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YOUR STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Public records pitfalls New public records officer may face faculty resistance, other challenges

by JASON SLOTKIN

Within the next two weeks, Vice President of Finance and Administration John Hurley hopes to fill a brand new job: public records officer. Past responses to public records requests and the experiences of the current public records officer show that this may be a hard task.

The job description for the public records officer says the candidates must have experience in public records law; fulfill requests for public records; and provide training and guidance to college employees about public records requests and the laws that enforce them.

The officer will be taking over these responsibilities from Maryam Jacobs, the college's internal auditor. Jacobs, whose main job is to perform financial audits, has two years doing public records at Evergreen. "When I got here, public records was supposed to be a small part of the job. That's all I've done for the past two years."

Over the past two years, she says she's faced challenges to her motivations and knowledge of the law while gathering records. She says that while fulfilling requests she has been called a cop and told that she works for the FBI. She has also faced some college employees who refuse to turn over records – mainly faculty.

Jacobs has also worked to provide training for college employees on how to comply with public records laws. Every division has required their employees to attend these trainings, except for academics. Faculty have also not made a huge presence at her trainings, a fact that provost, or head of the academic division, Don Bantz has acknowledged. He believes that public record laws should be complied with, but called mandatory training a "hammer" that might not be effective in educating faculty in the laws.

The new officer

Since 2006, requests for public documents from Evergreen have more than tripled to 141 during 2009. The new position was created to handle this increase in requests.

John Carmichael, executive assistant to the president and author of the job description,

says this position is an effort to help Evergreen comply with the public records law. Carmichael says that having this new full-time position will aid Evergreen's "turn around" in fulfilling public records requests. Over the next 18 months, the public records officer will handle all the public records requests sent to the college, leaving Jacobs to focus on her auditing responsibilities.

The public records officer will also not be working in the president's office – which is where the auditor works – but in Finance and Administration. Hurley says that most colleges have this type of work in the administrative division. Jacobs has said that she is "isolated" in the president's office, which may possibly add to the difficulty of her work. Her challenges in fulfilling public records requests have gone beyond the sheer number of them, and she thinks the new public records officer may face the same challenges.

Refusals

During the 2007-08 school year, Jacobs faced a lot of resistance in fulfilling a public records request. This was after a Feb. 14 concert during which a police car was turned over. Someone had requested all documents relating to these events.

According to Jacobs, complaints during this request came from some faculty who were unclear on what was a public record, or refused to turn them over, and these were just people who responded. If someone does not respond to a public records request, there is no way of knowing if the employee has pertinent documents. Jacobs says that even if someone would "logically have documents," she can't know the truth. However, if a person is named in the request, Jacobs and the new public records officer have another option: they can go into the employee's email through the help of the computing department. Jacobs says she would not want to do this without express permission.

It was during the Feb. 14 request that Jacobs sent an email to her boss and the vice presidents saying that this was the hardest job she had ever had, and this included working as a cocktail waitress.

This was a large request that

For the students, by the students A closer look at the S&A Board

by MADELINE BERMAN

Ever wonder what happens to those student fees you pay alongside your tuition? The Evergreen State College collects \$2.5 million annually from student fees in order to fund a wide variety of services and activities offered on campus, including the campus radio station, the late night shuttle program, the child-care center, the school newspaper, and an eclectic variety of student groups. To make sure the money is spent wisely across this broad spectrum of interests, Evergreen turns to their Services and Activities Fee Allocation (S&A) board.

The idea of an S&A board is not unique to Evergreen, though this is the only school in the state of Washington whose board is made up entirely of students, according to Tom Mercado, director of student-activities and non-voting member/adviser of the S&A board.

"There is an RCW [state law] that requires all schools to collect S&A fees and that students are involved in the allocation process.



PHOTO BY MADELINE BERMAN
THE S&A BOARD AT THEIR FEBRUARY 17 MEETING

Each campus interprets the law differently. At the University of Washington, the board includes students, faculty, and staff. At Evergreen, it is a purely student board. That is unique, something that the students here value."

S&A board member Jason Doudt agrees that it is important that Evergreen's S&A board is student-run.

"Students representing students have a bigger stake for how funds are used."

This is an excerpt from the full article. See more details about the history of the S&A board, meetings, and student groups at www.cooperpointjournal.com!

Check out page 2 for photos of and interviews with S&A board members, as well as a look at how the S&A board works to allocate funds!

Madeline Berman is a junior enrolled in an independent learning internship

Steve Trotter, executive director of operational planning and budget, answers the following questions in video clips that can be seen at www.cooperpointjournal.com. Get informed about budget cuts and tell us what you think!

- > "What are the specific fees associated with each section of the budget?"
- > "Why should income tax and sales tax be considered when discussing budget cuts?"
- > "How are taxpayers considered when discussing budget cuts?"
- > "What can be done at individual levels to bring more progressive change to Evergreen's budget?"
- > "What factors play into a state-run school's budget?"
- > "How are the policies of the state legislature linked to the budget cuts at Evergreen?"

Jacobs had to put together in installments. Eventually, the requesters of these records stopped picking them up. If they had continued, they would have learned that Jacobs could not retrieve every document. Putting together these kinds of requests will be an "essential" responsibility of the new officer.

Holly Joseph, executive associate to the vice president for finance and the public records officer supervisor, says that in these cases she hopes that the public records officer will talk with staff who initially refuse these requests, and work with employees to educate them while gathering documents for requests.

Budget Dean Ken Tabbutt says that the problem is that faculty

may be too educated, noting that it's the faculty who seem to know the law that claim exemptions. But knowing the law itself is only half of knowing what is exempt from a public documents request. Both Jacobs and Bantz say that exemptions are often defined through court cases. Case law is something Jacobs covers at public records training.

Training

To make sure that college employees are kept up to date in public records law, Jacobs holds two trainings every year. Almost every college employee is required to attend one of these trainings when hired and one every three years. Faculty, however, are not required to

attend any public records training. This not only includes Jacobs' training, but also an academics training which Bantz says touches upon the public records law.

Both Jacobs and Bantz agree that few faculty attend her trainings. "This wasn't a problem until recently," says Bantz. He attributes faculty not attending to class schedules, but said that a mandatory training would be a "hammer" or an "edict from above" that would not necessarily educate people on the public

"Public records," continued on page 3

Police Blotter

One disorderly conduct, one domestic incident, 2/10. Five traffic stops, three verbal warnings issued, 2/14. One malicious mischief incident, two traffic stops, 2/15. Two thefts, one malicious mischief incident, six traffic stops, 2/16.

~ MARK CICCONE

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Just a few of your S&A Board members



Abbey LeBarre

What interested you about being part of the S&A board?

Last year I was recruited to coordinate the MPA Student Union (SU). As an incoming coordinator for SU, I went to do an operational budget presentation on behalf of the SU. While I was there, someone said S&A was hiring for this year. I applied and here I am.

What would you like students to know about the S&A board?

Everyone is really fun.



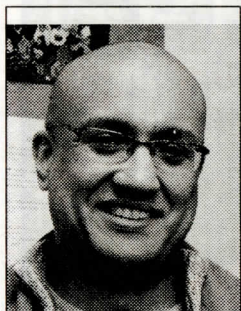
Mack Edwards

What interested you about being part of the S&A board?

I had been on a similar student group fund allocation board at my previous school, and I figured I would be well qualified and it would help me to get to know what is happening on campus.

What would you like students to know about the S&A board?

We are just a group of students that want to help to have cool things happen on campus and that benefit the larger Evergreen community.



Jason Doudt

What interested you about being part of the S&A board?

I was interested because I want to go into politics, and I was told if I want to go into politics, I should be involved in policy-making parties.

What would you like students to know about the S&A board?

If you are well-organized and know things you want to do in spring quarter, put in the request now.



Allie Van Nostran

What interested you about being part of the S&A board?

It all started freshman year. I was the office assistant at student activities and I was hooked. I wanted to know everything about everything, how students groups get to do stuff. I was on the board last year and I applied for the coordinator post this year. I'm helping people help people enrich the Evergreen experience.

S&A Board: How it works

So, apparently people don't know exactly what goes on with the S&A Board. Well, I am here to alleviate those concerns. The function of the S&A Board is to provide student groups with funds from your student fees so that you may start a group, continue a group, or bring speakers and events to campus. The process is simple: just go to Student Activities, located on the second floor of Sem I, and get an application titled Special Initiative Budget Request Form, or the Operational Budget Request Form. Once you've completed the requirements listed on the form, you can submit your request and have a budget meeting. During the meeting you will be asked to give a brief overview of what you would like to do; then the board will ask you clarifying questions and then deliberate. Depending on the amount you want and the amount we have available we can grant your group the means to put on something AWESOME for Evergreen!

Things to remember: it is first come first served, be prepared to fundraise, have alternative activities, and above all be able to provide our campus with the knowledge that your group has the power to bring. Remember, funds are running out fast, so apply TODAY!

~ RAMONA HUPP

Full interviews with these and other members of the S&A Board, as well as full color, high-resolution photos and more information, at www.cooperpointjournal.com!

God loves everyone (Part V)

by EMILY WEISBERG

For the last update about Evergreen Jesus Folk's Come and See project, I talked to Caleb Kytonen, who is one of the Jesus Folk members involved with the project.

Emily: How many non-Jesus-Folk students participated overall?

Caleb: I think the number of people who have given it a shot who don't self-identify as followers of Jesus has been 14.

Emily: What were the Jesus Folk people's overall thoughts on this project? Was it successful? Did it go well?

Caleb: It went really well! We got to come out of the closet with our faith and have really great discussions with folks, and it was also really encouraging to see that we could share the things we are passionate about without making other people feel like we are pushing things on them. It felt like there was a sense of freedom and mutual

investigation into the things that matter most, such as "What is life about?" and "What should we do with our time?" which is great.

Emily: Would you guys launch this project again?

Caleb: Yeah, I think we are going to do it again in May, when the weather is nicer.

Emily: What happened in last week's meeting?

Caleb: We studied how Jesus claims that he is light, what that meant, and thought about what it means to bring our actions into the light, to be free from hiding and shame.

Emily: If there is one thing Evergreen Jesus Folk could tell the campus about this month-long project, what would it be?

Caleb: We expected to be attacked for our beliefs, because we know Christianity is not very popular here (for some pretty good reasons), but we were taken by surprise in a really good way that people were really respectful and honestly inquisitive as we offered what we had, so I guess

we would say thank you for being so open and loving. Also, we would just want to communicate that we have watched our own lives get better as we have followed Jesus, and if anyone wants to join us in this following, or even just see what it is about, they are totally welcome at Jesus Folk. We meet at 7 p.m. in P307 of the Soup. Also, we want to let people know that if they need help with anything, like help when they are moving, if they need some food, to borrow an iron, or anything like that, they can email me at caleb.kytonen@gmail.com and someone from Jesus Folk will help them out.

Thanks to Evergreen Jesus Folk for this opportunity, and thanks to everyone who participated!

Emily Weisberg is a junior enrolled in evening and weekend studies

Correction

2.12.10- "Market raided during walkout" article was found to be inaccurate. According to Maresha Gomez, Aramark Sustainability Intern, the majority of the food brought from the Market to Sem 2 in the evening is sold. All food is sold the same day that it has been prepared. Steps have been taken to reduce the amount of food ordered, which then reduces the amount left over. Any leftover food is then composted at the end of the night.

Organization Meeting
5 p.m. Wednesdays
C2105

Focusing on the Cooper Point Journal student group

Production Meeting
12 p.m. Fridays
C3105

Focusing on the production of the Cooper Point Journal publication

The CPJ has an open door policy.

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Typical Greener: Edwina Finefrock

article and photo by
MADLINE BERMAN

Edwina Finefrock is attending Evergreen because she doesn't like pretentious people.

"It started with me sort of going around the country looking at liberal arts schools and all of them being pretentious and like \$15,000 a year and all of them were just a bunch of pseudo-bohemian trust fund babies. It was just kind of like, hmmm - you know, I could probably find something better, probably find something like, what about public liberal arts schools?"

"So I'm looking in this book and suddenly I see this school called Evergreen, right and it's a public liberal arts school and the first thing I see is highlighted, it's like, 'If you hated high school, then you'll love Evergreen,' and I'm basically like 'I hated high school - yaaaay!'"

Edwina Finefrock has encountered pseudo-bohemian trust fund babies at Evergreen, just "not as many as where schools are \$15,000 a year and it's all prestigious."

"Evergreen would be the perfect place because it seemed very relaxed, not much of an air of trying to impress anyone here and you can pretty much be as weird or as normal as you want ... I believe Evergreen is a place where they're trying to make us into thinkers instead of robots."

To Edwina, to be a robot means to be somebody who tries to go through life by just getting by and not trying to strive for any higher goals or people who just want to go up in status but don't care about speaking their mind or making a difference. "Like zombies or something."

"I believe that through Evergreen, I want to become a true intellectual, reach spiritual enlightenment, not necessarily traditional enlightenment but a state of compla-

ency with my art and my philosophy, on things and reach my goal of becoming a deep productive and deeply philosophical person."

"Evergreen is about opinion and about a higher level consciousness in your own mind. Evergreen is about learning new points of view and expanding your own mind to the points of things you've never thought of before...and really delve deep into things that other colleges wouldn't even do."

Edwina doesn't know when she will have reached enlightenment, but figures you just know.

Edwina Finefrock grew up in the rural Midwest.

"High school was hell. I grew up in rural Ohio, so the rural Midwest and very conservative, very, people, like, basically my high school now is considering dropping the arts and music programs. They don't really give a shit about truth or beauty, or art or anything."

Edwina won a few awards for art and poetry, but received no recognition beyond that during her time in high school. She tried to get by "as a person who didn't really mesh with anything" until she could get away to a more liberal area where people care more about expression of ideas.

Edwina worries about Third World nations, the impoverished, those who are less fortunate than her, people who are just generally unhappy or not serving a purpose in life.

Edwina Finefrock enjoys well-thought-out art, complicated writing, when people smile randomly and random acts of kindness, people doing silly things or things that make no sense but because they have the urge to do it.

Edwina Finefrock believes in self-expression.



"I'm a painter, very into art and just history of art. I'm into photography and I'm also a writer, mostly poetry, sometimes prose. I also do sculpture ... I'm very into human anatomy. I'd become a doctor, but I'm too absent-minded."

Edwina Finefrock is driven to create.

"I'm a very sensitive person, and everything I feel, I feel very deeply so I just sort of always have to channel it in some way, in a productive way so that it doesn't just build up in me and make me aggressive and pent up or sad. I just find a lot of philosophy within life and the different aspects of just figuring things out and trying to find the beauty in all things. Just like trying to understand my perspective along with the world."

Edwina Finefrock has piercings.

"I'm from an area that sort of looks down on tattoos and piercings and to me they sort

of represent how your appearance doesn't really mean anything about you, people just take appearance too seriously."

This is an excerpt from the full article. To see the full version, plus high-resolution color photos, go to www.cooperpointjournal.com!

Madeline Berman is a junior enrolled in an independent learning internship

Paddling Every Wednesday! Meet in Red Square @ 1:30, Rain or Shine!

We would like to invite everyone to come paddling with us! We meet in Red Square at 1:30 on Wednesdays. We have all the canoes, paddles and life jackets, so just bring your self, rubber boots, water, and a friend. Once everyone shows up in Red Square we walk down to the Evergreen Beach where our canoes are waiting for us and we go for a paddle for a couple hours.

Hope to see you on the water!
Any questions? Email me at wicada20@evergreen.edu

~ ADAM WICKS-ARSHACK

PHOTO AT RIGHT: STILL FROM VIDEO SUBMITTED BY ADAM WICKS-ARSHACK OF A RECENT CANOE TRIP. CHECK OUT THE VIDEO ONLINE AT WWW.COOPERPOINTJOURNAL.COM!



"Public records," continued from cover records laws. Bantz said the focus should be on "educating" people through multiple outlets, but so far he has only spoken with faculty who haven't complied with requests and provided these opinions. When a faculty member refuses to comply with a request, Bantz shows them case law. He has also sent legal opinions to faculty about responding to public records request: one from the attorney general's office and another from the faculty union lawyer.

Still, Jacobs has said that she has faced the most refusals and challenges from academics, and the vice presidents of the three other divisions do not recall being approached by Jacobs on an employee in their division refusing to comply with a request.

Bantz says he would like to see an online training module, but ends his tenure as provost on Feb. 26. Kenneth Tabbutt will then serve as interim provost, and will be serving in this position when the new public records officer is hired. Tabbutt says his priorities as interim provost will be the budget and the curriculum, not getting

faculty trained in the public records laws. He does, however, think these laws should be complied with, but says, "The public disclosure laws weren't written for higher education."

Tabbutt described requests of faculty emails and documents as a possible pressure on teaching. "You don't want to even worry about outside pressures." Jacobs says he shared this opinion with her when she talked to him about the faculty not attending training.

When Hurley makes this hire, he says he will be looking for someone who can and will find a way to fulfill requests in a timely manner.

Holly Joseph, who will be the officer's direct supervisor, says the officer will need to be organized.

Jacobs believes this person needs to be experienced, and will be relieved to focus on auditing. "There's a lot of work for whoever takes over this job."

Jason Slotkin is a senior enrolled in an independent learning contract

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Laughs and Tears: A *Vagina Monologues* Review

by R. YAZMIN SHAH

The Vagina Monologues is nothing new. I watched the DVD a couple of years ago and was pleased by the frank and honest discussion enclosed therein. But I soon forgot it, and since *Monologues* is really one of the few - if not the only - intelligent explorations of vaginas that is part of the national zeitgeist, I haven't had an in-depth (har!) discussion about my vagina or anyone else's since.

After seeing Evergreen's production of *Monologues*, I now see I made a mistake: I don't know what happened - call it a testament to theatre - but *The Vagina Monologues* is a dramatic and transforming experience that must be seen in person.

At least it was here, last Friday, where the Women's Resource Center and Riot to Follow staged an engaging and inspiring production of *The Vagina Monologues*. I was a little alarmed at directors Jordon Baker's and Gabrielle Hamilton's bubbling descriptions of their vaginas, followed by the cast's. But goddamn it, it's contagious. My vagina would wear a French bicorne and carry an AK-47.

It was nice and good to hear about the minute details of owning a vagina being discussed amongst a large group of people in a public forum. Really, doesn't happen enough. The terrible feeling of ingrown hairs covering one's entire clam was discussed in the short piece "Hair" by a delightfully deadpan Sarah Brink. As was infidelity, and the absurdity of having your privates resemble that of an 8-year-old. Good stuff.

The humiliation of having an aroused vagina during a hot date and the baffling secretions it produced that seem to be almost of biblical proportions was relayed by actor Anna Freedman-Peel in a short monologue titled "The Flood." Freedman-Peel sat onstage and instantly became a little old lady in a chair talking about her "down-there." The perfor-

mance was based on an interview with a lady in her 70s who had never experienced an orgasm.

But the heart of *Monologues* has nothing to do with vaginas, but the women behind those vaginas or above them or whatever. The disgust, aversion, pride, joy, pleasure, and every other conceivable notion that owning a vagina would entail was exhibited here. Someone else felt that way, someone else knew. A lot of people know the curse and satisfaction of owning one of these gluttonous, beautiful beasts. We just don't talk about it.

And then there are the parts that gut you, like Allison Von Nostran's blunt retelling of "A Teenage Girl's Guide to Surviving Sexual Slavery." "Rule 3," she says in a forward, no-nonsense, all-too-clear tone, "build a hole inside yourself and climb into it." She finishes by recounting the threats made to hurl herself and her baby off a boat if the captain dared to consider turning back toward the dock where her captors stood.

At some point Luna Krahe, Lisa Hammond, Erica Leshon, and Maria Stocke took the stage and recounted the horrors of war in a piece titled "Comfort Women," about Japan's World War II female prisoners of war who were forced to endure "up to fifty" men at a time amongst other atrocities. But that wasn't it, that wasn't what got you; what got you was the way Leshon cried the words of the old, forgotten women, with raw, wrathful sorrow: "SAY IT! SAY YOU ARE SORRY TO ME!"

The Vagina Monologues is good. These monologues are illuminating, funny, tragic, beautiful, and ultimately uplifting. However, these words are forged from a pathos that is difficult to convey. It is apparent that the people behind the Evergreen production of *Monologues* felt these words, learned every nuanced feeling behind them, and divined something powerful and breathtaking on stage that night. Brava, ladies, and thank you.

R. Yazmin Shah is a senior enrolled in Writing the New Journalism

Dorkumentarian

by JASON TRENT

Documentaries deliver a certain kind of crazy that you just can't make up. Hollywood hacks crank out drivel based on centuries-old formulas that the ancient Greeks invented back when they thought animal sacrifice was cool. Life throws curveballs and quirk-bombs that a million script doctors and Screen Writers Guilds could never come up with. This is why I, the dorkumentarian, bring you stories ripped from the headlines of life, from the trenches of the battlefields of reality, Geraldo Rivera-esque in my heroism, to fearlessly tell you about the best in the last 20 years of documentary film.

Spellbound (2002, dir. Jeffrey Blitz) is about smart kids who want to go to college and spell words correctly. The drama created by the different social groups represented is a microcosm of America: immigrant strivers, white nerds, overachievers, and good children from the wrong side of the tracks, all competing for the same thing that Charlie Brown wanted when he couldn't spell "beagle" (*A Boy Named Charlie Brown*, 1969). They all want to be **champions**. By a combination of fortune and smart filmmaking, one of the children featured in *Spellbound* goes on to be the winner of the 1999 Scripps National Spelling Bee, the Summer Olympics of spelling bees. But, as Linus tells Charlie Brown, "We learn more from losing than from winning." Winning is

still better.

For many years, there was a certain kind of guy who only liked a certain kind of movie: *Fight Club*, *Pulp Fiction*, anything by the Wachowski Brothers, Guy Ritchie, or Kevin Smith. Imagine that one of these guys actually got a hold of a few million dollars and was able to make his dream movie. This is the story of Troy Duffy, director of *The Boondock Saints*, a good-enough B-movie that spawned a legion of diehard Hot-Topic shopping, Paddy-punk fans. But this isn't a review of *Boondock Saints*; this is an endorsement of the engrossing documentary *Overnight* (2003, dir. Tony Montana and Mark Brian Smith) about the rise and fall of Duffy, whose success quickly bloated his ego and led to scenes of him barking psychotic phone messages to studio executives, double-crossing and exploiting childhood friends, all the while knowing that cameras are on him and that he is the subject of a documentary film. Last summer, a sequel, *Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day* - that's 9 years after the original - quickly disappeared from theaters. It was up against *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* and *Saw 6*. You can't spell the word schadenfreude without the letters F-U-N!

Spellbound and *Overnight* are available through Summit.

Jason Trent is a junior enrolled in Student Originated Studies

Master of Old School Animation: Yuri Norstein at Evergreen

by MADELINE BERMAN

Famed Russian animator Yuri Norstein visited Evergreen on Feb. 10. Several of his short animated pieces, including "Heron and Crane" and "Tale of Tales," were shown in the recital hall at 7:30, with comments from Norstein between them. Tickets had been oversold, so a live feed of the presentation was shown in the overflow room in order to accommodate the extra ticket holders. Norstein's copy of his animation was not compatible with the school's DVD player, so a library copy of the animation was used. Technical difficulties were encountered when the DVD used to exhibit the animations continued to skip back to the opening credits of different shorts.

The highlight of the evening was the 15-minute clip of Norstein's *The Overcoat*, an adaptation of a Nikolai Gogol story, which has been in production since the early 1980s. In addition to Norstein's meticulous and time-consuming process, the project

has been further delayed by Norstein taking other jobs out of necessity. Before the collapse of the Soviet Union, the USSR financed a great deal of animation. After the collapse Norstein has had difficulty funding his project. The intended running length will be 65 minutes total. The clip that was shown was both completely silent and black and white, but visually stunning nonetheless.

The projector gave the shorts a washed-out look, and the DVD repeatedly interrupted the presentation. Despite these obstacles, Norstein's talent shone through. Seeing his ability to bring realistic movement to his creations, while still retaining the look and feel of a drawing, makes it clear why he is considered one of the masters of Russian animation.

Supplemental information provided by Jason Trent.

Madeline Berman is a junior enrolled in an independent learning internship

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The Vagina Monologues lick my clit (in a good way)

by EMILY WEISBERG

The Vagina Monologues are necessary because the systemic oppression of women starts at the most basic level: with the biological differences between men and women creating an imbalance of sexual freedom, sexual expression, and sexual "entitlement" in the bedroom. When I watch these monologues being performed, I see so many brave women (and the occasional transperson) screaming that they are entitled to just as much sexual expression as men are. And goddamn, they are right!



Women are oppressed in many ways. I

agree that we do need a workers' revolution. We need a lot of different revolutions. But even if we were to grant women equal pay in the workforce, those same women come home, cook dinner, clean the house, and sexually submit to their husbands. Not to say that situation is no better than women staying at home all day, cooking dinner, cleaning the house, and submitting to their husbands - because it is a step. But a bigger, more necessary step is to first make sure those women are sexually equal, that they do not submit their bodies (and with it, their spirit) to their husbands or male partners. And that is why *The Vagina Monologues* are so great. Women are sexual, and women should be welcome to be sexual. The problem lies with women being sexual, and being depicted as sexual

beings in the media, solely for the pleasure and enjoyment of men.

What about women being sexual and expressing sexuality for the pleasure and enjoyment of women? For the pleasure and enjoyment of themselves? That is what *The Vagina Monologues* are about - a woman finding her clit to bring herself pleasure. A woman discovering sex with another woman. A woman pissed off that because she has a vagina, she is automatically valued less and is told she deserves less than a man. And that woman loves her vagina, she loves sex, and she wants sex. We should celebrate that. A woman wanting sex for herself! Not just because she wants to be a "flirt, a temptress, a seducer" of men. (All names of Victoria Secret's bras, by the way... a company which,

despite being marketed entirely to women, was founded by a man.)

There is a reason sex feels so good, that sex has so much hype. Sex is great - when it's happening for all the right reasons. Under patriarchy, sex rarely happens for all the right reasons. *The Vagina Monologues* were written by women, about women, and for women. And when it comes to female sexuality, *The Vagina Monologues* exist for all the right reasons.

Emily Weisberg is a junior enrolled in evening and weekend Studies

A flick of the switch by 4 in the morning

by CLAIRE WEBBER



One, two, three four five - I count the cold, blue thrum of fluorescent lights in the living room windows of G Dorm. It's 4 a.m. and even the late-night smokers have ducked inside to escape from the rain. But here I am, counting lights and peering in the illuminated first floor windows. Nice houseplant. Great rug. Love the posters. I can't sleep.

So many lights are on, I half expect to see the comings and goings of midnight snacks, glasses of water, post-rounds pot smoking. Nope, though. Not tonight. Everyone, I assume, is asleep.

Why, then, am I peering in (not with hands pressed to glass, that's a step too far) into kitchens and communal spaces that are bright, lit up? The kitchen light is on, the dining room, the living room full moon on, on, on. Yes, you apartment-style with your blinds shamelessly bared open, I look into your windows as I walk and I look at the lights. Christmas lights, lava lamps, fish tank fluorescence, even lanterns, and of course the easy-on of every built-in

lighting appliance. On, lonely in the lateness, brightening the world for inhabitants asleep in other rooms.

I admit, this is a bad habit of mine. I never turn off lights in my bedroom.

However, I'm changing now, because this is wide on a scale I never expected. Without the solid family unit, without the nightly ritual of goodnight house and goodnight light, the electricity keeps ticking watt after watt. Maybe it's because we don't pay our own utilities. We don't see the money and power ticking away. Maybe we thought Betsy in room B would do it after we went to sleep. Maybe we stumbled in inebriated and made scrambled eggs before passing out in the hallway. Maybe we just forgot.

But it is strange, in this green striving school, to see so many lights on this late at night. At least I can gawk at all your bikini girl posters without you catching me.

Claire Webber is a sophomore enrolled in Writing the New Journalism

The platypus: God's (second) greatest mistake

by JACK NOE



What is a platypus? Is it a beaver or a duck? Or is it something more grotesque?

The platypus, nature's redheaded stepchild, shares its identity crises with only one other creature: the echidna. These confused creatures have both become lost in a maze of scientific categorization, as well as sticking out like a bruised toe. The platypus has historically stumbled through a series of categories, fitting partially into many, but not fully into any. As such, this half-duck, half-beaver creature may be the quintessential postmodern anarchist. And this, if nothing else, makes it dangerous.

God, if the reader were to believe in such a thing, must have made platypuses and anarchists from the same mold. They both fit outside the definitions of normal categories, both are given to continued identity crises, and both have confounded scientists for decades. If you are given over to the foolish notion, however, that people "evolved" from savage, tree-dwelling

monkeys, then perhaps you'd argue that my rantings are misguided, and that of course no connection can be drawn between the gentle platypus and gentle anarchists. But, and hear me out, my skeptical evolutionists, what about hippies? Hippies, by contrast, have always fit into social categories; they've always been easily defined. This, as opposed to the enigma of anarchists, allows us to easily categorize them. My point, dear reader, if you've failed to grasp it so far, is that anarchists are platypuses, and hippies are monkeys. Any other conclusion is preposterous, and shall be discredited quickly by yours truly.

In conclusion, the platypus is a fascinating creature, and one should spend their free time researching and studying this amazing, and articulate, animal.

Jack Noe is a sophomore enrolled in Literature and Cultural Politics of Democracy in Chile and Brazil

My baby sheep plan

by BENJI FRIEDMAN



The other day, I visited a field of sheep. It's lambing season, so some of the sheep have newborn baby sheep, and some sheep are still pregnant. If you've never seen a baby sheep before, then I'm not sure that I can do their cuteness justice. They are, quite possibly, the cutest animals ever.

Newborn baby sheep don't walk or run. They hop. They hop around behind the grown up sheep. And they are the cutest. Why do they hop? Is it because they haven't learned how to walk yet? Is it because they have spent the last five months inside a sheep uterus and are psyched to be out in a grassy field? Or are they simply just the cutest animals ever, and it just makes sense that they would hop around as their main means of transportation? It's probably a combination of all of those things in varying degrees.

So, I got to thinking. I want a pet baby sheep. The only problem with having a pet baby sheep is that eventually, it will turn into a normal

pet sheep. And, while normal sheep are all well and good, they are nowhere near as cute as baby sheep.

That's where my plan comes in. Three words: zombie baby sheep. That's all there is to it. Zombies don't get older; they just collapse. And then, all you have to do is sew them back up again. I like my plan. It's perfect. It's genius.

I would feed my zombie baby sheep hay, since living baby sheep eat living grass and hay is dead grass. My plan makes sense. My plan is flawless.

So, if anyone knows how to raise a sheep from the dead, or wants a zombie baby sheep of their own, then it would be much appreciated if they contacted me. I don't have much experience in sewing body parts together. Or in grave robbing. And those both may be skills necessary to get a pet zombie baby sheep.



Benji Friedman is a sophomore enrolled in Philosophy of Experience

ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE MOORE

Where is the money coming from?

by YVES CHAMBERLIN



On Monday, Feb. 15, the capitol steps were filled on both sides, the road was clogged with people, and the center green was thick with people. Why? Because we are looking at the biggest recession since the Great Depression and the politicians are trying to figure out what to do.

A total of 9,000 people showed up on the steps of the capitol to talk to their representatives about funding. 3,000 people showed up at 10 a.m. to protest taxes; these people are known as tea-baggers. 6,000 people showed up at 12 p.m. to support education and health care. 6,000 students, teachers, doctors, nurses, etc. came because they are worried that they will lose funding. Teachers are worried about the quality of education if class size and tuition are increased. Nurses are worried about having more patients per nurse and more people without medical coverage at all.

Do you have financial aid? Are you going to need financial aid when the schools increase the tuition next year and again the year after? We, Washington state, have a TWO POINT SIX BILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT. There are 6,664,195 people

in Washington - 2.6 billion divided by the population is about \$390.14, by the way - and this money has to come from somewhere, but consistently the poor and middle classes are taxed disproportionately and have more benefits taken away. This is continuing today, right now, and you should be doing something about this. Whereas there were 6,000 people on the capitol steps on Monday who were trying to preserve education, there were also 3,000 people who are actively trying to cut taxes. We are already raising tuition and lowering healthcare distribution and quality. What next?

If you intend to go to school here next year, or in any way or form use public resources in the future, like social security, IRA, healthcare, schools for your children, usable roads, buses ... anything government-funded or subsidized, you should be worried and you should be doing something. When was the last time you wrote your representative? Or called them? For the 6,000 people who showed up on Monday, I salute you.

Yves Chamberlin is a senior enrolled in Ireland

CALENDAR

Thursday, February 18

The Dan Farley Comedy Show

Dan Farley is an Evergreen grad who will be performing a 45 min headliner stand-up routine. Special guest comedians will perform as well. 21 and up.

9:00 p.m.

The Royal Lounge, 311 Capitol Way
\$6

The Copenhagen Climate Conference, The Western Climate Initiative and Where Do We Go from Here

A free public lecture sponsored by the Olympia World Affairs Council. Janice Adair, Special Assistant for Climate Policy at the Dept. of Ecology, will speak.

7:30 p.m., The Olympia Center

Free

M-Powerment Q-Men Group

Core-group meeting at UCAN MPowerment Tree-House.

Call (360) 352-2375 or email MPow-eroly@ucan-wa.org for more information!

6:00 p.m., 147 Rogers St. NW

Free

Free Sketch Comedy!

The Generation Friends Comedy Arts Coalition presents

"WHITE"

A Sketch Comedy Show

Note: This show contains mature themes

February 18, 19, & 20

At 8:30 p.m., SEM II C4107

FREE admission!

Friday, February 19

Change to Seminar Speaker Series

Speaker Update for "Money's Value, Soul's Worth" and "Living the Greener Dream." This week's speaker is Madeline Cantwell, Managing Director of The Orion Society.

10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Sem 2 A1107

Free

Free Sketch Comedy!

The Generation Friends Comedy Arts Coalition presents

"WHITE"

A Sketch Comedy Show

Note: This show contains mature themes

February 18, 19, & 20

At 8:30 p.m., SEM II C4107

FREE admission!

MPowerment Connections Group

For the uninitiated, Connections is a small scale (around 5-8 guys) discussion group for 18-29 year-old men who have sex with men (MSM) to speak honestly about safe sex. Meeting cool guys, saying things that would make your conservative grand-pappy have a heart attack, role-playing, and generally having the most fun possible while learning useful things is the order of the day. RSVPing is preferred, so shoot an email to mpoweryoly@ucan-wa.org or call 360.352.2375 to let us know you're showing up!

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., 147 Rogers St. NW

Free

Saturday, February 20

Talk About Curing Autism (TACA) coffee talk

Come and receive some extra support or to chat all topics related to autism and meet other TACA families.

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Forza Coffee Company, 1520 Wilmington, DuPont

Free Sketch Comedy!

The Generation Friends Comedy Arts Coalition presents

"WHITE"

A Sketch Comedy Show

Note: This show contains mature themes

8:30 p.m., SEM II C4107, FREE!

Where is YOUR originality?

A dialogue & workshop on cultural appropriation with the BSU (Black Student Union), part of the BSU's Real Talk Series.

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., SEM II D1105

Sunday, February 21

"Klute" FREE Screening!

"Klute" is shown as part of the Local Film Maker's Premier Screenings with Q&A to follow. It is directed by D. Sharp. Check out the trailer and more info at www.olympiafilmsociety.org!

11:30 a.m., Capitol Theater

Free

MPowerment study session

MPowerment's queer study group

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Border's Books

Monday, February 22

The Schneiders of Schneider Creek: Rediscovering a Pioneer Family

The State Capital Museum/ Washington State Historical Society presents local author Deborah Jane Ross. Ross will be speaking about and reading from her new book, Konrad and Albertina, the true story of the Schneider Pioneer family. Deborah will be signing copies of her book in the Coach House.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., State Capital Museum

\$2 donation

Tuesday, February 23

Composting Workshop in Red Square

Food grows more food! Learn how to close the loop between your kitchen and your garden. By Evergreen's Organic Farm and RAD Sustainability.

12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24

Urban Horticulture & Ecological Restoration

You are invited to a panel presentation where Paul Cereghino from NOAA on Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration will be speaking about Urban Horticulture and Ecological Restoration. Find more information at www.southsoundprairies.org.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

SEM II D1105

Free

COMMUTER APPRECIATION DAY
February 24th from 8am to 11am
At the Library Bus Loop

**Thanks for choosing an alternate route school,
come get free coffee and a hug!!!
listen for our announcements on KAOS**



Jason Trent

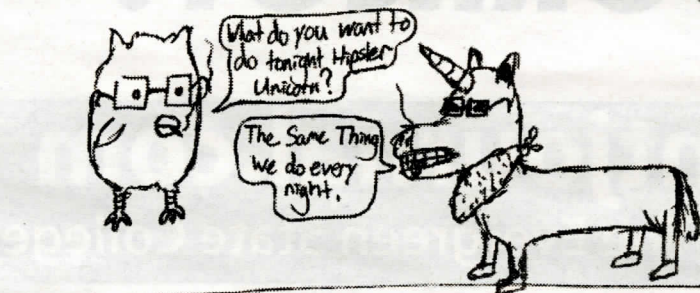
Benji Friedman



Ryan Buck

JASON'S SECRET

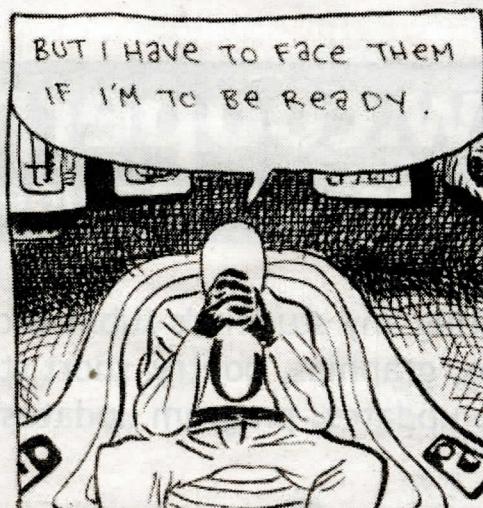
Brian King



ZEROSPACE

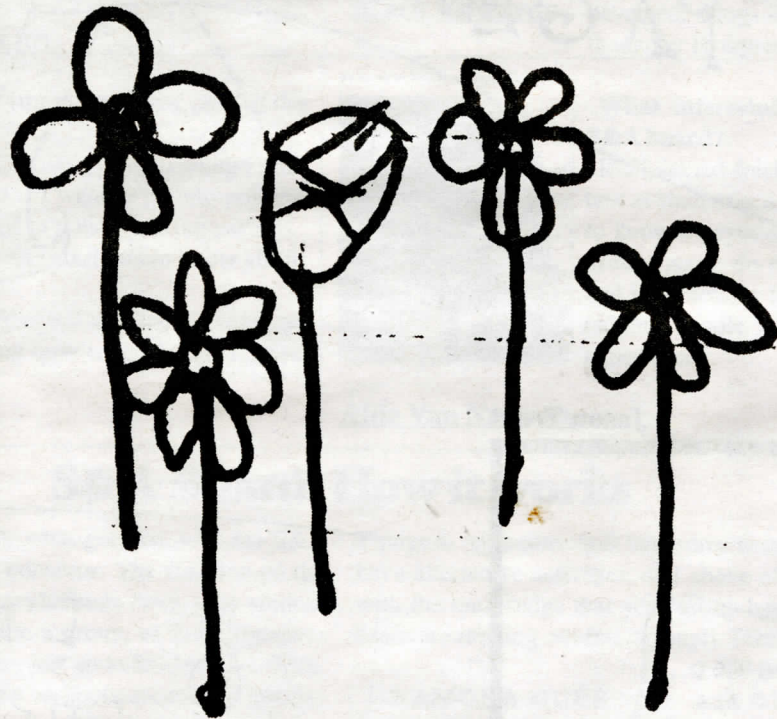


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