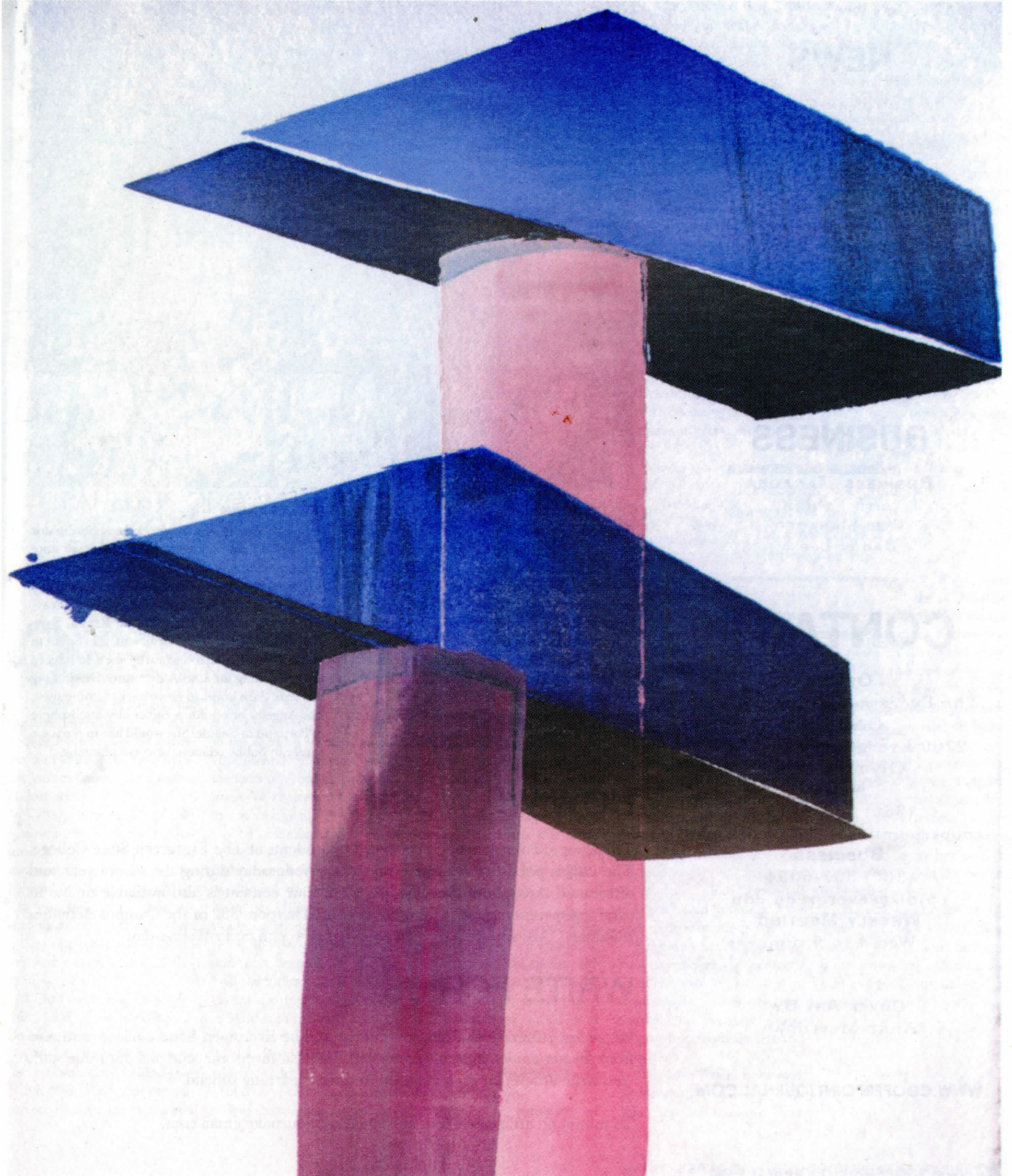


the COOPERPOINT

The Evergreen State College Student Newspaper | Jan 27 - Feb 10, 2016 JOURNAL



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WEEKLY MEETING

Wed 4 to 5 p.m.

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MEET THE STAFF

CPJ writer and artist, Jules Prosser, is drawing our staff! So now you can put some faces to the names you read, and get to know us a little better. Look for more staff members in issues to come, and see color drawings at www.cooperpointjournal.com



FELIX CHROME

Felix is the editor in chief and co-coordinator of the CPJ. When she isn't working on the paper she studies critical theory and experimental poetics. Felix likes to read and loves to party. According to her ok cupid she spends her time 'working on becoming a liberal arts school drop out; borrowing books from the library and not reading them; and pretending to write poetry.' If she isn't at the salon or spending all night in the office laying out the CPJ, you can find her downtown drinking shitty beer and yelling about anarchy. Please don't talk to her about work.



SARA FABIAN

Sara is the business manager and co-coordinator of The CPJ. She enjoys dancing in grocery store aisles, watching tv shows from True Detective to The Real Housewives, and the finer things in life: lemonade and french fries. She is a world traveler having been to Paris, Berlin, Russia, Sweden, South Africa, The Caribbean, and Spain to name a few. Perhaps that's why she's so fidgety, always looking for a new adventure. Graduating this year, Sara hopes to move back to hometown, Los Angeles or opt for a chiller city atmosphere in Portland or Seattle. She would like to pursue a career in public relations or event planning.

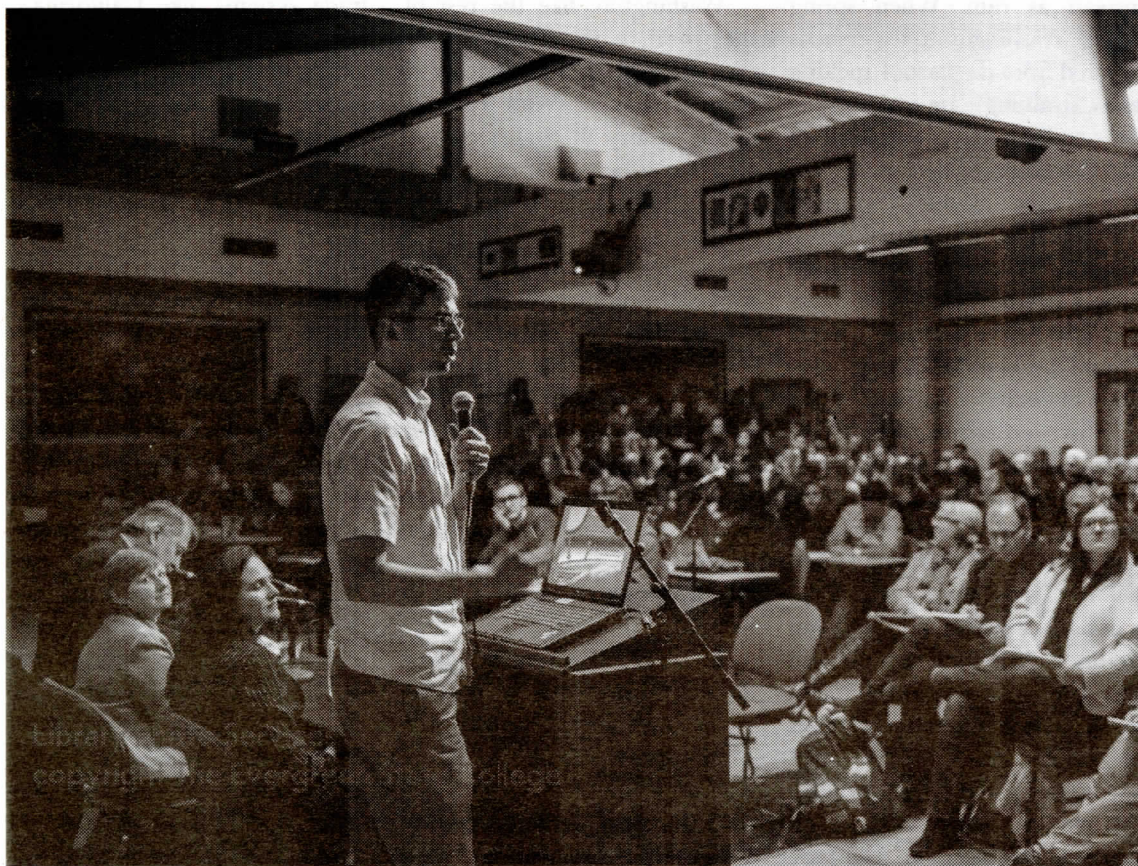
HOW WE WORK

The Cooper Point Journal is produced by students at The Evergreen State College. The CPJ 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 office is located in room 332 of the Campus Activities Building (CAB) and we have staff meetings at 4 p.m every Wednesday.

WRITE FOR US

We accept submissions from any student at The Evergreen State College, and also from former students, faculty, and staff. We also hire some students onto our staff, who write articles for each issue and receive a learning stipend.

To submit an article, reach us at cooperpointjournal@gmail.com.



Students attend a panel on the proposed carbon tax at "It's happening; what now?" SHAUNA BITTLE.

Debate On Carbon Tax Initiative Gets Heated

PANELISTS OF CLIMATE PRESENTATIONS AT EVERGREEN ARGUE OVER INITIATIVE 732

By Devon Merriman

On January 13, Evergreen students crammed into every square inch of the longhouse to attend "It's Happening, What Now?," a series of presentations on climate change in Washington State.

Initiative 732 surfaced during the discussion, prompting a disagreement among panelists and climate change activists Yoram Bauman and Jeffrey G. Johnson.

I-732 is a carbon tax that is now in front of the legislature. If lawmakers reject the measure, it will move to the November ballot for 2016. The idea behind a carbon tax is to make polluting expensive so as to promote conservation and discourage the use of fossil fuels.

"That's what I, as an economist, love about capitalism," Bauman said, campaign co-chair of Carbon Washington, the organization behind the I-732. "You may love capitalism or you may hate it, but you

should be able to recognize that it is a very powerful force in the world. I work as an environmental economist using the tools of economics and the power of capitalism to protect the environment."

The initiative proposes to phase in a \$25 per ton tax on CO2 over two years. The tax would increase thereafter until it reaches \$100 per ton, which would take more than 40 years. It also eliminates business and occupation tax for manufacturers (a gross receipt tax for the right to do business in Washington State), reduces the sales tax by 1%, and funds the Working Families Rebate, which could provide up to \$1500 a year in tax benefits to low-income working house-

holds.

The changes in the initiative are aimed to balance each other out and create a tax shift, not a tax increase. This means I-732 would be revenue-neutral, and that's where Johnson and other activists take issue. It's worth noting that Washington State has the most regressive tax system in the nation.

Instead of a neutral-revenue approach, opponents of the initiative advocate for a different tax — one that has net positive revenue. In that case, the government would have additional money to spend on clean-energy alternatives, education, and other investments in the community.

Johnson is president of

the Washington State Labor Council and a member of the governing board for the Alliance for Jobs and Green Energy. The Alliance is a coalition of environmental, social justice and labor groups, often including communities most affected by climate change.

"The starting premise of the alliance is this: there are two great threats to the shared prosperity today. One of course is inequity and income inequality, and the other is climate disruption. And we can topple both of them together. But to do that, we need a comprehensive set of policies and we have to raise a net positive amount of revenue so we can invest in creating a clean energy economy," said Johnson. "Just a little bit of equity in terms of a working families tax rebate is not enough. We need to leverage clean energy investments in communities of color."

Johnson claims that the the Working Families Rebate benefits only 40% of low-income people. Instead

of a tax shift, The Alliance wants the government to keep more of the revenue generated by the Carbon Tax and use it to "direct investments to accelerate the transition to clean energy and reduce the impacts of global warming pollution on the people, industries and lands hardest hit by climate w," as written on their website. To this end, the Alliance is planning an initiative of their own, which has not yet been released.

"It's past time for small changes," said Johnson. "We have to do something big."

Supporters of I-732 claim that increasing government spending wouldn't have bipartisan support, while the revenue-neutral measure draws support from both the left and right.

"We have letters from over 40 economists, including some folks here on campus, and

we're building support across the political spectrum," said Bauman. "Seattle Times wrote more than a year ago that a revenue neutral approach would be both less financially risky and more politically viable than the [Cap and Trade System]," which was proposed by governor Jay Inslee, stymied by Republicans, and rejected by the Democratic-majority state House in 2015.

However, Johnson argued that I-732 wouldn't be popular with voters, citing polls conducted by the Alliance.

"We've done eight sets of polling on various carbon pollution reduction proposals over this past year, and in only one of them did the I-732 ever pass the 50 percent mark. After pros and cons were made, it came in at 51 percent. The efforts were tremendous, the thought put into it was great,

but it's not a winning proposal and I think we need to go back to the drawing board."

"If or when the Alliance

comes out with another idea, a tangible policy idea, then you can make up your mind about that." Bauman said to the audience. "But now, we're the only policy that's on the table in terms of working on ballot measures."

Concluding his comments, Bauman said he and supporters "continue to feel that Initiative 732 is terrific climate policy and terrific social justice policy. Maybe it's not perfect, but you don't want the perfect to be the enemy of the good."

You can sign up for weekly updates about I-732 at www.carbonWA.com and find out more about the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy at www.jobsandcleanenergywa.com.

RUBY THOMPSON



Washington's Environmental Crises

CAN THE STATE BECOME A LEADER ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

By Asa Kowals-Rose

Washington's nickname— though never formally recognized— has always been “The Evergreen State.” Since the name itself is not official, no official meaning has been assigned to it. Despite this, the nickname has always been recognized as a reference to Washington's abundant coniferous forests.

This was the intent of C.T. Conover, the Seattle writer credited with inventing the nickname in the late nineteenth century.

There is no doubt that Washington deserves the epithet “Evergreen” for its trees, but it would be entirely incorrect to use the term with regard to the state's environmental history. Until the 1930s, Washington was the nation's largest timber producer and therefore the nation's greatest deforester. The New Deal era saw the state construct dozens of massive hydroelectric dams to power its burgeoning manufacturing sector, a process that contributed heavily to the decline of the state's salmon population. Industry has also taken a toll on Washington's environment; the state is home to 48 superfund sites, as many as there are in Texas.

Of course, Washington's environmental history is hardly unique. It would be fair to say that the whole United States — pretty much the entire developed world — industrialized with near-total disregard for sustainability. This process is largely responsible for climate change, which is expected to exacerbate a variety of environmental crises in years to come. Washington residents are already seeing these effects as they confront a myriad of destructive natural phenomena throughout the state.

Last year, Washington suffered a drought as a result of the state's alarmingly low snowpack — the snow that builds up in the mountains during winter months and melts in the spring. This was due to last winter's mild temperatures, which caused what would normally have been snow to fall

instead as rain. When spring came, Washington's watersheds suffered from the lack of melting snow, straining state and municipal water supplies, and leading the Governor to declare a state of drought. While snowpack has returned to normal levels this year, Washingtonians should expect more droughts in years to come as the warmer winters caused by climate change continue to depress snowpack.

The state is already suffering financially from this phenomenon. A study by the State Department of Agriculture estimated that the 2015 drought cost Washington's farmers more than \$335 million in lost crops. In addition to this, lack of snowmelt allowed the state's rivers and streams to warm, severely depressing salmon populations.

2015 proved a historic year for another environmental disaster in Washington: wildfires. The dry season saw more than one million acres of forest burn throughout central and Eastern Washington, overwhelming fire-fighting resources and costing the state hundreds of millions of dollars. It proved to be the largest wildfire season the state has ever seen; smoke from the massive Okanogan and Chelan complex fires was regularly visible as far west as Seattle. As climate change produces drier summers, Washingtonians can expect more massive fires in future years.

As wildfires and drought ravage Washington's forests and watersheds, the state's coastal waters are experiencing ocean acidification. This process occurs when seawater absorbs excess carbon from the atmosphere. The resulting chemical reactions bring down pH levels, which threatens certain vulnerable organisms.

Among those threatened are various species of shellfish, which play a crucial role in maritime environments. Shellfish provide a critical food source for other animals, and some can even decontaminate their ecosystems through a filtering process called bivalve depuration.

On top of their ecological importance, shellfish make up an important part of western Washington's economy. According to the Pacific Shellfish Institute, Washington's shellfish product is worth \$108 million annually. This means that ocean acidification, like other effects of climate change, is both an ecological and economic threat to the state.

Washington, like the rest of the world, is witnessing the increasingly devastating effects of climate change. With its economic history, the state's present choice can be viewed as follows: it can continue its legacy of environmental destruction, or it can atone for it with a program of robust environmentalist policies.

Over the last several years, Washingtonians seem to have opted for the latter. In response to the environmental blitzkrieg hitting the state from all sides, Washington has become a hotbed of environmentalism, and could be poised to pursue a decidedly climate-friendly agenda in coming years.

In 2012, Washington voters elected former congressman Jay Inslee governor. During the race, Inslee touted his record as an environmentalist, having racked up a 92 percent rating from the League of Conservation Voters during his time in congress. Inslee also co-authored the 2007 book “Apollo's Fire: Igniting America's Clean Energy Economy,” which portrayed the Apollo Program as a model for a national push to create a green economy.

Inslee's passion for environmentalism, however, was met with resistance from state legislators. Shortly after the 2012 election, a Republican-led coalition took control of the state Senate, and proved hostile to the Governor's agenda. Inslee's 2015 budget proposal included a statewide tax on carbon emissions, but it failed to secure legislative support.

In August, determined to pursue his agenda anyway, he bypassed the legislature and directed the Washington Department of Ecology to set limits on carbon emissions under its authority to enforce the Clean Air Act. A preliminary plan to do so was released at the beginning of the month.

The Department of Ecology's plan seeks to reduce carbon emissions over time by capping businesses' annual carbon emissions to 100,000 metric tons in 2017, and gradually lowering the cap to 70,000 by 2035. Companies would be able to comply with the proposed rules by either reducing their carbon emissions, funding outside emission-reduction projects, or paying other companies to further reduce their emissions. The rule would also allow companies to buy carbon credits from existing cap-and-

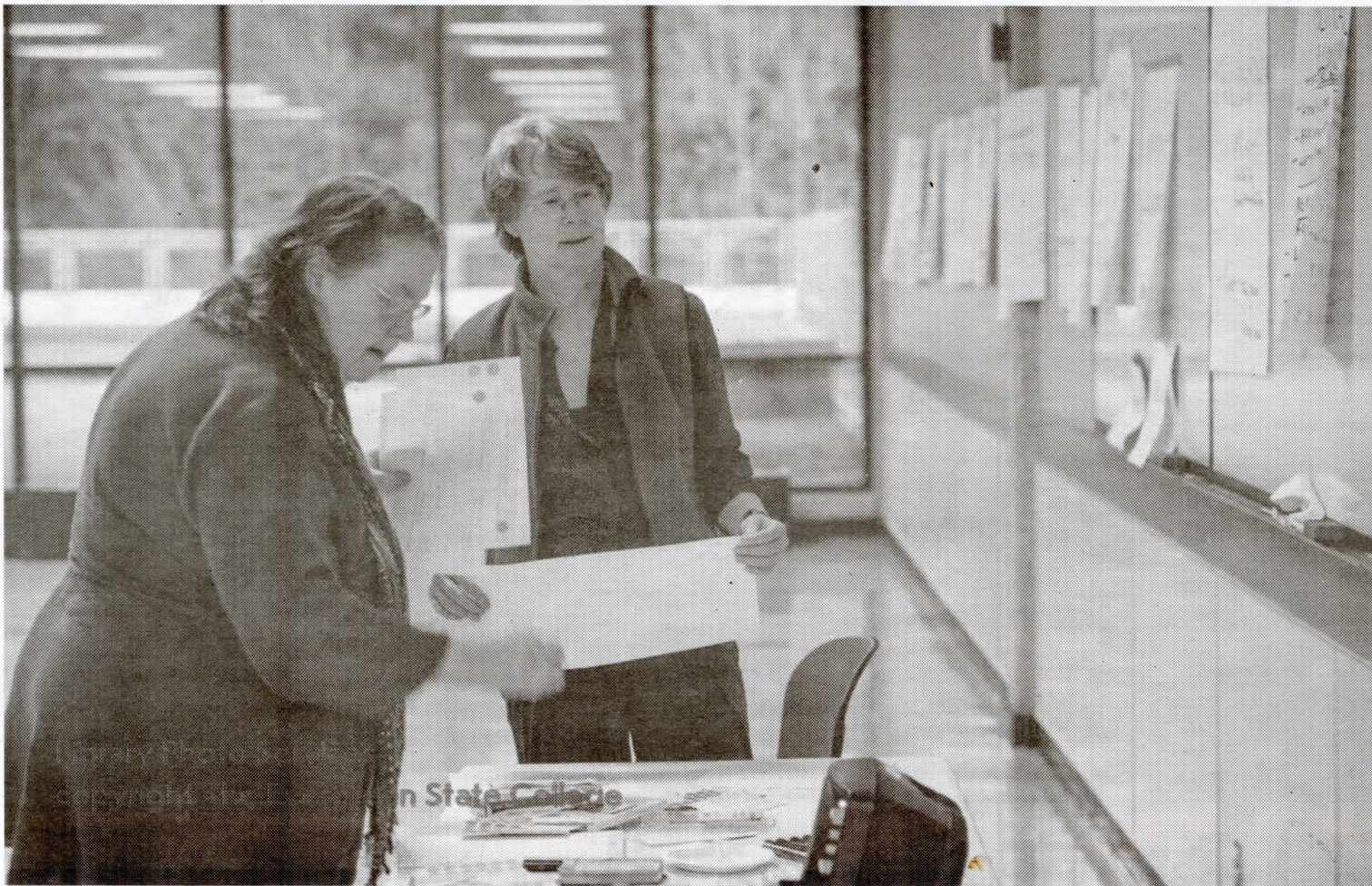
trade systems, like California's. This could eventually bring a full-fledged carbon exchange to Washington.

The plan is limited in scope: the carbon cap would initially only affect 23 emitters, including refineries, industrial plants, and landfills. It does not affect agricultural emissions or the Centralia Coal Plant, which is slated to shut down by 2025.

Despite Inslee's decision to bypass the legislature on regulating carbon, state lawmakers will still be debating the issue in the ongoing 2016 legislative session. This is thanks to Initiative 732, a revenue-neutral carbon-taxing that offsets revenue from a carbon tax with progressive tax breaks. Carbon Washington, the group backing the initiative, submitted it to the legislature at the beginning of the year after collecting more than 360,000 signatures from Washington voters. Legislators have the option of enacting the measure into law, or letting voters decide the issue in November.

While executive and legislative action are certainly indicative of Washington's will to confront climate change, they represent only part of the state's growing environmentalism. In recent years, Washington has become home to a vibrant culture of climate activism. This has produced a number of unconventional environmentalist efforts. Last year, a group of children filed a lawsuit against the Washington Department of Ecology, claiming that it wasn't doing enough to ensure a safe environment for future generations. Though their case was rejected, Judge Hollis Hill of the King County Superior Court agreed with their argument that the state has a constitutional responsibility to fight climate change.

Another strange display came earlier in the year, as activists assembled a kayak flotilla to protest the Port of Seattle's decision to host an offshore oil rig intended for use in the Arctic Ocean. At the root of this activism is a clear message: Washingtonians have no intention of quietly succumbing to the effects of climate change, and will fight for the future of the environment with whatever means they possess. If present efforts succeed, they might just have a chance of winning.



Faculty hiring director Ruth Hansen. SHAUNA BITTLE.

Hiring at Evergreen

THE SCHOOLS UNIQUE PROCESS FOR FINDING NEW FACULTY

By Sarah Bradley

The Evergreen State College has an instructional staff of 224 teachers, and new positions are posted each year in various subjects. The subjects that are hired for reflect the areas of study with need for more classes and teachers. The hiring process at Evergreen is a dynamic series of events that mirrors Evergreen's interdisciplinary mission.

Evergreen staff is comprised of full time faculty and adjunct faculty. When new hires are added to the Evergreen faculty, they are hired first in an adjunct position. For the 2014-2015 school year, adjunct faculty accounted for 28.6% of the Evergreen instructional staff. While this is still a high percentage of faculty who work with uncertain long-term job security, it is less than other institutions. According to a nationwide survey from the American Association of University Professors, noncontingent faculty, or adjuncts, account for 76.4% of teaching faculty in institutes of higher education.

The process for being hired

as a teacher at Evergreen is completed over the course of one year. It begins at the start of the school year, when available positions are announced, and it is completed by the following September when classes start up and new faculty will begin teaching.

A unique feature of Evergreen's hiring process is that students play a crucial role in the selection of potential candidates for teaching. On the hiring committee, there is always at least one student, and sometimes more. When there is a position made available for a specific subject, a student who takes those classes in that area of study will be chosen to work with the hiring board.

This student volunteers their time to work closely with the rest of the board throughout all stages of the hiring process. It is important that a student be a part of the process to express the needs and perspectives of themselves and their peers.

"Students have real power," Expressed faculty hiring coordinator Ruth Hansen, "and it's a power from the ground up." The students who make up the hiring committee can provide an invaluable perspective of the learning environment better than non-students.

Hansen explained the different elements that go into the hiring process to me. Applications are accepted for the

available positions which are posted on Evergreen's website. A candidate completes the online application portion of the recruitment process and sends in any other required materials which are specified in the posted job announcement. Once all these materials are received, the search committee

By January, the search committee has finished reading all of the applications and finalists are selected. At this point, different forms of interviews are conducted between hiring committee members and the potential teacher. Typically, the next step is a phone call and interview to the selected finalists.

When the search commit-

tee has interviewed the finalists being considered for teaching positions, the candidate is invited to spend a few days in Olympia. The Evergreen describes this step of the hiring process as "two days of formal and informal meetings with students, hiring committee members, deans, the Provost, and other interested parties." Additionally, the candidates will have the opportunity to give a public presentation and/or teach a class session in their area of discipline.

In the time spent on campus for the potentially hired candidate, it is encouraged that time is spent getting to know the students and familiarizing themselves with campus life.

In an example of Evergreen's non-traditional hiring process, the student member of the hiring committee will go out to dinner with the potential candidate. This gives both the student and the considered-hire a chance to get to know one another in a less academic environment.

The effort of the hiring committee is all to ensure that Evergreen continues to seek out teachers that will best fit Evergreen's educational model. Additionally, the hiring committee has a commitment to equity and accessibility as part of its mission.

It is important and meaningful that there is a high level of care in the selection process, and it speaks to the desire to integrate new hire's fully into the educational community at Evergreen. It is unfortunate that the current state of higher education favors hiring faculty non-contingently, or only a quarter or two at a time. Students have the power to advocate for the faculty they feel have great potential as Evergreen teachers through faculty evals and by communicating with the dean's office. In doing so, by voicing your opinion, you become a part of the hiring process.



A screenshot from evergreen.snap, the account often features students participating in illicit behavior.

evergreen.snap Raises Privacy Concerns

By Danny Loose

In September of 2015 a developer called Squid's Inc. launched an app called "Fleek College Stories" was made available for download acting with a third party app in correspondence with the photo communication app Snapchat. The way it works is that Fleek geotags (establishes metadata to a particular location) a college and sets up an account on Snapchat (our username is "evergreen.snap") where roughly 75 percent of submitted content is displayed on the account's Snapchat Story (the app's public forum), and the full story can be viewed on the app Fleek.

The contents of evergreen.snap are usually pretty innocuous; consisting mostly of pictures of cats, in-class antics, alcohol consumption, butts, and videos of people smoking hash oil while a dubstep song drops in the background. Squid's Inc. has no other apps in the app store or in development and has no website or means of contacting the company. Fleek seemingly has come out of nowhere.

While watching fellow students drink Malibu out of a funnel and tube is relatively entertaining, documenting illicit behavior on an app that's geotagged to your college is naïve to say the least. Even though content on Snapchat dissipates after 24 hours does not mean that it is somehow exempt from participating in the security state or exempt from being screenshotted by your peers and used against you.

For example, earlier this month a sophomore (who requested their name be changed to protect their privacy) Alex posted video of their underage alcohol consumption to evergreen.snap

and was later confronted by resident advising about the incident, citing the snapchat story as proof of their breach of housing policy. This content was brought to the attention of resident advising by a student taking screenshots of Alex's drinking along with other students' illicit behavior taking place on campus housing. Because this was the first instance of illicit behavior brought to the staff's attention via a student's documentation of the evergreen.snap story, Alex was told that RAD was "not going to be taking punitive action" and received no grievances.

Alex alleged that since their incident resident advising would begin consistently monitoring the evergreen.snap story to catch more illicit behavior to ensure that students would not be at risk of doing harm to themselves or others.

I spoke with Kelly Lundy, the assistant director for residential life on campus, who dispelled this claim, and assured me that "Resident advising does not actively check social media unless

people bring specific instances to our attention." Lundy also stated that The Evergreen State College was not contacted by Squid's Inc. to get the permission of the institution to create the account.

Even though resident advising is not actively monitoring the evergreen.snap story or Fleek, your fellow students are, and may be willing to source it in order to penalize you. It should also be noted that the content of evergreen.snap goes through a third party app that does not abide by the same privacy policies as snapchat. Snapchat states that "using a co-branded or third-party-branded service, you may be providing information (including personal information) directly to the third party, us, or both. You acknowledge and agree that we are not responsible for how those third parties collect or use your information." Fleek does not post their privacy policy in any part of the app, so while Snapchat may not be collecting submitted data, Fleek may be, and we have no way of knowing where it goes or who

watches it. To put the lack of secrecy of evergreen.snap into perspective, one picture I saw on Fleek was captioned "I don't even go to evergreen but i still see y'all titties lol". Take that as you will.

Part of living in a surveillance state is operating under the assumption of knowing that nothing you release on the internet is ever "safe" or "impermanant." If you are going to post your illicit behavior on a geotagged snapchat story to your college, you should just assume that there is a highly probable chance that information may be used against you, so if you're going to do it consider instead just sending it to the people you want to see it rather than broadcasting it on a public forum. At the end of the day, all of this information is either being collected by a suspiciously vacant app developer or the National Security Agency, so choose the content you want to share wisely.

Alexander Meiklejohn AN EARLY INFLUENCE ON EVERGREEN

By Jasmine Kozak Gilroy

The most important figure in the Evergreen State College history does not have a library or plaza named after him. In fact, he died before the school was founded without ever having heard of it's existence.

Alexander Meiklejohn passed away at 92 on December 17th, 1964 as a retired professor still living in the college town of Berkley, California. While his obituary in the New York Times cites his passion for freedom of speech, his excellence as a professor, and mentions his success as the as the Dean of Students at Brown University, they gloss over the important bits—his forced resignation as the President of Amherst College and the failure of his established Experimental College at the University of Wisconsin- Madison.

Although the founders of our school drew from many different places when designing its academic structure, Meiklejohn's vision for righteous higher education and the Experimental College—detailed in his 1932 book of the same name—clearly played a key role in the development of Evergreen's values.

Alexander Meiklejohn was unanimously vote in as the President of Amherst College in 1912, just fifteen years after he received his PhD in Philosophy from Cornell University. At Amherst, he became reviled by faculty for his liberal and radical ideas about the direction of modern education. He refused to implement electives based on his opinion that electives, instead of opening student up to new ideas, allow them to allow them to close themselves off to entire disciplines save for the occasional foray into something different.

While his original vision for the perfect "Liberal College" was far more divided than what we see today at Evergreen, his basis for that structure—that education can not be complete unless it address multiple cohesive disciplines—reads strongly in our curriculum. Besides his desire for radical curriculum change, over his decade at Amherst he was also well known for his disregard for both college athletics and the elitist hierarchy of academic—despite his personal employment of six servants in his residence on the college's dime—all of which let to his forced resignation.

After his resignation he turned down multiple offers of presidency at other schools to instead become a professor of Philosophy at University of Wisconsin Madison where he created his Experimental College—a culmination of all of

his thoughts and theories on righteous liberal arts education.

The Experimental College, started in 1937, was intellectually born in one of Meiklejohn's essays published in 1925. Students lived together with their teachers, without a schedule, without grades, and traditional classes were forsaken for tutorials and group discussions. It only lasted five years due to administrative difficulties, the Great Depression, and fear of student radicalism, but it's structure clearly lives on in many institutions, including at Evergreen. While we may not live with our teachers we do share pot-lucks, go on long trips with them, and they often bring their partners and kids in for show and tell.

After the school was officially shut down in 1932, Meiklejohn moved out to Berkeley, California, where he started the San Francisco School of Social Studies for adult education, which continued to apply much of the same structure until it closed in 1942.

When Meiklejohn moved out to California, he was followed by one of his students, Joseph Tussman, who he later guided in the creation of Tussman own Experimental College at the University of California, Berkeley. Tussman brought faculty in from the main U.C. Berkley disciplines and asked them to bring their expertise to the study of cultural crisis periods in history. The program was admired for its focus on primary source documents and community outreach. The students would go out into the community and teach factory workers and laborers concepts they were learning in school, a program that in some ways mirrors Evergreen's own Gateways. And, much like Meiklejohn's colleges, the Tussman Experimental College skewed traditional academic structure and forwent grades. The disregard for the idea of constructed hierarchy- with grades and tenure- clearly manifests itself in the way that Evergreen approaches education, but the real radical idea that Evergreen seems to draw from Meiklejohn is that education itself should be radical- it should defy traditional forms and structures and should be a tool used by the student, instead of a tool used to mold the students.

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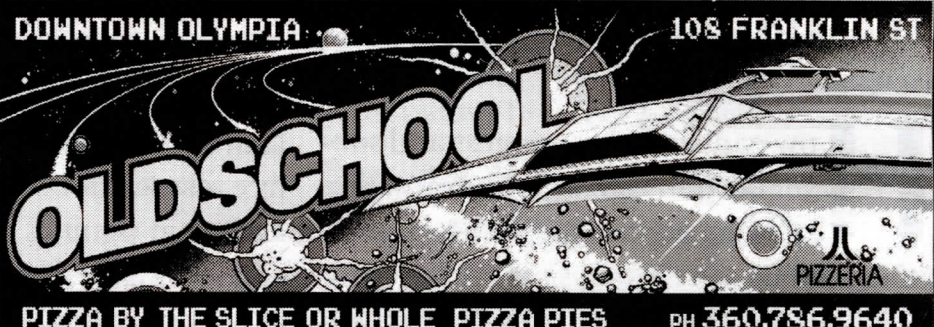
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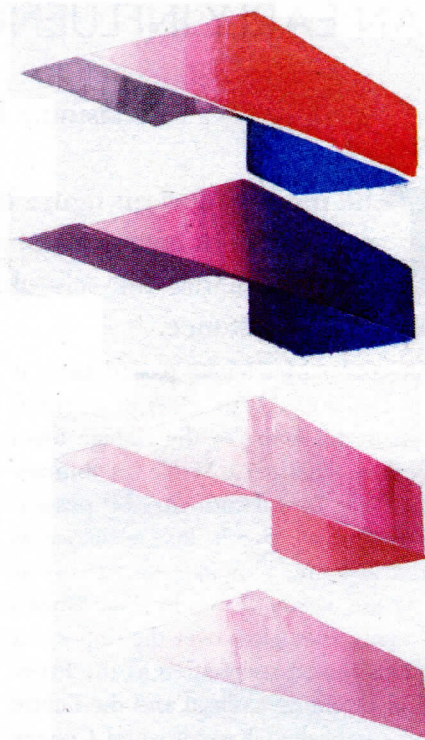
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COVER ARTIST: **Anne McGowan**

How can an image suggest and subvert order? How can abstraction spur an experience of free association? What are the physical and psychological effects of curated space and knowledge? Does a body have a psychological depository that safeguards imagination? How do we recuperate this depository?

These screen prints started as an experiment based on architectural fragments: two walls and a pillar. The urge to recreate a room developed into an attempt to create an imaginary transportation system. Screen printing with stencils lent itself to the repetition of fragments, which encouraged subtle variation of ideas until the initial image became obscured. Subtle

transitions in color and composition test free association. What signifies a room and what signifies movement? How much can an image change before it becomes something else? With these prints, I wanted to create a visual structure that holds a viewer's imagination with the suggested system.

Minimal compositions gave me space to experiment with color. Putting different colors of ink on the screen in disorderly manner determined the result of printing because I could not maintain consistency in color. I found it exciting to watch gradients transform, so I controlled the simplicity of shapes in order to experiment with color. Variation within blue and pink

palates, combined with consistent shapes made a game out of assigning meaning. It's like being outside or in a building—there are so many ways to get around! While making these prints I was thinking about various ways movement and transportation are restricted, and the emotional states that result from such limitations.

Each print with a pillar and a wall belongs to a set of prints with a similar color palate. The circular prints, when viewed in relation to the others, could be the ticket to navigating the proposed rooms. This could be a whimsical savior to bodily limitations but also an exercise in experimenting with surroundings.



Taylor Sikorski is organizing a new bi-weekly comedy night. BLAINE EWIG.

STUFF TO DO

By Sarah Bradley & Sara Fabian

SATURAY 1/30

OH, ROSE, DUZZ, JO PASSED, THUNDERWERLD

523 Stoll Rd SE. 8pm. Donation.

This sweet house show is happening inside a barn on the far east side of Olympia. Full disclosure: one of our employees lives there but wasn't part of organizing this show. It's gonna be a real party and will warm you up out of your winter blues. Local favorites Oh, Rose are playing, and if you haven't checked them out yet you should. They're known for their dreamy and unexpected sets that get the whole crowd dancing. Hyper-local band DUZZ, (the drummer lives here) plays technically complicated shit in whacky time signatures, and does it real loud and hard. Jo Passed is on tour from Vancouver, BC. Their music is described on the facebook event as "swooning grooving dreamy melodies with guitar lines that melt faces, and vocal lines that melt hearts". Wow! Rounding out the set is Thunderwerld. Another local favorite,

Thunderwerld plays lo-fi electronic music that will get your feet moving. Often Thunderwerld sets often include visual elements. Come out for a good time, but remember that people live here so be respectful! This show is going to be a lot of fun. It's in a beautiful house that is conveniently located close to dairy queen (and a 711!) so bring your crush, get some ice cream, and dance the night away.

SUNDAY 1/31

DIARY DISCLOSURE #2

Obsidian. 7pm. \$7. All Ages.

Diary Disclosure is coming back to Obsidian for a second time. Diary Disclosure is a stage-event that highlights regular people reading old diaries. This event gives fully grown adults an opportunity to publicly embarrass themselves for our entertainment! The diary readings may be funny, sad, gross, awkward, but all of them will be real. Those brave enough to read sign up in advance. If you are interested in reading, check out the Diary Disclosure page on facebook, for all the details. The first time Diary Disclosure happened at Obsidian, tickets sold out at the door, so be sure to get there on time if you want to get in. Tickets go on sale at 6:30 p.m. on the night of the event,

doors to the back room open at 7 p.m. and the show will start promptly at 7:30. Check out this event to make you feel a little better about your own awkward childhood and commiserate or rejoice about being grown-ups with grown-up problems instead of pimple-faced teens! The funds raised at the door of this event will go to benefit Community Youth Services.

TUESDAY 2/2

WOMEN'S COMEDY OPEN MIC

Ben Moore's. 7:30pm. \$5. All Ages.

Check out the first ever "Women's Comedy Open Mic" at Ben Moore's restaurant. This event aims to highlight underrepresented voices in comedy by reserving half its spots to women and trans comedians. The facebook page for this event states that "this is a pro-feminist, anti-racist, anti-homophobic, anti-transphobic, anti-xenophobic show." The show starts at 7:30, but if you want to sign up get there at 7 pm to reserve your slot. Comedy sets will be roughly 5 minutes each. Anyone can sign up to perform regardless of gender identity, but the goal is to secure a space for women and trans voices. Jokes will be told! You will laugh! You can maybe make it through a whole night of comedy only laughing, not cringing and oppressive bullshit! You can order a beer and it will make you laugh harder! What a night! Event organizer, Taylor Sikorski has been known to perform at Vomity, Le Voyeur's weekly comedy night, and is absolutely hilarious. The Women's Comedy Open Mic at will be a recurring event at Ben Moore's on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

RVIVR TOUR KICKOFF, HALF HEARTED, CYNOSURE

Obsidian. 7pm. \$7 All Ages.

Hometown punk mainstay RVIVR are about to set off on tour once again! The beloved Olympia band will play six shows up and down the U.S. West Coast, followed by seven more shows in Mexico. Catch them before they go! RVIVR makes energetic pop punk music that is great for dancing, crying, and singing along. You've probably seen them a bunch of times by now, but they never fail to make me hug my friends and remember why I love this town, which we all need, especially when everything seems so gray. Joining them on their tour kickoff are two local bands. Half Hearted's bandcamp describes the group as "three nerds making pop-punk," and their 7" cover features a picture of a dog — pretty neat, very cute. Local punk band Cynosure is also playing. The event is all ages; music will be over by 10:30, so show up on time ya punks!



Photography in Prison Obscura exhibit. JULES PROSSER

Prison Obscura Opened Last Thursday at the Evergreen Gallery

By Jules Prosser & Ruby Love

Prison Obscura is not for the faint of heart, nor for those who choose and cherish gentle ignorance. The experience of Prison Obscura can be compared to the nature of the moon. People like us exist on a planet on which we only see it's white glow, illuminating the motions of our lives. However, the moon has a dark side; a lost, undiscovered place. We all know it's there, but we don't see it or think about much it at all. It means absolutely nothing to us, except for the single fact that it is there, taking up space. The thing about that, however, is that the moon can't exist without its dark side. Nor can humanity.

The delights of our planet do not exist in a vacuum. The history behind us is steeped in terror, the future ahead hangs heavy and hazy. The encircling present gives us daily discomforts and annoyances. But the true dark side of our country is the prison system. Like the pretty light of the moon, our free and pleasurable society cannot exist without the dark behind it. Our collective freedom comes at the cost of a world of others

Prison Obscura opened last Thursday at Evergreen Gallery. Two gallery assistants were posted outside the doors, directing people into the exhibit, and insisting that those who were being asked to part with their bags would be OK without them, and no, they wouldn't get stolen and yes, you do have to leave your backpack.

Evergreen Students, faculty, and community members wandered in small clusters from exhibit to exhibit as they took in a

looping animated video, a slideshow with audio interviews, and numerous groupings of still photographs. Seven artists contribute to Prison Obscura: Pete Brook, Josh Begley, Paul Rucker, Kristen S. Wilkins, Robert Gumpert, Alyse Emdur, and Evergreen Faculty Steve Davis. The most immediately striking of the exhibits are the sheer amount of photographs. There are hundreds of them. The photographs are surprising and murky with shards of glass and light alike. Most of them are portraits, showing imprisoned inmates and family portraits alike, with varying degrees of gravity. On one wall, there are stark black and white photographs taken by Robert Gumpert, accompanied by recordings of each subject.

The exhibit curator Pete Brook, acquired documents of the seminal Supreme Court case *Brown v. Plata*, a Supreme Court case which addressed issues of overcrowding and lack of access

to medical care in California prisons. Accompanying the thick binders were photographs, which were plastered across a section of the farthest wall. The images were mind-blowing with photographs of hospital beds stacked three-beds high, group therapy sessions in which individual inmates are kept in cages, suicide-watch cells, and empty rooms, whose dingy and dark desolation were superlatively terrifying. It was hard to face the images; even with their grainy inkjet quality, the clarity of such wretched reality could not be unseen.

Another striking exhibits is by Josh Begley, who created an exhibit called Prison Maps. Prison Maps gathered countless Google Maps images of prison complexes that spatter the walls, and are also available to navigate through a computer, viewing projections of image after image on the wall, no matter what button they pressed. One might experience a slight

feeling of uncanny valley. These manmade complexes, images of nature, mutilated and reworked into cruel, industrial commodities. Begley's images strongly resemble motherboards, which is the part of the computer that is connects the other hardware and other layers of computer hardware. Begley "manipulates Google Maps API to write codes that use longitudinal and latitudinal coordinates in creating aerial satellite views of every carceral facility in the USA...by using the publicly available embedded data on town, state, and security level, [in which] users can also drill down and investigate for themselves. In an age of open source collaboration, Prison Map may the opening gambit in a public enterprise that uses the satellite image as a visual turnkey into the prison system (Prison Obscura Essay, Pete Brooks). The unsettling hardware-like images and the open-source internet process of the exhibit are

a creepy combination.

After gallery-goers had gotten a chance to circle around the space a few times, getting an initial view of the exhibit, the show's curator, Pete Brook, was introduced and began leading the audience on an in-depth tour of Prison Obscura's contents. Brook discussed the approach of each artist to their particular work, and the often random or coincidental events that led them to create their projects. For example, Alyse Emdur, whose work includes large format photographs of prison visiting rooms, happened upon a photo of herself as a child in one of these visiting rooms as her family was visiting her brother who was in prison. Intrigued by the image, Emdur began researching prison visiting room portraits, a largely undiscovered but fascinating genre of photography. Brook's talk was full of stories like this, where photographers had been shaped by their personal experiences and the relationships they'd developed with incarcerated people, and these relationships had shaped the course of their work.

Brook fleshed out the exhibit in a way that the images and captions alone could not have; we learned that Mark Strandquist, one of the photographers in the show, had recently partnered with a law enforcement officer to have him write a training manual for policemen with the help of juvenile prisoners. This enabled the young men and women to create change within the system that had so often failed them, and to help address issues with policing before they affected other young people. I was on the verge of tears for much of the exhibit; this simple but profoundly needed project pushed me over the edge, as it did for much of the audience. It is for this reason that Prison Obscura works—it simultaneously reminds us of the humanity of incarcerated people, and the horrific conditions and experiences the prison-industrial complex inflicts upon them.

What we must realize: unlike our moon we are capable of peering into the dark side of our humanity

If you missed out on the opening night, don't freak out!! The show will be up until March 2, and the gallery is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10am-5pm, and Wednesday from 1:30-5pm. You can also view Davis's portraits along the library



Trumbo OFS SHOWS THE OSCAR PICK

By Chloe Marina Manchester

The Hollywood Blacklist began in the 1940s when the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) began to question certain American directors, screenwriters, musicians, and actors on the suspicion that their work was communist inspired. Those entertainment professionals were denied employment on those grounds.

Though this blacklisting was rarely made explicit or verifiable, media coverage of the blacklist referred to those first blacklisted entertainment professionals as The Hollywood Ten. They were directors and screenwriters cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to testify to the HUAC. The day after those ten were cited, November 25, 1947, was the day the first systematic Hollywood Blacklist began. One of those blacklisted and then jailed was a screen writer named Dalton Trumbo, now the subject of a Hollywood movie.

The blacklist eventually grew to 150 names and stayed in effect until the 1960s. The combined blacklist and greylist (a list of writers and entertainers suspected of having communist connections) all together

included 500 names.

Many of the Hollywood Ten and other blacklisted writers continued creating screenplays under pseudonyms. Under the name Robert Rich, Trumbo wrote the script for "The Brave One" which won an Academy Award for best screenplay in 1957. The Hollywood Ten were not the only people summoned by the HUAC, but they are the best known.

While most of those in Hollywood who were questioned by the HUAC cooperated and sought leniency or cited the Fifth Amendment right against self incrimination, the Hollywood Ten challenged the legitimacy of the HUAC investigations. Not only did they refuse to cooperate, but they said the investigations violated their civil liberties and First Amendment

freedom of speech to subscribe to any political ideology they choose.

Being a communist at that time was not illegal and so the hearings were of questionable legitimacy at best and unconstitutional violations of civil liberties at worst. But the Hollywood Ten's challenge of the HUAC hearings was ultimately futile and no one questioned by the HUAC in the future, save for Pete Seeger, tried to deny its legitimacy.

On some deeply cynical level, I feel like Trumbo might only be up for an Oscar because it would feel, if you pardon the irony, traitorous for it not to be nominated. But the level of me that doesn't want everything to be a massive conspiracy is completely sure this movie at the very least deserves to be a

contender.

Bryan Cranston and Diane Lane were excellent casting decisions; I've not seen Lane in much but in this she is phenomenal. Cranston, though he will always be the dad from Malcolm in the Middle to me, was an incredibly convincing Dalton Trumbo. He portrayed him as a complicated man with good ideals (from my own far left standpoint), if at times uncomfortable actions. Which is, as far as I can tell from my research, the only possible way to play Trumbo.

Seeing Louis C.K. in a serious role was surprising. Seeing Alan Tudyk at this age was more so. Louis C.K. gives a good performance as Arlen Hird, even if it feels at points like his character is only a plot device, which he is. Arlen Hird is a composite character of Trumbo's leftist friends put into one man, whose relation to Trumbo seems forced, and was only fabricated to further the plot.

The filming style was interesting. Some of the scenes are either completely, or start out, in black and white with the screen as if it was being shown on 1950s technology. I thought this worked in the movie's favor, even if it was a bit cliché for period movies. It was done as if to mimic what would have been broadcast at this time. This worked well especially when paired with an interview with the actual Dalton Trumbo that played during the credits, an interview the movie replicated on screen.

This isn't a communist movie like some reviews claim it to be, and it's not really a biopic like the sort we have grown accustomed to either. It's more just this side of historical. It doesn't necessarily follow the actual events of Trumbo's life and adds in characters and story and plot, building things like his strained and also very close relationship with his oldest daughter.

Over all? I liked it. Though I may be biased because I love the history of the Cold War communist terror. I can't wait to see how this movie shakes out once the Oscars get to it and I hope everyone wrote it using their own name.

UP & COMING

WED. JAN 27

Le Voyeur
404 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+
Bing Bong Barf- Vomity fundraiser for Bing Bong TV ft. Ryan Bunnell

★ **Traditions**
300 5th Ave SW. 7pm.
Anarchist Info Night- The ZAD

Obsidian
414 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+
Anna Gordon, Sawtooth, Wicked Man

THURS. JAN 28

Ben Moore's
112 4th Ave E. 9pm. 18+
OlyDance -18+ all night long
9pm- Drop-in lesson
9:30pm-12am social dancing
Dj's TBA

FRI. JAN 29

Le Voyeur
404 4th Ave 7pm All Ages
Music from Outer Space!
Dr. Sure, Totes Ferosh, TAQO
Free, all-ages show.

SAT. JAN 30

The Hind Quarter
9735 Littlerock Rd SW 8pm \$5
TWAC Benefit Show- Megan Hewett, Repellent, The Vaticunts

SUN. JAN 31

★ **Obsidian**
414 4th Ave E. 6:30pm. 21+ \$7
Diary Disclosure #2

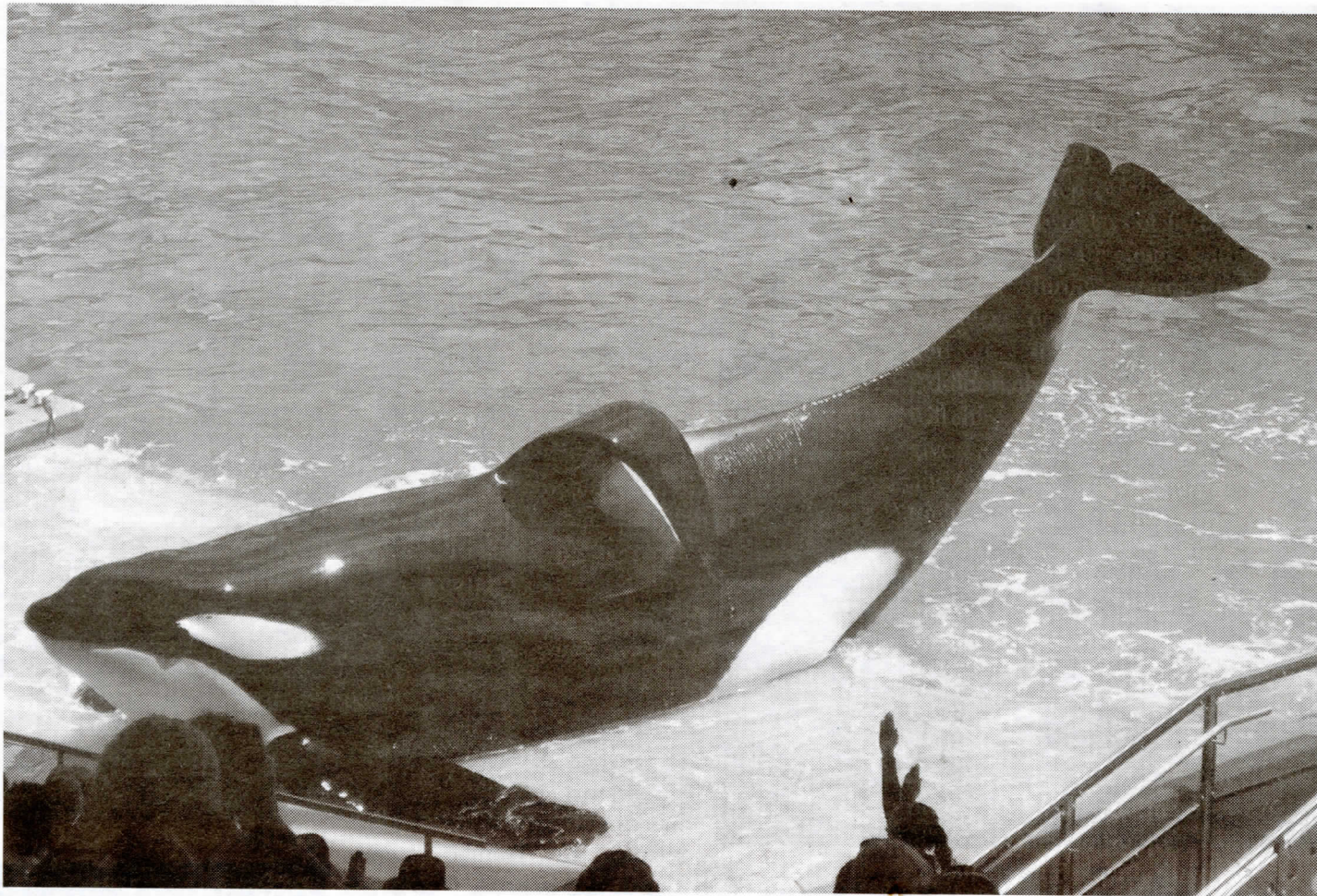
Traditions
300 5th Ave SW. 7pm.
Decolonizing Cascadia

TUE. FEB 2

★ **Obsidian**
414 4th Ave E. 7pm. \$7 All Ages
RVIVR (tour kickoff), Half Hearted, Cynosure

★ **Ben Moore's**
112 4th Ave E. 7pm. All Ages.
Women's Comedy Open Mic

★ = Staff Recommended



Blackfish Shows at OFS

By Sara Fabian

Let me preface this article to you by saying that I had never before seen *Blackfish*, in neither theaters nor on Netflix, where it was recently released for streaming view. However, I have heard many one word reviews from friends and family that seem as though they would appear in bold font on the back of the DVD case. “Intense!” one friend said. “Good, but really terrifying” said another. My dad, who’s an avid animal lover and factoid on everything national geographic, commented that it was “profoundly emotional” and “some deep dark shit.” I began to wonder if I was seeing a documentary or a psychological thriller.

The *blackfish* movie screening was a free event, hosted by The Olympia Film Society (The OFS) which meant that I would only have to pay for popcorn, and to me that seemed truly reason enough to check it out. I arrived 30 minutes before show, grabbed my popcorn, chatted with some cool Olympia folk, and anxiously ate until the film began. Fast forward two hours later and I walked out the theater speechless, inspired, and in desperate need of a Shirley Temple to calm down my newfound angst.

Blackfish is a documentary about the story of Tilikum, a troubled orca whale that killed several people while in captivity. It begs the question, how was this highly intelligent, emotionally scarred orca, allowed to perform and interact with trainers and performers,

even after several deaths were attributed to him?

Diving back into the history of Tilikum’s capture and the brutal practices of acquiring these magnificent creatures, the audience can see where the trouble began. With shock and awe, it is revealed that years of emotional trauma and abuse culminated into several deaths at different ocean theme parks. Throughout the film, director Gabriela Cowperthwaite taunts us with the question, were these incidents posed as cover ups from the multi-billion dollar sea-park industry, or did management and the authorities look the other way? The answer is terrifying both.

The blatant neglect and PR spinning is seen several times. For example dolphin trainers weren’t marine biologists, but rather just park employees

with “personality,” education was not necessary but their swimming skills were of the utmost importance. The Seaworld trainer deaths along with their cover-ups were investigated in the film, broken down from the deceptive and mostly corrupt press release, to the truth. *Blackfish* chronicles the violent and depressing behavior of the Orca Whales, and shows, undeniably, that holding these whales in captivity in concrete tanks causes them physical and mental stress.

After the film, The OFS treated us to a post-film discussion with marine mammal specialist Dr. Naomi Rose and ex-Seaworld trainer Carol Ray. During the discussion and Q&A some really interesting things came up. For one, since *Blackfish*’s 2013 release, Seaworld’s stock has gone down about

50 percent. According to the SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. report, the theme park suffered an 84 percent net drop in its second-quarter. Total revenues for the quarter fell from \$405.2 million in 2014 to \$391.6 million, marking a 3 percent drop year over year. The media has coined this as the “Blackfish Effect.”

Since the 2011 death of Seaworld trainer Dawn Brancheau, Tilikum has been removed from SeaWorld’s show and new protocols keep trainers away from the whale. In addition, many protests and lawsuits have been put on by PETA and other liberation groups.

It seems pretty clear that keeping animals in an unhealthy captive situation is wrong. The question many are asking is “what is SeaWorld going to do about it?” In January 2015, SeaWorld detailed their plans for renovations at the San Diego Park. According to CNN news, they plan to undergo a massive expansion of the Orca’s habitats, included doubling the size of the whale tanks. Previously the whales were confined in a 20-foot-by- 30-foot pool overnight.

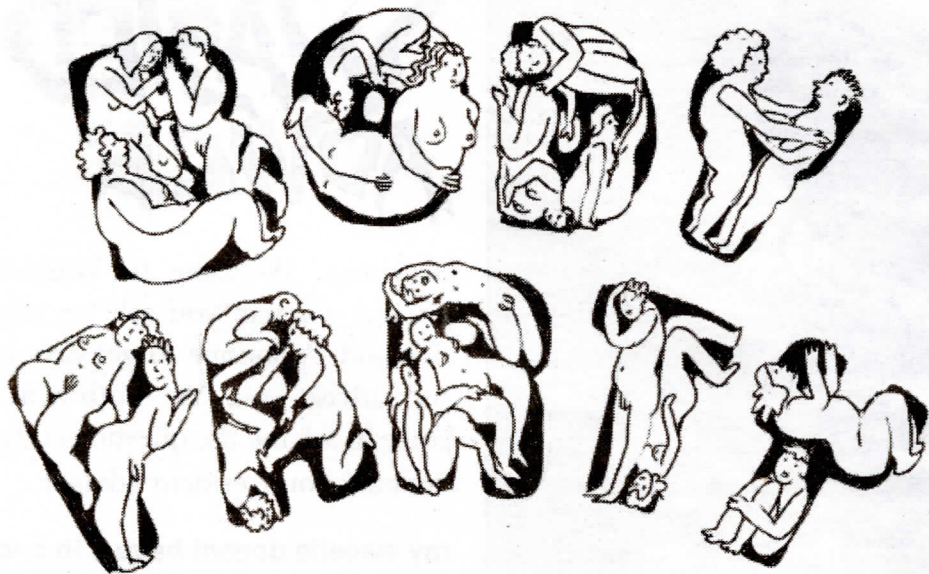
Carol Ray also explained that it’s unrealistic to release the orca whales since they have been domesticated for so long and would probably die in the wild. She also said that SeaWorld doesn’t have to go out of business, “it should remain as a theme park, just without the torture of beautiful, wild creatures.” She’s also believes that with CGI and various forms of new technology, we can simulate a fun active learning environment without a physical whale present.

I highly recommend you watch this thoughtful, stomach-churning documentary on Netflix, and if you want to be of service, learn more about orca whales and how to save them from death and extinction, check out these organizations to help the cause; www.orcaconservancy.org and pacificwhale-watchassociation.org

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ADVICE ON SEX, RELATIONSHIPS & MORE

Dear Body Party,

I am a cis woman and while I love plenty about sex- the intimacy, making out, getting eaten out- I find penetration kind of uncomfortable. I tried going out and buying some KY Jelly and although it helped out, it got all over everything, smelled like cough syrup, and made me feel kind of sticky. Do you have any lube suggestions?

Lube makes all kinds of sex better. No one should ever feel bad about not being able to get wet enough, and nobody should ever have to put up with uncomfortable sex.

Sex should not be tolerable- it should be enjoyable, and lube can play a big part in making that happen, no matter what you're putting in where. Too often, people end up grabbing whatever is lying around to get the job done- sample packets collected at Pride, coconut oil (which can work wonders in the right situation), or even conditioner (in general, I don't think you should use anything a 13 year old boy uses to masturbate for 'grown up' sex).

Lube has also been shown to decrease the risk of STDs & STIs, especially with PIV (penis in vagina) or PIA (penis in anus) sex, because it decrease the chances of micro tears in condoms.

There is even some evidence that lube alone can decrease the transmission rate of HPV if it includes Carrageenan, an additive common in all natural lube. Let me be clear- lube is important, lube is sexy, but you should be careful with what you buy.

Flavored lube can be fun (and if you're interested I recommend checking out Babe-land's cheap, wild, vegan, natural flavors), but you should really first focus on buying a lube for all occasions.

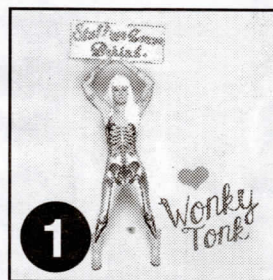
It should not be scented, it should not be 'warming' or 'cooling' for added sensation, it should be all natural (in my opinion, anything you put inside yourself of slather around your genitals should be as pure as possible), it should not be oil based if you plan on using it with silicone toys, dental dams, or condoms, and it should definitely not be KY Jelly. The chemicals used in many lubes can cause rashes or irritation, especially if they are meant to induce 'tingling' or 'cooling'.

My current favorite lube is Sliquid, which comes in silicone, water based and flavored versions and is cheap, vegan, and available with free two day Prime shipping on Amazon. But lube, like most things sex related, is really personal. Some people prefer the feel of silicon, some oil based, and some water based. The only way to really know what works for you is by trying some different varieties out. I highly recommend checking out The Women's Resource Center- they have a variety of sample sized lube packets.

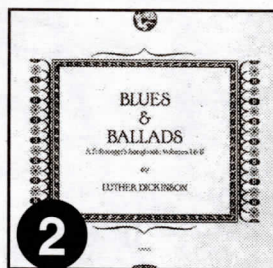
Like most new things, finding the perfect lube can be messy and awkward, but it's also exciting and rewarding- it's something so minimal that can make a major difference. Happy hunting!

-Party!

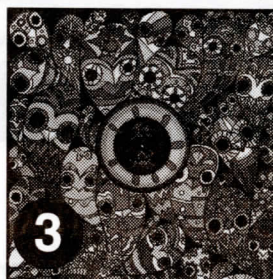
Body Party is a positive, open-minded column about everything bodied, sex, relationships, and self love. This column is not written by a doctor but done by a person who has researched a topic and looked into your questions thoroughly. If you have any questions or want advice or research on the topics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



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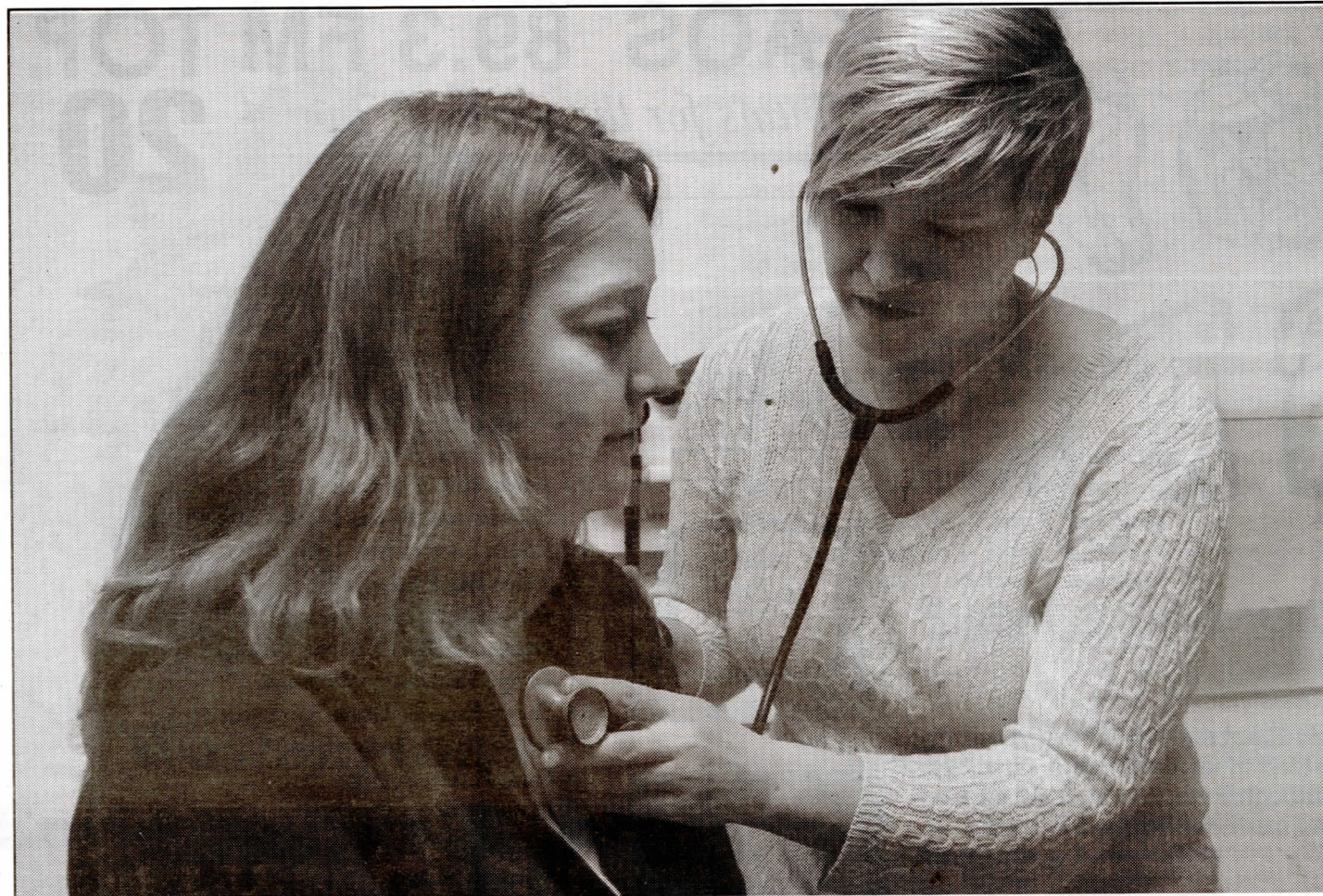


3

- 1 **Wonky Tonk** - Stuff We Leave Behind
- 2 **Luther Dickinson** - Blues And Ballads
- 3 **Minda Lacy** - Owl Faces
- 4 **Globelamp** - The Orange Glow
- 5 **Nadia Reid** - Listen To Formation, Look For The Signs
- 6 **Karsh Kale** - Up
- 7 **Adam Hill** - Old Paint
- 8 **Shovels And Rope** - Busted Jukebox Volume 1
- 9 **Choro Loco** - Choro Louco
- 10 **Julien Baker** - Sprained Ankle
- 11 **Odetta Hartman** - 222
- 12 **Ottmar Liebert** - Waiting N Swan
- 13 **Grupo Fantasma** - Problemas
- 14 **Beach House** - Thank Your Lucky Stars
- 15 **Jake Shimabukuro** - Travels
- 16 **Faint Peter** - Redoubt
- 17 **Dressy Bessy** - Kingsized
- 18 **The Banner Days** - Hand Me A Hymnal
- 19 **Wimps** - Suitcase
- 20 **Matt Bauer** - Dream's End

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WASTED ADVICE

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

my sweetie doesnt have a fb and my phone is broke is it rude to ask my friends to coordinate my booty calls? i think ur using ur friends for premarital seX. go to church, sinner

how do you stop all your clothes from smelling like mold? wash them, u dirty drity filthy person, you. GROSS ew. stop, wut

Can NATO's influence in eastern Europe effectively check Vladimir Putin's ambitions in Ukraine, and if not, should the country be partitioned along ethnic lines to achieve an end to the civil war? \partintioned by ethnic lines, sunds racist to me, and rily oppressive? correct me if im wrong, but tbh i think putin is kind of beyond our control as a nation bc we have all these other nation-wide issues and like do we have time? for putin? i think he's gonna do what he's gonna do, and dividing ppl 'ethnically' sounds fucked up!?

i wanna date people bc i hate being alone and like consistent sex but like theres no one i wanna date what should i do? should i wait for crushes? should i just say yes to every rando man who wants to buy me a drink? DO NOT say yes to ANY and ALL rando men or just plain men in the first place. ur better than them <3

i think i might be a beeraholic should i do something or just like dgaf? drink wine like a civilized bitch

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By Nix Chace

These next couple weeks brings a time of healing and self-reflection for all the signs. Mercury, the planet of day-to-day expression and communication, had a retrograde from January 5 to 25. As well as a mercury retrograde, the planet Jupiter, ruler of luck and higher learning, has been in retrograde since January 7, and will continue to be until May 9. But fear not, Jupiter in retrograde brings a promise spiritual and intellectual growth!

For fire signs (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) these next couple weeks are about slowing down and accepting vulnerability. For Earth signs (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn) this a time for self-love and appreciation. For the air signs (Gemini, Libra, Aquarius) it's your time to keep your energy up and stay motivated. The water signs (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces) these next couple weeks are about keeping yourself steady and to keep persevering.

ARIES 3/21 - 4/19

You've put up a wall since the new year began. Things got rough towards the end of 2015 and you've been trying to protect yourself. That wall you've built can't stay up forever and you know it. You are so powerful! While a jupiter and mercury retrograde has brought you many challenges, if you work with these challenges, and not against them, you can move towards opening up and letting your guard down.

TAURUS 4/20 - 5/20

Winter is not your season. And this winter has felt especially cold. Springtime is coming, and with it will be your time to shine. These next couple weeks focus on keeping yourself steady and level-headed. Take plenty care of yourself and focus on what keeps you stable. You're going to make it through winter and you'll see that this retrograde is laying down the foundation for a lot of future growth!

GEMINI 5/21 - 6/20

There has been a shift in your energy, the retrograde threw some deep challenges at you, but this year you've been able to roll with the punches and keep your cool! Things have really changed for you and these next couple weeks are going to prove to be really foundational for how your greater future is going to look. Keep up the energy, you're in a much better place than you used to be.

CANCER 6/21 - 7/22

You've worked so hard and have been through so much and have gotten to a point where things really seem like they're looking up. The past couple weeks seemed like a huge step back after all that progress you've worked so hard to make and I know that's especially hard for you, Cancer. You're going to get through it, you've got to keep working on what you're working on. Give yourself some time and space to heal, but don't get too down on yourself, you'll lose momentum.

LEO 7/23 - 8/22

This year started with a bang for you! It feels like a nonstop ride of event after event. Slow down there, give yourself a minute to process it all. You've been running into this year, give yourself some time to walk and catch your breath. Think your decisions through. Some big changes have happened for you, these next couple weeks will bring you some space and time to reflect on them.

VIRGO 8/23 - 9/22

You feel most at peace when you get time and space to get things done. Lately you've been surrounded by others, and you need some alone time. Sit still, the retrograde is over now so give yourself the time you need to revive and take care of all your needs. Sometimes staying in one night and skipping the party is the best thing you can do for yourself.

LIBRA 9/23 - 10/22

You've got a lot to prove to yourself this year, Libra. You have a hard time getting motivated, but so far this year has brought some energy out of you. You have a promising future. The retrograde didn't bring you down as much as you thought it would! While it's hard to get out of bed sometimes, you're in a better place than you were last month. Stay optimistic, even if you can't see it now, you're on a positive path so far.

SCORPIO 10/23 - 11/21

You've been brooding, Scorpio. Now is the time to get working, sitting still hasn't gotten you very far. What's healing for you these next couple weeks is to start working on something meaningful! Make a to-do list, lose yourself in a creative project. Get cathartic, it's far better than wallowing.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22 - 12/21

You've been moving awfully fast! You've been working towards getting out of a rough place and you're doing so good and people around you are taking notice! There's a lot for you to be proud of so take a minute to let that sink in. Try taking it easy the rest of this month. This is a time for you to process all of your progress and heal from the past.

CAPRICORN 12/22 - 1/19

You've been through so much and it seems like there's no end in sight. Your season has just ended, the sun and the moon have been blessed to be in your sign, so soak up as much love for yourself as you can at this time. It may seem unlucky to have had your birthday right in the middle of the retrograde, but the new moon in Capricorn on January 9 brought you some hope. Celebrate yourself, there's still so much to be excited about, it takes great power to get through everything that you've been going through.

AQUARIUS 1/20 - 2/18

You've been looking for a confidence boost. Your season is happening, Aquarius! Take these next couple weeks to focus on the positives in your life and all the good you're doing for yourself and others. You are a devoted friend, be close with those you love and let them lift you up! You will soon feel better about yourself.

PISCES 2/19 - 3/20

Miscommunications have been getting to you, Pisces. This year so far has brought about a new journey for you! Be careful with your choices. The next couple weeks might seem like a test, don't worry about passing or failing, or doing what you think someone else might want you to do. Take a deep breath and make decisions that you feel good about, and that feel right for you.

