stands against state repression of those who defend water by providing education and support. They will be hosting a workshop entitled The Frontlines are Everywhere: Building Strong Movement Defense. Direct Action trainings will also be held on Saturday, providing 101 information on what direct action is and how to participate, as well as supporting roles for those who want to participate in actions but don't know where their skills can be best utilized.

Sunday includes workshops from organizations such as Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, founded in 1991 in eastern Oregon. The 24-year-old organi-

zation will host a Field Survey Training. Also on Sunday, Director of Idle No More Washington, Sweetwater Nannauk, will hold a Decolonizing Our Activism workshop. Idle No More Washington is an organization that celebrates native culture and shares native news as well as stands in solidarity with all First Nations people.

The Black Cottonwood Collective shared their intentions with the event and where they're coming from when discussing indigenous resistance,

"The Black Cottonwood Collective (and friends) have organized the Rising SPRING Convergence in the hopes of creating a space where Native and settler folks active within ecological struggles can come together to network and to share skills and knowledge. But rather than having just another white-dominated environmental conference, we wanted the space to be grounded in an anti-colonial framework. At

the convergence, settlers can learn more about the both the history of Indigenous resistance and how they can support the contemporary resurgence of anti-colonial struggle. Attendees will come together to learn about the multiple local fossil fuel infrastructure projects "coming down the pipe" and learn how to fight back with solidarity and direct action."

The organizers of the convergence describe themselves further on their website, risingspring.org, their public statement says,

"We are a loose coalition of students and activists living in occupied Medicine Creek Treaty territories known as Olympia, WA. We are settlers who aspire to support and act in solidarity with Indigenous communities impacted by colonialism and extraction industries. We are making an effort, as organizers, students and individuals who care about land, water and people, to work with and learn from local native communities. Through organizing this convergence, we want to build broader connections, friendships, and networks."

The convergence will be held at locations across the Evergreen campus, with varying times for

the events. Keep on the lookout for flyers or stay in touch with the public Facebook event for updates on the specific times that each workshop will occur. The Black Cottonwood Collective also encourages feedback via email at thebcc@riseup.net, as well as any interest in volunteering at any of these events. On their Facebook page the group addresses what they are aiming to accomplish with this convergence, saying:

"We want to explicitly distinguish between what we are doing (organizing spaces and moving resources) and what we are not doing (leading movements). We are coordinating this space for Native and non-Native activists to share information and experiences. We act as stewards of the space, but not as leaders of it."

This convergence aims to disrupt colonial domination and support the solidarity of indigenous people. The Black Cottonwood Collective states: "We seek a shared path forward in these overwhelming and frightening times." All identities are welcome at these workshops and entrance tickets are by donation, with no one turned away for lack of funds.

STOPPING PIPELINES & RESISTING INFRASTRUCTURE ON NATIVE GROUND

RISING SPRING CONVERGENCE
APRIL 21 - 23
AT THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
 MEDICINE CREEK TREATY TRIBES' LANDS
 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

WARRIOR

WORKSHOPS ON INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE DIRECT ACTION & DECOLONIZATION

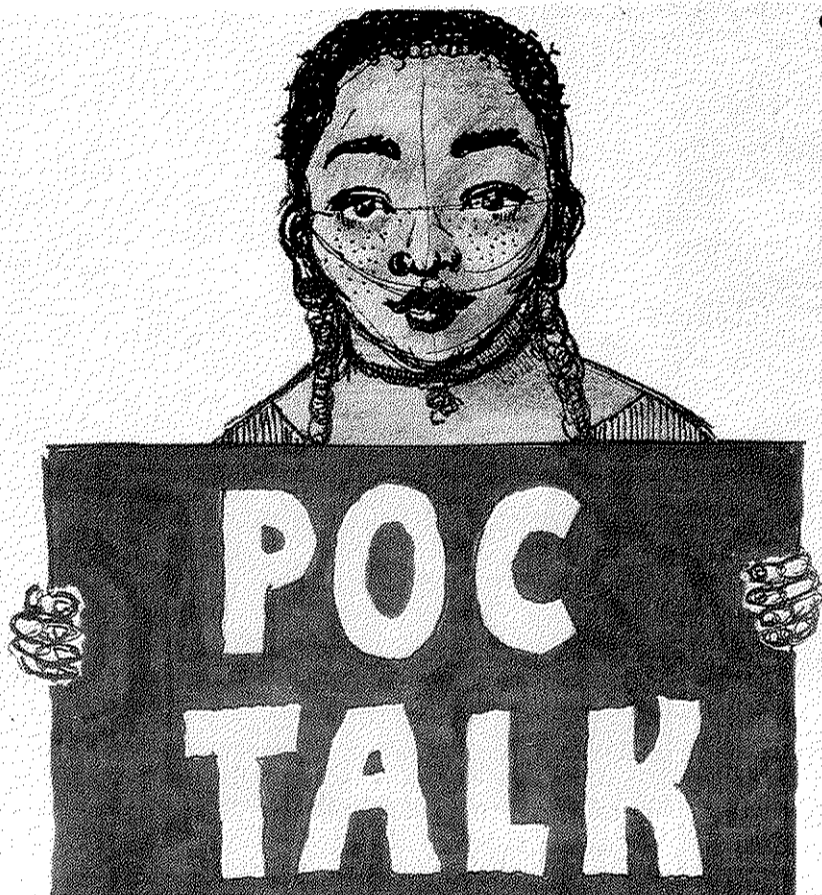
APRIL 21 FRIDAY
 5:30PM WELCOMING
 7:00PM KEYNOTE: GORD HILL
AUTHOR/ARTIST
 WARRIOR PUBLICATIONS
 500 YEARS OF INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE

APRIL 22 SATURDAY
 MAPPING PNW FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS
 THE FRONTLINES ARE EVERYWHERE
FROM PIPELINES TO COURTROOMS TO PRISONS, BUILDING STRONG MOVEMENT DEFENSE
 WATER PROTECTOR ANTI-REPRESSION CREW
 DIRECT ACTION TRAINING 101 - BUILDS - SUPPORT ROLES

APRIL 23 SUNDAY
 FIELD SURVEY TRAINING A TACTIC TO PROTECT FORESTS THREATENED BY LOGGING
 BLUE MOUNTAINS BIODIVERSITY PROJECT
 DECOLONIZING OUR ACTIVISM HISTORY OF COLONIZATION & HEALING HISTORICAL TRAUMA
 SWEETWATER NANNAUK DIRECTOR OF IDLE NO MORE WA

UPDATED SCHEDULE & LOCATION INFO:
RISINGSRING.ORG \$0 - \$50 DONATION
 NO ONE TURNED AWAY!

PRESENTED BY THE BLACK COTTONWOOD COLLECTIVE
 THEBCC@RISEUP.NET - @BLACK.COTTONWOOD - FACEBOOK.COM/BLACK.COTTONWOOD



ODIN COLEMAN.

Student Perspectives on Day of Absence

HIn this week's POC talk I spoke to students who attended the reversed Day of Absence this year. For those of you who don't know or did not participate, Day of Absence (or DOA) is one part of a two day event where focus is placed on issues surrounding race at Evergreen. Traditionally on DOA Students faculty and admin of color are invited to spend the day off campus engaging in community building, workshops and focusing on issues that we face in society and at a primarily white institution as people of color. This year however the idea was reversed so that POC were asked to gather on campus and a small amount, there was space for 200, of white people were asked to spend their day off campus working on issues of oppression. There seems to have been some confusion about how this reversal changed DOA as an event, so I asked several participating students how they felt about the reversal and this year's DOA in general.

Isiah Montejano

This is my first DOA. This experience so far has been an amazing journey, just seeing all the people of color coming to get it on campus and sharing in this event has really brought a lot of happiness to my heart. It's not often we all get a space like this. I co-hosted a workshop with Mia Milton on self-care for students faculty and staff of color. It's something that's not really talked about a lot [in] the community, so I thought it was important.

I think the reverse is justified. From what I know on the history of DOA, we've always had to go off campus in order for us to

really talk on the problems PoC saw on campus. I think with everything going on politically, it's really powerful that we can able to claim on-campus for space and build community.

My favorite part of the day was watching everyone come together at lunch. Part of that is being a taurus haha. People were eating, chatting, and dancing all over the place. It was beautiful seeing all these people of color come together like this, and have time to heal and rejoice with one another.

Dre Benard

[I had] Never been to the DOA before. I feel like I'm

glad it was on campus because [otherwise] I probably wouldn't of attended the talks and just stayed home. I think it was confusing for everyone else what was going on, my teachers didn't really know if they should just cancel class or not. I went to the speeches in the morning and the talking from the keynote speakers was very informative and the topics hit right at home for me. That was easily my favorite part of the day. I wish it would of been longer

Marissa Parker

"I haven't been to DOA [before]. I'm a first year Evergreen student. I was kinda apprehen-

sive about it because white people like infiltrating POC spaces all the time. But I was also excited because I love being in/with my community outside of the classroom. A lot of healing goes on. It's like: "wow I forgot what it's like to be around people who like me and I don't have to prove anything." My opinion on the reversal is mixed just like anything else. Like on the one hand POC can stop doing so much labor to prove that we're worth the fucking labor in the first place. So now some responsibility is put on white people to educate themselves. On the other hand: there was only 200 spaces with a campus of thousands of white people. Literally a few thousand. And that's not a knock on the programming because I can't even imagine putting on a successful DOA/DOP which this was. But now we have 200 "think they woke" white people out of the thousands. And I've already heard of white people saying, "well I went to DOA so I can say this." Like the coordinator used that Lorde quote about revolution isn't a one time thing. But anyway. I went to the Moonlight screening and fish bowl. It was lit. Got to hear from people who the movie was for. Just listening to their feelings about it instead of a think piece which I find to be more genuine. I went to a [workshop on] cultivating voice for queer and trans poets. I was the only POC so imagine how fun that was. And why do white people use academic language when they want to impress people. You know multisyllabic esoteric words, oh am I cool now?! And I'm going to a screening of Do The Right Thing which I'm excited about. My mom's been trying to get me to watch the movie forever. Thank you."

Naomi Ishaq

I went to DOA last year. I think although the reversal has the intention of decentering whiteness, whiteness is always the center. POC are used to that and know that and we're used to having to make spaces for ourselves within that. I think that because it was on campus a lot more people that weren't clear about the intentions of Day of Absence wandered in or came because they needed to for class

and didn't want to go off campus. The space ended being a lot less intentional because of that. When it was off campus we knew that everybody that was there had made an effort to be there and knew what and who the space was for. And we got to leave Evergreen and the space where we have never been centered and finally center ourselves.

I presented a workshop about Islamophobia and Asian Muslims. I've been thinking lately about how I never got to learn about myself or learn my histories until I came to Evergreen. And it's really painful to have to learn about myself in this way and a lot of times from people who don't share my history and a lot of times around people who are learning about me and know more about my history than I do. A lot of times it's directed at those people and not me. It felt really good to put that work in myself and for myself and not have to rely on somebody else for that. Also I loved Maxine Mimms asking why George Bridges is even here anymore. But you know.

POC Talk

For myself personally I found the reversal kind of confusing and agree that it did seem a shame so few white people were able to workshop but overall I found it enjoyable and successful! In my opinion the best part of DOA was definitely watching everyone relax and have a good time together during lunch. There's something so amazing about that large of a group of PoC sharing food, enjoying each other's company and doing the Cupid Shuffle in the face of a society that doesn't value our joy or our lives.

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

Arts & Culture

UP & COMING

WED. APRIL 19

Evergreen State College
COM Experimental Theater. 5pm
Torrey Pines film screening w.
live musical accompaniment,
followed by reception in the
Evergreen Gallery

Obsidian
414 4th Ave E. 7pm. \$7
Forged, Sidetracked,
Loathing, Invertebrate,
Savage, Big Idiot

Le Voyeur
404 4th Ave W. 9pm.
Vornity 128: 27 Dry Heaves ft.
Seth Millstein

THUR. APRIL 20

★ **Le Voyeur**
404 4th Ave W. 7pm. All Ages.
Futuro, Duzz, Lashes

Dog Farm
9pm. \$Donation.
MaeDea, Quiver, Shameka
Gagnier, Erica Freas

Le Voyeur
404 4th Ave W. 10pm. \$3. 21+
Scott Taylor, TBASA, Andras
Jones

Obsidian
414 4th Ave E. 10pm. \$5. 21+
MethCzar, Smokers Cough,
Stiff Other Lip, WeRTHLESS,
Bummer

FRI. APRIL 21

Evergreen State College
Library 4300. 7:30pm.
Rising SPRING Keynote
Speaker: Gord Hill

★ **The New Moon Cafe**
113 4th Ave W. 8pm. \$5-10
Tankini, Bellyache, Amorous,
Strong Daughter

Capitol Theater
206 5th Ave SE. 8pm, \$10
The Walters, Summer Salt, Le
Grotto

★ = Staff Recommended

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119 CAPITOL WAY
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STUFF 2 DO

By Sylvie Chace

Anna Gordon is playing April 23 at Obsidian. BLAINE EWIG.

THURSDAY 4/20

**CASV PRESENTS: SELF-DEFENSE AND
PHYSICAL SELF-CONFIDENCE**
Campus Recreation Center room 116. 4pm. Free.

Evergreen's Coalition Against Sexual Violence presents this event as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The group's facebook page for the event states: "As part of our programming for Sexual Assault Awareness Month CASV is bringing in our friend Wombat to facilitate this self defense workshop. While violence is never the fault of the survivor and no one should have to prepare to defend our bodies, these exercises of building physical confidence in supportive and intentional spaces can be incredibly empowering! Come join us!" A trained advocate will be present at this event and all identities and bodies are welcome to join. The self-defense techniques learned will involve elements of tumbling, MMA, and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

SUNDAY 4/23

**ORA COGAN, JOHANNA WARREN,
GENERIFUS, ANNA GORDON**
Obsidian. 9pm. \$7. 21+

This show features local musicians Generifus and Anna Gordon as well as Johanna Warren from Portland, OR and Vancouver BC's Ora Cogan. This show is perfect for a rainy springtime night as each singer/songwriter offers low-fi acoustic vibes. The soft tones are sure to lull you into a melodic trance and bring you warmth during this wet season. This event is for the 21+ crowd and the money is for the traveling artists, but come out to support the locals too! Doors open at 9pm.

**MEGAN JOE BAILEY APRIL 2017 ARTIST
EXHIBITIONS**

Allsorts Gallery 2306 Capital Way S. 4pm.

Megan Bailey is a 23 year-old nonbinary artist currently attending Evergreen, studying visual art and theory. Come out to support local art made by a fellow Greener! Bailey's pieces are sure to visually entice you, as they are colorful, realistic and visually engaging. The artists use color and shape exist to create exciting and bold pieces. Their art will be featured at Olympia Arts Walk all day on both days, the 28 and 29. An artist's reception will be held on Sunday April 23 at 4 p.m. The show will be up until April 30. It is free to attend the artists reception and 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!

SUNDAY 4/30

**RESISTANCE IS NOT FUTILE: THE TRANS-
SEXUAL EMPIRE STRIKES BACK**
Obsidian, 5pm. Free.

This event is number 3 in an installment held by Wormbook Press. The facebook event states: "Join us for another spectacular evening of the best trans women writers in the Pacific Northwest. We'll be sharing stories of the heart and beyond at Obsidian in Downtown Olympia." This is a showcase of specifically trans-women writers and this is a space that seeks to prioritize the voices and safety of trans people, respecting the pronouns of each writer is of importance, the event states "We welcome, want, and request *everybody* of all genders, shapes, and sizes to attend our reading, but *please note* that this space is being specifically created to give trans women and AMAB trans folk a place to share their hearts. They are the center of this event." This event will be live-streamed so if you are unable to attend, keep your eyes peeled for the stream!

Arts & Culture



MEGAN BAILEY

artist interview by jasmine kozak-gilroy

Megan Bailey is an Evergreen State College student who utilizes house paint in their eerie still lifes that play with perspective. We sat down with them to talk about what they're currently working on. You can see some of their work in person at Allsorts Gallery during Spring Arts Walk.

MB: Since Spring Break, so for the past three weeks I have been painting every day and I have painted about 13 new pieces and a couple works in progress and I've been painting between two and eight hours a day, it's Arts Walk and then a private house show. I've made a website, a business facebook page and instagram page, I've also sent out business cards to get made and done a lot of the business side of things. Designing flyers and then handing them out to galleries downtown and around campus. & these paintings are pretty big, they're all lifesize. I've

also been doing some really tiny paintings of strawberries and tangerines and cigarettes. The business side took a lot of time, building a website took four hours. I have been kind of hustling every single-day trying to get stuff done.

CPJ: That sounds exhausting.

MB: I've been doing a lot of flowers and a lot of fruit and a lot of these style of still lifes, and they've been getting a lot faster as well. Usually they take like, well it depends how big the painting is. Something like this [larger piece] took like

five hours to do. The smaller ones, like this strawberry, took 45 minutes. And they are all very colorful.

CPJ: Do you almost exclusively paint still lifes? Is that a newer phase in your painting?

MB: It's actually something I have been developing for the past six years. I just wrote my artist statement and it is talking about how there is this artist names Manny Farber who, I feel like I am in dialogue with his still lifes because he does a similar style that I was inspired by because I didn't really like doing still lifes until

I saw his work. [Gesturing to painting] Can you see the ring on the canvas? The vase of flowers was sitting there and the canvas was on the floor and I was painting sitting on the floor rather than [having the painting] on a table and sitting at it. And for this one it is two feet by four feet so I have a yard stick with a paint brush attached to it so I can have a bunch of extension and you can kind of see the charcoal outline of mapping out where it goes. And then my water cup would be here and you can see the paint dripping onto the canvas from where I was sitting.

UP & COMING

SAT. APRIL 22

Evergreen State College
Various Locations. 9:30am-5pm.
Rising SPRING Convergence

WA State Capitol
416 Sid Snyder Ave SW. 11am.
March For Science- Olympia

Green Lady
3044 Pacific Ave SE. 7pm. \$5
Comedy Night At Green Lady
Shoppe ft. Sam Miller, Nicole
Ash Bailey, Chase Roper,
Luke Severeid

SUN. APRIL 23

Evergreen State College
Various Locations. 9:30am-5pm.
Rising SPRING Convergence

Obsidian
414 4th Ave E. 9pm. \$7. 21+
Ora Cogan, Johanna Warren,
Generifus, Anna Gordon

MON. APRIL 24

Obsidian
414 4th Ave E. 10pm.
Hotel Broslin Presents—
Evil Dead 2

TUE. APRIL 25

Le Voyer
404 4th Ave W. 6pm. ALL AGES.
The Mailboxes, AL, Lakota
Dorris, Self Proclaimed
Narcissist, His Name Shall
Breathe

WED. APRIL 26

Evergreen State College
Purce Hall. 1pm.
Farmworker Justice Interest
Meeting

Le Voyer
404 4th Ave W. 9pm.
Vomity 129

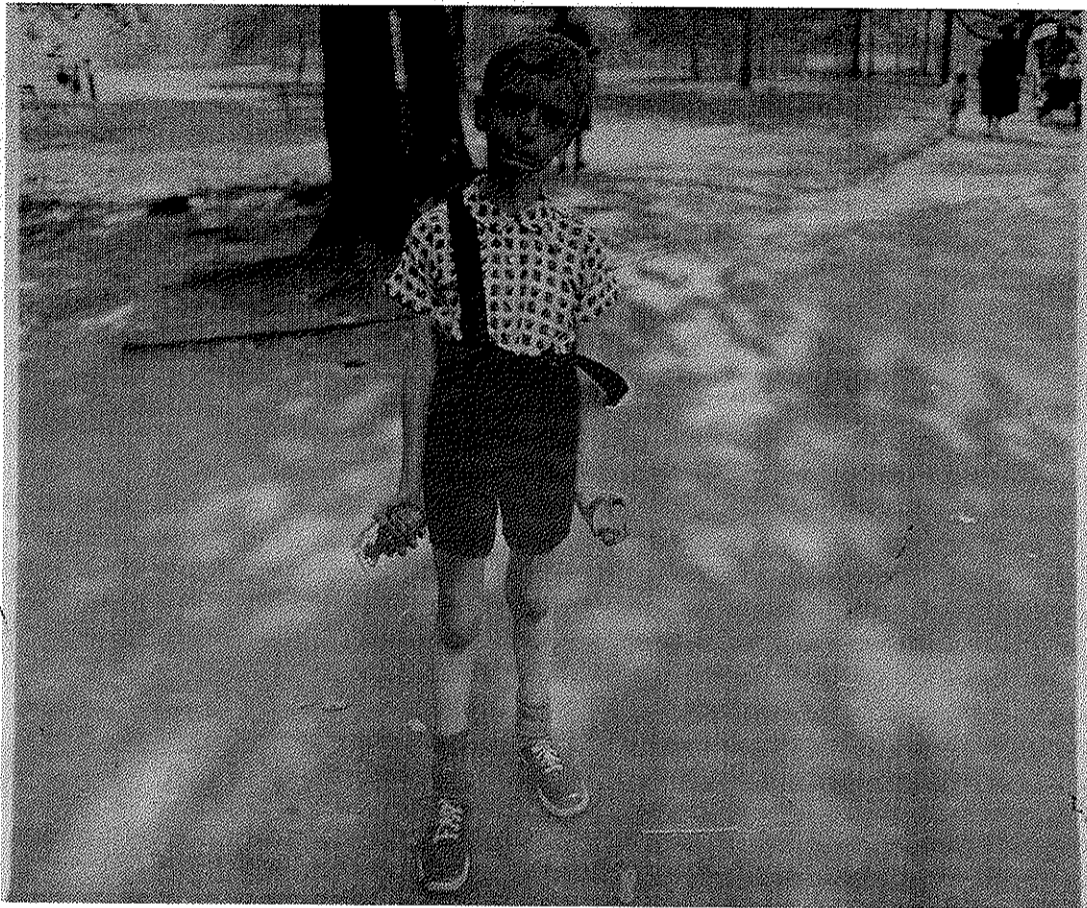
THUR. APRIL 27

★ **Obsidian**
414 4th Ave E. 6:30pm.
The Jail Letters Project with
Sam Miller & Mary Soehnlén

Obsidian
414 4th Ave E. 10pm. 21+
V I O D: Dance Party

★ = Staff Recommended

Arts & Culture



Evergreen's Photo Collection

THE STORY BEHIND TESC'S EXTENSIVE COLLECTION & WHY YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THEM

By Ruby Love

Did you know that Evergreen owns a large collection of photographs, including prints from artists like Diane Arbus, Edward Weston, and Jerry Uelsmann, not to mention dozens of Andy Warhol's Polaroids? Likely not—you probably have never seen a single print. We spoke with Gallery Director Ann Friedman about why that is, and the Evergreen Art Collection's history, development, and accessibility.

If you explore the depths of Evergreen's official websites, you can eventually find a page called see.evergreen.edu which features a wealth of digital photo galleries like Student Photography, Rare Books Photos, and a massive gallery full of digitized selections from the school's Archives. One gallery, titled "Evergreen Gallery Photography Collection" contains images of thirty eight photographic prints, the most recognizable of which is probably Diane Arbus' famous "Child with Hand Grenade in Central Park, N.Y.C. 1962"

While any of the photographs in this gallery could be found tens of times over with a quick online search, these are images of the prints that the college actually owns. As last year's Curatorial Intern, I had the pleasure of seeing these prints in person, and it got me wondering why other students weren't able to have this same experience. After all, these prints are part of Evergreen's so-called "Teaching Collection" shouldn't they be available for students to learn from?

I sat down with Evergreen Gallery Director Ann Friedman

to ask about the development of this collection, and why it wasn't more available to students for in-person viewing. We started at the beginning, in the early 1970s "Washington State was starting the Art in Public Places Program, which puts aside half a percent of construction costs for the purchase of public art." Before the bill was even signed into law, says Friedman, Evergreen had put away money from the construction of Lab II for art purchases, and arts faculty and administrators who were part of the Visual Environments

Group got to work purchasing photographic prints as well as other works of art to begin to build a collection for the school.

While these days, says Friedman, art purchases are much more "committee-driven," back then they could "have fun [buying] what they thought would be good for the students and would stand the test of time." "They were largely right," Friedman notes; the prints have only grown in value since their acquisition in the 1970's, when photography was still not regarded as museum-quality, serious art. Friedman, who is also the art collection curator, says the Misrach prints have been "pretty impressive" for her personally, and are "really beautiful prints" that have been borrowed for exhibition by area museums and galleries like the University of Washington's Henry Art Gallery.

The Warhol polaroids, Friedman says, have also been borrowed by the Tacoma Art Museum, which actually stores them for us. Why we own these prints, but don't physically have them on our campus, comes down to the donation contract between Evergreen and the Warhol Foundation: the Evergreen Library, says Friedman, "has never met the archival standards" stipulated by the contract. Until the school "can conceive of a space that would meet these standards, humidity being the main issue, the prints have to be stored off-campus." Ideally, says Friedman, none of these prints would be stored in the library's fluctuating temperature and humidity. Friedman says she's "constantly searching for how to get the collection back on campus", even considering altering the gallery space to accommodate for a climate-controlled print study room. "The simple answer is that we have no place and no staffing to create a situation where people can see this stuff. It can only be handled under certain circumstances."

I asked Friedman what she thought about the argument that tuition-paying students should have access to the campus resources, including these prints, which are outstanding examples of the photographic medium and can teach students a lot. She agreed, but clarified, "I went to Washington State schools myself, and I think of the college as [supported by] all of the taxpayers of Washington State. The collection is in trust for the future, and whoever is managing the collection has to consider its viability for the next fifty to one hundred years." This means, she says, not exposing the prints to conditions that could damage them, or reduce their lifespan. Unfortunately, potentially damaging conditions include those of Evergreen's library. Until the school makes students' access to them a priority, or a rich donor decides to bless the school with a climate-controlled print room, the collection can only be shown sporadically.

There are some opportunities to see the collection in person, though, including a show every other year at Evergreen Gallery. Typically, they feature "about seventy five percent of the on-campus collection" in these shows, as well as a selection of the Warhol polaroids. Until we're lucky enough to have more access to the school's photography collection, Ann has this advice: "Go and see the [art] shows on campus—it might not be Diane Arbus, but there's lots to see! Follow us [on Facebook and on our website] and when the collection is up, you can come see them!"

Speaking of on-campus shows, be sure to see Evergreen Gallery's new exhibit "Clyde-O-Scope," a retrospective exhibit by artist Clive Petersen. The opening reception and film screening will be held at Evergreen Gallery on Wednesday, April 19 at 7pm, and it's free! Follow Evergreen Gallery on Facebook for more updates.



Letters & Opinion

Survey Data in Action

THINK STUDENT SURVEYS ARE POINTLESS? THINK AGAIN!

By Erin Taylor

If Fall quarter was your first here at Evergreen, you are probably familiar with the New Student Survey. The New Student Survey (NSS) is administered every two years by Evergreen's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment and inquires about a wide range of subjects such as students' after-college goals, confidence levels in their own ability to succeed in various arenas, and demographic information. Participants in the survey also had the option to write in comments and provide additional information.

The NSS was sent out via email to all first time, first year students who were registered for Fall 2016 classes as well as to students who transferred to Evergreen from another institution. A total of 1,239 individuals were contacted, including students intending to study at other TESC campuses (Grays Harbor, Tacoma, Reservation-based). Out of the 1,239 contacted, 744 students responded, a response rate of 60 percent.

But don't worry, intrepid reader! I'm not here to bore you with a breakdown of all of the statistics of the New Student Survey—though if you are interested in seeing what the Fall 2016 new student population looks like, you can find the results of the 2016 NSS, as well as previous years' results at: www.evergreen.edu/institutionalresearch/newstudent-survey. What I am here to converse with you about is how all that survey data is used.

Used? Yes!

The data acquired from these surveys is not just utilized to create pretty graphs to be published on Evergreen's website. The answers you provide are actually put to use by various offices within Evergreen to better shape the school to fit the needs of its students (i.e., you). It's true! For example, students were asked to rate their level of confidence in a series of areas. The two areas that had the overall lowest

level of confidence reported by both first time, first year, and transfer students were "have the funding to complete your studies at Evergreen", and "will be able to manage any debt that you incur in completing your education at Evergreen". Simply put, out of the 13 criteria listed, new students had the lowest confidence and the highest anxiety regarding funding their education and the debt they will accrue while in college. This anxiety over finances and debt has been noted and was heard by both staff and faculty here at Evergreen, and many have been actively working on strategies to help support students and their ability to manage their finances and debt. Staff are also determinedly working toward acquiring more scholarship funds for students at Evergreen to help alleviate student debt and the accompanying financial anxiety that many experience.

Data from the survey is also used to shape the curriculum based on student interest. The Standing Curriculum Committee uses the NSS to "inform a student-based curriculum", according to committee member Amadou Ba. Additionally, students indicated they would like more options in shaping their education and would like more opportunity to have the ability to fine-tune their college trajectory. Based on this information, faculty are

working on providing more 12-credit options within their offered programs, which will allow students the potential to register for additional 4-credit, focused courses on top of an encompassing, interdisciplinary 12-credit program.

So what's the takeaway of all of this? Participate in the surveys! The more students who participate, the better. Taking the surveys administered by Evergreen's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment is one of many ways you can make your voice heard here on campus and can make your college experience an excellent one. If you missed your chance to take the New Student Survey back in the Fall, don't fret—a companion survey, the Evergreen Student Experience Survey is happening now for a random selection of students. As an added bonus, participants are entered in a contest to win a \$200 gift certificate to the Greener Bookstore. Let me repeat, you can win prizes just by answering survey questions.

If you are one of the lucky selected participants, please take the time to take the survey. Your answers are invaluable, and the data collected helps make Evergreen the unique and student-central institution that we love.



Arts Walk Preview

By Ruby Love

It's that time of year again, and Spring Arts Walk is right around the corner! We've combed through the one hundred and seventeen venues (aaahh!) and have a few suggestions for tackling Olympia's twice-yearly artstravaganza.

Spring 2017 Arts Walk kicks off on Friday, April 28, with most venues opening in the early evening. Be sure not to miss the magical "Element of Spirit Luminary Procession," which starts on Washington St. between 4th and 5th avenues at 9:30 p.m. The art and events continue through Saturday evening, starting with "Chalk in the Streets," where 7,000 pieces of "colorful chalk" will be passed out, and people are encouraged to "draw the art of nature in the streets" before the Procession of the Species begins. If you've never seen either Procession, we highly recommend checking them out if you like enormous papier-mâché animals and glowing trees.

We don't want to pick favorites among the many talented artists, but we've put together a selection of some of our fa-

vorite galleries to go to. Our top-pick venues to check out (conveniently spaced apart by coffee shops and restaurants for pit-stops) are Salon Refu, Splash Gallery, Olyphant, and the newly remodeled/relocated Little General (plus they sell really good snacks!)

The most important thing you can do when you start out your Arts Walk evening is to pick up a brochure (they're handed out at every venue) which lists every artist, venue, address, and often a short description of the work. It's also helpful to map out where you want to go beforehand, as streets will be crowded. Meet up with one or two people, and stop often for refreshments, bonus points if those refreshments are free wine and cheese. Best of luck!

Letters & Opinion

● **BCC 30** ●

30th Annual Bicycle Commuter Challenge



Thurston County, WA

INTERCITY
TRANSIT

Challenge accepted.

intercitytransit.com/bike

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 sent by Evergreen faculty Bret Weinstein to Ken Tabbutt, Interim Provost for the school. Weinstein is reacting to an email sent to him from Tabbutt, recommending that Weinstein to bring his opinions to the relevant faculty meetings.

Sent March 1 @ 12:21 p.m.

Dear Ken (and other colleagues),

I don't know what to make of your request that we attend today's faculty meeting "where these proposals are being discussed." For many months I have been attending every faculty meeting and other relevant gathering where discussion might happen, and I have been shocked at how little open dialog there has been. I'm even more troubled by the process that seems to have replaced reasoned discussion at Evergreen, where half a dozen methods have been employed at recent gatherings to prevent unscripted, public exchange (e.g. questions should be saved for the reception, talk to your neighbor, gather in small groups, submit your observations/reservations to the committee in writing, please respond to our survey). We have gone from a college that is academically self-governed by the faculty as a whole, to one in which 'the faculty' has been subordinated to the upper administration, and to a select few representatives. Most troubling of all is the fact this massive shift in the way we do business was never discussed, much less agreed to.

When Dr. Bridges was interviewed for his present position, he was asked about his view of the role of a college President with respect academics--the Academic division of the college being one of four major divisions at that time. If memory serves, George answered that he intended to stay out of academics as much as possible. But here we find ourselves engaged in a breathtaking transformation, affecting academics first and foremost. And it appears to be happening, at George's instigation, in a context that leaves the Academic division of the college, and the faculty as a body, unable to question, critique or resist. By the time Dr. Drake has her footing, the formal influence of the Academic division will have been greatly reduced, and the power of the Provost will have been formally and permanently divided (see attached Org. Charts, and remember that the Diversity and Inclusion VP is now supposed to be a Vice Provost as well).

I hope today's faculty meeting will involve actual discussion, with sufficient time to reach an emergent understanding of the topics at hand. Beyond today, I would ask that we put all of the major initiatives (e.g. the Equity and Diversity Proposal, widespread daytime alternatives to Full Time Programs, VP/VProvost hire, Curricular Pathways) on hold until the faculty has been given ample chance to discuss them formally and openly--including the opportunity to reject or amend them. Any worthy proposal can withstand good faith scrutiny, and most will be enhanced by that process.

See you at the meeting,

Bret

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Letters & Opinion

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.

When is a gold chain cool?

When is it dorky? a gold chain is always dorky unless you happen to have a bajjjzillion dollar... in that case you can buy whatever u want... were college students buy a textbook *aside: were too broke for this shit, we go to evergreen, who are you flossin on?*

White people with dreads.....? I NOOOOooo oooOOooooOOOOOOoooooo OO!!! *astrix. inseret screaming face. astrix* how did you find me, five been hiding in my bdroom*'

what is the meaning of life?

getting real drunk to answer all yall ppl 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 .

Why am I the worst? Becuz you're so vague and vague people are annoying af
BE MORE SPECIFIC

Hello, this is your roommate. I've been recruited to ask you a question.. my question is, why does nobody fucking ask questions for wasted advice here probably to drunk themselves to ask the ask fm page... wich is too fucking awwwwesome for their eyes. It would burn them... like that scene in Indiana Jones.

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

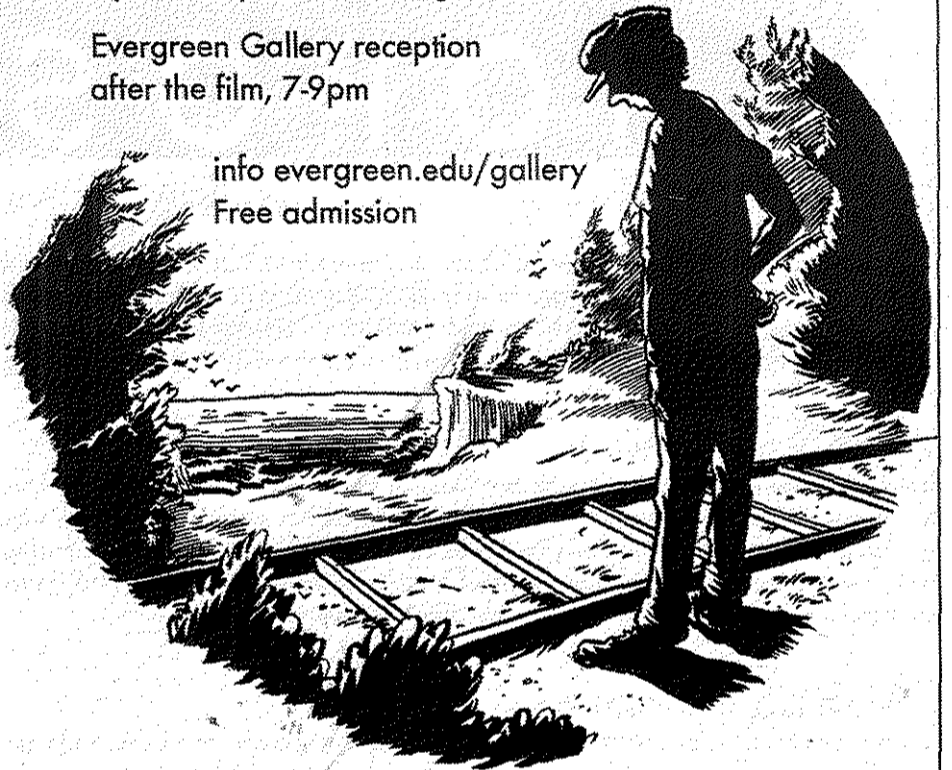
CLYDE-O-SCOPE Clyde Petersen at TESC

Evergreen Gallery exhibition April 14 - May 17
located in Library Bldg, rm 2204, 867-5125

Torrey Pines film screening with live musical accompaniment
April 19, 5pm, COM Bldg

Evergreen Gallery reception
after the film, 7-9pm

info evergreen.edu/gallery
Free admission



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Astrology

RUBY THOMPSON



By Sylvie Chace

It's retrograde season! While Venus is now out of retrograde and sits in the emotional sign of Pisces, Mercury and Saturn have just transitioned and begun to mess with all the signs. If you've been experiencing some rifts in your day-to-day life or if you've been having a hard time finding words to explain how you feel, then Mercury has got its hold on you. The planet of communication will be in retrograde until May 3 and has just transitioned from the Venus-ruled Taurus, to the Mars-ruled sign of Aries. This sign takes no prisoners and tends to have a me-first attitude which could mean an amplified retrograde (yikes) or an amplified sense of self which can be harnessed to help us better handle the retrograde.

ARIES 3/21 - 4/19

Take a step back there, Aries! You've been known to bite off more than you can chew and it sounds like this season of intensity and confusion has you going full-force when you should be sitting back. You may be feeling like you're gliding through this retrograde with ease, but in reality you may not see what troubles lay ahead. Hold on to your fearless strength, but use it for self-reflection in these times of intensity.

TAURUS 4/20 - 5/20

You are a child of Venus, and naturally love is what guides you and drives you. Hold onto that, Taurus. Right now there is a deep yearning to give and receive love in whatever form it takes. If you have a sweetie, hold them close. If you have a solid group of friends who you cherish, show them that you care. Your season is almost here, so lay the groundwork for a time of friendship and care.

GEMINI 5/21 - 6/20

You may be feeling a bit overwhelmed, Gemini. You are someone who tends to put themselves out there and spread themselves thin. There is a whole world of opportunity out there waiting for you and you are eager to be a part of it and harness your powerful energy. However, with great power comes great responsibility and this may be a time to prioritize what endeavors are best suited for what you need right now.

CANCER 6/21 - 7/22

You are sitting with a lot of internal power right now. There are decisions that must be made, a whole list of tasks that must be attended to. It's your time to stop focusing on pleasing all the other people in your life and listen to what you know is right, what you've always known you needed to do. Don't be afraid to let your crab claws out and make your presence known. You can't be everything for everyone.

LEO 7/23 - 8/22

Slow and steady wins the race, Leo. While patience might not be one of your most famous virtues, you may be finding that everything truly is going ok. Trust that you're on the right path because if you look around you'll find that your foundation is much more solid than you give yourself credit for. All road signs are leading to prosperity in your home life or work, so pace yourself, enjoy the fruits of your labor.

VIRGO 8/23 - 9/22

While the world around you may be going through a time of intense planetary shifts you find yourself empty, Virgo. You may not be struggling necessarily, but there's an emotionless pit in your stomach and it's time to remedy that. Take a risk, go on a roadtrip, allow yourself to go out even if you don't feel excited about anything right now. Sometimes we have to push ourselves to get back in a place where the world looks beautiful and alive.

LIBRA 9/23 - 10/22

You're in a space where you need to go real easy on yourself, Libra. You've been wounded, and you know it and you may be feeling some aches and sores. It's okay to take it slow for a while and proceed with caution. You have the ability to keep incredibly level-headed in heated times, and this is an opportunity to harness your balanced energy and hold yourself close.

SCORPIO 10/23 - 11/21

You may find yourself feeling confused at your life lately, Scorpio. Contrary to popular belief, you can be quite traditional and stubborn and you may have noticed that your typical way of handling things hasn't been working well for you. This is a time to stop, reflect, and change your methods. When you most want to act, wait. When you most want your way, sacrifice yourself. The answers to your problems may lie in different ways of responding.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22 - 12/21

You are the optimist of the zodiac, and with that comes the natural life-of-the-party personality you bring to the table. That side of you is so necessary in these times when everyone around you seems to be going through something. This is your chance to be generous, to give back and to reap the rewards of being a lively person and an available friend.

CAPRICORN 12/22 - 1/19

Keeping walls up and staying guarded is one of the ways you feel strong, Capricorn. However, people often don't get to see the side of you that laughs and feels joy and is light-hearted. It's in you, and now is a good time to find the humor in pain, to shrug off mistakes, to let your walls down maybe just a teensy bit and allow yourself to feel the beauty and joy of springtime.

AQUARIUS 1/20 - 2/18

Being an air sign, communication is something that comes to you with ease. However, during a Mercury retrograde you may be feeling a lack in your life. Something is coming up short, something in your life isn't quite right. Maybe you can't find the words to say, or you haven't been around someone you can open up to. You may be feeling a bit isolated, Aquarius. And while you cherish your individuality, it's nice to talk things out with someone else.

PISCES 2/19 - 3/20

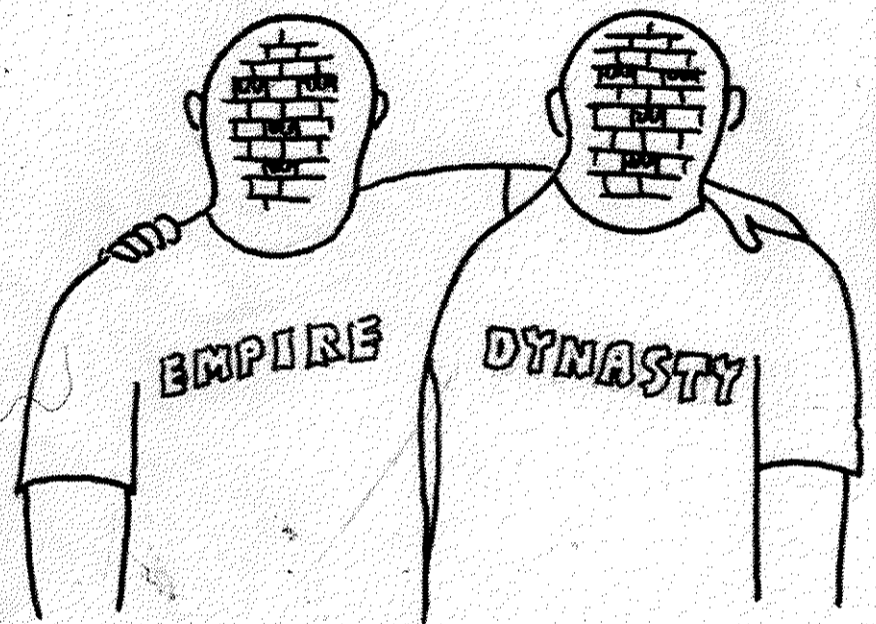
With Venus now in your sign, you may be soaking up all that is beautiful to you right now. You're feeling strong, and you have a deep inner emotional strength that people often don't see or they may even underestimate you. During seasons like this, your powers to reflect are alive and well and this retrograde season is no different. Despite how others see you, know that out of all the signs you know best how to handle emotional turmoil and reflect on the past.

TOO-SMALL-SOCKS by Isaac Hollandsworth

Too-Small-Socks



FACE FACTORY #10 by Lortz



Lortz

DÜBER GAL by River Gates



