

COOPER POINT JOURNAL

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June 7, 2007

It's official: student elections are done

By **Tori Needer**

The race for student government and student money drew to an official close when the current Geoduck Union unanimously validated election results Wednesday. Incoming representatives were in attendance to witness the validation and begin their training for next year.

The validation was intended to be an open forum for students. Technically the elections official decided the validity of this year's election, however the floor was open to anyone who wished to call the election into contest.

Currently, the Union validates the election though a consensus vote but this is the last year that such procedures will be observed. Representative Brooke McLane-Higginson notes the pitfall of using consensus decision-making in this situation. Her bylaws amendment required that a consensus vote would only be needed to invalidate an election. The new measure is intended to prevent disgruntled outgoing representatives from sabotaging future elections. The amendment passed unanimously.

"I don't think this is going to happen but say someone is running for reelection and they don't get reelected, and they say 'I'm going to invalidate this!'" said McLane-Higginson.

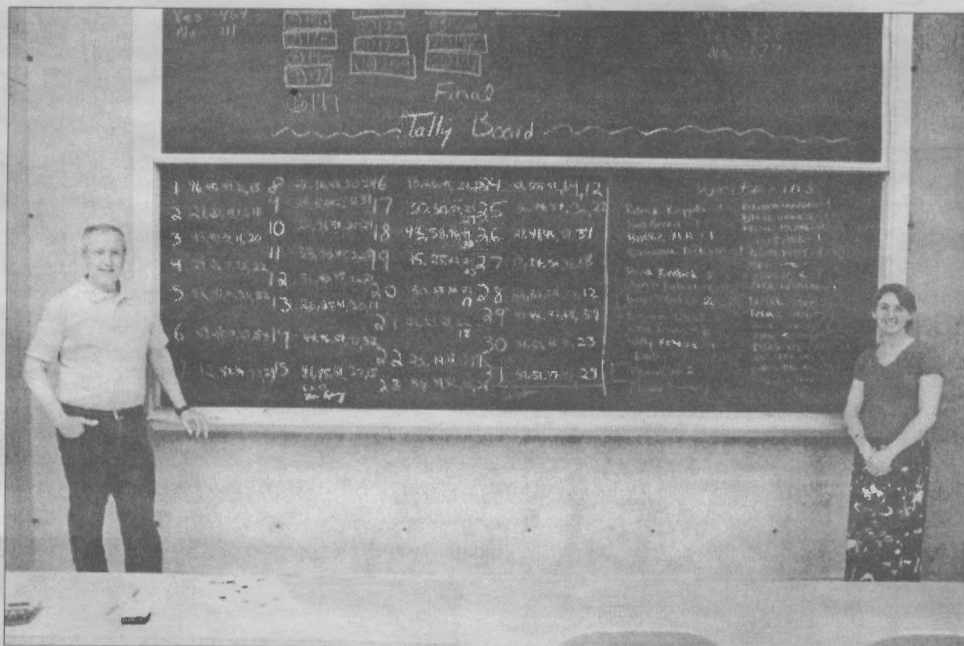
Election officials spent the weekend tabulating the votes in time for the tenth week of the quarter. Both of the proposed student fees achieved the necessary 25 percent student participation rate. The per-credit fee that would potentially fund Flaming Eggplant passed with 828 in favor and 177 opposed. The Late Night

Transportation fee passed with 969 in favor and 111 opposed.

A total of 723 students voted in the representative election. Aaron M. Shelley, Brittany Jane Newhouse, Charlie Bloomfield, Tyler Ball, Joshua Collins-Beldin, Regan Harrison, Austin Mansell, Elizabeth Hill, Courtney Underwood, Jay Standish, Charles Loosen, Nathaniel Hagood, Sammi Webster, Trevor Kinahan, Mallory Epping, Bea Wolfe, Kit Crosland, Alexandra Mavrikis and Brian Fligner will make up the 2007-08 Geoduck Union representative body.

Thirteen of the twenty-one new representatives were present at the final Geoduck Union public meeting on Wednesday, June 6. Molli Lesslie, the Tacoma campus representative, commuted to the Olympia campus for her first meeting. Lesslie was a last minute write-in and was elected by six votes. She listened as parts the end-of-year report was read aloud by outgoing Union members. The report is a compilation of observations, suggestions, procedures and wisdom for the coming year. "The Union unofficial motto was We Get Shit Done," read Representative Caroline Comer. "The Union recommends that future representatives strive, without reservation, to get shit done." Comer went on to acknowledge one of the major pitfalls that the Union succumbs to over the year. "While the Union created a durable infrastructure and won the concrete victories, the Union could have won more victories if interpersonal conflicts did not slow down much of the work."

Tori Needer is a junior enrolled in Health and Human Development.



Andy Corn

Election commissioners Ronald Lang and Chelsea Whitaker stand next to the tabulated votes for GU candidates. Each unique string of votes submitted on Gateway was read aloud and tallied on other blackboards in a series of five sessions before being totaled on the pictured blackboard.

Vote Results

Transit Fee
✓ Yes—969
No—111

Flaming Eggplant
✓ Yes—828
No—177

Geoduck Union faces success, failure

By **Jordan Nailon**

The Washington Educators Association, which is the union for teachers K-12, fought for and obtained contract language that prevents school districts from drug testing their employees. Clearly, state educational unions are capable of real institutional change. Before this year's group of pioneering students took up the helm of the Geoduck Union, the Evergreen student body had not been represented since the 1989-90 school year. So, what is it that your newly founded Geoduck Union is doing for you?

The Union has wrapped up their work for the 2006-07 year, and now that the election results are in, it is time to pass the torch to the next generation of student representatives. Before the retiring crop of representatives can ride off into the sunset, however, they have a few words of reflection to pass along.

GU accomplishments

"Late-night transit was one of the chief concerns students had at Evergreen," said representative Victor Sanders. Working solo on many occasions in order to get all of the i's dotted and t's crossed for the ballot initiative, Sanders is excited to see that the measure passed the voting process. "Now," he said, "it is going to be a reality next year."

Geoduck Union member Brooke McLane-Higginson was also excited to see the transit measure pass, and praised the work of Sanders. "This was his major project with the Union, and he planned the whole thing almost single-handedly."

The voting process was one area that McLane-Higginson targeted as a problem area from the start of her term as representative. She started the year looking to "prevent voting controversies similar to that of

last spring's CAB redesign by creating elections and voting policies."

The Union was able to accomplish this task before the recent elections. The new policies strictly define the percentage of student votes required for a measure to pass and precisely drew rules limiting campaign activity and free give-a-ways in order to prevent any repeat instances of voter tampering or bribery.

Under these newly defined policies, the Flaming Eggplant funding measure also passed by a heaping majority.

The fall quarter fee will help to get the student run café out of the planning stages and into the business of preparing and serving food.

"I'm jazzed about the Flaming Eggplant," said Geoduck representative Stephen Engel. "Although that's not a project I worked on directly. But it gets us one step closer

to booting corporate food service off this campus. One step closer to self-operation."

A project that Engel was directly working on was the CAB redesign project. "I'm proud of the Take Back the CAB! Committee that I assembled with the help of representative Carolyn Commer," said Engel. "It's difficult to find eleven students, and such motivated ones, to commit to a project like that. But we did, and found some folks who are really on the ball, ready to step up and win a victory for students."

In general, the Union members feel that they have laid a solid foundation for future students during their inaugural year of work. According to Sanders, "The Geoduck Union is a much more visible group to the administration."

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The Cooper Point Journal is a student newspaper serving the Evergreen State College and the surrounding community of Olympia, WA.

Reviews galore:
Readings, film and theatre oh my!
Pages 4-5

Healthcare and Europe:
Have you gotten your shois?
Page 6

Arrow hits a wall:
Find out how in this week's QuaSR.
Page 7

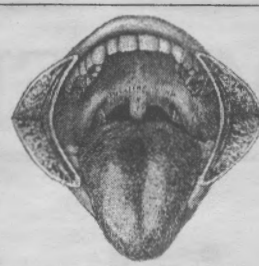
Why didn't you vote?:
Former GU Rep on lack of voter turnout.
Page 8

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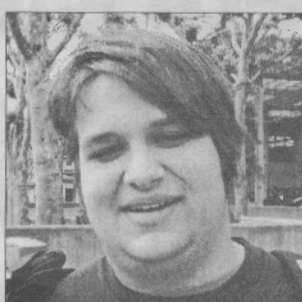
What are your plans for the summer?

Carrie Ramsdell and Seth Vincent



"I'm doing an unpaid, uncredited internship in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and I might go to Michigan."

Amanda Peters Gilmore Junior
Mediaworks



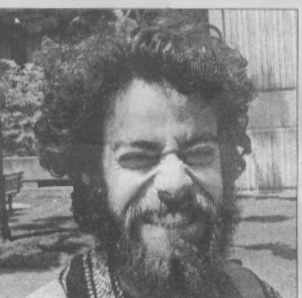
"Sleeping, cause I haven't slept in 35 hours."

Andrew Pitel Freshman
Women's Voices and Images of Women



"Drink, travel, sleep, swim, read."

Ani Glass Senior
Molecule to Organism



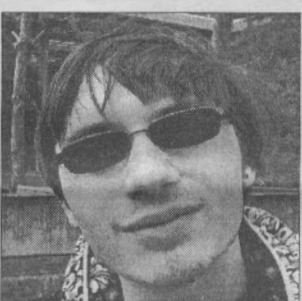
"I'm going to spend three weeks in Costa Rica with some teenagers and getting certified as an astrologer."

Ari Moshe Wolfe Senior
Independent Learning Contract



"I'm going to Atlanta, Georgia for the U.S. Social Forum."

Christopher Rotondo Sophomore
Atlanta 2007



"I'm going to be working for my grandpa and saving up money for a motorcycle."

Gantz Engelnagf Sophomore
New Media Studies



"I'm gonna be a backpacking camp counselor and take time to do nothing."

Ruben Gutstein Senior
Animal Behavior

COOPER POINT JOURNAL

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Carrie Ramsdell

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Ad representative
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Circulation manager/Paper archivist
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Distribution manager
Jordan Nailon

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Call the Cooper Point Journal if you are interested in any of the available positions listed above.

Cooper Point Journal
CAB 316

News: (360) 867 - 6213

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Paper Critique

4 p.m. Monday
Comment on that week's paper. Air comments, concerns, questions, etc. If something in the CPJ bothers you, this is the meeting for you.

Student Group Meeting

5 p.m. Monday
Find out what it means to be a member of the student group CPJ. Practice consensus-based decision making.

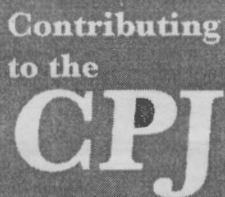
Content Forum

1:05 p.m. Wednesday
Lecture and seminar related to journalism and issues surrounding CPJ content.

Thursday Forum

4:45 p.m. Thursday
Discuss ethics, journalism law and conflict resolution.

All meetings held in CAB 316



The content of The Cooper Point Journal is created entirely by Evergreen students. **Contribute today.**

The Cooper Point Journal

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The CPJ is printed on recycled newspaper using soy ink.

News briefs

Submit yours to
cpj@evergreen.edu

Voting results in

Here are the results from the recent election and votes. Both of the ballot items, the transit fee increase to fund a late night shuttle and a fee to support the Flaming Eggplant Cafe, reached the 25 percent participation mark and are therefore valid. After a six-hour hand-counting session, these results have been certified by the Elections Commissioners and are expected to be certified by the Geoduck Union. The transit fee to fund a late night shuttle resulted in Yes: 969 and No: 111. The Flaming Eggplant fee resulted in Yes: 828 and No: 177. Your new GU representatives are: Aaron M. Shelley, Brittany Jane Newhouse, Charlie Bloomfield, Tyler Ball, Joshua Collins-Beldin, Regan Harrison, Austin Mansell, Elizabeth Hill, Courtney Underwood, Jay Standish, Charles Loosen, Nathaniel Hagood, Sammi Webster, Trevor Kinahan, Mallory Epping, Bea Wolfe, Kit Crosland, Alexandra Mavrikis and Brian Fligner.

Art exhibition and reception in Gallery 4

Evergreen Galleries, Gallery 4 is presenting Kate Clyde's "Bait and Switch" art exhibition now through Friday, June 8 and Super Saturday, June 16. Exhibition hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Gallery 4 is located in LIB 4th floor.

The End of Art starts at the Eagles Hall

On Saturday, June 9 starting at 7 p.m. Evergreen artists will be exhibiting their work at the Eagles Hall in downtown Olympia in a show called The End of Art. Doors open at 7 p.m. Performances will begin at 7:30, with visual installations available to view throughout the evening. The End of Art will also include music, poetry, literature, and a number of mixed-media productions. Admission is free, refreshments provided, and the atmosphere will be fun and casual. The Eagles Hall is located at 805 4th Ave., at the corner of 4th and Plum St. The End of Art is a showcase of work by students enrolled in two different courses: Art Production in the 21st Century; From Theory to Practice and Art After The End of Art. "We didn't just want to put on another student art exhibition," said Kate Arvin, playwright and one of the show's participants. "We feel that it's necessary to continually bridge the gap between the college and the city. We wanted to reach out to the Olympia community, go beyond the campus, and try to make connections." One of the faculty advisors on the project, Professor of Literature Elizabeth Williamson, explained the show's morbid title. "There's a real lack of risk-taking in the arts, not just here, but throughout the country. We don't think that artworks are pretty things to be passively appreciated. We wanted to challenge these assumptions by creating a totally interactive space, one in which artists and audiences blend, where we rethink our assumptions of what it means to be involved in the arts generally. So, is our show just another indicator that art has died in some way, that it's ended? That's what we want to find out."

Gleaners Coalition updates

The Gleaners Coalition is starting up work parties and gleaning events now, typically on Tuesdays and Saturdays. On Saturday, June 2 Gleaners will attend Kirsop's work party in the morning. In the afternoon, they will head to Circle Hawk Farm, where they will finish up construction on a hoop house already started and hopefully spend some time in the garden as well. To attend these events, contact Vicki Faust, volunteer coordinator, at 705-0193 or vicki@gleanerscoalition.org Next week, Gleaners will have a work party at the Kiwanis food bank garden on Tuesday, June 5 and then will hopefully be gleaning on Saturday, June 9.

Two nights of 21st century film

A group of 30 multi-media students from legendary MediaWorks will be presenting their projects to the public on the evenings of Monday, June 11 and Tuesday, June 12. Anyone involved in film or any of its counterparts—audio, animation, writing, computer graphics—this is something to attend. The screenings will take place in COMM Recital Hall. The lights dim and start to flic-k-ick-er at 6:30 p.m. Content is new each night.

Cartoonists converge at Comics Festival

The Olympia Comics Festival, a tribute to alternative comics, takes place on Saturday, June 9. This year's guests are Ivan Brunetti and Ellen Forney. Brunetti is known for his biting sardonic humor and raunchy little one-liners. His most recent book, "Mystery Loves Comedy," is a compilation of his comic, "Schizo," as well as many of his shorter strips. Forney, most recognized for her illustration work, is frequently published in "The Stranger." Her latest book, "I Love Led Zeppelin," collects her short comics and collaborations. The cartoonist expo runs from noon to 5:30 p.m. at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. and is free and open to the public. It features several panels with the guests as well as many other local cartoonists. There will be book signings at Danger Room Comics, 201 4th Ave. throughout the afternoon and a stage show at the Capitol Theater, 206 5th Ave. from 7 to 9 p.m. The stage show costs \$5 at the door and consists of several skits, contests and a showing of some of the "Worst Comics of All Time." For any questions or concerns, please visit the website at olympiacomicsfestival.org or email us at olympiacomicsfestival@gmail.com

Coming up soon: Oly Exp Music Fest

Graduating student Domenica Clark is proud to announce the upcoming 13th Annual Olympia Experimental Music Festival on Thursday, June 21 through Sunday, June 24 at the Eagles Hall and Le Voyeur, sponsored by KAOS. Tickets are available at Rainy Day Records and www.buyolympia.com. Full passes are \$25. Individual day passes are \$7. Featured acts include: Wendy Atkinson (Vancouver, B.C.), Acre (Portland, OR), Hans Grusels Krankenkabinet (San Francisco, CA), Alps of New South Wales (Australia), L.A Lungs (Tacoma, WA), Eric Ostrowski (Seattle, WA), Dead Air Fresheners (Seattle/PDX/OLY), White Rainbow (Portland, OR), Noisettes/Walrus Machine (Seattle, WA), Wood Paneling (Mason County, WA), and more info available online at: <http://www.duckhugger.com/olyexpfest/13th.htm>.

Calvin Johnson tours with Julie Doiron

Calvin Johnson's influence on the DIY music scene throughout the past two decades is undeniable. For this tour he will share some of those songs and stories that changed the independent music scene as we know it. Calvin Johnson with Julie Doiron will play Art House Designs, 420 Franklin St. SE #B, on Monday, June 18th at 8 p.m. Johnson's music career spans the better part of three decades. He pioneered DIY music when he formed his first bands Beat Happening and The Go Team (with Tobi Vail and appearances from Kurt Cobain) and simultaneously began his record label K Records. K is still a major player in the indie music scene, and has released records by such artist as Modest Mouse, The Blow, Kimya Dawson, Mirah, The Microphones, The Make-Up, Built to Spill, and Beck. This tour is in support of Calvin's latest full-length, Calvin Johnson & the Sons of the Soil – an album in which he gathered other K artists (Kyle Field of Little Wings, Adam Forkner or Yume Bitsu, and Jason Anderson) to form a band and completely redo select songs from his past work.

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Representative Engel can also see the progress made this year, but believes that there is much more work to be done. He explained that his main goal "was to make sure the Union didn't flounder in its first year. My main concern was laying a solid foundation to ensure the longevity of the Union, so that it can eventually become a hub for activism on campus, a tool to consolidate student power."

GU failures

"Some projects work out," said representative Engel, "but a lot of them fail." During their fledgling year of representation, the Geoduck Union had its share of successes, but also frequently found itself in a static state of flailing.

Bureaucratic behavior was a constant irritant to members of this year's Union. As many would expect at a state funded, liberal institution, red tape is a major part of the décor.

"This year, we created far too many committees and projects," admitted Sanders. Eventually, those projects and the people involved in them "seemed to drop off."

Another tinge of bureaucracy that bothered representative Sanders had to do with language. "Just because we are a consensus-based group doesn't mean you can blurt out whatever, whenever. Don't block something or make it complicated by word-smithing shit. Just approve it and deal with it later. Honestly, we spent so much time on words and language."

Stephen Engel had another point of contention. "The most persistent and annoying roadblocks this year were products of selfishness." As a result of this selfishness, the majority of elected representatives did not end up finishing the year. "I've gained a great amount of respect for a handful of them who have stuck it through."

This problem of responsibility was one that representative McLane-Higginson witnessed first hand as well. "Don't let personal conflicts interfere with Union business; things sometimes get tense, but you need to separate personal feeling from conflicts that actually involve the Union."

Aside from the sometimes high-tempered communication among each other, the Union made an effort to reach out to students. Although, it was decidedly agreed upon that this effort fell short of its optimum potential.

When McLane-Higginson was asked what project she wished to have more time for, she emphatically replied, "Communicating with students!"

"I wish we had more success in communication with the student body," said Sanders. "But hey we are new, and we were busy laying the groundwork and creating a foundation that next year's reps will appreciate."

The seemingly tireless Engel had a more expansive view of the tasks the Union failed to cover. "I wish I had gotten more involved in the legislative process. But really, the list is endless."

GU sage advice

"Don't take anything personally," offered Sanders. "Our mission statement used to end with 'Get Shit Done,' and I cannot emphasize how important that statement is when you are frustrated or angry or just plain fed up with the Union. The union is not about you or me. It is about improving students' quality of life at Evergreen. Don't waste the Union's time with personal conflict."

Engel added, "To do this job well, you need to think about others more than yourself. And withhold judgment until you really

understand a situation. Many times I felt one way, but felt very different after listening to what my colleagues were saying."

McLane-Higginson agreed that open communication within the Union is crucial. "Reaching consensus with twenty-one people is not nearly as hard as it sounds and will only get easier throughout the year."

"Also," commented Sanders, "you don't have to be on the defensive with the administration all the time. Approach everything you think is wrong and bad at TESC with creative criticism and don't be an asshole to anyone."

On a different note, Sanders added, "Not showing up to meetings is unacceptable. If we don't meet quorum, we are useless. Do your part. The Union isn't a track meet, it's a marathon. Two hours a week doesn't cut it."

GU future union work

Next year's Union will be building on the foundation laid by this year's group, but the representatives themselves will all be fresh faces. None of this year's incumbents opted to run again for next year's Union.

"The vast majority of us graduate this year," explained McLane-Higginson. "Only three current representatives will attend Evergreen next year. Victor Sanders did not run for reelection because he hopes to become student coordinator for the Late-Night Shuttle."

Her advice for next year's group: "Give yourselves power. Write up what you're in charge of and get that document added to official school policy. Communicate with students, foster student involvement in the Union and other governance opportunities. And make sure the CAB is redesigned to best suit all students."

Her list did not end there, as she saw situations that had a conflict of interest and an unbalance of power. "Also, the Union needs to get funded differently. We should not have to petition the S & A Board for money like student groups. Access to the all-student DL (e-mail delivery list) would be nice too, and we have asked Andy Corn in S & A to please seek permission for (the Union) to [use] the DL."

Representative Engel expressed a very specific goal for next year's Union. Namely, his vision is to work with the group Focus the Nation. "This is my number one recommendation, and a great opportunity for the Union to step [up] and become a real hub for activism on this campus. Focus the Nation will launch a national teach-in on January 31, 2008, hooking up students and citizens with political leaders and decision makers to talk about solutions to global warming. Les Purce, Evergreen's president, has agreed to support this project on campus. Some faculty on Evergreen's Sustainability Task Force has gotten behind it too, but they're lacking student support and without student support, they can hardly do anything. If students don't step up, Focus the Nation will not happen at Evergreen and that would blow. Straight up."

He went on to include his detailed plan of implementation. "I recommend the Union (a) get as many students on campus involved as possible, and (b) involve itself as much as possible. Start by forming a Focus the Nation committee, then troll around S & A to find out which student groups want to get involved. Table to get others student involved, and set up strong relations with the faculty and students on the Sustainability Task Force."

Jordan Nailon is a junior enrolled in an independent contract.

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Monday Night Reading Series Review: Glenn Mott, Shin Yu Pai, Charles Alexander

By Andrew Csank

Glenn Mott, the doubly talented author and journalist, read first at this week's installment of the Monday Night Reading Series. He read from "Analects on the Chinese Screen" (from Charles Alexander's Chax Press), based primarily on his travels in present day China. Before beginning his reading, Mott described an interest in a "social poetry," and warned that the "I" pronoun he used was not really he, but reflected instead a more "protean" or "lyrical" sense of the word. I was a bit jarred when the first poem he began reading had his "I" as a poet named Glenn at a party in Shanghai. Clearly, the degree of complexity he sought to add to the "I" was not simple in substituting an alternate identity for his actual one. If he were, as he said, seeking to undermine the pronoun's conventional usage, it would have to be at a deeper level — contorting its actual function, not simply its referent.

The China Mott began to describe was not the traditional one to which we are accustomed in American poetry, but the New China — a China of business, American dollars, a "presumption to global taste." At the party he attends, no one gives a damn that he's a poet. They are the sons and daughters of bankers, diplomats, and celebrities, and Mott imagines that they only invited him at all because his wife is attractive. Rather than indignation, this circumstance leads Mott into a rich self-doubt: "I would also die unknown ... I had what it takes to be forgotten in a day ... I was never going to be more specific to myself." It is strange that the disappointment one senses here seems tied to its setting. No poet with a shred of common sense would ever be alarmed enough by an American apathetic attitude towards poetry at a party to be moved into writing about it. Did Mott expect something different from China? If not, could that expectation be more protean — that China would be different from America in any sense, and any similarity could have stood in for the broader tragedy?

Mott addressed the more specific side of the setting verbally by saying, "A lot of these pieces are ... um ... situations. Social situations ... in which you can see the situation clearly for the first time." He then made it clear that he always sees parties as political situations.

The first theme he addressed came up again in the form of a section of the book called, explicitly, "Pronouns." From what I could gather, it seemed to have a tight, formal contrivance of changing the pronoun in each line from that of the previous line. As such, one line would be a "we" line, the next "you," then "they," back to "we," and so forth. It's a fine structural strategy to get someone thinking about what it means to say "we," "you," or "they," to bring the reader into you, to push the reader out, then unite the reader with an exclusion of a third principal. Just as political as any party, one might suggest.

The third theme of his was travel — the ideas that are in and stem from places. He kept referring to a haunting concept that the traveler awaits his arrival in a place he already knows himself to be, as though a doppelgänger of a broader world awaits to usurp your position the instant you step off the plane.

I largely appreciated Mott's ability to use what initially appears to be a quite intelligible form. His capacity to depart from conventional thought did not require departing from (most) linguistic conventions. He summed this up aptly by saying, "The making of a sentence is a way of remaking the mind."

The second poet, Shin Yu Pai, was inter-

ested in collaborative gestures towards other media. The first series she read was written from a series of photographs taken of Japanese love hotels, designed for quick sex or, in this work especially, prostitution. She explained how many of the young women utilizing these hotels are not doing so to pay rent, buy food or feed families, but rather simply to keep up with fashion trends. The rooms themselves are also tied into fashion and consumer culture, such as décor featuring the cartoon Hello Kitty or Christmas themes (though in Japan Christmas is not a religious or widely celebrated holiday, but more an aesthetic).

Another poem dealt with the recent installation of "grobe free cars" in the Tokyo subway system: all girl cars to prevent the girls from being groped by salary-men on their way to work. She added to this a recent history of girls' alliances with the Yakuza organized crime family to frame some men for such an act.

The third series, "Nutritional Feed," played with the language of food advertising and pop culture's influence on early child development (one might wish to add physical development, in this case, to the explicit connotation of psychological development). These poems were disorienting in their torrent of slogans, puns, and overlapping meanings. I was put off by her tendency towards explaining in plain speech concepts that were explicit within the poems themselves, as though she had a certain lack of faith in the work's ability to speak.

The third poet, Charles Alexander, founder and director of Chax Press (www.chax.org) read from his new work, "Certain Slants." (Perhaps a play on the old Emily Dickinson axiom, "Tell the truth, but tell it slant.") The meat of this work, so to speak, is the series "Pushing Water." The first installment he read features a small set of words repeated in various arrangements, arriving at many paradoxes and looping contradictions. The next installment had a similar initial setup, but moved into different terrain altogether. From one installment of his series to another, there was a beautiful, subtle, formal fall. They both radically swerved from one another and yet seemed to be in a harmony of motive. This swerve was connected to what was taking place within the poems as well.

The most striking installment of this series was posed as a deluge of questions. They ranged across all modes of inquiry imaginable: metaphysical, existential, circumstantial, material, familial, and so on. Even as the mode of a question was a broad gesture out, there were also many acts of self-reference: "Does structure matter? Is matter structured?" He would sometimes employ mysterious poetic gambits, such as referring to the writer or muse of the poem as a woman gendered "she" and then undermine it by incorporating a question of the very meaning of gendering. When an overtly humorous question would roll along, it would be followed by a question of immense sadness, i.e. "where is your mother?"

I can think of no better way to conclude than with a few more of his questions:

"How do we determine the speed of a consonant? Who determined the pitch of middle C? What kind of profit motive would cause you to question the dream? Is there a language that cannot be translated unless waiting is required? Does a question go away? Why signify and why not signify? Who is asking the questions? Why do you want to know?"

Andrew Csank is a senior enrolled in Art After the End of Art.

FILM REVIEW

Shh: "The Secret"

By Jais Brohinsky

Oprah and Larry King told me about this film. Gosh, I'm glad I watch their television shows, because now I have a brand new Mercedes-Benz. But I'm rushing the story and skipping the review.

Adapted from the book written by Rhonda Byrne, "The Secret" tells the story of the world's greatest force: the power of attraction. For ninety minutes, visionaries, quantum physicians, and metaphysicians vouch for the three easy steps needed to reshape the universe using one's mind. At first, I didn't believe them, but every time they spoke, their titles flashed across the screen — Ph.D.s, M.S.C. Ds, D.D.s — all validating their credibility in an aggrandized, feature length infomercial with dramatic reenactments punctuating the particularly poignant stories. A brief clip at "The Secret" website confirms the claims of cosmic manipulation with historical facts. "The greatest people in history," many great white men, have known about the secret: Plato, Shakespeare, Newton, Beethoven, Lincoln, Emerson, Edison, and Einstein.

According to James Ray (philosopher, President/CEO of James Ray International, and promoter of "The Secret"), "Science tells us that everything is energy, and so your thoughts are energy. Your body, your cash, your car — everything you think is solid, if you put it under a high-powered microscope, it's just a field of energy and a rate of vibration." Emphasis The idea behind the law of attraction is that the mental energy we put into the world manifests itself physically. While this can be an incredible phenomenon, we tend to think bad thoughts in our daily lives, bringing increased frustration or suffering upon ourselves. Think about all the times we're running late for the office, stop in at Starbucks only to find the excruciatingly long line we hoped to avoid, leave to find our convertible ticketed and keyed (we knew we never should have left it unattended in *this* neighborhood), and finally, back on the road, we hit every red light only to be assaulted by beggars with rags and spray bottles. It's our worst nightmare come true, all because we focused on negative thoughts: lateness, vandalism, and harassment. My gosh. Think about using these powers for positive things like bringing gas prices down again or killing Osama bin Laden and the rest of Al Qaeda.

It's simple. With the power of attraction, with the power to actualize by believing what we want to be reality, "We can have whatever it is that we choose — I don't care how big it is. What kind of a house do you want to live in? Do you want to be a millionaire? What kind of a business do you want to have? Do you want to have more success? What do you really want?" The secret brings it all. It makes rich people rich and poor people poor. If that bum begging to wash our windshield for a buck would just use his power to attract exorbitant wealth, he could hurdle those perceived social obstacles of unskilled labor, minimum wage, and unemployment. That bum should heed the wisdom embedded in this video. "Whatever your circumstance is right now, that is *only* your current reality." Emphasis added.

The most touching personal story about the law of attraction comes from an average, white, middle class school teacher named Lee Brower. Lee speaks of a rock that he puts in his pocket every morning and takes out every night to remind him to think of all the things for which he is grateful. He shows his rock to a man from South Africa, who calls it a Gratitude RockTM. Weeks later the man e-mails Lee, and suddenly we're zoomed to a South African reenactment in which the man's son, a small black child with a swelling belly, lies sick, sweating, and feverish in bed. The man asks Lee to send three Gratitude RocksTM to help the sick boy. Lee wants to help, "I had to make sure the rocks were very special. So I went out to the stream, looked, picked out the right rocks, and sent them off." The story ends happily. The sick African gets better, and more, sells over 1,000 Gratitude RocksTM for \$10 apiece. The scene ends with a sweep of kids, surrounded by their rocks, happily and healthily painting a poster in Afrikaans. This goes to show that the power of attraction can work, even for Africans.

As I sat on the sofa watching this masterpiece, I began to imagine, to visualize my desires: something to eat, a new car, a prettier wife—probably younger and ... well younger, a new house with an Olympic-sized swimming pool. I sat there watching and thinking about my new car in the new garage of my new house and suddenly I realized my wife was gone and so was my wallet. I assumed she was getting dinner and went back to watching. Needless to say, when she pulled up in the Benz with a bucket of KFC, I knew the power of attraction was real. It worked for her as well. I was so happy with her irrationally impulsive splurge of my money that I bought her the Botox treatment she'd been asking for since last spring.

As Dr. Joe Vitale (metaphysician) explains, "[The power of attraction] is you just placing your order with the universe. It's really that easy." So, stop praying to God or Allah or whomever. Nietzsche was right. God is dead. The great old man in the sky has been replaced by the modern, new age individual equipped with the mental power to will all of life's desires into consumerist existence, be it a new Mercedes-Benz, a mansion, a rocketing stock portfolio, or even the plastic surgery you've always wanted. Forget agency. Forget accountability. Just send your money now, right now, and you too can wield the infinite power of "The Secret."

Jais Brohinsky is a senior and writing center tutor enrolled in Art Production in the 21st Century.

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THEATER REVIEW

Cigarettes and Intellectuals:

Evergreen's Production of "Franny and Zooey"

By Brandon Custy

When I got back from Portland at around 2:30 in the afternoon last Sunday, I crossed the campus immediately seeking rest and relaxation. Fortunately, as I was walking through the CAB, I spotted a sign for a play that I had been waiting to see. The play was "Franny and Zooey." I swiveled and headed for the Longhouse. I walked swiftly, checking the time as I went. As I entered, the usher handed me a program and told me to sit anywhere I liked. He added, "As you can see there is plenty of room." I was the first audience member to arrive, promising an intimate setting. People drizzled in over the next few minutes and the room was adequately filled by the time the show began.

The subtitle printed on play advertisements promised "a love story, pure and complicated." The play was most assuredly complicated. It is the story of Franny and Zooey Glass, adapted from the stories by J.D. Salinger.

The space of the Longhouse was utilized efficiently with sets that got the job done. The bathroom scene was equipped with a shower, toilet, and sink. The actors used each space effectively. The scene between Zooey and Bessy Glass, played by Patrick Bartels and Blythe Olsen respectively, is an example of the creative utilization of place. Especially the part where Zooey is shaving, with real shaving cream and no mirror; that was great.

The dialogue was the most astonishing part of the play. Each character, excluding the restaurant staff, had an enormous amount of lines. These lines had to be negotiated among many stage cigarettes, lighters, and even matches. Gianna D'Emilio didn't have to master shaving without a mirror, but she displayed Franny's fainting spells and considerable sobs skillfully. The interaction between Franny and Zooey was bolstered by Bartels's skills at criticizing all the other characters, especially Gianna's.

"Franny and Zooey" is a story college students should know," the director Larry DeMers said. It is a true statement, when one considers the ideas set forth in the play, especially Franny's disillusionment with intellectual society and art. In the end after many critical words from Zooey, she feels at peace for the first time in the whole play. In the end, Zooey tells Franny, "The only religious thing you can do is act." This line and Gianna's sigh at the end of Act III presumably leads to a relatively peaceable solution.

The play was produced in eight weeks. A two-hour play would seem to require more time to memorize lines, make the set, and master blocking. I asked Emily Ritchie, the Artistic Director and Set and Costume Designer, how she was able to do all that work. She joked, "I didn't sleep." The dedication of all involved and the quality of the end result seems to deserve more than just two shows in the Longhouse.

Brandon Custy is a sophomore happily enrolled in Illustrative Narrative and Matters of Life and Death, and appreciates all submissions for the A & E page.

Monday Night Reading Series Review: Rachel Zolf and Kaia Sand

By Andrew Csank

The first poet of this week's Monday Night Reading Series was Rachel Zolf of Toronto, ON, reading from her new book "Human Resources" (Coach House Press). Rachel dove into her reading at a superhumanly rapid pace, something I haven't seen braved to quite that degree by anyone other than Rodrigo Toscano. One's ability to follow her precise direction cognitively got buried instantly under the landslide of words following any string of syntax before you can even finish stringing the last one together. The result, though, isn't quite that you get pushed out but that you're forced to find other ways of keeping up. In addition, there's a way in which the harder it is to hear what's being said, the more important it seems to hear it.

One abandons the ability to understand the actual meaning of the work in favor of a more topographical or intuitive understanding. What kinds of words were being used? There was a thread of the sacred (for lack of a better word) traditions of Paul Celan and Edmond Jabes, Kabbalistic references, the supplementation of strings of numbers where words should be, periodically corporate language, Freud's psychosexual dramas (particularly the fecal) and something of the vulgar banalities of the collective North American mentality: America, Jesus, fuck, cat, etc. The effect was marvelous: swept up in a whirlwind of language, it becomes impossible to segregate the components of your experience by what you take to be their relative cultural or spiritual worth.

Rachel wasn't shy about revealing the motivations behind her poetics. Working in a corporate environment where she had to write copy for various brochures and pamphlets, her thoughts turned to the notion of wasted language. Her talk kept coming back to a definitive quote from Celan: "What is lost when words are wasted?" Moreover, as most poetically inclined individuals would feel in the situation of writing copy, she was wasting a tremendous amount of language. However, she also spoke of the notion that language can be cleansed or salvaged. Rachel made clear that the better part of her thematic concerns is born of and can be teased from association. Waste and cleansing lead to the fecal — what is sloughed off the human body and how is that like what is sloughed off of language? This leads to Freud's anal erotic figure who is also, according to Freud, a collector and a capitalist, which leads back into the corporate world and wasted language. Celan and Jabes lead to Judaism, which leads to the anti-Semitic cultural association with money, which leads to capitalism again. Judaism also leads to Kabbalism, which leads her to search engine poetics: the aforementioned cultural banalities, and the strings of numbers I also mentioned. Her engine of choice provided her with

rankings of most commonly searched words on the Internet (like "Jesus", "Fuck" and "Cat") (most commonly wasted words?) and those rankings provided them with numerical values, which could then be investigated as the numerical value of Hebrew words, which can be investigated in Kabbalah. With the right kind of mentality, the apparent looseness of association can lead to incredibly tight and consistent poetic results. This was certainly the case here.

The second poet, Kaia Sand, of Portland, had a similar and highly dissimilar mode of rooting her poetics in an outward investigation. To be blunt, it is something more explicitly in the tradition of "Investigative Poetics" (as exemplified by, say, Kristin Prevallet). The idea here, as Kaia put it, is that we are often told, "Write what you know," but a reasonable response is, "We can always know more." The poet then finds an area he or she wishes to explore and learns about it through the process of writing about it. In the case of this reading, Kaia explores eugenics, cases in American law in which forced sterilization was permitted, the Scopes monkey trial, lotteries and the like. Her work on eugenics was created in the form of a work of book art: a large "family album." The visual effect of her sitting down (as opposed to at the podium) and reading from this large handmade tome and periodically lifting it to display the images while we sat around called to mind, strangely, not so much a family album but elementary school story time. This association I found to be at least as disturbing in association with eugenics and forced sterilization as a family album would be. Perhaps a story time for children not permitted to be born.

On the notion of "you can always know more," an interesting asymmetry occurred with some of Rachel's comments during the Q & A. She was asked about being one of those poets who makes her living outside the world of academia (bear in mind, no poet makes his or her living from poetry). The person asking the question (as I recall, inexactly) also made the implied question of how can you know that much about poetry if you don't formally study or teach it? Her response was that you read one thing, and it begs you to read another thing and gradually your understanding blossoms out from there. She also suggested, however, that a formal academic knowledge of anything is not necessary and in fact only creates the illusion of complete knowledge. No one will ever be able to read all that needs to be read. And yet, rather than saying, "We can always know more," Rachel suggested, rather, "You don't need to know everything." After all, in a world comprised of associative strings of meaning, you can know everything just by knowing one thing.

Andrew Csank is a senior enrolled in Art After the End of Art.



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Summer Healthcare:

What's available and affordable in Olympia?

By Ariel Brantley-DalGLISH

The Student Health Center will close over summer break and will reopen the first week of the fall quarter, September 24, 2007. If you are staying here in Olympia over the summer, here are some tips to help navigate medical care within the Olympia community.

No insurance? **The Neighborhood Free Medical Clinic (459-7200)** is your best bet. They are a great resource and it is totally free to go. Doctors and nurses will see you for emergencies as well as basic medical care. The clinic is only open Tuesday evenings 5:30-8:30 p.m. and patients are seen on a first come, first served basis. They are looking to expand their services and need volunteers, so pass on the word. The clinic is located along bus route 68, at 3045A Carpenter Road SE in Lacey.

Next best would be the **Sea Mar Community Health Center (491-1399)** located at 3030 Limited Lane NW in Olympia. Appointments are required. Same day appointments are often available for established patients, but they fill quickly. Call by 8:00 a.m. to maximize your chance of being seen. Though they charge a \$20 co-pay at time of service, they offer a sliding-scale fee and payment arrangements for the rest of the balance. Proof of low income is required in the form of a pay stub or financial aid receipt. Proof of current address is also required. They are open Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., with extended evening hours on Thursday until 9:00 p.m.

There are two urgent care clinics in Olympia. **Pacific Walk-In Clinic (455-1350)** is located at 3928 Pacific Ave. SE in Lacey and **West Care Clinic (357-9392)** is located at 3000 Limited Lane NW in Olympia. Neither one offers sliding scale, though West Care accepts DSHS (with the exception of the Community Health Plan division). Most insurance plans are accepted at both clinics. Pacific requires a \$75 payment at the time of service and they will bill for any amount over that. They usually will work out payment plans for students. It is \$95 for your first visit to West Care. Once you are established, it is \$78. They'll give you a 15 percent discount if you use check or cash to pay. Pacific Walk-In is open Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. West Care is open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Both clinics are open Saturday and Sunday 9:00am - 5:00 p.m.

For sexual health concerns, Evergreen students should know about Planned Parenthood's Teen Clinic. **Teen Clinic** is a walk-in time at **Planned Parenthood** where patients are seen on a first-come, first-served basis. There are educators in the lobby to assist with paperwork and answer questions. The clinic facilitators also play fun games and hand out prizes. They just raised the age of people eligible to come to teen clinics from 19 to 21. If you are low income, make sure to ask about the Take Charge program. You may be eligible to receive free sexual health exams and family planning counseling. If you aren't eligible, they offer a sliding-scale fee as well. Walk-in hours are Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the downtown Olympia clinic located at 402 Legion Way, Suite 201. You can also call for an appointment other times of the week at 754-5522.

The **Thurston County Family Planning Office (786-5583)** is another option for sexual health concerns. They also offer a sliding scale for their services based on income. They are located at 412 Lilly Road NE in Olympia.

That's a selection of what is available in Olympia, but if you have more specific questions or concerns, the Health Center has a comprehensive list of referrals available for doctors, dentists, naturopaths, herbalists, counselors, etc. Feel free to drop by and get the info you need!

Ariel Brantley-DalGLISH is a senior Student Medical Assistant and a Planned Parenthood Public Affairs intern.

So, you're going to Europe? Tips and Tricks for Traveling Abroad



Lindsay Adams

By Lindsay Adams

For the past three months, I spent my time traveling around Northern Europe, partially on my own and partially with the Ireland program in Gleann Cholm Cille, Ireland. Although my trip was amazing and I would still go knowing what I know now, I have a few suggestions for anyone who either studies abroad or travels on their own without a program.

1) A good backpacking rule of thumb is half the stuff and twice the money. I found this to be so true. In the preparation to leave the country, it is really easy to get so excited and stressed out that all common sense falls away. Ask yourself: Am I going to have enough money? Do I really want to carry this 40-pound pack around for that long? Should I have a feasible system for not going broke when I get home?

This is especially true when traveling to countries that use different monetary units, for example, it can be very confusing when traveling from the United Kingdom, which uses the pound, to a country such as Norway, which uses the kroner. Although Norway and the United Kingdom are not that far away, prices are very different. A \$3 bottle of water is about 1.50 pounds in the UK to about 18 kroner in Norway. Something I did to help stop the confusion is to write down how much items like food, transportation

and lodging are in different currencies and how much that is in dollars. This way, when I found out a train ticket was 50 kroner, I knew right away how much that was in dollars.

2) Don't act like an American. There are many negative aspects of every culture and Americans have just as many as every other. It is not as noticeable until you leave the country but can be detrimental to your experience if not recognized. Americans are notorious for complaining, being loud, rude, highly opinionated and overly excited about America. My favorite thing to do abroad while I am in a line or waiting for some form of transportation is to pick out the Americans in the crowd. At one point, I had to stay in a bed and breakfast because all of the hostels were full in Cork City, Ireland. An upper middle class American couple was checking in while I was leaving. It was in the evening and when the host offered the couple tea and biscuits, the husband rudely snapped at the host saying, "Isn't it late for tea! It's like 7 p.m.!" Just remember, have a bit of cultural sensitivity; it goes a long way and helps you make friends.

3) Travel alone! I traveled alone for 3 weeks of my trip and it was one of my favorite parts of my trip. You don't have to wait around for other people and you are more easily approachable by locals and other travelers.

4) Be a traveler, not a tourist. Stay in hos-

tels, not hotels. It is cheaper and you meet other people from around the world. Many times, it is boring to stay alone in a hotel, but in a hostel, you are always around new people with whom you can go out!

5) Don't get scared because of a language barrier! Just learn as you go. When I got to Norway, I saw everything was in Norwegian and since I didn't know any Norwegian, I just played along. Instead of being really nervous about not knowing what the signs in the train stations and streets said, I found it was fun to learn as I needed to and I picked up some Norwegian as I went along.

6) When travel mishaps occur and you panic, just remember: you're in Europe! When I nearly missed my train to Bergen in Norway or couldn't find a place to stay in Cork, I didn't freak out because I just looked at a map and smiled. Really, where would you rather be? In class? No, I didn't think so!

Overall, the main thing to do when contemplating your travels is JUST GO! It is way too amazing not to go because you are afraid of traveling alone or not knowing enough about where you are going. Just go for it. No one knows everything and you will know less if you don't go experience the world.

Lindsay Adams is a junior currently suffering from jetlag and enrolled in Ireland



Lindsay Adams

..... **The Language Symposium**

The Language of Degrees

By Victoria Larkin

I am about to graduate. I write this approximately one week from the ceremony in which I will be awarded an empty folder, which will eventually house the degree I receive from this Evergreen State College. Receiving a degree is an aside to what has gone on over these last few years of my life in Academia. But it is also a stamp on my time spent in structured/critical readings and writings, explorations and exposures. To what degree will this degree I am about to receive affect my life?

I did not come to school to get a degree. I came to school to interact with ideas, to be fed and stimulated, to exchange philosophies, to test my own, to be in an environment ostensibly dedicated to knowledge: Higher Education. For all of my engagement and assistance with my studies and explorations, I am about to be given/have gone into debt for a Bachelor's Degree. The name alone presents problems: Bachelor, hmmm ... Bachelorette's? Spinster's? Unmarried Woman's?

"Bachelor," courtesy of dictionary.com: Meaning evolved 14c. from "knight in training" to "junior member of a guild or university" to "unmarried man" (1386). Fem. form bachelorette, with Fr. ending, is from 1935, replacing earlier bachelor-girl (1895).

There are degrees of degrees. A few years ago, I earned the merest child of a degree, an A.S., from my community college. I am now about to receive the degree that pushes me out of adolescence, confirms my completion of junior status in the university, and makes me a ... bachelor? Okay, maiden. Maiden of Arts degree? That would get confusing when proceeding to the higher degrees of degrees, such as the Master's Degree: a sort of adulthood degree. One is no longer a bachelor, a swinging single, out there, in the breeze. One now has domain, calls the shots, gets RESPECT. Yeah. I'm the Master. The Madam. Or Madame. Of Arts.

If continuing on, one proceeds to the less happy sounding "terminal" degrees: Madam of Fine Arts degrees and Ph.D.s. Presumably one has now reached the pinnacle of degrees, and has expertise in Academia. Which might be terminal.

But really, what does a degree tell anyone about any of what I've "learned?" Given the degrees of quality of

higher education in this country, it might say absolutely nothing, other than I could give 'em what they wanted, which might have been very little. Okay, I passed college algebra and made it through my physics classes, but does that mean I KNOW anything?

I know some people will pay me more just on account of having this degree. I know some people wouldn't even interview me without it. I also know some people will judge me differently based entirely on the fact that I have this degree, and will further judge me by the degree to which they respect, or do not, the schools from which my degrees come.

But these degrees speak nothing to whether or not I can handle life.

... pounds of wasted paper; a renewed addiction to coffee; 5 years of escape from the "real" world; about 3 breakdowns; bowls of green; tens of thousands of dollars (out-of-state fees); black clothing; converse sneakers; weeks of evenings at the CPJ; a move out west; and at least 50 seminar papers.

There are degrees of knowledge not recognized by these degrees. Knowing about: being a parent, espresso beans, wine, street-fighting, joy, weaving (you can get a degree in weaving at some schools, however this is usually scoffed at by other higher education degree holders), farming, people, selling snake oil, etc.

Degrees Fahrenheit; degrees Celsius; degrees of hot and cold;

Degrees of love: pizza; cake; sunshine; rain; lover; children; dog; money...

Degrees of discourse: from Hallmark greeting cards to 6 page letters; from 10-page research papers to 25-page thesis papers to really really really long dissertations...

Degrees of nudity;

Degrees of murder and larceny (courtesy of the boys I hang out with);

Tangents Tangents Tangents...

What exactly does my Bachelor of Arts degree repre-

sent? Familiarity with basic computer functions (something I did not have before); pounds of wasted paper; a renewed addiction to coffee; 5 years of escape from the "real" world; about 3 breakdowns; bowls of green; tens of thousands of dollars (out-of-state fees); black clothing; converse sneakers; weeks of evenings at the CPJ; a move out west; and at least 50 seminar papers.

And speaking of seminar papers: Seminar papers are one of the best things about an Evergreen education. A good seminar paper takes a certain personal flair. A student has this well designed opportunity to combine all of their own thoughts about what they are studying and learning and give their creative minds and writing skills free reign.

Seminar papers ideally should take material from class, examine it, question it, fold it into one's own experience and speak from the self. Seminar papers are breeding grounds for originality. They can relieve a student from the drudgery of Academic Research Papers.

This is research in color, with flavor. Seminars, and seminar papers, are cornerstones of an Evergreen education. Yay.

So, back to graduation. Next week. I keep on mistakenly referring to my graduation as my wedding. Maybe it's the big-ceremony-plus-new-gown combination. I'm not sure. A friend of mine who loves his school likened graduation to divorce. Then he said maybe this slip of the tongue says more about what I think about marriage than graduation. Yes, I can see how graduation feels like a divorce, and how marriage can seem like a divorce, from life as one knew it, full of friends and adventures, follies and freedom.

My Bachelor of Arts degree will probably mean more to my future than I can see from here. Right now it just means no more days in and out with all these people. Some days that is marvelous, and others, endlessly dull and sad ...

There are degrees of community, and I have been in close company with a caliber of people I am not likely to run into in my average experience 'out there.' To the degree that I can, I will view this degree as a reminder of all of the inspiration I have received from my fellow students and professors throughout my undergrad life.

Victoria is a senior having a terrifying final quarter being a tutor, co-coordinator of the Writer's Guild, and a f/t student in Writing Beyond Language.

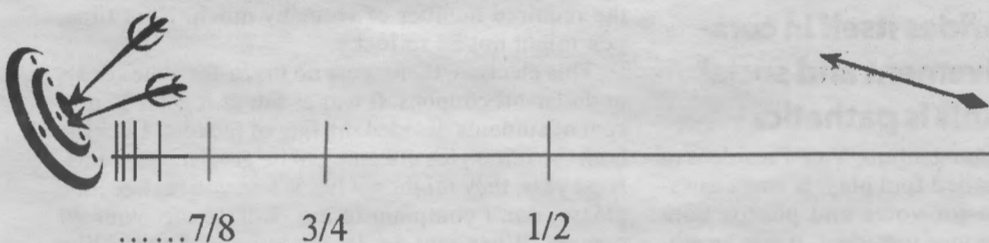
A Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning Center Puzzler



The Weekly Quantitative Reasoning Challenge

The Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning Center (QuaSR) invites you to challenge your quantitative reasoning skills by solving our puzzle of the week. Each week we will present a new puzzle for you to solve. When you come up with an answer, bring it in to the QuaSR Center in Library 2304. If you are one of the first three with the correct answer, we have a prize for you.

An arrow is shot at a target. To reach the target, it must cover 1/2 of the distance between shooter and target. Then it must cover 1/2 of the remaining distance, then 1/2 of the remainder and so on, to infinity.



Since the arrow must always cover 1/2 of the remaining distance between itself and the target before it can reach the target, how can it possibly reach the target?

Solution to last week's challenge:

1. Fill the 5-gallon bucket from the faucet
2. From the 5-gallon-bucket, fill the 3-gallon bucket. You now have a full 3-gal bucket and a 5-gal bucket with 2 gallons in it.
3. Empty the 3-gallon bucket.
4. Pour the 2 gallons in the 5-gal bucket into the 3-gal bucket. You now have an empty 5-gal bucket and a 3-gal bucket with 2 gallons in it.
5. Fill the 5-gal bucket from the faucet. You now have a full 5-gal bucket and a 3-gal bucket with 2 gallons in it.
6. Top off the 3-gal bucket from the 5-gal bucket. This removes 1 gallon from the 5-gal bucket, leaving 4 gallons.

A god I get to touch

By Casey Jaywork

Once upon a time, I was a young boy, and a Christian.

This may sound absurd. Or obvious. The way everyone dislikes rapists, but only victims hate them, it makes psychoanalytic sense that only a religious upbringing could produce such a spiteful atheist as I.

I was raised in a moderate church full of old white people. Pre-pubesence was consumed by Sunday mornings at the vital post of door holder; unlike many houses of worship, our members were geriatric enough to need such assistance, and by providing it I found purpose in my small world.

I vaguely recall confirmation — maybe fifth, sixth grade? Basement bible classes, a vow I would soon reject.

But the God my father spoke of when he kissed me goodnight was a benevolent and mysterious deity. “A person trying to understand God is like an ant trying to understand a supercomputer.” He didn’t know; he had faith. Years later he confirmed this humble uncertainty, conceding to me that had he been raised Buddhist or Muslim, he likely would have followed in that path. Growing up, I learned that it’s not the means but the end that counts in religion. Disputes between Muhammad’s Sharks and Jesus’s Jets are analogous to insects warring over PC vs. Macintosh.

Lots of dramatic shit happened after that. With the teenage advent of depression and sexuality and domestic fights and a suicide note at fifteen, my world became much larger. My memories of adolescence are carved neural graffiti, a dark streak a mile wide somewhere around my cerebral cortex. At eight or however old I was at confirmation, you’d think that pledging allegiance to an *a priori* hypothesis would be subject to future revisions. At age Small, there is far more certainty in philosophy, and far less grey.

Today, I am a faggot. I have written about this before, and need not repeat the sentiments of an angry queer-nationalist, except to mention that I have met a young man whom I very well may love (in the age of soap opera, it is difficult to be certain about these things). Nor is there much to



be gained from spilling ink over the thousand-and-one ways he makes me happy; suffice it to say that he does.

There is a problem, however. He, being mortal, is but one person in a sea of potential sex or cuddle partners. Further, the hallmark of being in anything one may seriously term a “relationship” is that the honeymoon is, as they say, over. Being alone is hard, but being with someone is complicated. I am not the first to wallow in temptation; this does not make it a less vexing position.

There was a time — a long time — when I tried to worship and serve the Lord. I’m not age Small anymore. I no longer have high definition morality; my world has grown much larger.

Whatever people may pervert it to be, religion does not survive as a hobby: knitting circles and bowling allies can just as well serve the social needs which are often met by religious institutions. There is something deeper — an emotional necessity for love, worth, and (above all, I think) purpose. If one can accept that 1) God exists, 2) God is the prime good, and 3) we know what God wants, then life becomes much simpler. From an evolutionary standpoint, it makes sense that morality is hard-wired into human beings (psychopaths hold little survival value in the long run), so main-lining the moral imperative to know — now and forever, without ever needing revisions — the *essence* of goodness is akin to enlightenment.

How utterly seductive. How glorious. How easy.

Off the top of my head, the word “pious” makes me think of Puritans — the witch hunters we have to thank for the drug, sex, and thought taboos, which persist even today. “Enlightenment” calls to mind Buddhism — which, though thoroughly romanticized by pop Orientalism, is largely a project of removing the essence of humanity (i.e. diverse emotion) from human beings. Both support their behavioral precepts with unsubstantiated stories of the unicorn/pixie-dust variety — and in both, the wages of non-cooperation are pain and torment (what child psychologists might call “negative reinforcement”).

Hell is a rather hellish idea. The same goes for “life is suffering.” It seems incoherent to profess belief in a God (or Eastern equivalent) who is supposedly

good yet sadistic enough to allow such anguish.

Yet, to be honest, I could get over that stretch. Recall that God is *ex hypothesi* beyond human understanding: while this makes for a frustratingly repetitive argument (“He works in mysterious ways”), it would make sense that such an advanced being’s decisions wouldn’t always make sense. My issue, on the other hand, and my rejection of God as such, does not stem from the numerous metaphysical inconsistencies found in all religions.

Sam Harris characterized religious faith as an “epistemological [pyramid] scheme.” This fits well with a common defense of religion: that I can’t disprove God, because nobody really *knows* anything for sure, so positive statements about God are beyond criticism.

The God I learned of as a child, however, while mysterious, was hardly so post-modern. As Carl Sagan noted, the more wishy-washy theology becomes, the less “emotionally satisfying” it is. Further, divine mystery does not equate to bullshit with *carte blanche*.

The reason I rejected my Christian upbringing was part personal identity-cum-rebellion and part intelligent rebuttal of an absurd argument. But the reason I remain outside the fold — not even participating in the new age-y “God is love” crowd — is that the God I learned of then, and need now, isn’t here.

Being an intelligent religious person requires an Orwellian amount of “doublethink” — a sure sign that something in one’s belief system is amiss. In the meantime, the invisible friend isn’t paying any bills or stopping any wars. I guess I don’t have the epistemological flexibility to receive the emotional benefits of God without noticing His evidentiary and argumentative fallacies.

It’s ironic that Christians, while pushing the concept of Satan the Deceiver, never question whether their God (Jehovah, Jesus, etc.) is in fact genuine. Is it not just as likely that the Deceiver (or more likely, our willingness to deceive ourselves) is Jehovah, and the true deity has yet to show itself?

There is a cute truism in philosophy: “Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.” First, this is bullshit: I do not accept the (relatively likely) scenario of

my parents having died in a car crash this morning, because I have an absence of evidence to suggest this. In the same way, I do not accept the (relatively unlikely) scenario that an omnipotent being has TiVo’d my life.

Still — what if? I don’t *know* that God doesn’t exist. Moreover, for all of my materialist, atheist hostility towards religion, I too feel the same emotional compulsion to believe that *everything will be all right*, to write my life story with a *deus ex machina* ending, to believe in God — a divine father who will kiss me goodnight.

So let me rephrase: “Absence of evidence is not *certainty* of absence.” For me, this makes it all the more essential to wait for the real McCoy because I *think* there *could* be a God, but I *know* that there *is* a compulsion to accept divine fictions, as long as they’re pretty enough.

Now I am Big — all grown up. I am unwilling to worship a cardboard deity, no matter how nice it makes me feel. I do not have time to wait for miracles which I know will not happen, nor the luxury of conforming to artificial codes of morality born from men who knew nothing of God and cared nothing for humanity.

There is a young man in my bed as I write this, and the soft hush of his breath hits my ears like a thousand and one questions repeated: Do I love him? What is love? What is right, how can I know it, and how can I do it? Is monogamy a perversion or a virtue? How much will we hurt each other, and will it be worth it?

The world has become a much more complicated place in the last dozen years of my life. An absent holy father is no longer enough; as a former lover put it, I want “a God that I can see, a God I get to touch.” Accepting less is not just spiritual cowardice; it’s *metaphysical self-mutilation*.

When I was trapped in high school, I carved prayers into my forearms begging for deliverance and strength. I received both, but not until after I stopped looking for help from on high. There’s a religious saying that “God helps those who help themselves.” I have to wonder, how does He feel about those who think for themselves as well?

Casey Jaywork is a sophomore enrolled in Life and Consciousness. He can be reached at burch_9030@yahoo.com.

70 percent of students failed to vote, again

Election team member asks the 2,907 failure-to-vote students to not balk at the results, please

By Victor Sanders

Campus elections are one of Evergreen’s not-so-glorious times of the year to boast about student involvement. As a member of the election team, a representative in the Geoduck Union, and the representative who is bringing you the Late-Night Shuttle program, I want to share some thoughts on elections at Evergreen.

About 70 percent of students habitually fail to vote. I won’t point fingers, but that is a lot of you out there reading this. I want to let you know that you had 14 days to vote. At some colleges, you get one day. At Evergreen, we leave voting open for 14 days because if we don’t, we won’t reach the 25 percent participation requirement to validate the election. For a school that prides itself in community involvement and social change, this is pathetic.

So why is there a huge disconnect between students and voting? The election team posted flyers across campus, put banners on Red Square and sent out several e-mails to all students, including a paper mailing. We also tabled for two weeks, set up polling stations in the Library and CAB and went door-to-



door at one point.

I don’t understand the apathy of 2,907 students, but I do understand the complaining afterwards. Oh yes, the complaining.

In last year’s election, when students heard they would be paying the most for the CAB redesign, ev-

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eryone turned to Art Constantino, Vice President of Student Affairs, and called foul play. It was a questionable affair: pizza-for-votes and photos with Speedy, paid for by the vice president. It was an ethical dilemma, and a lot of people were upset.

Students began to overlook the fact that 70% of students failed to vote in that election as well, the irony being that many of those angry at the vice

president were probably the 70% that did not vote on the CAB redesign in the first place. Constantino would never have had to buy pizza to get votes, but he did, because the campus wasn’t voting. Even so, the redesign vote barely passed, still leaving the question of where the 70 percent of students were during that election.

Oh, Evergreen, how I wish I had more faith in you to be active in making change happen! A lot of us talk about the lousy late-night bus service. You had a chance to change that last week. Most of us talk about hating Aramark. Last week, you had a chance to fix that, too.

Each of the initiatives passed, but didn’t exceed the required number of votes by much. Next time, you might not be so lucky.

This election, there were no pizza-for-votes deals or dollar-off coupons. It was as fair as it gets: 25 percent of students decided the fate of the rest. Luckily, both the initiatives are going to be good investments. Next year, they might not be. When you realize this, please, don’t complain to me. Talk to the other 70 percent. When you do, let me know. I’d really like to know why they didn’t, and won’t, vote.

Victor Sanders is a sophomore enrolled in Rethinking Suburbia.

Club Meetings

Fashion Club
Mondays, noon
CAB 2 floor

TESC Democrats
Mondays, 3:30 p.m.
CAB 3rd floor
tescdemocrats@gmail.com

Prolegomena to a Future Poetics
Evening literary reading series
Mondays, 7 p.m.
SEM II, A1105

Healing Arts Collective
Tuesdays 3:30 to 5 p.m. Info
Shoppe, 3rd floor Library

Evergreen Spontaneity Club
Tuesdays, 6 to 8 p.m.
SEM II, D1105
All experience levels welcome

Student Video Gamers Alliance
Tuesdays, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,
CAB TV lounge

Narcotics Anonymous
Tuesdays, 8 p.m.,
LAB I, 1047 and SEM II, 3107A
Sundays, 6:30 p.m. CAB lounge

SEED
Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
CAB 3rd floor pit

Chemistry Club
Wednesdays, 1 to 2 p.m.
LAB I, 1037

Geoduck Union
Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m.
SEM II, B1105
geoduckunion@evergreen.edu

Students In Action workshops
Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m.
SEM II, E2125

Students for a Democratic
Society
Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
SEM II, E3105

Society for Trans Action
Resources
Wednesdays, 3 p.m.
SEM II, D3107

Writer's Guild
Wednesdays, 3 to 4 p.m.
SEM II, C building lobby chairs

Synergy
Wednesdays, 3:45 p.m.
CAB 320

Alcoholics Anonymous
Wednesdays, 4 p.m.
LAB I, 1047
Fridays, noon and 7 p.m.
LAB I, 1047

The Outdoor Adventure Club
Wednesdays, 4 p.m.
CRC rock climbing gym

Meditation workshop
Wednesday 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Cedar Room, Longhouse

Open Mic Poetry Reading
Wednesdays, 8 p.m.
VOX
Thursdays, 2:30 p.m.
CAB 320 solarium

Infoshoppe and Zine Library
Thursdays, 4 p.m. LIB 3303

TESC Chess Club
Thursdays 4 to 6 p.m.
SEM II, C1105
All skill levels welcome.

Evergreen Animal Rights
Network
Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.
CAB 3rd Floor

WashPIRG
Fridays, 4 p.m.
CAB 320, conference room

On Campus

Thursday, 7
6 to 8:30 p.m. Amelia Ortiz spoken word
performance. Longhouse. Hosted by WOCC
and MEChA.

7:30 to 9 p.m. "Why I Ride from Low
to Show" film showings. LH 5. Hosted by
MEChA.

Friday, 8
5:30 to 7 p.m. A Night of Improvised
One-Acts. LH 2. Hosted by the Evergreen
Spontaneity Club.

Sunday, 10
3 p.m. Camp Hillel Sunday movie matinee.
Short film "West Bank Story" and feature
length "Wet Hot American Summer."
LH 5. Sponsored by Evergreen Hillel and
VOX.

Monday, 11
3 to 5 p.m. Masters in Teaching (MIT) application
and endorsement workshop. SEM
II, E 3123.

6:30 to 9 p.m. Gypsie Nation freespirit
dance. SEM II, E1107.

Off Campus

Saturday, 9
Noon to 5:30 p.m. Olympia Comics
Festival cartoonist expo at the Olympia
Center. 7 p.m. stage show at the Capitol
Theater. Tickets for stage show, \$5. www.
olympiacomicsfestival.org

Wednesday, 13
7 to 9 p.m. Olympia Movement for Justice
and Peace bi-monthly meeting. The Olympia
Center, 222 Columbia St. NW. http://www.
omjp.org

.....do something
constructive
this.....
summer.

The CPJ urges you to embark on many great adventures this summer. Write up your June, July and August stories, and send them to us for fall quarter:

cpj@evergreen.edu

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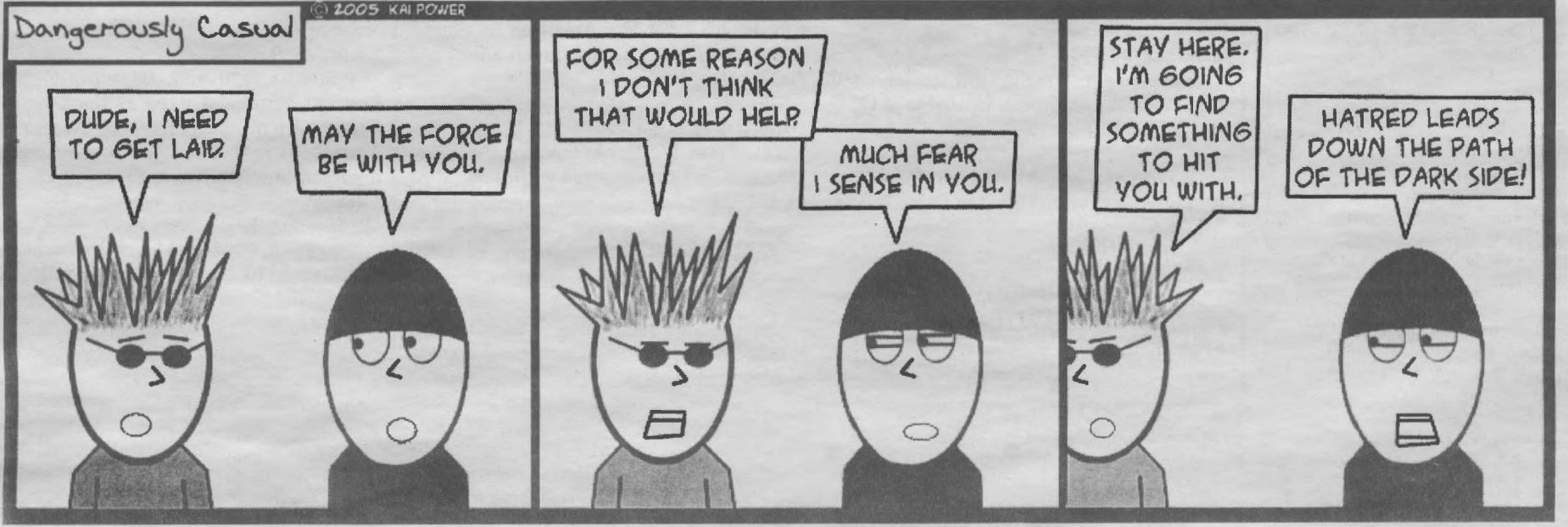
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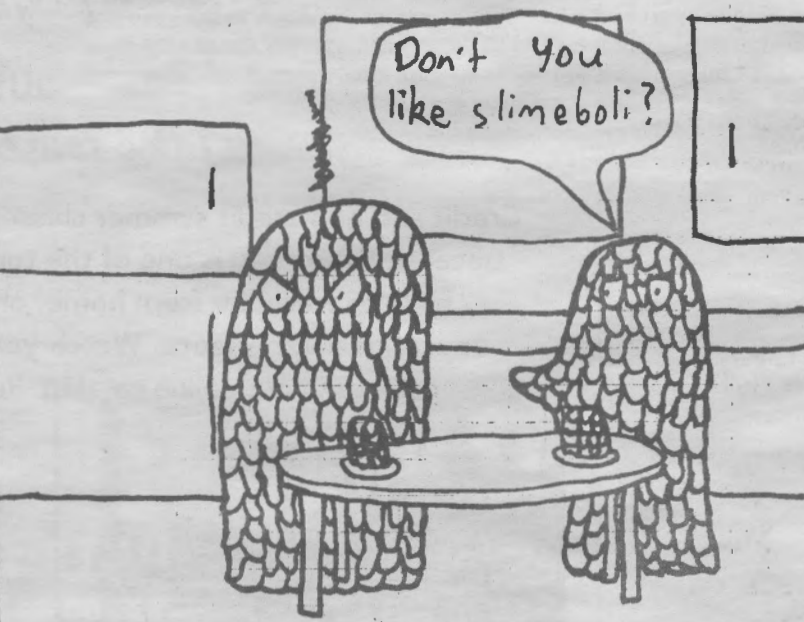
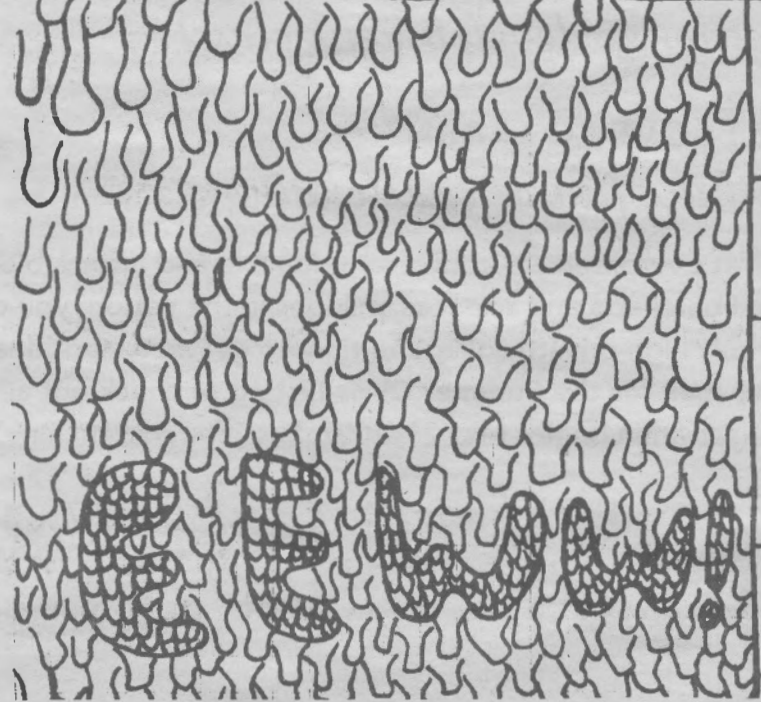
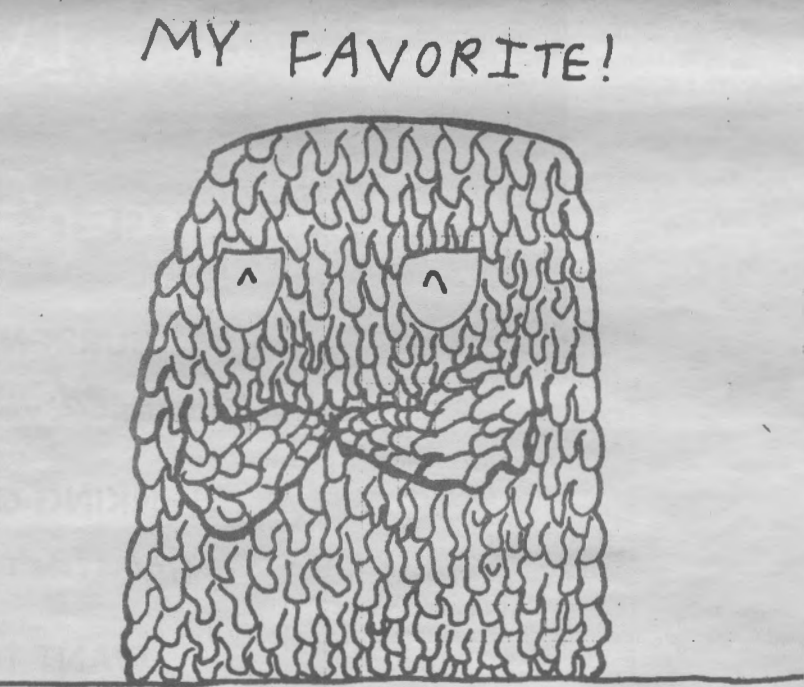
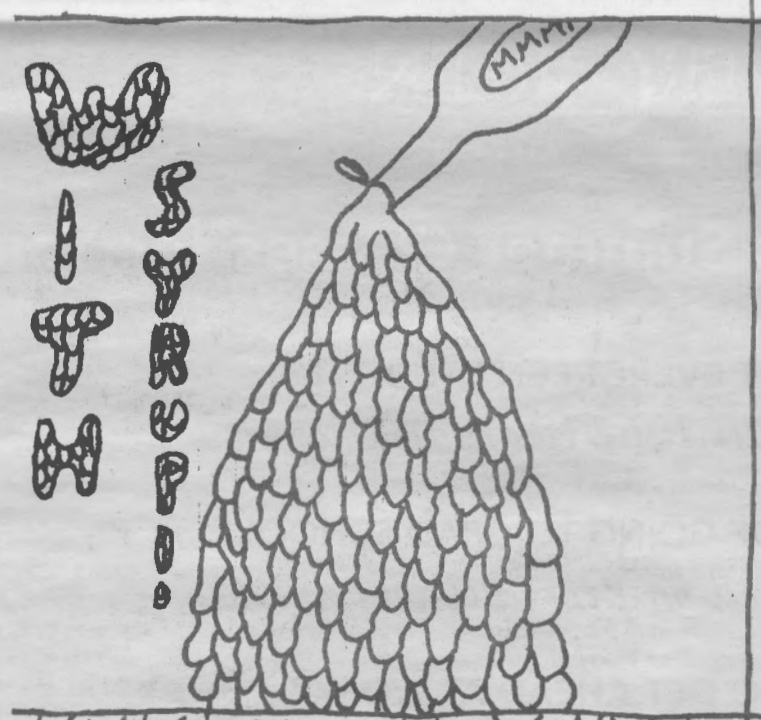
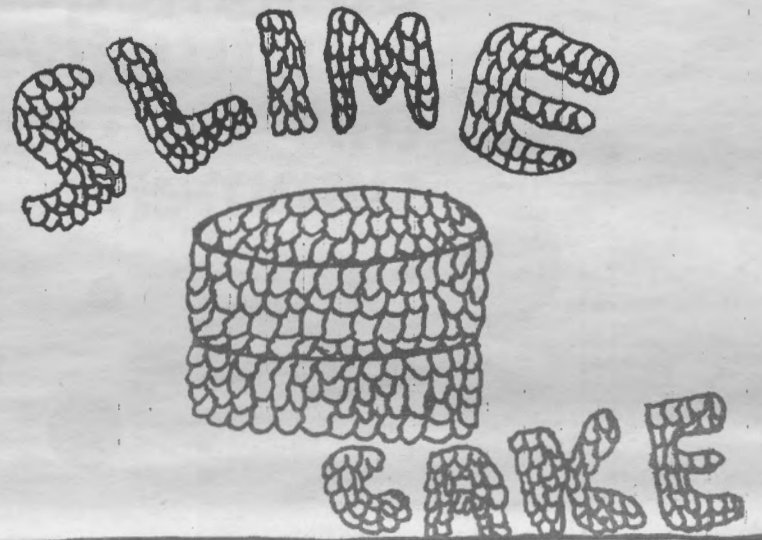
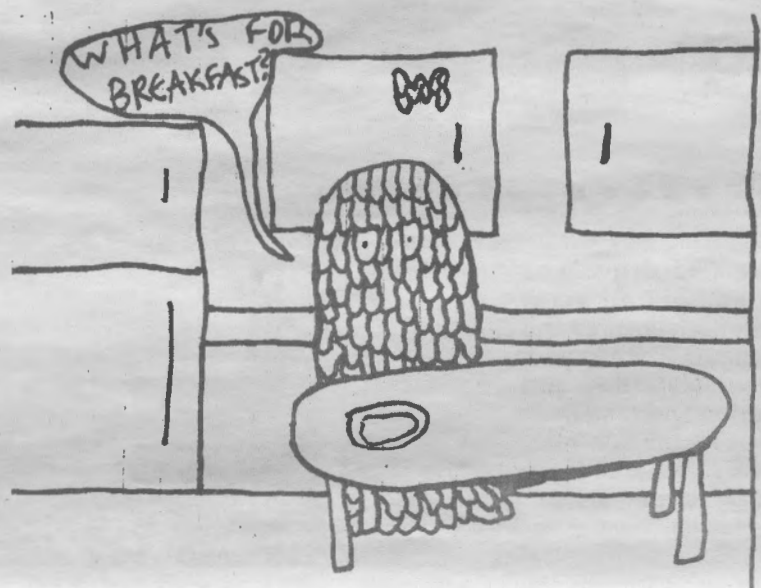
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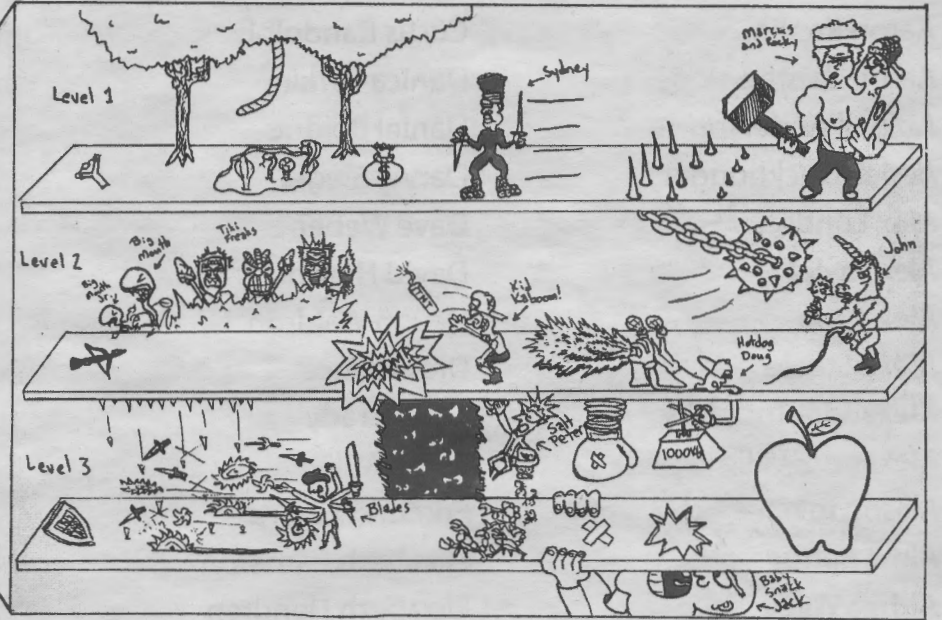
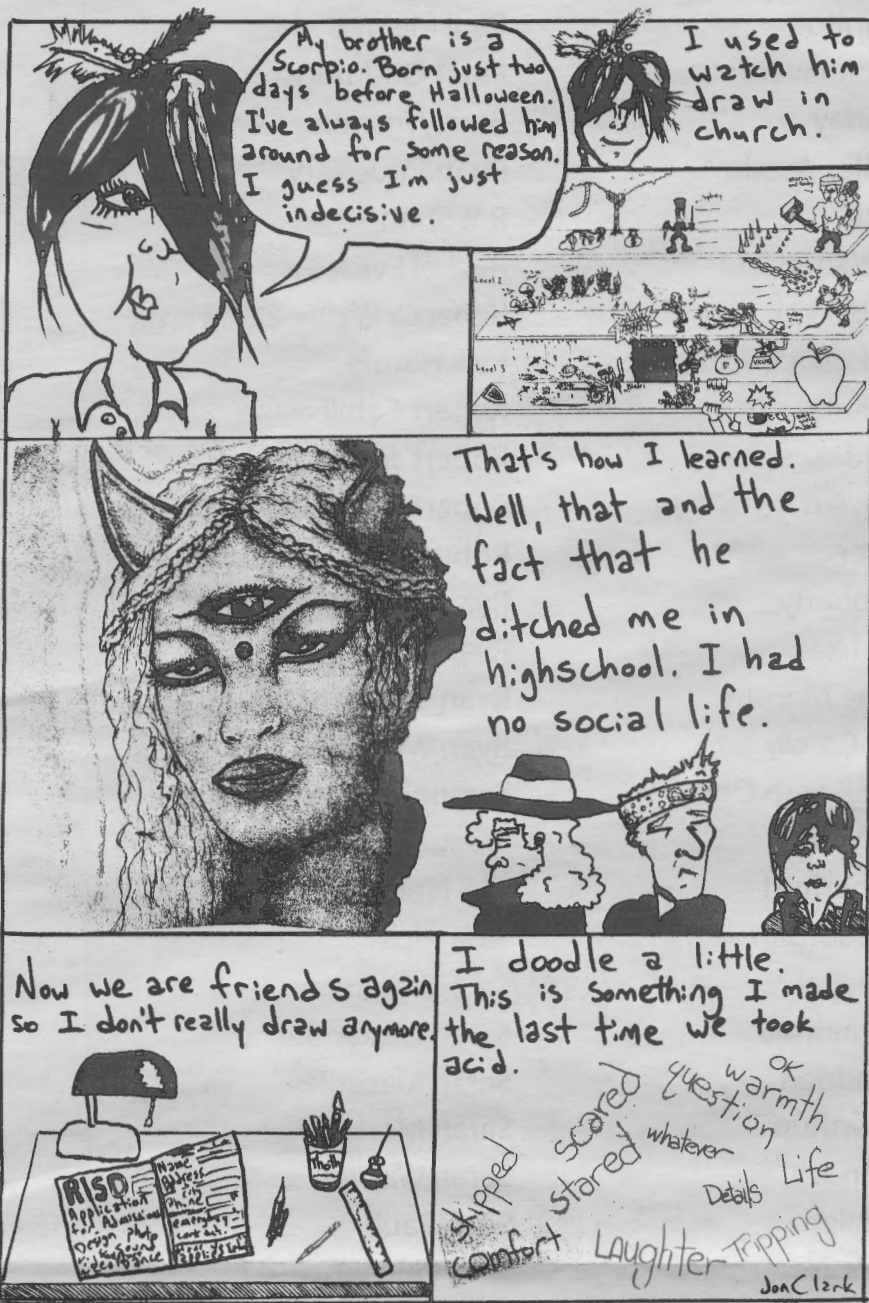
www.evergreen.edu/summer



Tony Miller

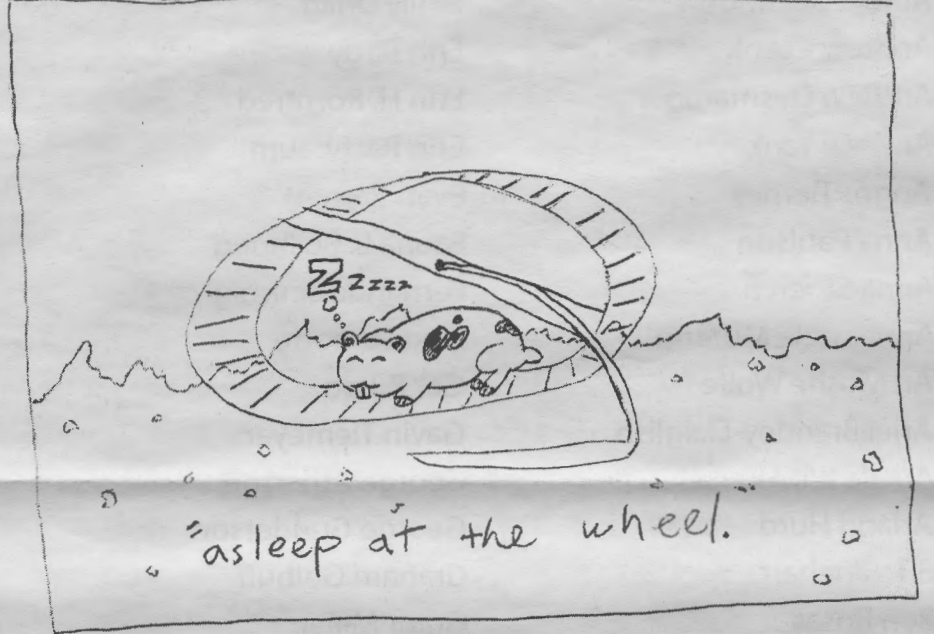


Jon Clark



Just for Puh

by Nat Williams



Brian Fligner

FLAT FOREST Historical Society

Aerick Duckhugger '07



Hey Comics Creators!!

Keep the CPJ in mind this summer.

If you've wanted to create comics for the CPJ but haven't had the time then this summer is a great chance to work!

You can give us a stack of submissions first thing next year.

Thank you to all of our contributors through out the year!

Aaron Bietz
 Aaron Kaplin
 Aaron Zanthé
 Abigail Anderson
 Aerick Duckhugger
 Alex London
 Alex Taylor
 Alex Tripp
 Alexa Steele
 Alexandra Tobolsky
 Alexandra Valin
 Allison Ioli
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 Althea Wiley
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 Tara Tabassi
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