

# the COOPERPOINT

The Evergreen State College Student Newspaper | November 9, 2016 JOURNAL



**BIASRESPONSETEAM**  
THE TEAM CLARIFIES ITS ROLE,  
AFTER STUDENT CRITICISM

3

**HARVESTFESTIVAL**  
EVERGREEN CELEBRATES THE  
35TH ANNUAL EVENT

7

**PORTOFOLYMPIA**  
THE PORT'S CONNECTION WITH  
FRACKING AND DAPL PROTEST

9

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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](http://www.cooperpointjournal.com).

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

Our office is located on the third floor of the Campus Activities Building (CAB) at The Evergreen State College in room 332 and we have open student meetings from 4 to 5 p.m every Wednesday.

# WRITE FOR US

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

Have an exciting news topic? Know about some weird community happening? Enjoy that new hardcore band? Come talk to us and write about it.

We will also consider submissions from non-Evergreen people, particularly if they have special knowledge on the topic. We prioritize current student content first, followed by former students, faculty and staff, and then general community submissions. Within that, we prioritize content related to Evergreen first, followed by Olympia, the state of Washington, the Pacific Northwest, etc.

To submit an article, reach us at [cooperpointjournal@gmail.com](mailto:cooperpointjournal@gmail.com).

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We want to hear from you! If you have an opinion on anything we've reported in the paper, or goings-on in Olympia or at Evergreen, drop us a line with a paragraph or two (100 - 300 words) for us to publish in the paper. Make sure to include your full name, and your relationship to the college—are you a student, staff, graduate, community member, etc. We reserve the right to edit anything submitted to us before publishing, but we'll do our best to consult with you about any major changes. Thank you!

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Wendy Endress is Vice President of Student Affairs and a member of the Bias Incident Response Team. SHAUNA BITTLE.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Information from the Bias-

### Related Incident Response Team

This letter is in response to Forest Hunt's article of October 12, "Protest Follows Year of Controversy over Racism at Evergreen," in which the reporter provides information about the Bias Incident Response Team (BIRT). The article indicates that the BIRT is "Evergreen's main body charged with confronting issues of oppression on campus." It also addresses how the BIRT responses during 2015-16 were perceived by some. The BIRT devoted time this summer to examining how we can improve understanding of the role of the Team as well as refine our processes to enhance our responsiveness, especially if the volume of reports is high, as it was last year. As reported in the article; there are currently open seats on the BIRT for students. Those interested in serving on the BIRT should contact the GSU. We also shared this information by email to all enrolled students and employees on Oct. 4 via email and a post in Greener Commons.

Hunt's article provides a timely reminder of the importance of clarifying the language, roles and processes related to reducing and responding to bias at Evergreen.

The Evergreen State College seeks to foster a community where people feel welcomed and respected. As a public college and dynamic learning community we also honor free expression of ideas and opinions, even when they are unpopular or counter to these values of inclusion. As in the larger society, sometimes this speech or conduct is biased or results in discrimination.

Bias is conduct, speech or expression that is motivated by prejudice based on perceived race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, age, disability, pregnancy, or status as a disabled

veteran but does not rise to the level of a crime. Discrimination constitutes treatment by the College in its administration or teaching, which if repeated, is in favor of or against a person or group of people based on their protected group status as listed above. The Non-discrimination Policy and Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy provide processes for addressing discrimination at Evergreen.

Speech and acts motivated by bias are incompatible with our aspirations to cultivate a welcoming and respectful learning community. Bias may send an unwelcoming message to the most vulnerable members of our community and we may suffer from the loss of their presence and voice. These sentiments are described in President Bridges' Spring 2016 response to a bias-related incident

and stated in the Social Contract, and the Six Expectations of an Evergreen Graduate. Sometimes bias-related incidents include behaviors that may be addressed through the Student Code of Conduct.

Through the leadership of the Bias Incident Response Team, the College seeks to provide a timely response to reports of bias-related incidents. This Team convenes with the following purposes: 1) collect reports of incidents that may be bias-related and help to assess whether they are biased against protected groups as outlined in the College Non-discrimination Policy; 2) connect these reports with existing policies, procedures and protocols and assist in ensuring they are applied as appropriate; 3) provide a timely response to addressing incidents that are often expressions of free

speech, unwelcome in our community, and protected by law; and 4) share information about incident-related concerns in order to support those most impacted and, promote discussion, broad engagement and support for speech and actions in response.

When a report is made to the BIRT, a Bias-related Incident Alert will be posted on Greener Commons and sent to students and employees by email. This communication will indicate the basic information provided in the preliminary report and, acknowledge that the BIRT is considering the report and will follow-up with the community at a later date with more complete information via the original Greener Commons post. The BIRT will provide an Alert when the report appears to constitute an incident that may be highly visible, widespread, and/or impact many people. The BIRT will not provide an Alert when it would be more likely to amplify the "voice" of the individual or organization than to elevate the College's engagement in a bias-related incident. For example, a report of a few anonymous flyers promoting a white nationalist organization posted on the outside of buildings which were promptly removed would not result in an Alert.

It is crucial that the BIRT take the time necessary to assess and discuss reports of bias to ensure accurate information and evaluation. This can result in a delay in a complete response and we know that this delay is often difficult for those most directly impacted. It is important to be aware that it is not always possible to fully address every incident, particularly when information is lacking and those responsible are unknown. More information about the policies, procedures, and protocol of the BIRT is available at [evergreen.edu/diversity/biasincidentprotocol.htm](http://evergreen.edu/diversity/biasincidentprotocol.htm).

Informing the community of incidents and condemning bias when it occurs is an important first step—but not the only step—in creating an inclusive community where freedom of speech is respected. Statements from the BIRT cannot fully address the damage bias does to our community. Fostering a learning community that is welcoming and respectful demands the attention and involvement of all of its members.

The BIRT's responsibility is to inform the community when potentially biased incidents have

occurred. It is everyone's responsibility to report and respond to bias actions when they occur.

If you encounter an incident of concern, you can: 1) Provide information using the online incident report form or call Police Services at (360) 867-6832. Reports can be made anonymously; 2) Remember that you are not powerless. Add your voice in opposition to actions that appear to be unwelcoming and contribute your voice on Greener Commons; 3) Talk to a staff or faculty member you trust.

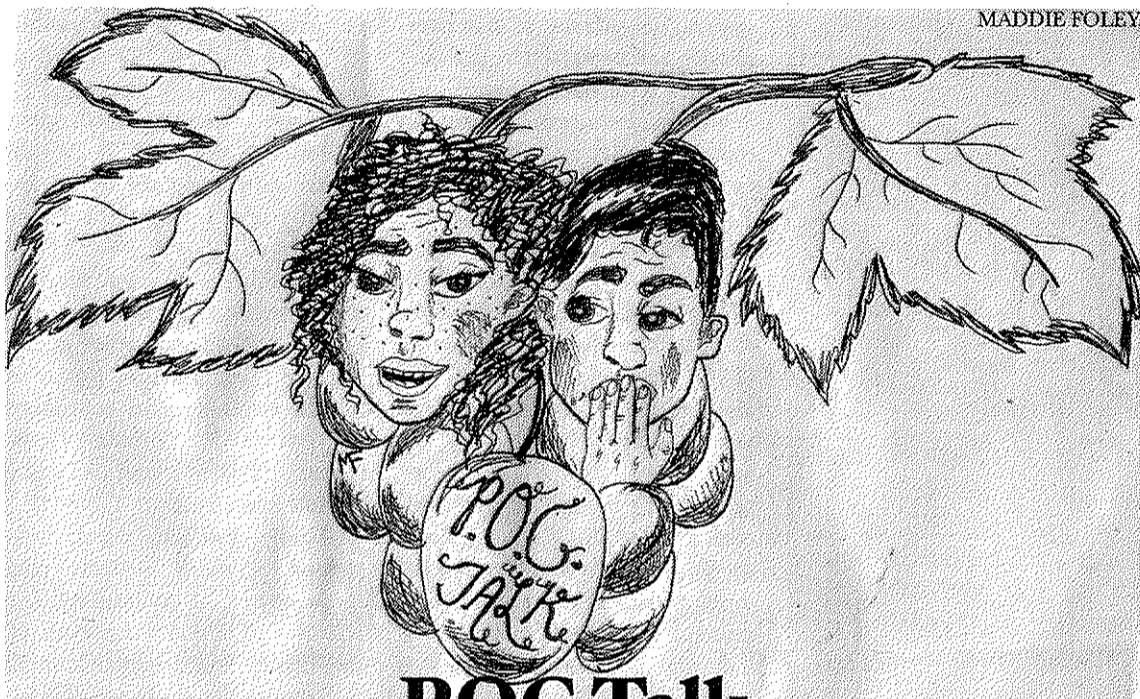
Things you can do to help support a more inclusive and more respectful community: 1) Follow and support the work of the Equity & Diversity Council; 2) Support the Evergreen Green Dot movement which promotes bystander intervention in any act of violence, including bias; 3) Explore the Coming Together Series 2015-16 videos which focus on the challenges facing students, faculty and staff of color at Evergreen. These videos are available at [evergreen.edu/events/coming-together](http://evergreen.edu/events/coming-together); 4) Share your suggestions with us via email.

Thank you for helping to create a welcoming and supportive learning community that also values and respects free speech.

#### —2016-17 Bias-related Incident Response Team

Jamie Cooper, Associate Vice President for Student and Academic Support Services  
Naia Danko, Student  
Wendy Endress, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chair  
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Meredith Inocencio, Director, Access Services for Students with Disabilities  
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Todd Sprague, Marketing and Communications  
Andrea Vanden Bossche, Advisor, Student Publications

# Community



MADDIE FOLEY

## POC Talk

### DEALING WITH RACIST PROFESSORS

By Jennifer Hicks

**H**ello all and welcome back to POC Talk a column for POC by POC! With week 7 creeping to a close I know we're all feeling that end of fall quarter stress while patiently and diligently biding our time until the sweet sweet release of winter break. For some of us this will be the end of the time we have with our specific professors and classmates, but for others we will carry on in two or three quarter classes. For those of you continuing on in your class this issue of POC Talk will address the age old question, what do I do about my teachers microaggressions

Or more specifically as this person wrote in:

"What do you say to your white feminist professor who consistently does racist shit in class? Why are these people allowed to teach or be in positions where they have to interact with a large group of people from different backgrounds and without training in ways of communication that isn't essentially gaslighting? I'm sick of the way professors in academia get away with inflicting trauma on students by telling them that it's because they must not understand. If multiple students are telling you the same shit, obviously the problem is you and your fucked up way of communicating in a professor/student dynamic. Is it lack of self-awareness? Is it because a professor/student relationship in academia is heavily influenced by oppressive and classist points of view and is apparently doomed to remain as such?"

So what do you do as a POC student at this very white school? The school will claim it has a focus on diversity but I think we all have personal experience that could contradict that to the point

it seems laughable. A substantial number of POC students at Evergreen have had at least one instance of being made to educate their entire class and professor, sometimes literally being called out by name in class by said professor as if it's our job to educate everyone in the classroom whenever they see fit. There's no denying Evergreen classrooms are white focused and this takes a lot of energy and causes a lot of harm to students of color at this school. So let me say I'm right there with you, the need to constantly be fighting and educating is painful. So here are my suggestions with just how to deal with these professors:

#### Create a Support Group

Chances are you aren't the only one in class not happy about this professor's treatment. Sometimes a good round of venting with like minded classmates is all you need to settle yourself in the short term. Even if the problem continues knowing who's on your side can be helpful and knowing other students have the same problem may make it easier to eventually confront the teacher.

#### Call Them Out

Hear me out on this one, honestly I know from personal experience this is the first thing we think of and the last thing we do because confrontation, especially with someone who is an authority figure, is terrifying. You don't want to have to put yourself through the pain of correcting the professor especially in front of the class, but if you can manage it (and aren't scared of retaliation) this may be a good option, and other classmates may be thankful that someone took the painful step of bringing it up and support you in the dialogue. You can also request to speak to the teacher after class. Or if you have more than one professor you may be able to ask the other professor to support you either next time it happens or let you switch out of the profs seminar to ease the issue.

The problem with this option is it's just more of what's driving us crazy in the first place, and that is being forced to educate when you are the one paying for an education.

#### Write a Letter or Email

Survey your class find out who is sick of this treatment (it shouldn't be hard) and see if they would be willing to sign a statement or letter addressed to your professor outlining what the problem is. This is a good option if you are weary of confrontation. It directly outlines your wants and needs without you having to have a face-to-face confrontation.

#### Write or Email POC Talk

Too scared to give your letter to the professor in question? Send it to me! We'll publish your complaints and give you a space to voice your concerns! That's just what we're here for.

#### Address it in Your Teacher Evaluation

If you can make it till the end of class when teacher evaluations are due this may be the route you want to take because even if you are scared of retaliation you can set evaluations to not be released until the teacher has released your student eval protecting you.

#### Go to First Peoples

They are so willing to advocate for students and help you with your problems.

First Peoples Multicultural Advising Services is in room 2153 of the Library Building.

Phone: (360) 867-6467

For more extreme cases you may want to go to the dean or administration.

The school has a bias report system, though reports to these offices must follow these guidelines:

"To constitute a hate crime or bias incident, sufficient objective facts must be present to lead a reasonable and prudent person to conclude that the actions in question are more likely than not motivated by bias toward the status of a targeted individual or a group. The Protocol will be initiated when an alleged hate crime or bias incident is reported"

Information about where to report can be found on the schools website at:

<http://www.evergreen.edu/diversity/biasincidentprotocol.htm>

This may seem like an effective system but from what I've heard talking to fellow students, calling in isn't always enough. You may want to report in per-

son if you want your request to be taken seriously.

We've all heard that these reports are options but they are there for only a certain type of incident and can't help with the numerous microaggressions faced daily. This showcases the bigger problems we have with the school, which is they're great at making statements not so great at actually following through with action. This dynamic makes a lot of us feel as if we are voiceless. POC Talk's goal is to bring these issues to the attention of the school! Our voices are valid!

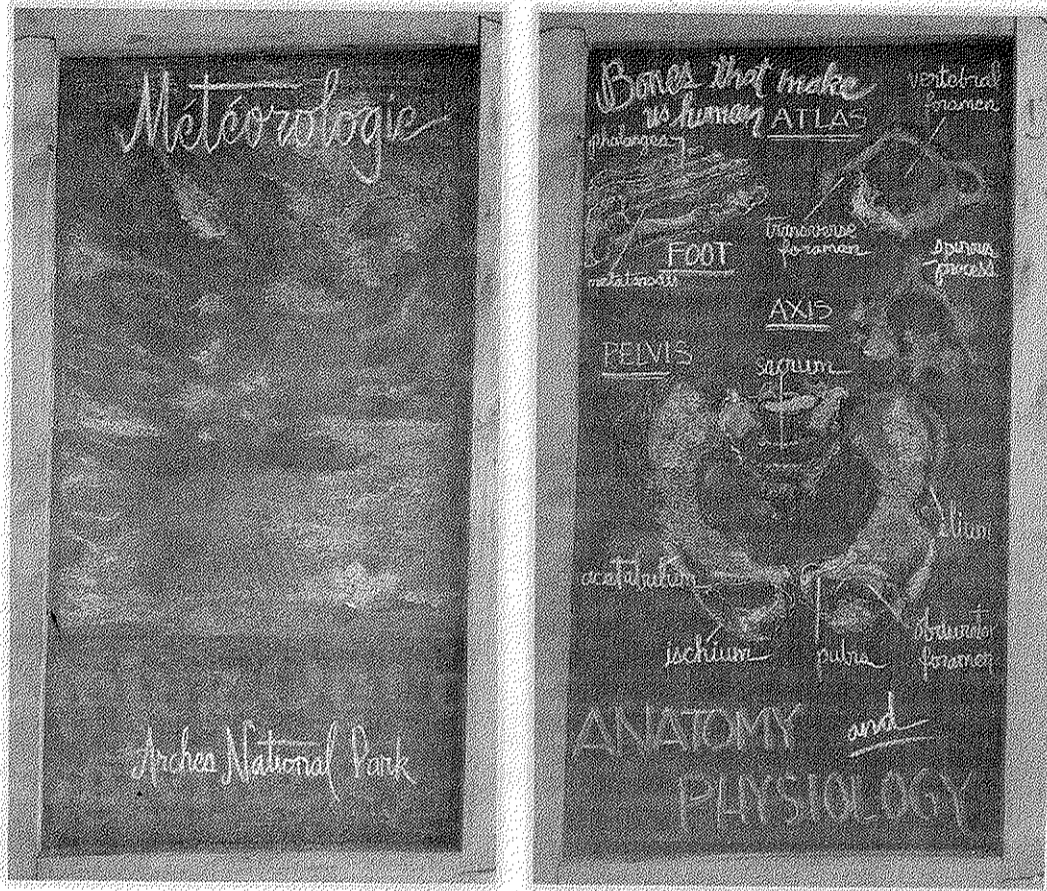
I am also at a loss as to what will change the dynamics at this school. A lot of the time it feels as if the administration doesn't care much about us outside of retention number. So what do we do? Do we start a petition to have all professors and students undergo training around oppression like they do with sexual assault during O week? This is something I personally have thought of doing before. Do we protest? Do we take the painful (and draining) approach of dealing with this on a class by class or teacher by teacher basis? As always let me know what you all think at the poc talk submissions email: [Poc-talk@cooperpointjournal.com](mailto:Poc-talk@cooperpointjournal.com) and keep the questions coming.

POC talk out!

Dear White people, please take a step back, no this isn't brown-people-answer-white-people's-questions-hour, we're asking specifically for submissions from POC

Although racism, neo nazis and issues of police abuse and harassment are major issues within our communities. We really want to try and focus this column on being a place for POC without inadvertently making it all about white people and how they treat us. The thing is we don't need our eyes opened to these issues we know, live and experience them personally. We want this to be a place where we can be us without it being overshadowed by the dark cloud that is living under white supremacy and being forced to look at life through the lense and from the perspective of white people. This is why when we do cover these issues it will be in the context and from the perspective of POC and

## Arts & Culture



# MOLLY MACKINNON

### COVER ARTIST INTERVIEW

By Ruby Love

**“E**veryone is an artist - you have to be put in a place where you can access those capabilities. If people could find themselves in a position to unlock this, they would be so much more fulfilled...it's instant confirmation that you're skilled in something really amazing.”

I sat down with our cover artist, Waldorf teacher Molly Mackinnon,\* from Prairie Moon Waldorf School in Lawrence, Kansas, to talk about the evolution of her chalk drawing style, the use of art in Waldorf education, and learning to let go of your work.

**First off, when did you start at Prairie Moon, and did you do chalk drawings before?**

I didn't do any chalk drawings before, and I started in the fall of 2012. All of the chalk drawings of Norse Myths, Teepees or Longhouses, and caves... those were all during that first year.

**What's the Waldorf philosophy around chalk drawing?**

The underlying principle is that the way that we set up the aesthetics of our classroom should come as directly from the creative source as possible, so, for example a typical public school classroom might have motivational posters, or times table posters, or manufactured things that are given out for free by who knows who, but the teacher has nothing to do with creating those things. So, in our classrooms we want to have completely natural things. For example, it's very typical for [Waldorf] classrooms to have a nature table, which changes through the seasons, so there

might be fall leaves, and maybe a squash, and some acorns, things like that. Or maybe a nature table based on the main lesson that you're teaching. When I was teaching about Kansas or local geography, I had a bison skull and some driftwood from the Kansas River, and old stone tools and some prairie grass and things like that. So, what you have on your walls is also to be coming direct from a creative space that a teacher creates. Chalk drawings are there in lieu of posters, or charts, or maps, or anything.

**How much room do you have to experiment, to do whatever drawing...**

We have total creative free-

dom, but essentially it should have something to do with the grade that you're in. I would never make a physics drawing for third grade, you know. But in my first classroom there were a bunch of chalk boards, so I felt compelled to do something on all of them, so sometimes I would have a poem... Every month I would change out a portion of my chalk board... [using the Douglas County Almanac] to talk about what moon it was, in the Osage counting system, so maybe it was the Baby Bear Moon, and I'd do a little chalk drawing of that. I had a whole lot of leeway on what I wanted to bring into pictures...but it was always applicable to the main lesson or the year that I was in. [Waldorf teachers move up with their class, so they teach a different grade each school year.]

But then also, I have to say, I was always very influenced by wherever we went on summer vacation. The year that we went into the southwest, which was two years ago, I put these Anasazi drawings of animals like birds and the hare and different things, and I put them in the colors of the four directions, according to the Navajo, and I just kept them there all year almost like corner markers of the room.

**Tell me about the evolution of your chalk drawing style, did you learn it from Waldorf people, or did you experiment on your own?**

We had two separate chalk drawing seminars...it was like a one day workshop and then it happened again maybe a year later, so I was able to learn some techniques through that, but it's mostly self-taught. I find chalk to be one of the most forgiving artistic materials that I've ever worked with. Especially when I learned to make the drawings from the inside out, mostly, because then you are not committed to the outer line. If I'm making a planet, I'm going to draw it from the middle outward and if my circle is wonky, I can keep correcting it until it is what I want, rather than drawing a perfect circle and then having to mess with that. But that being said, even in chalk you can smear everything. So, at first, I was a big smearer...I was smear woman! I was constantly hav-

## UP & COMING

**THUR. NOV 10**

**Olympia Film Society**  
206 5th Avenue SE. 9pm. \$7  
Kung Fu Theater

**Le Voyeur**  
404 4th Ave W. 10pm. 21+  
The Mona Reels, Michael  
Musika, Eric & Erica

**SAT. NOV 12**

**El Guanaco**  
415 Water St SW. 12pm.  
Pupusa Day, \$1.75 pupusas

★ **Olympia Film Society**  
206 5th Avenue SE. 11pm. \$15.  
All Freakin' Night

**SUN. NOV 13**

★ **The Track House**  
7pm. All Ages. \$5.  
Gossamer, Plattenbau,  
Freaky Pup, Sawtooth

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

**Le Voyeur**  
404 4th Ave W. 9pm. All Ages.  
Rugby, The Washboard Abs,  
Le Grotto

**MON. NOV 14**

**Le Voyeur**  
404 4th Ave W. 10pm. 21+.  
Pleasure Systems, Gourmet,  
Cocordian, I2M1

**WED. NOV 16**

**Le Voyeur**  
8:30pm. All Ages.  
Vomity 106

**FRI. NOV 18**

★ **The Red House**  
7pm. All Ages. NOTAFLOF.  
Holy Tentacles, The Lunch,  
Flesh Collage, Gourmet

**SUN. NOV 20**

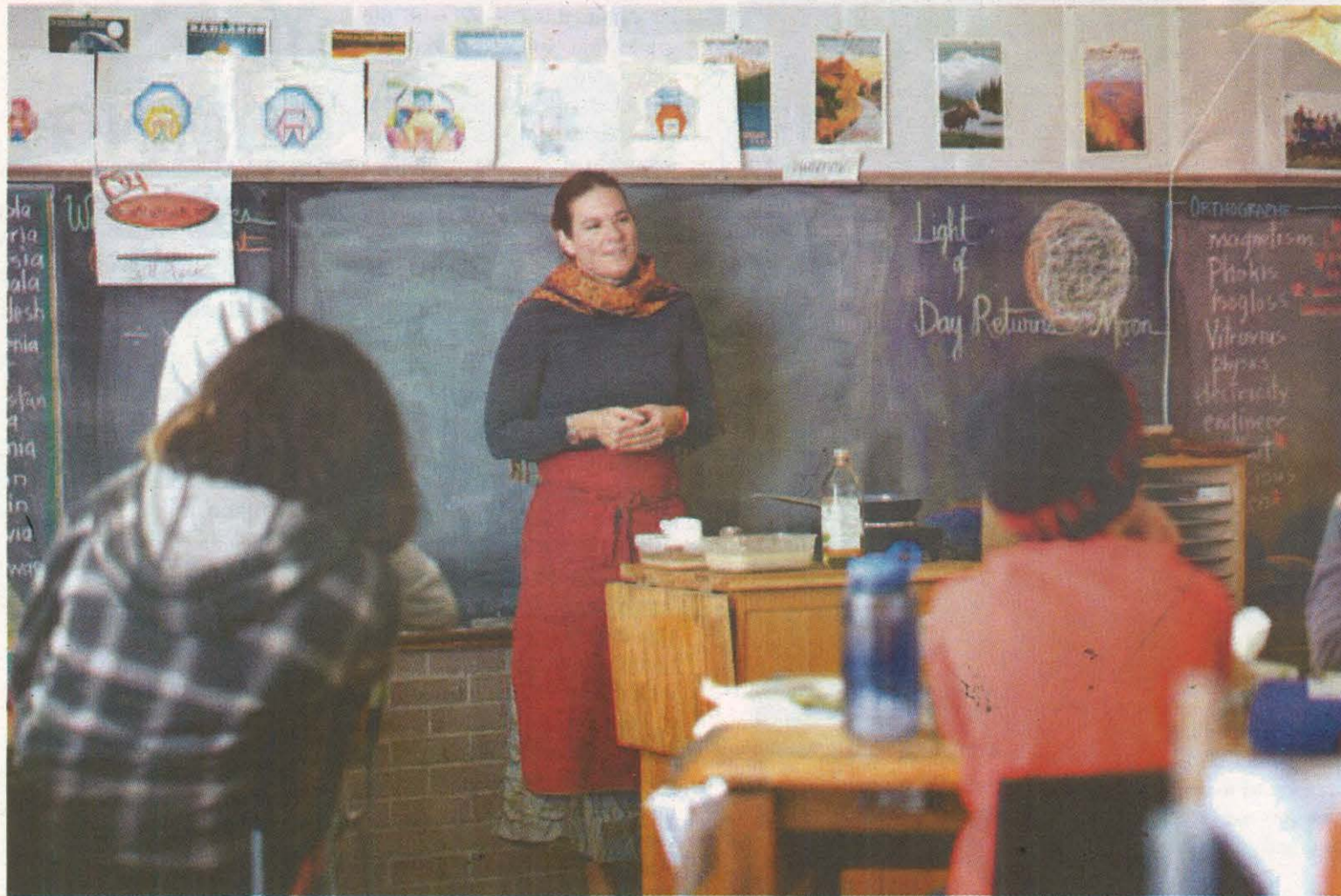
**Le Voyeur**  
404 4th Ave W. 10pm. 21+.  
Casey Chisholm/ Two Bears  
North/ R.H.M./ Ben Varian

★ STAFF RECCOMENDED

THE  
**brotherhood**  
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DAILY HAPPY HOUR 3-7  
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www.thebrotherhoodlounge.com

# Arts & Culture

Cover Artist Interview with Molly Mackinnon continued from page 5



Cover Artist Molly Mackinnon in her classroom. Photograph courtesy of PRARIE MOON.

ing aching fingers because I was making these huge chalk drawings and smearing everything, cause I want it to look smooth, I don't want it to have gritty look to it, I wanted it to look like a real rich picture. Over time, I just sort of discovered things.

But, you know, I made a lot of mistakes, like I got ahold of Nana's chalk pastels—I was always looking for rich and beautiful and varied color, with subtle differences in greens and blues and things like that. I was like, oh my god here's this incredible palette that I can use! Well, I made Goethe's color wheel on one of my chalk boards one year, and it was the most incredible thing, because I could choose his exact colors and then blend them to his exact blends that were in between a primary and secondary color! Um...well, that's still on that chalk board, two years later. Haha! It will not wash off, it's like stained on...so that chalkboard eventually had to be sanded down and repainted. I did that again on another chalk board that I still use...I erased what I had on there the other day, which was this anatomy chalk drawing, and lo and behold, this Mayan warrior pops up out of the chalk draw-

ing. He's still there!

But I did invest in this really great chalkboard drawing book...the thing that's really cool is someone teaches you a technique and you can immediately put it into play, and it immediately works! Usually it's just a subtle thing, like using grey - a little light shade of grey over one half of the person's face - like I did with that Queen Elizabeth, and it just pops the face out like you wouldn't believe!

I work from pictures, though. You can really tell the difference when I work from a picture versus when I'm making it up on my own... Either I work from a photo or from the artist's own work, like with da Vinci. You copy the masters - you learn by copying... I'm a fake! I'm a fraud!

**Do you have a particular kind of chalk you like to use, or do you just use whatever is laying around?**

Oh, my god! No! I'm such a chalk snob, like with everything else!

**I know, I don't know why I even asked that...**

Waldorf schools at large order their art supplies from this

one dealer...and I hate their chalk, because the chalk colors are these soft pastel-y, kind of Waldorf-y colors, and I'm much too much of a dictator for that kind of stuff. So I want really brilliant colors or I want lots of shades of colors to work with. One of the best chalks I've found is made by Prang, which makes really crappy crayons, but it makes really good colors of chalk. And then, there are these other chalks that are sold in kind of large bricks...they're probably the size of a small candy bar. They practically dissolve when you're hitting the chalkboard, all this powder just falls off of them, but they make the most amazing light layer over something...

What I just discovered the other day is that...I have these pure pigment powders that I own innumerable colors of... they're really amazing, some of them are the same pigments that cave painters used, and I just discovered that I can make my own chalk with the pigments! So, I'm gonna do that.

**Whoa! So you have the pigments, but what do you use to bind them to chalk?**

You can actually get chalk-

ing, it's called, which I guess is chalk powder, and then you add the pigment to it and then you add some kind of wax, I think... something that binds it together. I'm going to give it a try, because I can make any color I want.

**How long do you normally have a chalk drawing up, and how do you deal with parting with it?**

For the most part, I only have a chalk drawing up for as long as I am doing that main lesson. As I teach higher and higher grades, my main lessons last less and less time, so my chalk drawings are going up and coming down in two to three weeks as opposed to about four weeks. Basically, I've trained myself to think of it in the way that a Mandala is created, that you create it for a purpose, it is done with care and beauty, and then you let it go. Most of the time, I can just do that...it's my students who are throwing themselves in front of my chalk drawings, begging me not to erase. When I did Odin, they were so upset, they did not want me to get rid of it! There are a few that I'm really loathe to erase, but that's why I photograph them all, so I can look back and be like 'Oh my god, I

actually did that! I can't believe it!'

Most of the time, they're done on boards that are attached to the wall, so I can't transfer them in any kind of way. I feel too like that letting go is a really important thing to be able to do, and if I photograph them, I feel like I still have a record of them, and the colors all there, and they'll serve me in the future. A couple times I've done them on large format black construction paper, and then I end up hanging them up in the boys' bedroom for a while, until they disintegrate... They live in people's memory, which is really Waldorf-y actually, that's the way it's supposed to be.

**Would you talk about some other mediums you work in? I feel weird representing you as a chalk artist only.**

[It's very tied in with the school year, because] when the summer comes and I have all this free time, do I do any of that? Not really. I guess it depends on the grades that I'm teaching, because tons of wet-on-wet watercolor is done in the early grades...it's a huge part of the artistic process for children, up through sixth grade. Then it starts to be overtaken by other things such as black and white contrast drawing...shadow drawing, having things emerge out of darkness. Also, precision drawing, or projective geometry drawing, pen and ink...portrait drawing becomes a lot more involved in middle school because we talk about a lot of historical figures. It's been a most incredible learning experience for me, learning all of these mediums.

Molly has studied anthropology, French, Arabic, Polish literature, poetry, film, culinary arts, and just about everything else. She currently teaches middle school (7th and 8th grade) at Prairie Moon. You can find more of Molly's work on the Prairie Moon Waldorf School Facebook page. \*In addition to her many talents, Molly also birthed me and raised me and answers my phone calls every week and lets me send her pictures of my dog and always says he's cute.



# HARVEST FESTIVAL

By Jon Fitzgerald  
Photos by Tari Gunstone

**T**he Evergreen Organic Farm celebrated its harvest this year with the 35th annual Harvest Festival. My partner and I walked the path down the hill as we entered the Organic Farm. Everything was still, and arriving at the farmhouse, I felt the first real nostalgic wave of time passing since this school year began.

Last year's Harvest Festival was my first Evergreen event and somehow, right at that moment, I felt it mark the pass of time, and a loop of cable that I seem to subconsciously wrap as I gather the experiences coming toward me was finished in my head. It consisted of everything in between the two Harvest Festivals and it will most likely sit in my mental pile of never-ending cable, unlabeled, with an equal chance of being unfindable twenty years from now.

As the trail transitions from gravel at the farmhouse back to a wide path that runs through the organic farm, a band was setting up on the stage that acts as a kind of main attraction area with a couple rows of hay for sitting. I felt the squirm of Olympic mud coming up to meet my boot as it pressed into the path. It was more wet this year than last, but I realized that last year's festival took place two weeks earlier, and in October that often makes a lot of difference. Despite the

weather, all the most classic elements of Harvest Fest were there; the cider-makers' cider making, the farm tour gives giving farm tours, the clipboarders clipboarding, and I, with no inclinations other than receiving the good vibes of the harvest, became a rounds-maker.

Down the small hill, kids and parents carved pumpkins, students played frisbee, and most importantly, the organic farm sold their beloved harvest. Beloved, not because of its necessity to the Evergreen community, but because of the purpose it contains. The students who work at the organic farm, the students who participate in putting on the

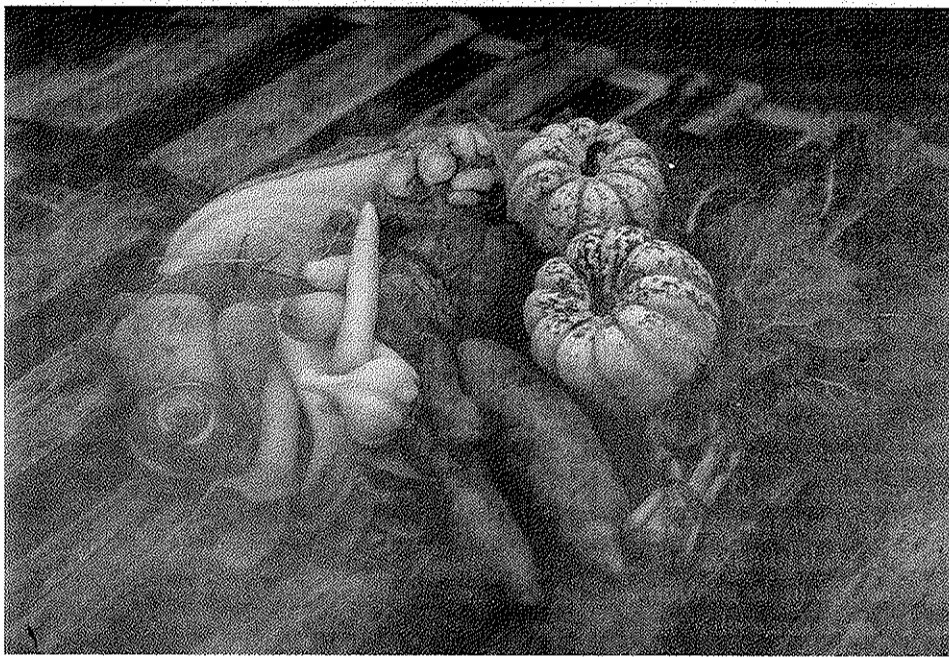
Harvest Festival, the families carving pumpkins, and I all benefit from this harvest. We need something to work towards and something to mark the progress of our lives. The harvest and the Harvest Festival happen every year, not because the plants are produced every year, but because people plant crops every year, and work the farm, and organize events, and create recurring events for us to measure our lives with. Depending on one's distance from the root of this event, we might be working all year towards this festival or just all week or even all day.

I went to the Harvest Festival and I didn't buy produce or take a farm tour or drink

cider or carve a pumpkin, but going there made all the difference because I know now that my energy is new energy. There's no alarm in your head that goes off when you've begun again. Days are short and mental fatigue can build up even if you sleep well every night. It really can feel like you're always going, but something cyclical like a seasonal event can make you look up at the time and notice that it's the next day or the next year. I can be sure that what I am doing now is part of a new cycle, a new loop. I feel like I have the chance to do everything I did last time or I do every time better.



## Letters & Opinion



# Making Meaning Out of Thanksgiving

By Tavi Gunstone

It's poignant that in America, we have to commercialize the giving of thanks in order to get our heads out of our asses for one moment. It doesn't come naturally for us to celebrate the opportunities, resources, and luxuries we've been offered. Life is a hard road to navigate, but it has been paved with things worth celebrating. For all of us Greeners, we are united by the possibility of going to college. While it would be beneficial for each of us to make a practice of continually recognizing and stating our gratitude, the Thanksgiving holiday offers an opportunity for us to be forced into it. However, it is essential to understand why it is on the calendar and what is problematic about it.

The fabricated story commonly told of a friendly harvest festival between indigenous people and their new pilgrim neighbors is a disgraceful cover-up for the riotous celebrations which followed the violent victories of white settlers against indigenous people. The first account of such festivals occurred in 1637 in what is now modern day Connecticut with the honoring of white "hunters" who had just returned from a massacre of at least 700 indigenous Pequot men, women, and children during the Pequot's celebration of their Green Corn Festival. Appropriating the indigenous festival for their own, the governor declared, "From that day forth, shall be a day of celebration and Thanksgiving for subduing the Pequots." The war celebrations of early America became so frequent that by the time George Washington became president, he ordered a proclamation for just one annual day of Thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26th, 1789. The presidents that followed frequently renewed this proclamation as a well-liked tradition until Abraham Lincoln officially declared a Federal holiday for the giving of thanks on the fourth November of each year after, of course, a successful war battle for the Union Army in 1863.

The closest we historically know of

white settlers and indigenous people sharing a meal together centers around the early Plymouth Rock settlers and the Wampanoag tribe in 1621. Wampanoag warriors set up camps surrounding the pilgrim's new village for three days to keep a careful eye on the pilgrims while they ecstatically shot off guns and cannons to celebrate their first successful crop harvest due to the helpful aid of Squanto, a Patuxet tribesman who had been previously enslaved by European captors. The Wampanoags hunted and foraged to provide food for their camps in the forests, and the pilgrims ate their harvest in town. Some accounts suggest that the Wampanoags were invited to join the pilgrims, with the Wampanoags then providing the bulk of the food eaten. But regardless, there was no large dining table decorated with a cornucopia of Autumn produce connecting them.

History does not point us toward the stories of harmony between indigenous people and white settlers like the Thanksgiving we were taught as children, instead their relations are overwhelmingly marked by physical and cultural genocide, slavery, land theft, and other horrific atrocities. For many indigenous people, Thanksgiving serves as a pivotal moment each year to raise their voices with protest against

Thanksgiving as a marker of that genocide. There is an annual "National Day of Mourning" gathering in Plymouth, Massachusetts and an "Unthanksgiving" rally in San Francisco. For non-indigenous Americans who are aware of the origins of Thanksgiving, it seems more appropriate to have a day of Atonement than a day of Thanksgiving.

The holiday continues as a deeply imbedded cultural emblem that we are forced to interact with, regardless if we personally celebrate it or not. As Evergreen students, we are given a whole week off of school surrounding Thanksgiving day. Many of our families expect us to come home and perform rituals of cooking, football watching, excessive eating, and even engage in the frenzied act of capitalistic excessiveness that is Black Friday shopping. This of course can be a happy time of sharing and creating memories. I personally love eating myself into a food coma where I can justify a two hour couch nap. I also love preparing food with loved ones in the kitchen and think eating together without cell phones and other distractions is a sacred act in this modern age. For others, the Thanksgiving holiday can be a shit-show of deeply embedded family conflict where everyone's sharpening their claws, along with the knife that will carve the turkey. Joyful or intolerably aggravating, it is essential that we acknowledge the history of racism that birthed this holiday. It is terrible that our day of gratefulness memorializes the rampage of violence and injustice against indigenous people in our country. If you are celebrating Thanksgiving in some form or another, I suggest diving into this history further than this short article can provide. I encourage sharing this knowledge with your family and friends at your Thanksgiving gathering, even if it feels torturous to be the bearer of bad news. I also offer these suggestions for helping create a meaningful, or at least tolerable experience of this observed holiday.

### CHOOSE WHO YOU WANT TO BE WITH

Christmas might carry heavier weight of family obligation, but your Thanksgiving plans can be up to you. You are an adult now, your parents and grandparents can likely understand that you are beginning to form new important communities in your life that you want to invest in. Let your celebration of gratitude be reflected upon the people you are most genuinely grateful for at this time in your life. Don't feel guilty for skipping it with the family if this means being with friends. If you're worried about your family's reaction, send a nice card in advance. If eating Chinese take-out and listening to your favorite records in your friend's basement sounds like a good time, go for it. Maybe it will feel most meaningful to go forage mushrooms with friends or buy vegetables from a farm you love and want to support to create a special dinner that embodies the spirit of harvest.

### SAY WHAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR

It might feel excruciatingly forced and perhaps a bit corny to go around the table discussing what you are grateful for, but it can be an uncomfortable practice with great reward. Every year my friends and I celebrate Tanksgiveamas (a hybrid Thanksgiving-Christmas celebration where we get tanked). Sometime during the night, we all crowd into one room and sit down to share what we are most grateful the year offered to us. We laugh, nod in agreement, and a slew of us even tear up at the tenderness of it all. We reflect on personal growth, on things that have been undeniably difficult, on realizations and moments of humility. We share what we love about the people with us in that room, and we are given permission to say what we love about ourselves. It's a time of vulnerability that leaves us all with a sense of persistence to get through the rest of the year with a full heart. If the giving of thanks in a round comes up for you this year, try to contribute meaningfully. It's easy to say you are thankful for having food, shelter, and clothing, but digging into the deeper stuff can be poignant and can turn a boring tradition into a possibility for genuine reflection.

### HELP PROVIDE A MEAL FOR SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOURSELF

Instead of bearing the conventional football watching and drawn-out dinner set-up, make a suggestion to your family or friends to switch it up this year or create a new tradition of helping a nonprofit that serves meals to people who don't have access to a warm home. The Thurston County Food Bank will be distributing food boxes for Thanksgiving on Monday, the 21st and are looking for volunteers. You can also serve hot meals for lunch or dinner any day of the week at the Community Kitchen on 5th and Plum or on Saturdays with Food not Bombs (contact [olyfoodnotbombs@gmail.com](mailto:olyfoodnotbombs@gmail.com)).

### STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Most importantly, see Thanksgiving as a day to honor and support the indigenous people in our local communities and across the nation who are still continuing to fight for their sovereign rights. Do more than just talk about it. Of course, the most highlighted struggle right now is the ongoing Standing Rock protests to halt the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Major financial contribution is needed to help support medical clinics, camp food and supplies, and legal defense funds to keep the protest alive. On a more local note, save your money to buy holiday gifts from indigenous artisans and vendors rather than engaging in the madness of Black Friday and other holiday shopping venues that so often exploit the labors of the poorest in our global community.



## Letters & Opinion

# A Port of the Problem

## HOW THE OLYMPIA PORT CONNECTS TO NODAPL PROTEST

By Pauline Allen

**T**his September the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere permanently surpassed 400ppm (parts per million). The safe level of CO<sub>2</sub> is 350ppm (like the climate justice organization named 350.org, if you've never heard of it I recommend you check it out). The first reading assignment in my program Botany: Plants, Fungi, and People was Naomi Klein's *This Changes Everything*, a daunting, well researched book about climate change and capitalism that leaves one feeling a combination of depressed, more depressed, hopeful, and motivated.

Then I learned that the Port of Olympia plays a role in what activists are calling the "Bakken Oil Fracking Monster" which is an iconic frightening-looking octopus that symbolizes the assemblage of interactions that enable the fracking process, Bakken being the name of the oil formation under North Dakota, Montana, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The Port of Olympia receives shipments of proppants, also called ceramic fracking sands, from China and then loads them on trains to be transported to fracking sites. These proppants are used during the fracking process to prop open the fractures in the ground long enough for the crude oil to be extracted. All of this is connected, the worsening climate crisis, my studies at Evergreen, the Port of Olympia. Also connected is NoDAPL, the ongoing protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock. NoDAPL relates to Klein's *This Changes Everything*, because in the positive portion of the book she talks about "Blockadia"—a place that occurs globally "wherever extractive projects are attempting to dig and drill" and people are creating a resistance. Standing Rock is one of these sites of Blockadia where indigenous peoples and environmentalists are flocking to protest the pipeline that as plans stand now would cross sacred sites of the Standing Rock Sioux and travel under the Missouri river causing concern if it were to break. The Standing Rock protest is a combination of many struggles: for Native Sovereignty, for clean safe water ("Water is Life"), for an end to fracking, and for climate justice. It is also about how seemingly far away and unassuming places, like the Port of Olympia, are enabling these problems.

After learning about the port's involvement, I attended a "No Oil Fracking Sands at our Port" rally on Oct. 22 at the Port Plaza. After days of gray-

ness and rain, the sun shining down on the 100-plus participants felt like a sign that positive change could be achieved. There were a number of people who spoke, sang, and performed poetry. There was a lot of energy in the crowd and it seemed like many people felt emotional over the severity of the struggles at Standing Rock and empowered to do something locally.

The completion of the DAPL pipeline would signify that the U.S. is willing to extract oil and gas as much as possible with disregard to the consequences including health of its citizens and increasing the climate catastrophe. The investment of large scale infrastructure like the DAPL would increase fracking and discourage transitioning to renewables in the United States. As E. J. Zita, an Evergreen professor and one of Olympia's port commissioners, said in her speech at the Not in our Port Rally, "Oil and natural gas are not the bridge to renewables, but the bridge to oblivion."

One way to stop the Bakken Oil Fracking Monster is to cut off its limbs so that it can no longer function. This is how the Port of Olympia is connected to Standing Rock. There are currently multiple groups working to oppose the transport of proppants through the Port. Many people are looking to learn from the port's history as this new resistance grows. During the Iraq War the Port of Olympia was used to ship military cargo. Protests followed; violence between police and protesters led to arrests and thousands of dollars were lost by the port. The port stopped shipping military cargo. People are now asking how to avoid such violence and how to amass the power of the people to once again stop a shipment.

Another limb of Bakken Oil Fracking Monster that can be severed is the funding sources. According to a report by the

non-profit Food and Water Watch, 38 banks have directly financed the DAPL. Included in this list are Wells Fargo, Citibank, US Bank, and Bank of America. This means that if you have an account in one of these banks, your money is being used to finance DAPL. I recommend that you transfer your money to a Credit Union; most credit unions support their local economies and provide more transparency with their actions.

All of these actions can add up to-

wards the "momentum theory of change" which is this beautiful idea that multiple energies and involvements can come from different angles and actions and cumulatively produce change. So if some people move their money to local banks and divest from fossil fuels, some go to Standing Rock, some email the president, some revision the port of Olympia, some educate others, and so on, then collectively we can create the future that we want to live in.

### PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Proposed Updates to Parking Rules, WAC 174-116  
Wed, November 30, Sem II, A-2105, 12:30-1:30pm

Search Greener Commons for "Parking WAC Change"  
to read the proposed draft.

Send comments to Andy Corn at  
corna@evergreen.edu

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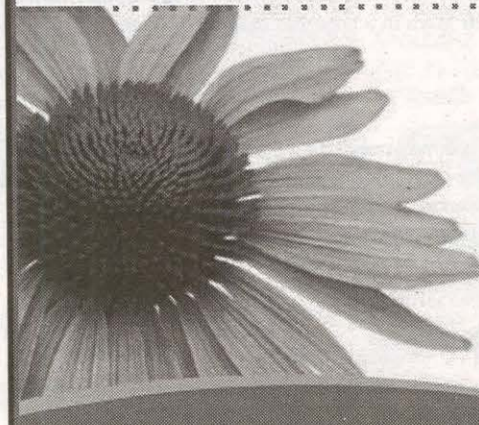
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# Astrology

RUBY THOMPSON



By Sylvie Chace

Everyone has been feeling the intensity of the season and now that fall quarter is over halfway through we're all exhausted! With the loving Venus about to transition into goal-oriented Capricorn on November 11th, our relationships are about to be put under the microscope. Planet of intensity, Mars recently entered the creative Aquarius. This makes these next few weeks a time to get to know ourselves and our surroundings in an intimate way. Who in your life do you trust more than anyone? Who is holding you back? Putting our energy into something creatively fulfilling may be helpful for all the signs. A full moon in Taurus on the 14th will add some stability to our lives. With all these slight planetary shifts happening so close together, our attention is drawn to where it is most needed.

## ARIES 3/21 - 4/19

You may find yourself moving a bit too fast. Slow down a minute there. While the intensity that this season has brought doesn't exactly scare you, it may start to be overwhelming you. You may find yourself being a bit short with the people around you so find some inner peace among the chaos. Write a poem, paint something beautiful, give something back to yourself.

## TAURUS 4/20 - 5/20

You're getting there, little by little, step by step, don't get down on yourself because you think your growth isn't happening. You may feel like a late bloomer, but once the moon is in your sign you will see that this season can be yours too. Give yourself some spare time to get some tasks done. Spend time to be alone and process your growth. You'll see that you end up feeling better with a minute to yourself where you're not comparing yourself to others.

## GEMINI 5/21 - 6/20

Finding balance isn't easy. It seems as though you're caught in taking time to be introspective, but still wanting to be a social butterfly. You can have the best of both worlds! Just keep looking for what works for you. Maybe it's easier to hang out with friends one-on-one lately? Or maybe you've been too cooped up and you need to balance it out with a big night out! Keep seeking out a balance with your dualistic personality and you'll start to feel a little bit of harmony in this season of intensity.

## CANCER 6/21 - 7/22

You are an intense sign in your own right. People mistake you for being "too soft" but your emotional intensity is what makes you powerful! Lately you've been making big plans and thinking far ahead into what you really want in the future. Think carefully, don't get too wrapped up in what could be, rather focus on how to achieve all of your goals in a way that emotionally fulfills you.

## LEO 7/23 - 8/22

You've been acting like a real grown-up lately, you still may not carry a planner with you at all times, but your work ethic is stronger. Focus on who you're surrounding yourself with. What goals do you have for your relationships? Do you know who your real friends are? Start giving some thought about who the supportive people in your life may be right now and you might feel closer to finding a balance between work and your social life.

## VIRGO 8/23 - 9/22

You are naturally the type of person who wants to step in and help when you see something going wrong. Use that power to be a source of positivity for your friends and loved ones. Be someone others can come to if they need a hand. You'll feel good about yourself knowing that you're needed, because you are needed, you are necessary.

## LIBRA 9/23 - 10/22

Start planning something bigger for yourself. You've been doing a lot of introspective work recently and maybe something's off? You may feel that something in your life may not be quite right. Find harmony. Balance is your thing, so start moving and making things happen for yourself.

## SCORPIO 10/23 - 11/21

This scorpio season has been an unforgiving one for sure. Don't even act like you don't love it. Tearing things apart can definitely be cathartic, but now that your season is on it's last couple weeks, start putting the pieces back together. Make your world feel new and exciting again. Connect, or even reconnect, with others in a way that makes you feel complete.

## SAGITTARIUS 11/22 - 12/21

With Venus no longer in your sign you may find yourself challenging or questioning the relationships around you. You're known for being quite blunt, and this may not be a bad thing when figuring out who you really want near you in your life. Is there someone bothering you? Or rather someone you're finding yourself drawn to? Explore your feelings towards others and you may find some stability in your social life.

## CAPRICORN 12/22 - 1/19

You've been wrapped up in yourself lately, it may feel as though you can never catch a break, both emotionally and physically. Luckily, the loving and tender planet Venus is about to be in your sign! This is a time to focus on your relationships in a positive way and let yourself love and be loved. Take someone you like out for a date, or spend one-on-one time with close friends. Let the love you feel for the people in your life be that emotional break you need.

## AQUARIUS 1/20 - 2/18

With passionate and intense Mars now in your sign your creative juices are flowing. Don't hold back. Your alias is the water-bearer, and lately it feels like there's too much water to bear. Let it all out. Write a song, dance it out or do whatever self care feels right for you as a way to release. You might find that what you create in the end is something to be proud of.

## PISCES 2/19 - 3/20

Start thinking about goals for yourself. With the quarter over halfway over, it's time to use your intuition to see ahead into what you may want for yourself in the future. Do you see yourself still studying what you're studying? Or spending time with who you're spending time with? Or even living where you live? Make some changes, it may seem scary at first, but being unsatisfied in your life sounds even scarier. It's time for you to start to get up and take action.

RUBY THOMPSON

# WASTED ADVICE

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

**should i go into academia?** no its rly shotty and competitve and mean but also like you'll make bank but like fuck that ugh academics are crazy

**im a single mom and in think my kid is maybe acts in a way thats unnerving to others, or is creepy, what do i do?** hmm therapy maybe or like keave urbkid alone its just gonna be creepy. you have a lil guy and some kids are like creepy n weird idk

**How do I stop resenting my friend for being an insensitive prick that one time?** Either stop or don't/. Being drunk helps i gots to say. Maybe just like yell at them and then

feel better????????! But like buddy I am a junior in college who texted my mom to get her to remind me how to make spaghetti so don't listen to me is what my real advice is, bud

**i identify as queer but ive never had a relationship outside of what one would consider a heteronormative cis relationship how do i reconcile this part of myself?** hey nonone can tell u ur not queer ur notnappropriating anything and undont have to live it ur queer af if u know u are thats upto you

**i think my little brother might be becoming conservative because**

**of the people around him, what do i do?** talk to him rAtimal.y and like let him know that there are facts out there he can look up like no one should kove trump like no

**my partner and i crossed a threshold where we started saying i love you to one another but then she retreated, what do i do now, are my feelings unfair?**

its hard cuse love isnt alwyas straightforward and so,etimes you find love with someone who youbthought wasnt the one but you gotta have humility and patience and be open to people changing its notnalwyas a strivhtbline

**my parents are asking to borrow money, what do i do?** youve got tonset boundaries abt how much you can support someone without hurting urse,fnand ur place in the workd but also like dont abandon them but dont let them take advantage of u ya know

**Why are there so many weirdos on dating sites and where have all the good men gone?** You guys. Please listen to me. Listen to us. Boys are awful???? Do not want men. That is the best advice i can give you --- date girls. But also girls can be awful too?? And so can nb people???? everyone is aawful or has the capacity to be.I've dated many genres of people, all can

be he worst tbh. Get cats. Have neat friends. Read weird books and eat good food also drink and ignor death. Cats.

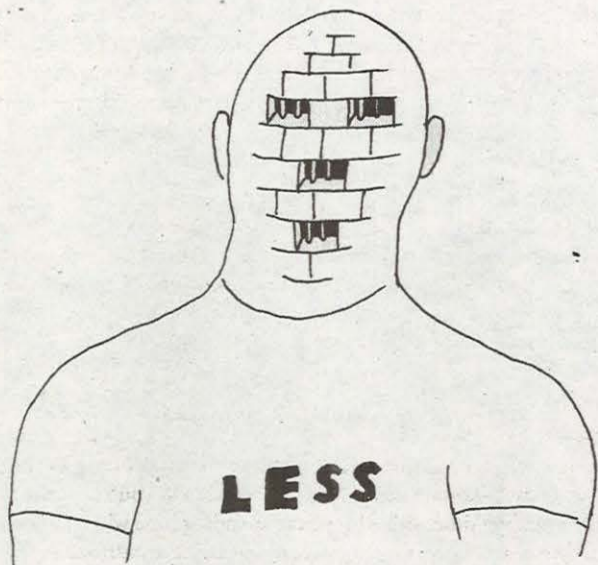
**my brother from Oregon wants to send me a bunch of weed in the mail, what should i do?** dont do it like thats gonna be shady af just drive to him and getbit cause otherwise ur gonna get arrested

**Should I keep trying to be friends with and casually sleeping with this dude who like never answers me and is always too busy to hangout but is so sweet when we are together? Also its really good sex. Help me?** But also like dump that dude. You desreve someone who answers you. And hangs out with you. Those are two primo qualities in a person to talk to. You will find another good fuck who is sometimes nicce to you

**Why do I want my ex back so bad all of a sudden?** Because lif is horrible and cyclical and yr probably just sad nd bored or someting. Idk. do not do the thing. The "ex" is there for a reason my dudeski

Got problems? We can help! You can submit questions anonymously to [ask.fm/wastedadvice](http://ask.fm/wastedadvice) or email [wastedadvice@cooperpointjournal.com](mailto:wastedadvice@cooperpointjournal.com).

## FACE FACTORY #3 by Lortz



Lortz '16

## LETTERS TO A YOUNG POET by Odin Coleman



15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 1906

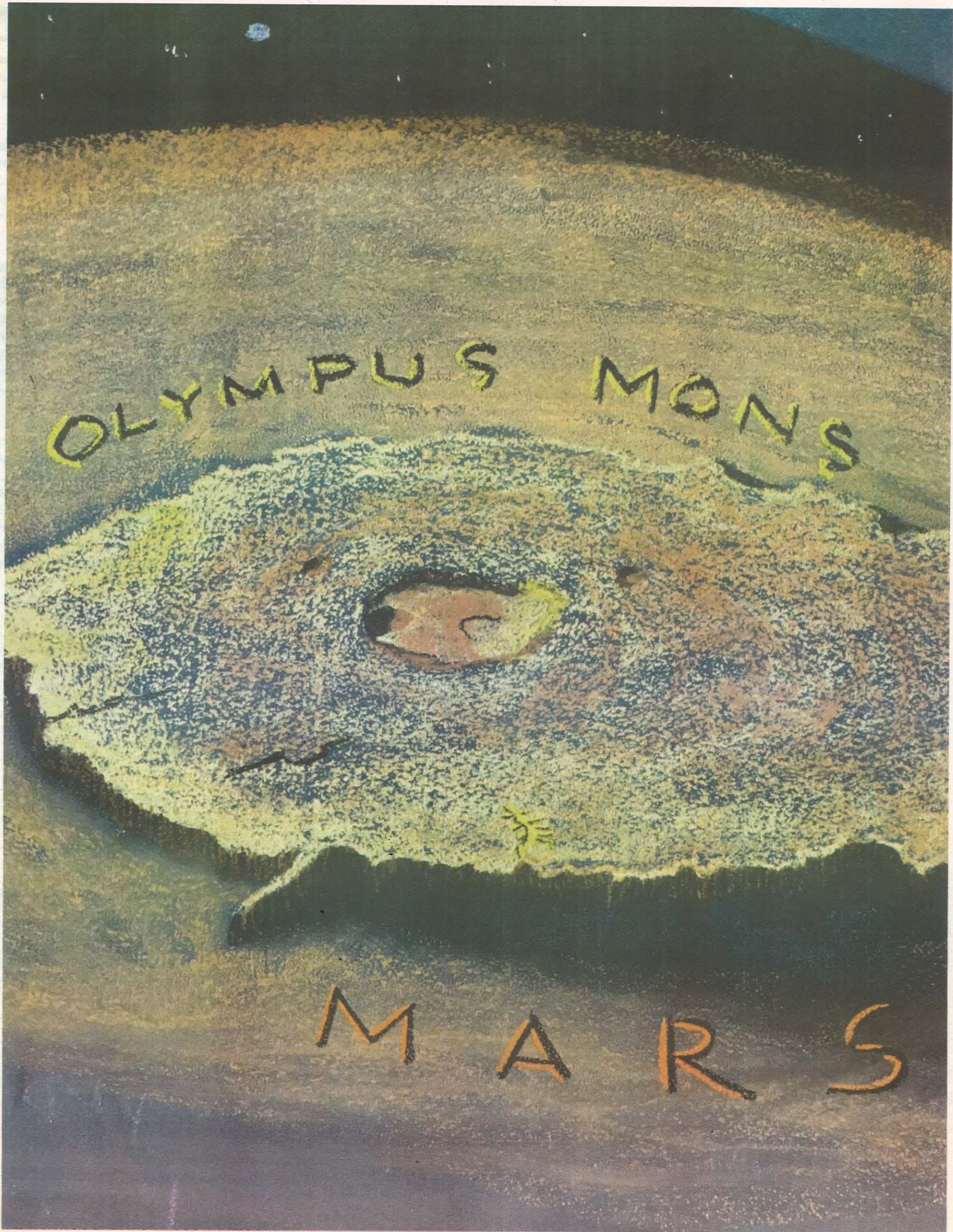
MY DEAR MR. KAPPUS,  
 ALLOW ME TO BEGIN THIS LETTER BY FORMALLY APOLOGIZING FOR MY FREQUENT APOLOGIES, AS WELL AS FOR THE NUTELLA STAIN (I'VE JUST HAD DINNER). I'VE FOUND MYSELF IN RURAL CZECHOSLOHUVIA, & TO BE FRANK, I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M HERE, OR WHY I'M CORRESPONDING WITH YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE. ADMITTEDLY, I'M FEELING PRETTY SLOSHY ON RED WINE RIGHT NOW & AM CONTEMPLATING GOING OUT & GETTING ANOTHER BOTTLE, SO I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH THIS: GMO ISN'T BAD FOR YOU & CIGARETTES MAKE YOU LOOK COOL.

-RAINER M. RILKE

submit YOUR comics:

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with your pen-name, title, and any instruction for how you want it published



OLYMPUS MONS

MARS