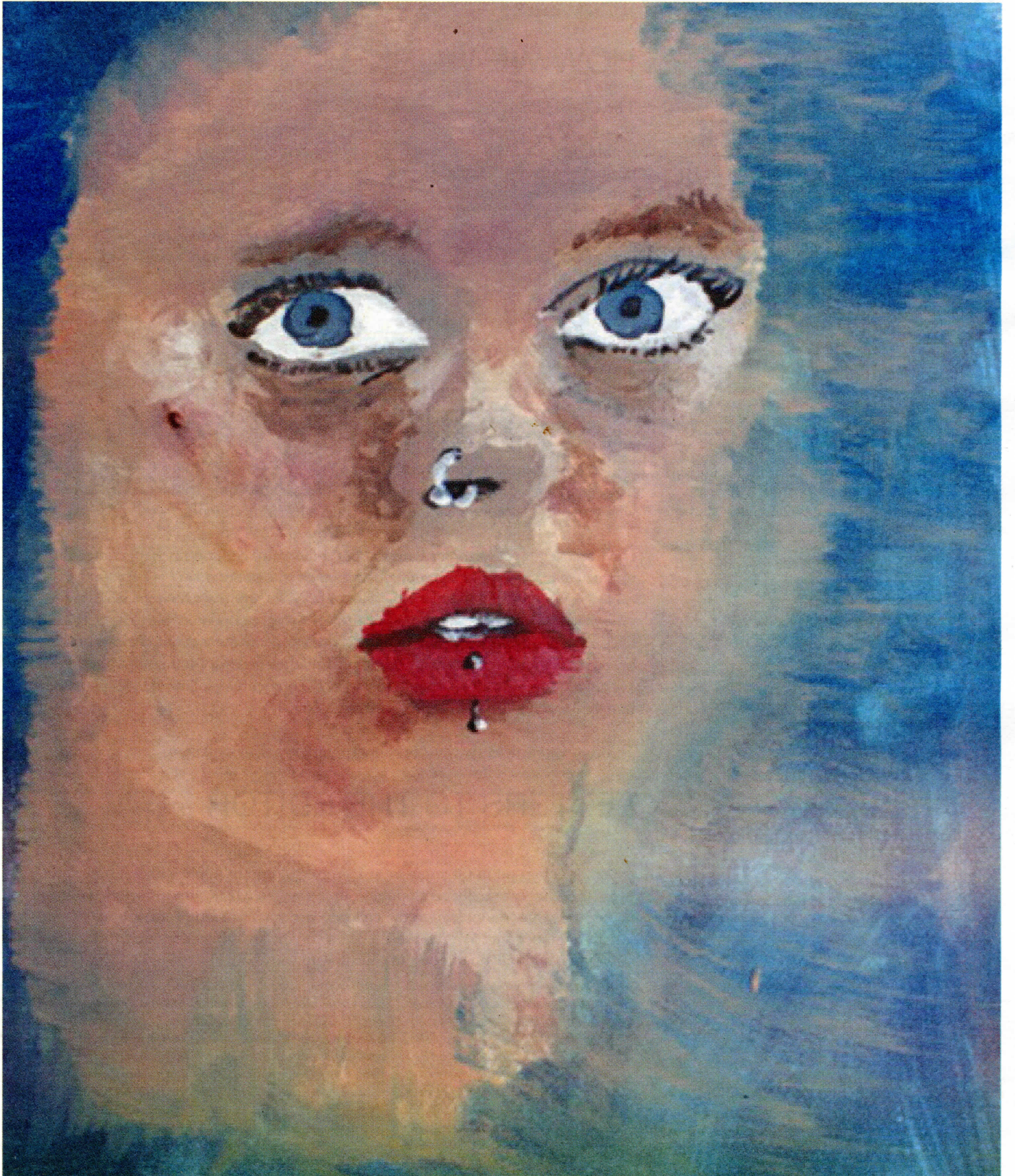


the COOPERPOINT

The Evergreen State College Student Newspaper | Jan 13 - Jan 26, 2016 JOURNAL



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WEEKLY MEETING

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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 5 to 6 p.m every Monday and Thursday.

WRITE FOR US

We accept submissions from any student at The Evergreen State College, and also from former students, faculty, and staff. We also hire 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!



Gov. Jay Inslee Speaking at the Port of Tacoma. Courtesy of Washington Department of Transportation.

Legislature Faces Budgetary Challenges in 2016 Session

By Asa Kowals-Rose

On January 11, Washington state legislators gathered in Olympia to begin the 2016 legislative session. They will remain in session until March 10, or longer if the session is extended. This will be significantly shorter than the 2015 session; sessions in odd-numbered years are longer to account for the biennial budget-writing process. On top of this, the 2015 session was extended three times due to legislative gridlock.

Though legislators won't be working on a budget this year, several important issues remain to be discussed. Among the most important is the state's need to comply with the 2012 McCleary decision, wherein the Washington State Supreme Court decided that the state government was not meeting its constitutional obligation to properly fund basic education. The decision came after budgetary strain, caused by the 2008 recession, led to education cuts statewide. Despite successful efforts to increase funding for basic education, the State Supreme Court decided in August that the legislature had not fulfilled its mandate, and began fining the state \$100,000 for each day it remains noncompliant. At the start of the 2016 session, the fines totaled more than

\$15 million.

As the fines started adding up, many criticized Governor Inslee for not calling a special legislative session to address them. In September, the Governor chose instead to call a bipartisan meeting of eight legislators, in an effort to help Democrats and Republicans agree on new sources of education funding.

Since the 2013 legislative session, the Republican-led Majority Coalition Caucus has controlled the state senate, while the state house and Governor's office have remained in Democratic hands. This means that viable legislation needs to have bipartisan support, which many feel is becoming increasingly elusive.

Many worry that partisan gridlock will prevent the legis-

lature from stopping the McCleary fines, and addressing Washington's other budgetary issues. While most seem to agree that the state needs additional revenue to meet its obligations, legislators are divided on how to raise it. Republicans have been steadfast in their opposition to new taxes, arguing that the additional revenue provided by Washington's economic growth will be sufficient to meet the state's budgetary challenges. Democrats have argued that new sources of revenue are necessary to adequately fund education without cutting other state services.

The legislature's existing debate over revenue will be an even bigger issue than usual in the 2016 session, thanks to the passage of Tim Eyman's Initiative 1366 in November. This

measure will lower Washington State's retail sales tax by one percent, unless state legislators pass a constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds majority vote in the state legislature for future tax increases. This makes legislative inaction extremely costly; the sales tax cut would cost the state more than a billion dollars each year, severely compounding existing budget issues. Some progressives have advocated that the tax cut be allowed to go into effect, and be offset with more equitable taxes, thereby making the state's tax structure less regressive.

One tax proposal progressives have advocated is the implementation of a statewide capital gains tax. Nationally, capital gains are taxed at a lower rate than regular income, which many criticize as regressive. During the 2015 legislative session, Democrats proposed an additional five percent tax on capital gains, which would have provided the state with an estimated \$550 million in revenue the following fiscal year. While the tax was left out of the final budget deal, another could be introduced this year to help the state meet its budgetary challenges.

Some have presented a statewide cap-and-trade system—referred to by some as a carbon tax—as a way of bringing in new revenue. This policy would require certain businesses to pay for their carbon emissions by buying special permits from the state. The state would only sell a certain number of permits, thereby limiting total carbon emissions statewide. Governor Inslee proposed such a plan at the start of the 2015 session, arguing that it would lower carbon emissions while simultaneously bringing in nearly a billion dollars of new revenue each year. Neither Inslee's plan, nor a similar one proposed by Democrats in the legislature came to fruition, but the issue will be debated in the 2016 session thanks to a carbon-taxing initiative submitted to the legislature at the beginning of the year.

The creation of a carbon tax would represent a political victory for Governor Inslee,

who has previously described himself as the country's "greenest governor." Inslee is up for reelection in November, and would no doubt benefit from making progress in his signature policy area. In July, following the legislature's failure to pass a cap-and-trade bill, Inslee took steps to circumvent legislators by directing the State Department of Ecology to impose restrictions on carbon emissions under its authority to enforce the Clean Air Act. In the lead up to the 2016 legislative session, Inslee chose not to designate climate change as a policy priority, focusing instead on funding for mental health and disaster relief efforts.

Despite partisan gridlock and other challenges, lawmakers were able to pass last year's budget with wide majorities in both the State House and Senate, albeit after severely prolonged deliberation. Though it did not include Inslee's proposed cap-and-trade legislation, the Governor praised its spending priorities and called it "a great budget for Washington State." Though budget included an additional \$1.3 billion in education funding, allowing the state to hire more teachers and lower class sizes, it proved insufficient to avert the McCleary fines. As a result, legislators will be under even more pressure to increase education funding during the 2016 session.

One much-celebrated accomplishment of the 2015 session was a measure to lower tuition at Washington's six state-run colleges over two years. As a result, Evergreen students saw their tuition cut by five percent this academic year, and will see a further 15 percent cut in the 2016-17 academic year. The tuition cuts were proposed by Senate Republicans, and passed with bipartisan support. Legislators opted to fund the measure by closing tax loopholes rather than raising taxes, which many view as a victory for the Washington's tax-averse Republicans. It remains to be seen if they will be equally firm in their opposition to new taxes in the 2016 session.



Gender Segregated Facilities Now Must be Accessible to Transgender People

THE WASHINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE POLICY CHANGE SPARKS CONTROVERSY

By Felix Chrome

A new Washington state policy now means that businesses with gender segregated facilities, such as locker rooms, bathrooms, and dressing rooms, must let people use whichever facilities is “consistent with their gender identity.” The Washington Human Rights Commission made the policy in an effort to make these types of facilities more inclusive to transgender people.

The policy, which went into effect on December 26, makes it illegal to ask someone to “request or require an individual to use a gender-segregated facility that is inconsistent with that individual’s gender identity, or request or require an individual to use a separate or gender-neutral facility.” It goes on to clarify that if someone in a gender segregated facility has a problem with the policy, the person with the issue should be asked to leave, not the transgender individual.

The regulations also specifies that transgender people accessing homeless shelters

must be given accommodations in accordance with their gender identity.

The HRC policy came after controversy erupted around a YMCA policy. The YMCA in Pierce and Kitsap County changed its policy to respect transgender individuals’ allowing them to use bathrooms and locker rooms which align with their gender.

At the time of the YMCA policy change it was unclear what state law required to meet non-discrimination statutes. The Washington HRC states that their announcement of the policy, was not

actually a change in any rule or law, simply a clarification of an existing law, passed in 2006, which states businesses that serve the public may not discriminate against anyone due to their “gender expression or identity.”

Many civil rights and legal groups agreed that state law already made it legal for people to use whichever bathroom accords with their gender identity, prior to the HRC regulation, but it had not been explicitly stated by and agency.

Some conservative politicians have said that the policy change is an overstep of the

HRC. The Washington Times quoted Republican Rep. Graham Hunt saying, “They’re making decisions that widely affect the public although they’re not elected and held accountable to the public in the same fashion.” Rep. Hunt told conservative think tank Heritage Foundation’s news platform, The Daily Signal, he would introduce legislation in the next session reversing the HRC regulation.

Other republicans have joined in this outcry, Republican Doug Ericksen has called for the repeal of the new rules. He is quoted in The Olympian

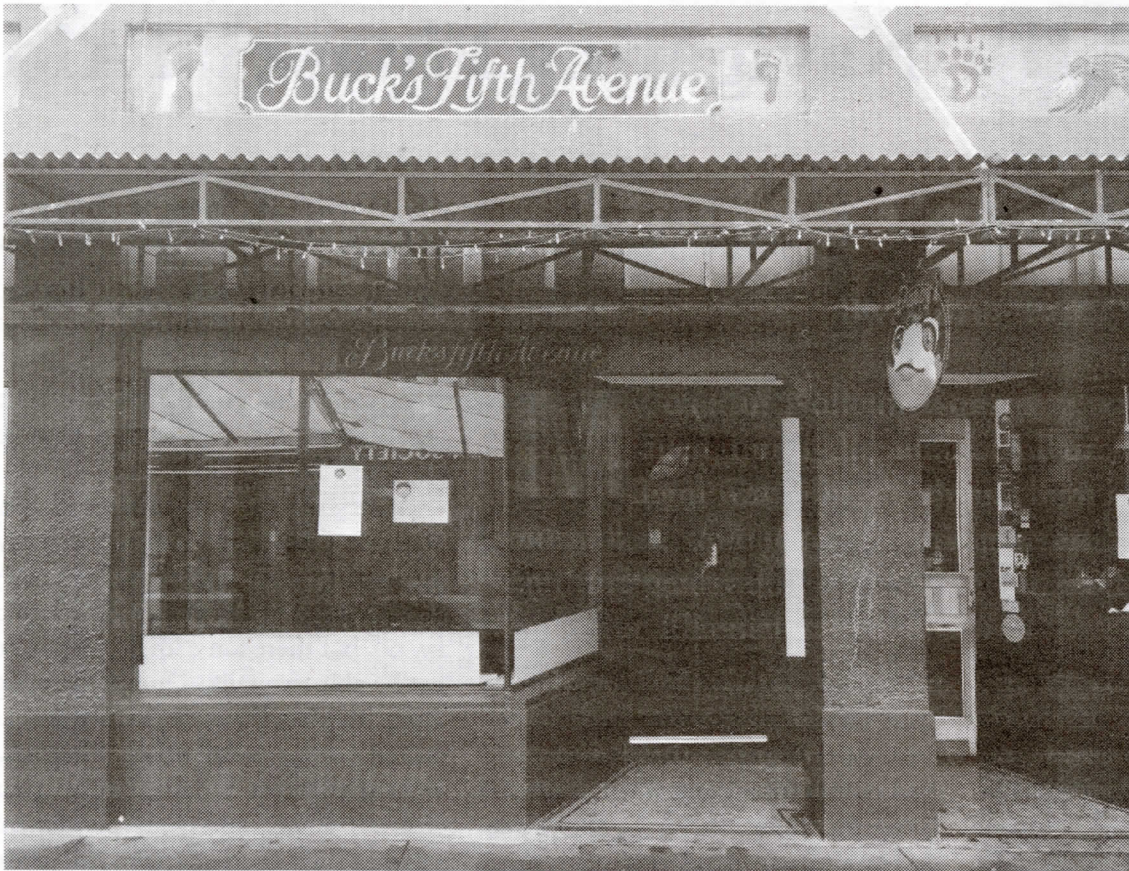
saying, “The state should not be requiring private businesses and local school districts to allow men in the women’s bathrooms.”

Similar rhetoric has been used by residents working to organize opposition to the policy. A facebook group titled “Keep YMCA Locker Rooms Safe” has created several events including one on February 15 at the Washington State Capitol called “Safe Spaces for Women and Children Rally.”

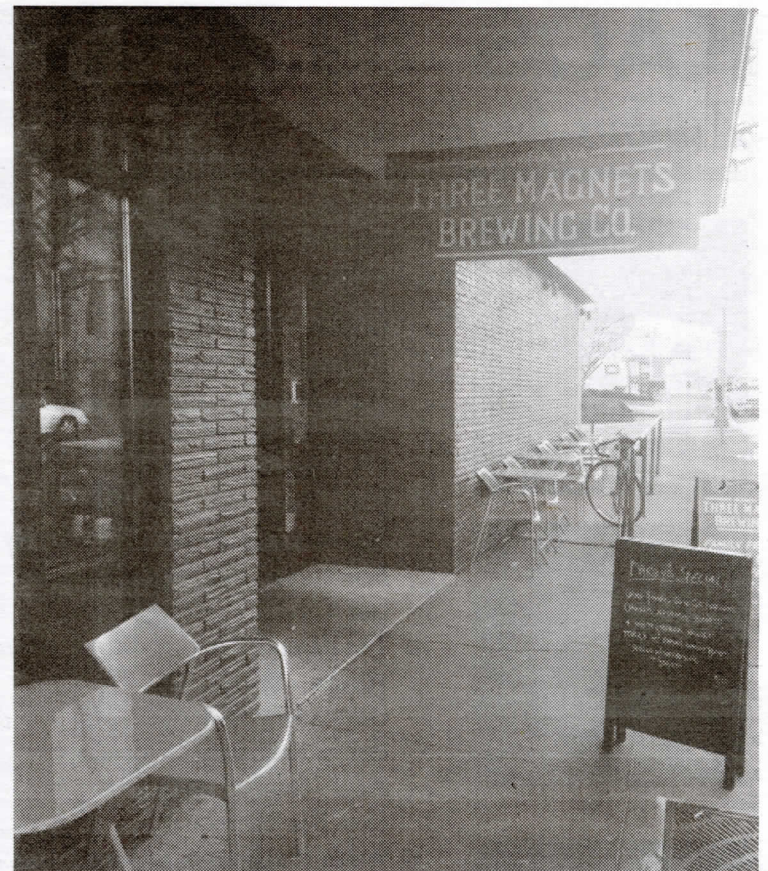
About their opposition to the policy, the group writes, “More than 17 million Americans have experienced attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. Nine out of ten of them were women. The HRC’s recently adopted policy granting access to locker rooms and bathrooms based on gender identity rather than anatomy is a devastating blow to too many of these survivors, who have already worked too hard to reclaim their dignity and sense of security in their own bodies.”

Many argue that this reasoning fails to take into account the fact that transgender women are much more likely to get assaulted than cis women, and forcing them to use facilities with men just increases the likelihood of violence and harassment.

Another event has been organized for the same day, called “Transmisogyny Counter-Protest,” asserting their goal to “ensure the protection of trans people and enforce a safe space in our community.” Transmisogyny is a word used to describe the transphobia and misogyny experienced by trans-women both of which manifest in ways distinct from the experience of other trans people or cis women. The fears cited of “men” entering women’s bathrooms and locker rooms is obviously targeted at trans women.



The much loved former home of Darby's. SARA FABIAN.



Darby's is now housed in the same building of Three Magnets. SARA FABIAN.

A Shared Space: Darby's Moves into Three Magnets Brewery

By Sara Fabian

On my drive from SeaTac to Olympia I asked my friend if she had any new gossip to share about what I've missed since mid December. She thought about it for a second, and then told me Darby's was gone. "gone?! GONE where?" I demanded. And as if we were two old ladies gossiping about our grandkids, she explained that Darby's wasn't gone but had been moved from its historic location to share a space with newly established Three Magnets Co. just a few blocks away.

To many Olympia residents, including myself, this may seem like a sudden change. The original Darby's location was special, a landmark, and a part of Olympia history. The Darby's we knew with the cute outdoor patio, rustic exterior, and an awesome feature in Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives was no longer.

Nate and Sara Reilly, owners of Darby's Cafe and Three Magnets Brewing Co. made the decision to combine both businesses together in a shared space with one half dedicated to the brewery and the other to Olympia's neighborhood eatery.

Three Magnets opened in 2014 and has a very modern american bar vibe; clean lines, smooth wooden communal seating and a unique menu of food and homebrews. It seems akin to the food culture of Portland and Seattle here in Olympia.

According to the Olympian, the couple are expecting their second baby in March, and they're hop-

ing the merge will make their lives easier. Nate Reilly says that the duties of running a restaurant, such as accounting, will be easier under the same roof because there will be less duplication.

They attempted to recreate the old Darby's by keeping the menu the same with a minor price hike and using the same green and red color scheme and décor in the new space, including the Wizard of Oz memorabilia. Sara Reilly explained in the Olympian that the new space might give them a chance to incorporate more fresh-baked items with the brewery's much-larger kitchen.

The Olympian also mentions that the Reillys said they don't believe regulars will much notice the change because they'll still have the same food, furniture and staff.

In order to get a better idea of what this new Darby's/Three Magnets shared space is like I dined in the new Darby's for brunch then interviewed a bartender from Three Magnets in the

afternoon.

My experience at Darby's was pretty alright. The food and coffee were consistent with what I remembered. The front of the house at Darby's were attentive, calm and besides minor technical difficulties of the new electronic ipad cashier, it all went smoothly. This came as a bit of a surprise since Darby's has in the past been notorious for its inconsistent service and employee's casual attitude but that was a part of its zany charm.

The new space is close to the Darby's we remember, except a bit more shiny; both because of the new paint, more industrial space, as well as its overall atmosphere. Some may feel taken aback by Darby's less grungy vibe, however the more welcoming attitude and open space may attract others.

After paying my brunch bill, I wandered over to the Three Magnets side, which was a bit calmer at that moment, to ask the bartender a few questions. For privacy purposes he chose to remain anony-

mous.

He has been a bartender at Three Magnets for about a year and thinks the transition has been going quite well so far. "It's been good. It's just taking a little while, mainly for the kitchen to transition because it's a shared kitchen. But otherwise front of the house staff has been going pretty smoothly, because we're both on different sides of the restaurant."

He thinks the transition makes sense, explaining "the backspace, now Darby's, didn't get as much use during the day, so it makes sense. There was some surprise to an extent because you know, there's the character of Darby's being in that building forever. It will take a little bit of time for it to settle in, just for everything to settle in."

To my surprise, he said the Darby's/Three Magnets merge has even brought in new customers. "We've been getting a lot of the same customers actually some overlap of people at Three Magnets who didn't know about Dar-

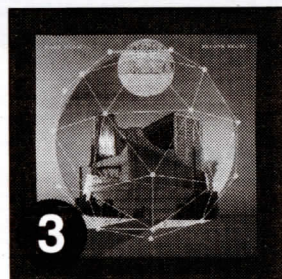
by's prior. So people will come in here for lunch, Since Darby's is open till 3."

When I asked him if Three Magnets would have a separate menu of Dinner, he was very excited to say, "What we're doing here at Three Magnets is just doing a lunch menu; just sandwiches, a side option and a beer, soda, and a craft soda option as well. It's a quick cheap lunch option. And then at Dinner time, we change back to our traditional, what we've always done, dinner menu." This means that Darby's still have its normal breakfast, brunch and lunch menu, but will stop serving dinner. Simultaneously Three Magnets will have a limited lunch menu, and serve dinner after Darby's closes.

Darby's will now be open daily from 8am-3pm and Three Magnets will be open for a sandwich lunch and beer special from 11am-3pm and a dinner and pub menu Sunday-Thursday 4pm-10pm, and Friday and Saturday 4pm-Midnight.

KAOS 89.3 FM TOP 20

Albums for the week of Jan. 4



- 1 Grimes - Art Angels
- 2 Globelamp - The Orange Glow
- 3 Mark McGuire - Beyond Belief
- 4 Young Galaxy - Falsework
- 5 U.S. Girls - Half Free
- 6 Low - Ones and Sixes
- 7 Shannon and the Clams - Gone by the Dawn
- 8 Beat Happening - Look Around
- 9 Gun Outfit - Dream All Over
- 10 The Banner Days - Hand Me a Hymnal
- 11 Wimps - Suitcase
- 12 Odetta Hartman - 222
- 13 Grupo Fantasma - Problemas
- 14 Pixel - Golden Years
- 15 Shye Ben Tzur - Junun
- 16 Beach House - Thank Your Lucky Stars
- 17 Boogarins - Manual
- 18 Chairs - Drawn Into Mazes
- 19 Dinmachine - The Opposite of Unity
- 20 Oneohtrix Point Never - Garden of Delete

Navigating Financial Aid

By Jackie Buckman

No matter what school your heart desires, college will always be expensive. Paying for tuition, housing, books, food, and more, things tend to add up pretty fast.

Continuing on to a university means finding a way to pay for it. Either by earning a scholarship, paying for it out of your own pocket, or filling out a free application for federal student aid, known as FAFSA. Sounds easy right? Well there is a lot more to it than just that.

Completing a FAFSA is one of the most popular ways students pay for college. After filling one out you can see if you qualify for a grant which is for you to use for tuition and books, and as long as you continue good grades you don't have to pay back, or you can qualify for a student loan which no matter what you will have to pay back once you are done with school.

The FAFSA process is actually a very long one. You have to make sure you have the right dates set and after submitting the application it can take weeks and sometimes months to hear anything back. It really depends on when you turn in the application and being on time is a huge bonus.

For example, the FAFSA website states that for the school year 2016-2017 the federal deadline is June 30, 2017, the Washington deadline is January 1, 2016, but if already passed then as soon as possible because after the deadline it can take a very long time to receive news sense they are looking at other applications that were turned in on time, and the college deadline for us at Evergreen is the first of every month depending on the quarter.

There are so many things a student can qualify for. There is federal and state aid which is pretty basic. Federal aid comes from the government and state aid comes from the state. Pell Grants and State Need Grants are options for students to choose which direction they want their application to go through. While Pell grants deal with all students, State Need Grants are for Washington State residents only.

These are both grants, which means, like scholarships, you do not have to pay them back.

After you have submitted all the paperwork and signed your name away, the waiting game begins and you can't possibly think of any reason they would say no, but there are a lot of reasons to not be able to qualify. One of the main things they start looking at is your expected family contribution. They also look at the cost of attendance, your year of school and your enrollment status. While everyone who 'qualifies' for pell grants gets them, state aid is first come first serve, and they are not

Even if you are not awarded need based grants, they often give you some options. They may tell you that you can qualify for a loan or you can go through the process of work study

awarded to everyone the state says should get them.

So what if it happens, the word you were dreading the most, they said no. At this point all you want to know is why, going to school can be so expensive and this was what

you needed. The most reason students don't qualify for financial aid is due to expected family contribution.

They look at the average money both of your parents make in a year and decide that they make too much. They don't factor in that your parents have a house payment or buy groceries and basically just have enough to survive, all they see is a number.

Even if you are not awarded need based grants, they often give you some options. They may tell you that you can qualify for a loan or you can go through the process of work study which is where you get a job on campus and pay your way that way. Both of these options are still considered financial aid. About 57 percent of financial aid dollars are in the form of grants and 34 percent take the form of federal loans.

Once you've figured out all your finances and how you're going to pay for college, the hard part is over. After that, all you have to do is stay focused and try to have the best experience you can.

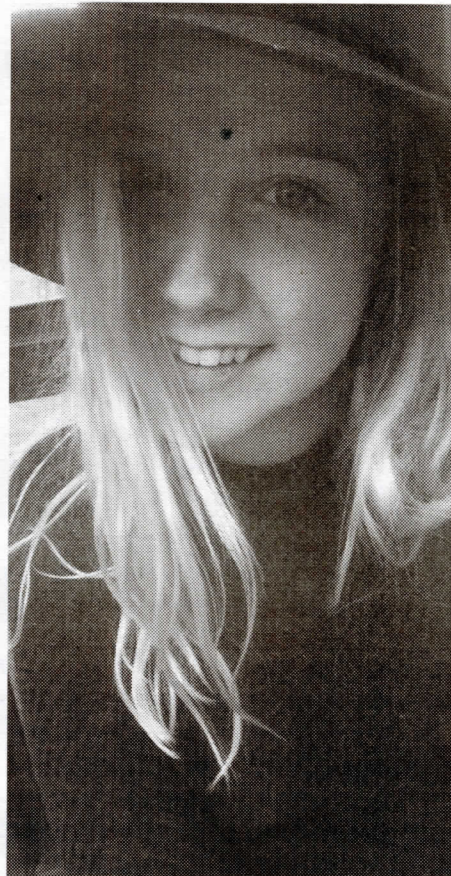
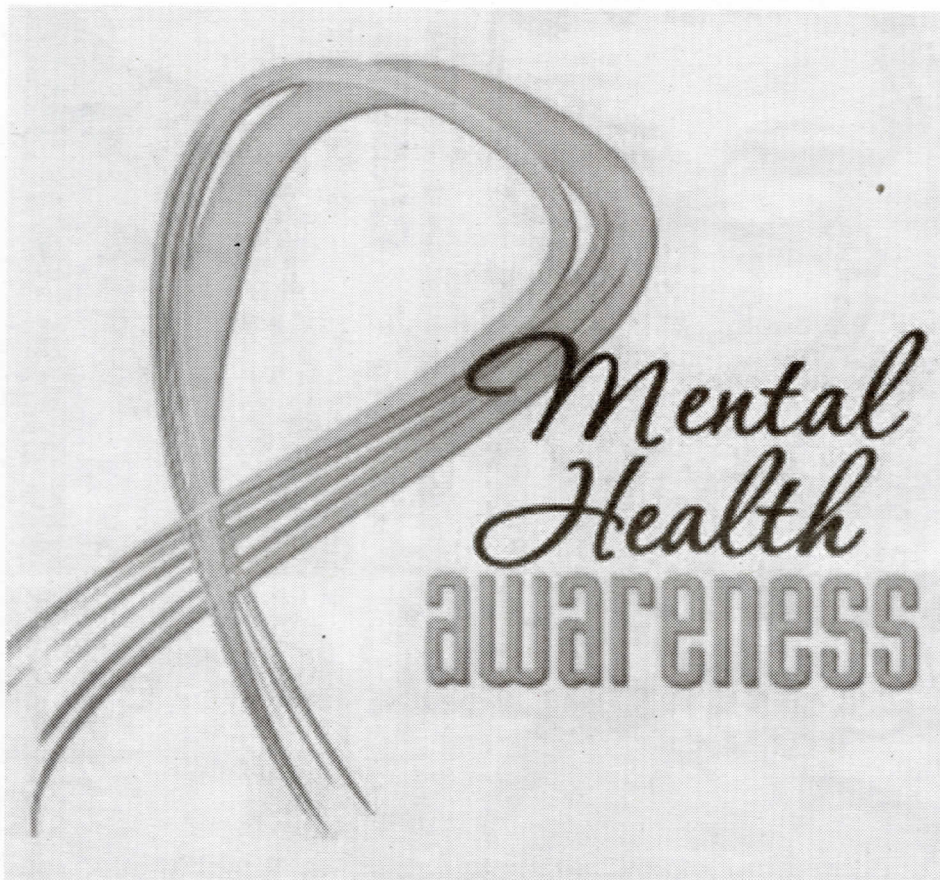
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Group Coordinator Sammy Alcock.

Student Mental Health Collective

THE EVERGREEN GROUP WILL HAVE MEETINGS BEGINNING BY THE END OF FEBRUARY

By Chloe Marina Manchester

Here at Evergreen, there are clubs and organizations for most things you can think of. One group that tends to be missing from these are students with mental health issues. In the past there have been student groups for mentally ill students, this year, there are none. Yet.

Sammy Alcock, a first year student at Evergreen is trying to change that. Though currently still in the building stages, Alcock wants to have the group up and running by the end of February, with meetings either weekly or bi-monthly.

"I think that the school needs more resources for students who struggle with mental illness, anxiety, etc. I believe it would be helpful for students to have a place where they can get support and not feel judged or misunderstood," says Alcock. This group could be vital to students who have no other outlet to speak about their experiences and learn more about mental health. For students who may be intimidated by going to the counseling center or of

other professional help, this could provide support from peers.

The proposed student mental health care group would provide a safe haven to talk to others with similar problems and find resources in the community and on campus.

The proposed group will serve as a safe space for students to support each other and learn about mental illnesses.

The group is not necessarily meant

to replace or act as group therapy for the members. The meetings won't have a predetermined form, what happens will largely depend on the members, according to Alcock, "the group is meant to be very student-driven to meet the needs of its participants." As for what meetings might entail Alcock has some ideas, including but are not limited to, talk groups, self care workshops, and educational meetings.

Many have found mental health care services in the United States to be lacking; often people who are in need of help do not receive adequate care or become victims of psychiatric abuses. Psychiatric care is largely inaccessible to many people, especially those from underprivileged groups. Some insur-

ances will not cover necessary medications, therapy, or hospitalizations for people in need and so illnesses go untreated which can ruin lives. Even people with access to mental health care often face unwelcoming communities, discrimination, and ostracization. The mental health group on campus will try and fight the stigma of mental illness.

Mental health care on college campuses are often woefully lacking. Often counseling centers are unable to treat people with issues beyond depression and anxiety, which leaves many people scrambling for help. Being unable to get help and the stress of having to work out what to do can often exacerbate the pre-existing mental health issues they are already facing.

The proposed student mental health care group would provide a safe haven to talk to others with similar problems and find resources in the community and on campus. The group is not going to be limited to those who have mental health issues and will welcome allies to join meetings. As Alcock put it, "this is meant to be a safe space for all."

Until the group is up and running, the Evergreen Counseling Center is there for students in need. The Evergreen Counseling Center has drop in hours every week day and offers a variety of services like consultation, support groups, resources, and individual counseling. Issues that are commonly seen and helped in the counseling center include, depression, anxiety, life adjustment issues, stress management, and eating disorders, to name just a few.

According to the Counseling Center's website, "The Counseling Center provides confidential personal counseling, groups, information and referrals for Evergreen students who have paid the quarterly Student Health Fee." Which means that students who have paid the fee are able to go to the Counseling Center and get help or information at no additional cost.

If you or a friend is experiencing an emergency, the Crisis Clinic is available 24/7 at 586-2800.

Mental health care is hard to come by and hard to find support for, even among peers. Alcock hopes that this group can provide a support system for those who need it, and information for those who just want to help support others.



Sketches by Cover Artist Jules Prosser.

COVER ARTIST: Jules Prosser

The paintings that are on the front and back cover are part of the same piece, together titled dialectical self portrait. Jules is an Evergreen student, as well as an artist and writer. She draws and paints herself and those around her creating intimate portraits of bodies and faces. You can find her online at Joule-ry or get in touch via email at julesprosser25@gmail.com

Hello, my name is Jules, I write for this newspaper, and now my artwork is in it (wowie!). I like to draw portraits and figures mostly, but I also draw still lifes and cityscapes. I am an extremely casual artist. I think perfection is dumb (but also really cool, who am I kidding?).

I focus on the essence of the subject, and oftentimes my portraits turn out really goofy. I drew shitty pictures of Sailor Moon as a kid, but I guess I started "seriously" pursuing art when I was fifteen, doodling ladies and song lyrics.

I mostly draw in my sketchbooks and I think a lot about whether or not that makes me a true artist. However, my favorite medium of all time is the blank sticker. All of the vague creative projects I've been assigned at Evergreen have included stickers. I like them because they're so small, mobile, and

ephemeral; I can put them wherever I want and I stay anonymous. I use them to write down my thoughts and feelings, too--mostly the anxious and neurotic ones. There isn't really much pressure to them and they feel like trading cards that no one cares about, which I like. They're usually free. I take big stacks of the Priority Mail labels from the Post Office. Is that legal? I don't know.

Many people don't think they're capable of creating art and I think that's sad. Just because you can't draw a gothic cathedral or your own hand doesn't mean you're incapable. It takes a lot of practice is all. You know how all children seem to draw the same? They grow out of it because they learn! My

little brother, who's eight, draws like a kid, but he draws really well for a kid, and I always tell him, if he keeps drawing everyday, by the time he's my age, he will probably be a genius. I spend a lot of time thinking about this; five years ago, I wasn't so great, either. But look at me now, I'm on the cover of the newspaper!

Drawing is a lot like handwriting; it's all based on muscle memory. Mistakes are all in the mind. I exclusively draw with pens because I don't believe in mistakes. Painting is also cool because, while drawing works with lines, painting works with blobs and shapes of color. It's much more forgiving. I'm inspired by the Impressionists, who rebelled against the hoity-

toity Salon. The Impressionists' paintings felt like unfinished sketches, the focus is more on light and color rather than form and control. I enjoy being faithful to the subject I'm drawing, but not too much. Books are also cool to make. I don't have much patience for process-based work, like photography and ceramics, but I sure wish I did, and I applaud all ya'll photographers and potters!

I'm going to Germany in the spring, and I aim to work on skill through drawing complicated buildings and portraits of Berlin women. Afterward, I'm still going to focus on portraiture; that's my jam forever. If you want me to draw you for practice, contact me. If you want me to draw you for an extremely modest fee, contact me. Olympians, I want you!



Photography exhibit Prison Obscura looks at the complexities of life in prison. STEVE DAVIS.

Kept Out/Kept In

NEW EXHIBITS COMING TO THE EVERGREEN CAMPUS

By Ruby Love

The 2016 winter quarter marks the start of Kept Out/Kept In, an amazing series of exhibits and events coming to the Evergreen campus. Kept Out/Kept In, as the title suggests, deals with spaces of privilege and spaces of confinement.

Addressing social and economic inequality, complexities of identity, and the fight for social justice, these exhibits focus on the ways in which the prison-industrial complex is a reflection of these issues in our society.

The main exhibit featured in Kept Out/Kept In is Prison Obscura, which opens January 14 at the Evergreen Gallery. Prison Obscura includes works by seven photographers as well as photographic evidence from Brown V. Plata, a class-action lawsuit over prison overcrowding and lack of access to medical care filed against the state of California. The case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, and the images used as evidence can be difficult to look at, but their existence is incredibly important.

The bodies of work featured in Prison Obscura each, in their own way, address the complexities of prison life. Some do so on an intimate level as prisoners' portraits are paired with audio

recordings of them telling their life's story, and others operate on a grand scale as animated graphics show us the decades-long rapid construction of prisons across America. If you want to learn more about the show, prisons, photography, and more, the Prison Obscura curator Pete Brook is leading a gallery walkthrough from 4-6pm on January 14. By the way folks, every single show and event associated with Kept Out/Kept In is FREE! So you have no excuses!!

There are a few other exhibits coming to campus as well, most of which will be popping up in the next few days: The library lobby will feature portraits of and artwork by juvenile inmates of Green Hill made through Evergreen's partnership with the Gateways program. Within the library, there will be artwork on display including paintings, sculptures, and textile art by inmates of the Washington Corrections Center. Galerie Fotoland (the wall outside

of the Photoland entrance on the first floor of the library) will feature photographs by Evergreen faculty member Steve Davis, part of a series entitled Captured Youth, about the lives of incarcerated teens in Washington.

Keep an eye on the Evergreen Gallery website (sites.evergreen.edu/gallery) for more announcements about events and talks!

****Disclaimer**** In addition to working at the lovely CPJ, I am also a curatorial intern working in Photoland and in the galleries on campus. This does mean that I may have handled/written about/photographed some of the art mentioned in this article, and this does mean that I'm fortunate enough to have the inside scoop on a lot of these exhibit details (you're welcome!), but it doesn't mean this article is intended to promote these exhibits for any reason other than my genuine personal interest in their subject matter and the intersection of art and social justice.

UP & COMING

WED. JAN 13

It's happening. What now?
Olympia Campus 10 AM - 6 PM
series of presentations and discussions on climate change impacts and responses in Washington State.

Le Voyeur
404 4th Ave E, 9pm
VOMITY-64 Comedy Show
"Heave Largent" featuring Auntie Katrina (Tacoma)

SAT. JAN 16

Obsidian
414 4th Ave E, 9pm. 21+
Pulse- Live performance by:
The Human Jukebox
Dance Tribute to Lemmy

Evergreen
Sem I/A1107 12pm
Computer Security Workshop, Free Hackbloc is leading a workshop on security culture, computer security, encryption, and anonymity.

SUN. JAN 17

O'Malley's Restaurant and Lounge
2200 Garfield Ave NW,
Swoon, Wild English, Girls in Love,
Kaz Mirblouk, Generifus

THURS. JAN 21

Obsidian
414 4th Ave E, 9:00pm. 21+
Bing Bong Benefit Bash
ocal sitcom-in-the-making is hosting a sick dance party

FRI. JAN 22

Le Voyeur
404 4th Ave E. 9pm.
Gay Rodeo: Nightspace + Aeon Fux + DJ Loose + DJ MG

SAT. JAN 23

Obsidian
414 4th Ave E, 11 AM - 7 PM.
Makers Market
Craft fair with emphasis on celebrating small local lady businesses.

Olympia Center
222 Columbia St NW, 10am-4pm
Japanese New Year in Olympia
The event will include a variety of activities including Aikido demonstration, a live Calligraphy Performance,

Obsidian
414 4th Ave E, 9:00pm. 21+
Friction: Velvet Mood
DJ20 + DJ Cami La

SUN. JAN 24

O'Malley's Restaurant and Lounge
2200 Garfield Ave NW, 9pm 21+
Holy Komodo, Animyst, The Hague,
Hunter-Seeker



The rare books room is full of beautiful books that push the boundaries of what you may consider a book. JULES PROSSER

{Re}Discovering Evergreen WHO KNEW THERE WERE RARE BOOKS HERE

By Jules Prosser

Dear readers, have you ever stepped into the Rare Books Collection? Do you know what it is? Well, it's a room in the Library full of coolest, oldest, most mind-bending books you've never seen or heard of before before. Were you even aware that our humble institution had one? Good, now you know.

The Rare Books Collection is, in my opinion, among Evergreen's shiniest hidden gems—and it's hidden in plain sight. It's a modest-sized, well-lit room behind the ring of computers by the staircase to the third floor. You probably haven't noticed because you always check your phone while you're walking up that way. (That's not entirely a passive-aggressive jab; I do the same thing, too.) However, despite its central location, its presence is meek and quiet.

The Collection is shrouded in mystery. It was started by Evergreen's first Dean of Library Services, James F. Holly, and his wife sometime in the 1970s, when the College opened. It was small and housed in the Archives up until 2012, where it was located to room 3302, in order to increase visibility and access. Rare book collections as a whole are often found in other cultural institutes, such as universities, museums, libraries, and even bookstores like The Strand in New York City and Powell's Books in Portland. You can also find them in the University of Washington, Seattle University, and Western Washington University, to name a few in the area.

The Collection houses many antique books, documents,

broadside (beautiful single-sided pages of texts, usually printed by letterpress) and other wonders, such as a big, prize-winning stuff rooster donated to the College by a late alumnus. The rooster, which was taxidermied upon its death, is the solemn guardian of the collection, proudly sitting in the window, watching passersby and greeting those who venture in. There are glass boxes outside the room and in the lower floors exhibiting books as well, quietly beckoning library-goers.

I went there and sat with JR and Victoria, the student employees. Their job is to keep the space open and organized, curate the displays, help visitors, and answer my never-ending litany of questions. Some of their favorites include: a signed copy of Neil Gaiman's *Fragile Things*, a version of *Macbeth* illustrated by Dali, and an edition of *A Season in Hell* with a preface by Anais Nin and a series of etchings by Jim Dine.

The Collection has subscribed to a few small presses in the past, such as Perishable Press, Copper Canyon Press, and *Quelquefois Press*, and works are often sought out and purchased by the college's reference librarians. It also gets books through estate donations. Some artists donate their

handmade books, and alumni often donate collections of rare books, sometimes posthumously. For instance, a lot of books were recently donated to the Collection by the poet Norman Schaefer, entitled the Norman Schaefer Collection of Beat Generation Literature. If you're into that, like I am, you'll be happy to know that there is a big case filled with books and broadsides and an Allen Ginsberg LP. There's also a book filled with photographs Ginsberg took of his pals, which he also signed. An important mission of the Collection is to accumulate and preserve books (both important and obscure) that are too fragile to be put into circulation.

A few of the most well-known books in the Collection are the *Codex Seraphinianus* (FMR), *The Animal is in the World* like *Water in Water* (Granary Books), and *Nox* (New Directions). You may have heard of the *Codex Seraphinianus*; it has quite the cult following, and some consider it to be the most bizarre book in existence. At once grotesque and beautiful, the *Codex* is a huge encyclopedia of an alien universe, not unlike ours. Luigi Serafini painstakingly documents every aspect of this humanoid dream world, illustrating flora, fauna, architecture, clothing, cars, cus-

toms, etc., that are reminiscent of earth's life and customs, but subverted and stretched into unrecognizable and uncomfortable images (for instance, roller skate feet!). Furthermore, the massive tome is completely composed in a made-up language, adding to its discomfiting nature. Many have taken up the task of deciphering the book, but none have succeeded. The *Codex* inspires curiosity, confusion, and a need to decipher and analyze. This need, in turn, created an extremely high demand, and that demand gives it the rarity it has today. There are no words to properly describe it (no, really, there aren't!). It's weird as hell, and you should allow the weirdness to take over and put you in a trance.

The Animal is in the World like *Water in Water* is a book comprised of a series of drawings by Kiki Smith entitled *Women Being Eaten by Animals*, accompanied by Leslie Scalapino's poetry. The accordion book pulls apart to uncover a series of delicate, violent, and sensual illustrations of a woman being torn apart by carnivorous creatures. If you're a lonesome person who enjoys reading melancholy books and relishes the feeling of isolation transcending the physical page, this book is for you. You can read more about it by listening to *Cross Cultural Poetics*, a radio program run by Evergreen's very own Leonard Schwartz, who hosts interviews with poets, writers, and artists; Episode #226, "Of the Body", features the artist, Kiki Smith. The late Leslie Scalapino wrote about it as well in her short essay "The Division Between Fact and Experience". This book is rare because it's an extremely limited edition; only 45 were published.

You might have read Anne Carson, the brilliant Canadian poet whose words will cut you like glass. *Nox* is a magnum opus, a haunting reflection on grief, death, family, and the complications that are inherent in them. Written after her estranged brother's death, Carson sought to create an elegy for him. She includes pasted-in scraps of paper, photographs, and scribbled drawings, which creates the effect of reading a journal. She ties mythology and classic history into her writing. Like *The Animal is in the World*, the work is an accordion book. It comes in a sleek grey box, which is befitting; it inspires the greyness of melancholy in the reader. You might read it alongside Smith and

Scalapino's book because feeling sad makes you happy. The New Yorker published a beautiful article, "The Unfolding", that you can read for more information.

The Collection can benefit anyone. It houses old historical documents, such as an edition of Vancouver's *Voyage from the 1700s*, a copy of W.E.B. DuBois' *The Souls of Black Folk* from the turn of the century, Native American documents, and maps. If you're a history nerd—especially a Pacific Northwest history nerd—or you need historical references, or you think things that are older than your great-grandparents are cool, you should pay a visit. If you're a plant nerd, stop by and see the brilliant pages of botanical illustration. If you're an artist, and I know a lot of you are, the Collection is brimming with art books, and is the best place on campus, (and perhaps Olympia) to find inspiration and ideas you didn't think you were capable of having, and you really, really should pay a visit. If you like to think and read critically, or just think and read at all, check it out. Programs, clubs, and groups with a focus on history, botany, and visual arts would benefit from spending time with the Collection. I personally think it is a great date spot. I believe it's important for all of us to engage directly with the history that consciously and unconsciously shapes our existence. The Collection is a rare opportunity to examine a living, tangible history with your own hands.

Honestly, I fucking love the Rare Books Collection. When I enter, I immediately feel it in my body. I feel nervous, but the best kind of nervous there is; the kind that comes when you're surrounded by true beauty and you realize there isn't enough time in a day to go through it all. When I sit down at the big round table with a huge pile of books around me, I find in myself a delicacy I seldom encounter. My touch is lighter, and I handle the pages as if they will turn to dust. I have emotional reactions to the images I view as if I'm at a faraway museum staring at a Caravaggio painting. This is all because I'm a big nerd and a big baby. At this point, if you read my articles consistently, it means you're one or the other (or both), as well. You clearly enjoy reading, and sometimes you consider taking my advice. Go on, then; support the small and brilliant pockets of Evergreen, support history and art, and support your own hungry mind.



The signing of the Real Food Challenge, photo courtesy of Evergreen Photoland. SHAUNA BITTLE.

The Evergreen Food Systems Working Group UPHOLDING THE COMMITMENT TO THE REAL FOOD CHALLENGE

By Kristina Holtrop & Courtney Peetz, of the Food Service Working Group

Since Evergreen's inaugural class in 1971, the relationship between the students and the administration over the issue of food has been fragile. Our collective history holds the story of countless actions to reduce the hold of corporate food on campus such as the creation of The Flaming Eggplant Cafe, and improving the access to low-cost or no cost food through the Evergreen Thurston County Food Bank Satellite. To this day, it remains a huge point of tension for many Evergreen students that our school continues to operate within the corporate dining service structure, involving us with companies that pull in billions of dollars of revenue—the dining contract industry collectively pulls in more revenue than McDonald's.

It should also be noted that dining contractors don't just serve colleges; they also provide food to hospitals, K-12 schools, and prisons. In fact, many students have been reluctant to cooperate with Aramark at all, considering their involvement with prisons.

However, in 2015, a group of students who had been working with Aramark for increased sustainability decided to introduce our campus to the Real Food Challenge (RFC), expanding our school's defined expectations for labor rights, humane animal treatment, and environmental consciousness. This was not just a way for our campus to walk a middle road with corporate dining. Instead, it is an opportunity to continue our recognition of

the presence of corporate food on our campus, and hold it to a higher accountability. In 2013, Evergreen contracted with Aramark for nine years. This obligates all students who eat at the Greener, and Aramark-owned Einstein's Brothers Bagels, to support the contract. In other words, our campus is involved, and our campus needs a way to ensure that our involvement is not passive.

While going "self-op," entirely away from corporate dining, is not currently financially possible for our school, we can all support the Flaming Eggplant or local farmers ourselves. But withdrawing from the process entirely is not changing the fact that Aramark is here, and we can either ignore their presence

and refuse to engage, or we can confront our position, directly, and make them as accountable as possible. As a campus, we have that power, the RFC reinforces that, and our opportunity to write a policy is here: let's use it. By signing with the RFC, we are agreeing to work with Aramark, to bring together their purchasing power and our school's values, and increase the percentage of food purchased locally, humanely, or fairly, to be served at our campus eateries.

The Real Food Challenge is a national, student-founded, student-run organization that supports students who call upon their colleges or universities to sign a commitment to transition to at least 20 percent of campus dining purchasing food

that "truly nourishes producers, consumers, communities, and the earth" (RealFoodChallenge.org). These criteria are primarily verified by third party certifying bodies, such as EcoCert Fair Trade, The Rainforest Alliance, The Animal Welfare Institute, but they can also be met by establishing that a producer operates entirely within 150 miles of the campus and/or as a worker cooperative. It's a broad spectrum of values-based selective factors, but the RFC creates a working rubric, a "Real Food Calculator," into which all Aramark purchasing is factored. Once every purchase has been factored, a clear, accurate picture of our financial investment in so-defined "Real Food" producers becomes available.

When Evergreen signed in 2015, our Real Food purchasing already exceeded the minimum 20 percent required by the challenge, so we made our own goal of 28 percent. Currently, our school is at about 26%.

Thirty-five schools nationwide currently participate in the Real Food Challenge. Our school was the second school contracted with Aramark to sign in the country, which increased pressure to sign on Western Washington University and University of Minnesota, both contracted with Aramark. In December, WWU accepted the challenge, and now our state is uniquely prepared to work with Aramark as a large-scale purchaser of small producers.

As part of the signing of the RFC, a school must create a Food Systems Working Group (FSWG) to navigate purchasing changes, the writing of a school-wide food policy, and bring together community members to create a cohesive voice of the college's food system. The hard work of Evergreen students last year secured limited funding to employ two student representatives to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the working group for the 2015-16 school year.

Courtney Peetz, an agriculture and botany student at Evergreen, will be serving as Chair, acting on a long interest in sustainable food production, healthy community development, and food justice. The Vice Chair is Kristina Holtrop, a first-year student at Evergreen in the Terroir program examining

the relationship between culture, environment, and food. It is her goal to create positive change in the world of food, and in the past, she has served as the Irrigation Festival Pageant Princess in her hometown of Sequim, which allowed her to design an educational program about local food and farmers for sixth grade students.

The goal of FSWG is to change the food system from the inside out by using anchor institutions such as colleges and universities; these institutions are filled with active, creative young adults who can create a model, a pathway, for other large-scale consumers to incorporate better purchasing as a standard. Already, popular attention to better food has put pressure on the food industry to operate more responsibly and transparently; but we still have to conquer the areas of large-scale buying power.

What can you, as an active community member, do to help? Currently, we are preparing to publish a survey that will support us in writing Evergreen's comprehensive food policy. Look for it on Greener Commons or by liking the Facebook page titled "Evergreen Real Food Challenge." We are also seeking help from individuals who want to participate in writing the policy. Furthermore, you can ask your class and professors to host us for a focus group in your classroom. Increased student input is vital; we are seeking opportunities to have challenging discussions that force us to look critically at this process.

You can even have a say in FSWG's policymaking if you come to the quarterly meetings. The winter meeting will take place February 10, 2016 (classroom assignment will be announced on our Facebook page). The FSWG believes that broad involvement is important and necessary when developing action plan that affects the community, so this meeting is open to the public. All students, faculty, staff, or other stakeholder community members who want to have their voice heard are encouraged to attend the meeting. You can also email the chair at FSWG@evergreen.edu to express opinions, offer help, or find out more about getting involved.

Where Olympia meets!

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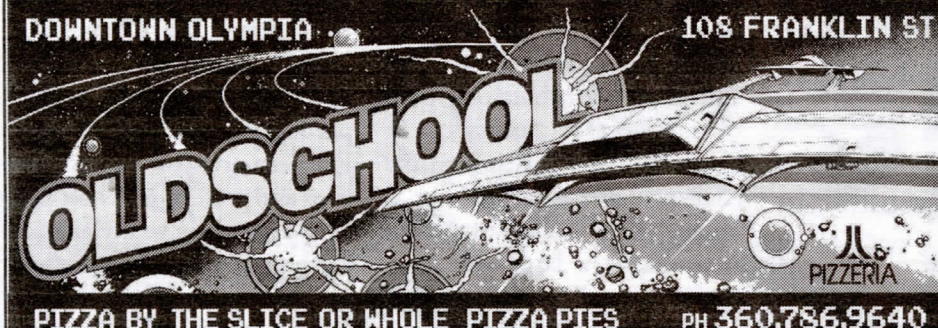


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A Statement on the Killing of My Cousin During Paris Attacks

By Miriam Padilla

My cousin, Nohemi González, was one of the victims killed during the attacks in Paris on November 13. Nohemi was a bright shining light in our family, a proud, outspoken, and talented first-generation Mexican American and first-generation college student, studying abroad for a semester at a French school of design.

For my family and me, and for those who knew my cousin, this act of violence is heartbreaking. As part of an attack on unarmed civilians to publicize a political objective, apparently by ISIS, this is not only a personal tragedy, but also a crime against humanity.

It is shameful that the terrorism in Paris is being used by politicians in imperialist countries, like the U.S. and France, as an excuse to call for slamming the doors on refugees who are desperately fleeing violence and repression in their own countries.

Nohemi herself was the child of immigrants. My aunt and uncle migrated from Mexico to give my cousins better opportunities to educate themselves and to give back to the community. In recent years many refugees have come to the U.S. from Mexico and all over Latin America to escape the violence of the drug wars or the consequences of economic policies imposed by the United States. People leave their homelands to come to the U.S. in the hope of having a better future — sometimes in the hope of having any future at all.

It should be remembered that most of the victims of ISIS are themselves Muslims and Arabs, many of them independent young women like my cousin. Thousands of children are dying as the result of wars and terrorism in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world.

My cousin wanted a more just and humane world — just as many others of my generation do. I believe, and the Freedom Socialist Party believes, that workers and oppressed people can't let violence like the terrible assaults in Paris turn us against each other. We need to do everything we can to make sure the outcome isn't more racism and bigotry and fear of one another.

We who are the world's majority,

the 99 percent, must work together to make the whole world safer and saner, because there is no place to hide. There have been many, many tragedies in these past few weeks in many places. It's important not to rank oppressions or tragedies or to ignore one in favor of another. It doesn't matter if you are in Beirut or Paris; the problems of one region are the problems of all of us.

We also must do everything we can to stop our governments from using terrorism and the fear of terrorism as an excuse for anti-Muslim, anti-Arab and anti-immigrant hysteria. U.S. wars and policy are directly responsible for much of the tragedy in the Middle East. And the U.S. government has immense resources. We should be taking in many more refugees from Syria and elsewhere, not fewer. Washington, the state I live in, has said it will not start rejecting Syrian or Muslim refugees, and should stick to this commitment.

The United States should open its borders, not close them. It should make real the sentiment on the Statue of Liberty, which was given to the U.S. by France: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Nohemi and I grew up together, and she was like a sister to me. But we working and poor people all over the world are family too. It is up to us as workers, students, immigrants, and feminists — of every color, religion, and nationality — to come together and unite to end all the violence against us everywhere, by ending the wars, oppression and exploitation that are its root causes. This is the only response that will do anything real to stop terrorism.

This statement was delivered at a rally countering an anti-refugee demonstration at the state Capitol in Olympia, Wash., on Nov. 20, 2015.

abortion rallies.

ON
JANUARY 19

FOR THE ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

(JANUARY 22ND 1973)

STAND UP FOR THE



RIGHT TO CHOOSE

COUNTER PROTEST THE ANNUAL PRO-LIFE RALLY

STATE CAPITOL STEPS 12 NOON

Abortion Rights (Counter) Demo

By Anonymous Organizers of the Pro Abortion Rights Protest

This January marks the twenty third anniversary of a feminist milestone; the Roe v Wade court case establishing legal abortion access for women in the United States. Though abortion access has always been heavily regulated, the past several years have seen an increasing imposition of abortion restrictions by the right.

Between 2011 and 2015, states enacted 282 abortion restrictions according to the Guttmacher institute. These anti abortion efforts culminated January 6 with a 240 to 181 house vote to block federal funding from Planned Parenthood and the Affordable Care Act. Though it was vetoed on Jan 8, it marks the first time such a bill has made it to the president's desk.

Here on the west coast, the anti-abortion movement has failed to take

hold, and has little impact apart from their routine harassment outside clinics. But even in Washington, a state largely regarded around the country as being among the most progressive, services are still not optimal. Many clinics suffer understaffing and funding shortages.

A shortage of abortion specialists, combined with an insufficient budget to train and hire more staff, means that abortion services in Washington clinics

are often offered only one or two days a week. This can result in significant waiting periods—at the clinic here in Olympia, that can mean up to a month long.

While some see this as a vital system in need of aid and improvement, there are people and groups who would prefer to exacerbate these problems, if not make abortion illegal entirely. Just one of these is March for Life, the organization behind the nation's largest anti-

Even in Washington, a state largely regarded around the country as being among the most progressive, services are still not optimal. Many clinics suffer understaffing and funding shortages.

Every year on a date close to the anniversary of Roe V. Wade, in-state chapters of March for Life hold rallies at their state's capitol to advocate against abortion. The chapter in our state, Washington March for Life, has been advertising a gathering on billboards downtown and in Lacey, for a day when legislators will be in session.

The event, taking place January 19th on the capitol campus, aims to celebrate the restrictions in other states, and undermine the basic reproductive healthcare available in Washington through pressuring state legislators to adopt more restrictive policies. According to their website, gatherings usually draw an attendance of 300 people.

As a community that values equality and autonomy, we must not allow this action to go uncontested. We must stand up and represent what believe is right—and also show legislators that Washington March for Life does not hold the majority opinion. A counter protest has been planned for the day of the rally. Join us in showing solidarity for a woman's right to choose—we will be gathered on the capitol steps at

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How to Love Yourself After Encountering Your Shitty Relatives!

A QUICK GUIDE TO EMPOWERING YOURSELF AFTER BEING TORN DOWN

By Nix Chace

While the holiday season can be a warm and wonderful time where families gather together to give love and support to their loved ones, it is all too often a time where marginalized groups need to shove themselves right back in that closet, or sit passively as their family makes incredibly homophobic, racist, sexist, and ableist remarks around the dinner table. If your experiences with relatives falls under the latter category, this article is for you.

This time of year can be incredibly depressing, difficult, and alienating to many people with varying identities. I know this holiday season I had to sit through being misgendered by my entire family and respond to a name I haven't even gone by for almost a year. I have a lot of trouble with self-care, so I decided to make this list in an attempt to recover from this past holiday season.

Surrounding yourself with friends or chosen family.

Grabbing a cup of coffee with a good friend, or having brunch with a group of pals can be an incredibly validating experience during the holiday season. Celebrating the holidays, or celebrating the fact that you all survived through the holidays, with people who respect your identity can be very healing and empowering during this time of year!

Host your own holiday!

Invite people over for dinner! Pop open a bottle of wine and have a party! Celebrate the new year the way YOU want to, instead of being stuck with your family. Take the reigns and create your

own traditions with the people you want to create them with.

Get rid of things

I know for Christmas I got plenty of clothes that invalidated my identity and I wouldn't want to be caught dead in. While I politely smiled and accepted my gifts because I know my family tried, I decided not to feel guilty for taking them all back once I got home, or giving them away. It's okay to get rid of the things you don't want or don't like. You are under no obligation to suffer with items that make you feel bad!

Rest & Relaxation

This is honestly really vague, I know. But taking a hot bubble bath, or painting your nails, or just sleeping for two days straight is also an amazing way to recover from a harsh holiday. To make myself feel better, I got this argan oil for my skin and let me tell you I am glowing the pain away.

Find Community

Sometimes it's hard to relate to some of my friends who don't have similar experiences with their families as I do,

while they can still be incredibly supportive of me I have found what's most important is finding a community of people who can understand my experiences. Connecting with people who really understand what I'm going through is, in my opinion, one of the greatest ways to heal from harmful experiences and is one of the best ways to take care of yourself after a rough holiday season. Finding a support group, or having some close friends who really get it, is one of the best ways to vent, heal, and grow from a painful holiday.

Pour yourself a glass of wine. Eat a waffle.

I don't know if any of you have had the wine/waffle combination before, but if not I would seriously consider giving it a go. Like on their own, wine and waffles are pretty great, but put them together and boom! pow! you have got yourself a winning combination. The bitter after-taste of red wine matched with the sweetness of a maple syrup-y waffle, makes me feel better about most things. If wine and waffles aren't your comforting combination, try making one of your own! the recipe is basically

(alcoholic beverage) + (yummy breakfast food). I have no doubt this combination will definitely ease the pain of a hard holiday season.

Make your own self-care list.

Try making your own list of things to do to make yourself feel better! Just the act of writing down things you can easily do to help yourself is really healing and empowering. There are so many ways to help yourself after a hard time with relatives, and it can all start by writing them all down and letting it out.

Vent!

If lists aren't your thing, try writing an angry rant in your journal, or make a cathartic blog post where you can let out all your feelings! Whatever floats your boat or allows you to let out all of your intense emotions, go for it! Try-whaving a good pal be there to listen to whatever you need to say. Keeping your feelings bottled up can only make things worse, so let it all out in whatever format works best for you!

RUBY THOMPSON

Everybody Pees A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF GENDER FREE BATHROOMS

By Jamine Kozak Gilroy

Having spent the break with two small children, with a household ban on “potty talk”, I’m coming back to the adult world, and I want to talk about bathrooms. Everybody pees, and I believe strongly that anywhere you take your pants off should be a safe space.

Unfortunately, for people who are queer or trans that has historically not been the case. Increased visibility for people who are transgender in the 21st century has unleashed a flood of queer and transphobic feelings and rhetoric that exposes our cultures convoluted ideas about gayness, straightness, and gender.

As my friend River, a trans boy, film student, and Harrison Ford aficionado, told me, “I, as a human, have a bladder that needs to be emptied and sometimes because of my social dysphoria and feelings of personal safety my ability to pee comfortably is compromised.”

Bathrooms are fundamental, and the right to pee safely should be respected and protected for everyone. In light of the Evergreen State College’s grant proposal to change the bathrooms in the Sem II building into gender neutral bathrooms, I talked to two of my trans friends about how they feel about the prospect of switching all the bathrooms to gender neutral restrooms.

I asked them both two questions; why do you believe gender neutral restrooms are important and what is one thing you want people to understand about gender neutral restrooms.

One of my friends, a passionate trans woman and fabulous writer who asked not to be identified, expressed a desire for the cisgendered population to reconsider how we view requests from trans students saying, “It sucks that it is stressful to ask for something like this-

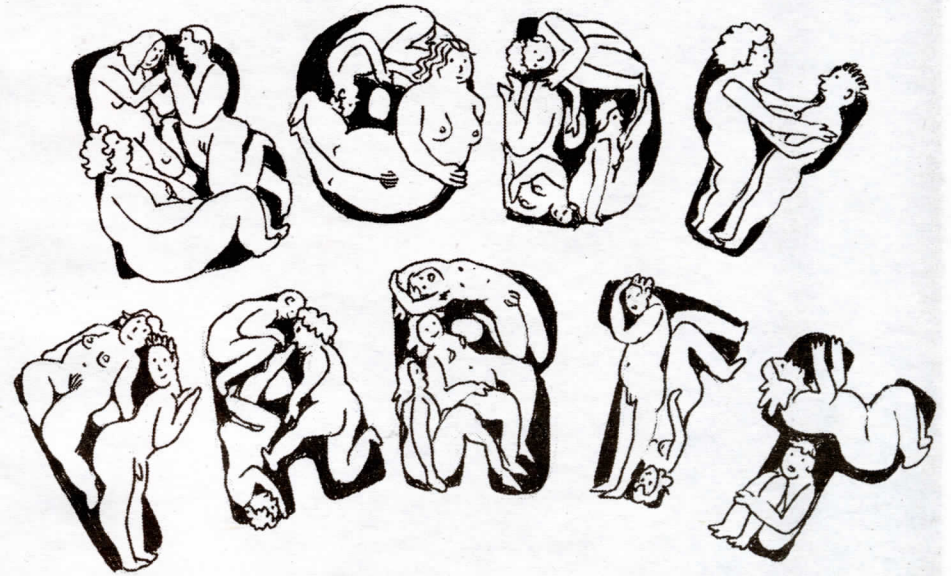
I think people here think that they do more for trans people when they actually do, so you have to fear backlash.”

She also mentioned that while there are gender free restrooms in Sem II already, because of the awkward set up of the facilities, where there is one large handicapped and gender neutral restroom per floor, plus one restroom marked with ‘womens’ or ‘mens’, both the trans population and the handicapped population don’t have easy access to safe restrooms, “You don’t have priority even though you are technically part of who they are trying to include.”

Throughout our discussions both she and River brought up examples, explaining how, while Evergreen comes off as a queer friendly school, they still experience many of the same alienating things here on campus that they would anywhere else.

Sideways looks, aggressive overheard comments, being misgendered, and general feelings of non belonging.

Campus should be safe for its students—it is not a place where anybody should feel like ‘the other’, and gender neutral restrooms in one of our most regularly used buildings would be a big step in making that dream a reality. In the meantime, River has one piece of advice for his fellow bathroom users; “they are going to see trans people on campus, they are going to see people they don’t think ‘belong’ in ‘their’ bathrooms- they need to keep their judgmental looks to themselves.”



ADVICE ON SEX, RELATIONSHIPS & MORE

Dear Body Party,

I recently started back on antidepressants, and while I’ve stopped thinking about death so often (yay!) I’ve completely lost my sex drive and, worse yet, lost any ability to cum. Is there any ways I can get my sex drive back without dropping the SSRIs and plunging back into a depressive pit?

-Less Sad, but Sexless

Hey Less Sad, but Sexless,

I’ve got good news for you, and I’ve got bad. The good news is that often times different anti depressants effect sex drive differently than others, so shopping around could drastically improve your sexual health and boost your ability to orgasm.

The bad news is that while a new prescription could help out, it is unlikely that there is any one solution to your problem. The standard pharmacological treatment for clinical depression are Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs), medication that stops the brain from disposing of excess serotonin, a neurotransmitter crucial for all sorts of mental functions, in order to increase a patient’s serotonin levels. Research suggests that decreased sex drive and inability to cum is universal across SSRIs because of the role serotonin plays in arousal and orgasm.

If you are not interested in switching pills, or have tried that without success, there are a few other possible solutions (all of which you should talk to your doctor about beforehand!). The easiest involves either decreasing your dosage to see if you can maintain the emotionally positive impacts of the drugs while decreasing the sexual side effects or taking a ‘drug vacation’, in which you come off of the SSRI for a weekend so can have fulfilling sexual experience.

Be warned that besides this being a bandaid fix, it also will not work with older SSRIs that have longer half lives, like Fluoxetine or Escitalopram (brand name: Prozac or Lexapro).

For more consistent treatment, ask your doctor about certain drugs, like the common antihistamine Cyproheptadine, that can be taken with your SSRIs or right before sex to increase sexual arousal, sensation, and your ability to orgasm.

Most importantly, keep in mind that not being interested in sex is totally okay, and having sex when you’re not interested is not mandatory! Talk to your partners, let them know what’s going on, keep communication open, and go out and have some fun.

Good Luck,

-Party!

Body Party is a positive, open-minded column about everything bodied, sex, relationships, and self love. This column is not written by a doctor but done by a person who has researched a topic and looked into your questions thoroughly. If you have any questions or want advice or research on the topics of your body, sex, medication, STD’s ect. please submit them to cooperpointjournal@gmail.com

