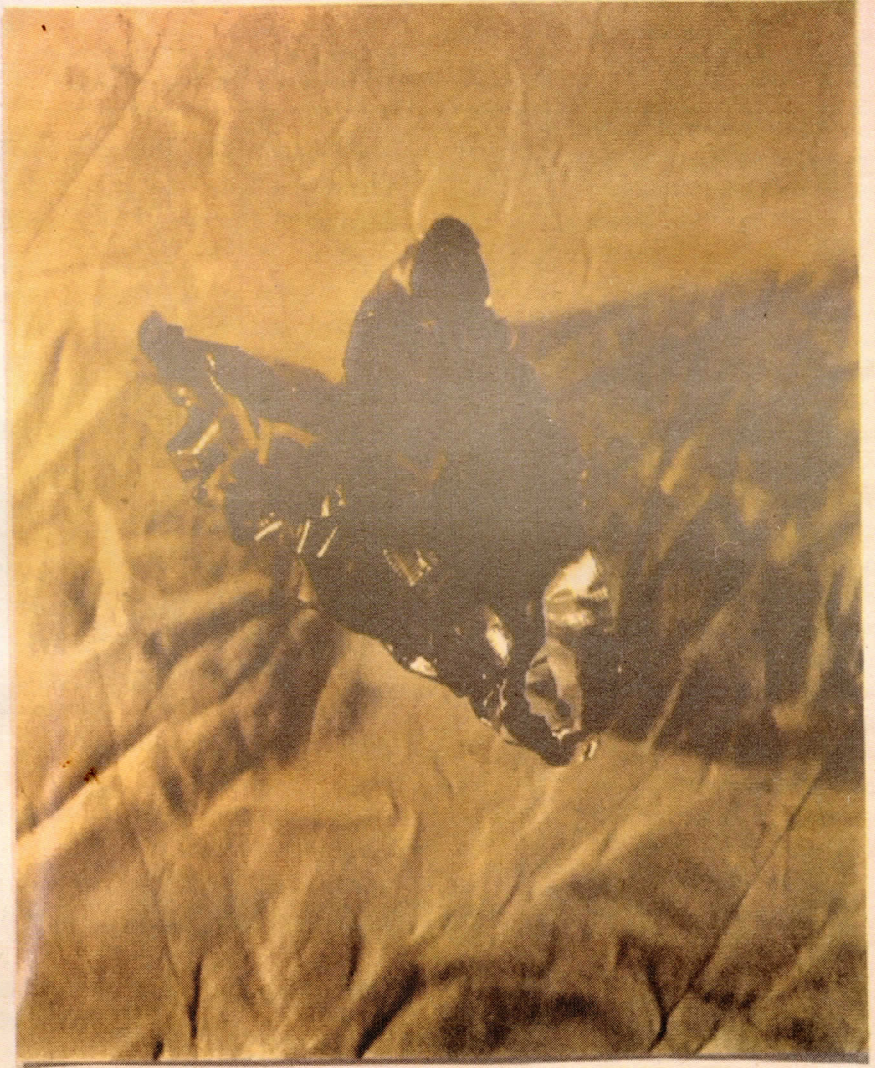


the COOPERPOINT

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Mon. & Thur. 5 to 6 p.m.

COVER ART

By Hannah Swanson

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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 Thursday during the school year and distributed throughout the Olympia area. Our content is also available online at www.cooperpointjournal.com.

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

Our office is located on the third floor of the Campus Activities Building (CAB) at The Evergreen State College in room 332 and we have open student meetings from 5 to 6 p.m every Monday and Thursday.

WRITE FOR US:

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

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.

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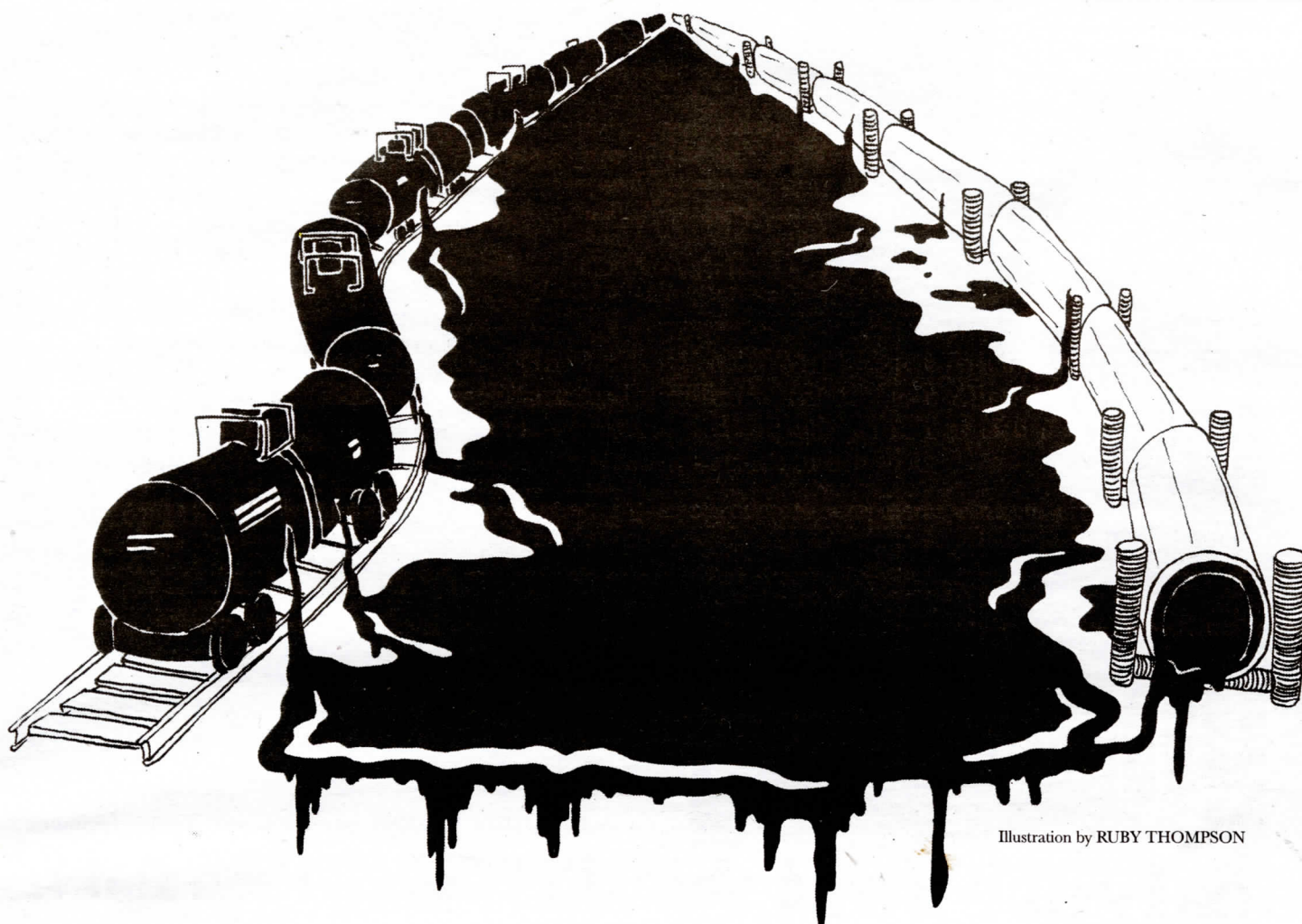


Illustration by RUBY THOMPSON

Oil Trains: The Bigger Pipeline

OIL TRANSPORTATION IGNITES ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY DEBATE IN WASHINGTON

By Josh Wolf

The Keystone XL pipeline has become a monumental symbol for the environmentalist movement in the United States: should the world's largest consumer of oil approve or reject the 830,000-barrel-per-day pipeline? Democrats and Republicans have debated Keystone XL on the national stage for years, and media outlets placed the pipeline in the center of controversy when protesters opposed the project. And while the Keystone XL is currently the focal point of environmentalism in the U.S., proposed oil train projects in Washington state have gone largely unnoticed in the media. If the currently proposed oil train projects come to pass in Washington state, more oil would travel over Washington's railroads than through the controversial Keystone XL.

Ten new oil train terminals and refineries in Washington are seeking permits of approval from the government, and if all of the oil train projects are approved and built, Washington's oil-by-rail capacity would increase from a maximum of 185,000 barrels carried per day, to a maximum 838,900 barrels, according to a report released by the Sightline Institute, an independent research group in Seattle.

The proposed oil train terminals and refineries would either be built or expanded at Ferndale (outside of Bellingham), Anacortes, Grays Harbor, Tacoma, and Van-

couver. The facility at Vancouver would be the largest oil-by-rail facility in the U.S.

This potential 450 percent increase of oil-by-rail in Washington would be a massive expansion of fossil fuels in the state, and while Washington oil trains have yet to breach the mainstream, the proposals are already being met by a broad coalition that opposes oil trains.

This alliance of local politicians, environmentalists, doctors, firefighters, and labor leaders sent an open letter to Gov. Jay Inslee on Nov. 21, voicing their concerns with the proposed oil train proj-

ects. The letter represents a statewide effort in taking a stand against oil trains, and signees include two Port of Olympia Commissioners, the president of Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, the president of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, the president of Grays Harbor Audubon, the president of Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Association, as well as city council members from Aberdeen and Spokane.

The group writes that the proposed oil terminals and refineries fall directly under the "executive jurisdiction" of Gov. Inslee, and the letter asks Inslee to deny per-

mits of construction for the proposed oil-by-rail projects.

The letter states that oil train derailments, spills, and explosions

"Since July 2013, there have been nine serious oil train derailments across North America—more than in the past four decades combined."

- Olympia Mayor Steven Buxbaum

would threaten public safety, endanger drinking water and marine life, and violate tribal treaty rights. The letter also states that the projects could "threaten the very essence of Washington state," and would go against the governor's "commitment to a clean energy future and a robust sustainable economy."

The letter was written after the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) held a public meeting

in Olympia to hear public comments on its \$300,000 study of marine and rail transportation of oil, which was funded by the Legislature, and expedited by Inslee. The study focuses "on developing recommendations to foster public health and safety, environmental protection, and respect for tribal treaty rights," according to the report. The DOE's report, which is in an interim draft form, was presented to the governor and Legislature in December, and will be finalized on March 1st.

The report recommends greater funding for Washington's Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program, as well as greater funding for "local first responder firefighter equipment," and many of the speakers at the public meeting were concerned with possible explosions, due to the highly volatile Bakken crude oil from North Dakota, which makes up one third of the oil transported by rail in Washington.

One concern is derailments and explosions, which firefighters say the state is not prepared for. "Even the largest and most sophisticated fire departments in Washington are not adequately prepared or equipped," said Kent Firefighter Geoff Simpson, who represented the Washington Council of Firefighters at the DOE's public meeting. "One thing is clear from all the explosions and derailments," said Simpson. "There is no safe way to transport Bakken crude oil by rail."

"Since July 2013, there have been nine serious oil train derailments across North America—more than in the past four decades combined," said Olympia Mayor Steven Buxbaum, Evergreen alumni and faculty. These derailments included an explosion in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, killing 47 people, and destroying 40 buildings. Nathaniel Jones, Olympia mayor pro tem, pointed out that "More than 1.2 million gallons spilled from oil trains in 2013."

As the opposition against oil-by-rail in Washington grows, 16 cities and counties have passed "resolutions voicing their concerns around oil trains," including the Port of Olympia, and the port cities of Vancouver and Hoquiam.

With the state poised to approve or deny an expansion of oil trains transportation, there is the possibility of more oil passing through Washington than the Keystone XL. The state's leaders are gearing up for action on oil-by-rail as the new legislative session begins, and people are organizing against the proposed pipeline by rail.

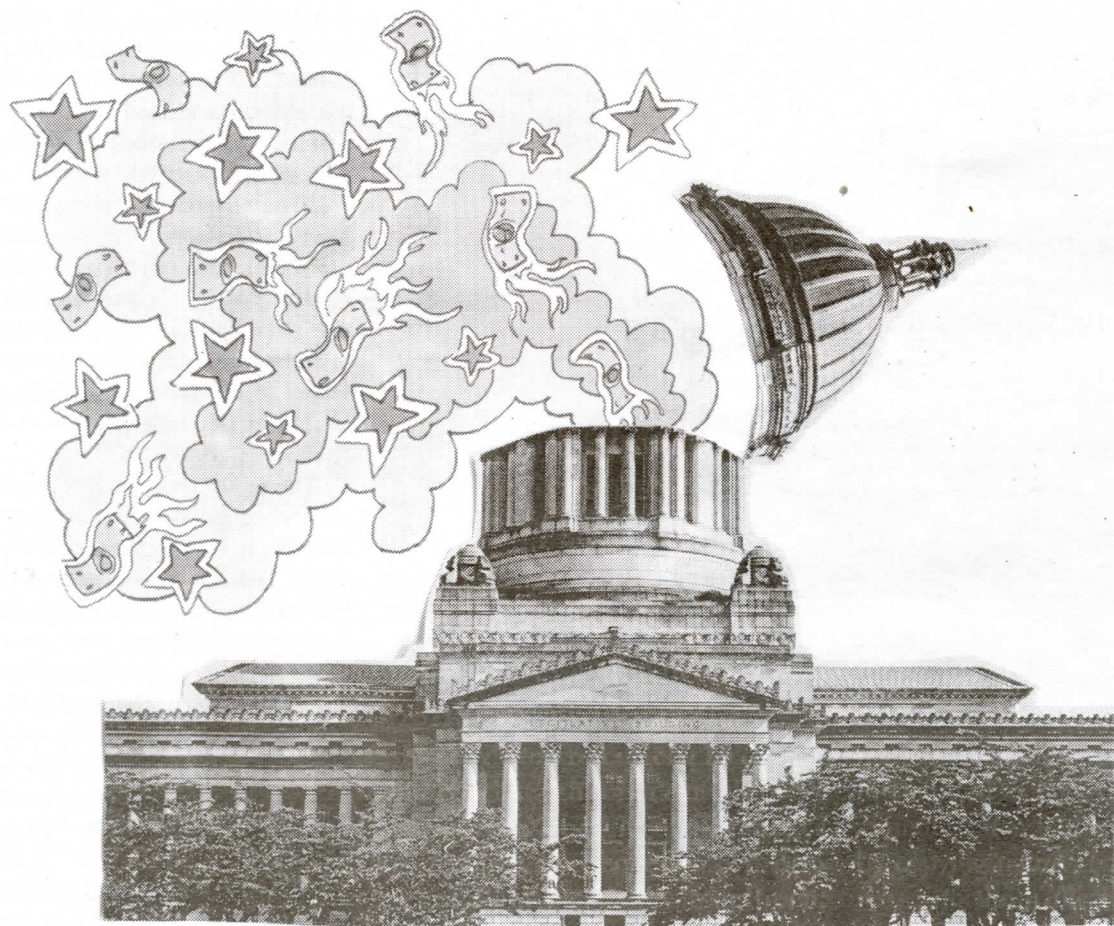


Illustration by RUBY THOMPSON

Budgetocalypse 2015

STATE BUDGET BATTLE COULD HAVE BIG IMPACTS ON EVERGREEN'S FUTURE

By Issac Scott

Evergreeners frustrated with the lack of program options this quarter should pay close attention as the State Legislature meets this month, where lawmakers face a multi-billion dollar budget crisis that could have lasting impacts on Evergreen. Washingtonians have already felt the second largest tuition hikes in the nation since the 2008 recession, with tuition at Evergreen nearly doubling in the past six years due to major cuts in funding. The college prepared for possible 15 percent cut ahead of this year's legislative session, where lawmakers will negotiate a new budget for the next two year period.

As it stands, lawmakers could fly a Boeing airplane through the hole in Washington's budget. The state expects to be about \$4.4 billion short of what it needs to maintain current levels and implement newly mandated investments in K-12 education, according to the state Office of Financial Management (OFM). Three years ago, the Washington Supreme Court ruled in the McCleary decision that lawmakers were failing to adequately fund public schools. Then, in November's midterm election, voters approved Initiative 1351 to build new schools and reduce K-12 class sizes, but did not include any measures to pay the price tag. The state estimates that to

fully satisfy both demands would cost around \$3.3 billion dollars over the next two years. That's money may have to come out of existing state resources like Ever-

"This may be the worst budget situation we've seen... We're already at such a low level that even the status quo is not acceptable."

- Kim Justice

green if no new taxes are implemented to pay for it.

Meanwhile, existing state taxes are failing to provide adequate funding for what already is in place, about \$1.2 billion short of what the state needs to maintain the status quo.

A main problem, according to Kim Justice, senior budget analyst at the nonpartisan Washington Budget and Policy Center, is Washington's antiquated tax system which relies heavily on retail sales tax, and taxes the poor at higher rates than the wealthy.

"In Washington, people with lower incomes pay disproportionately more of their incomes in taxes," Justice says. "If you make less than \$20,000 a year you pay 17 percent of your in-

come in taxes, and if you make more than \$430,000 a year you pay only about 3 percent of your income in taxes. It is very upside down."

Washington is one of only five states without any form of personal or corporate income tax, and relies heavily on retail sales tax. In 2013, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy condemned Washington's tax system as the most regressive in the nation, meaning it most disproportionately taxes the poor compared to the wealthy. According to the Institute, "Washington is highest-tax state in the country for poor people."

Because Washington taxes are not directly extracted from

Washington has the most regressive tax system in the nation, meaning it most disproportionately taxes the poor compared to the wealthy.

incomes, tax revenues have not kept pace with growing incomes as the economic recovery picks up speed, leaving the state deeply in the red.

Overall, tax revenue as a percentage of personal income in Washington is at a historic low, ranking 35th in the nation, according to the Office of Financial Management, equaling only about 9.7 percent of total income in the state. The OFM says if tax collections in Washington were at the U.S. average of 10.7 percent of income, the state would generate about \$2.8 billion more a year in revenue.

Governor Jay Inslee has called for new taxes to stave off sweeping budget cuts. His proposed budget, released in December, would include a new capital gains tax to raise an estimated \$1.6 billion by taxing high-end financial transactions like the sale of stocks, bonds, and properties.

"Washington has a structural budget problem—a problem largely the result of an unfair, antiquated, and inefficient revenue and tax system," Inslee's budget proposal states. "And our tax system places a dispro-

portionately higher burden on low- and middle-income households."

Inslee's plan would use additional revenue from raising taxes and eliminating some industry tax breaks to freeze college tuition rates and boost education funding.

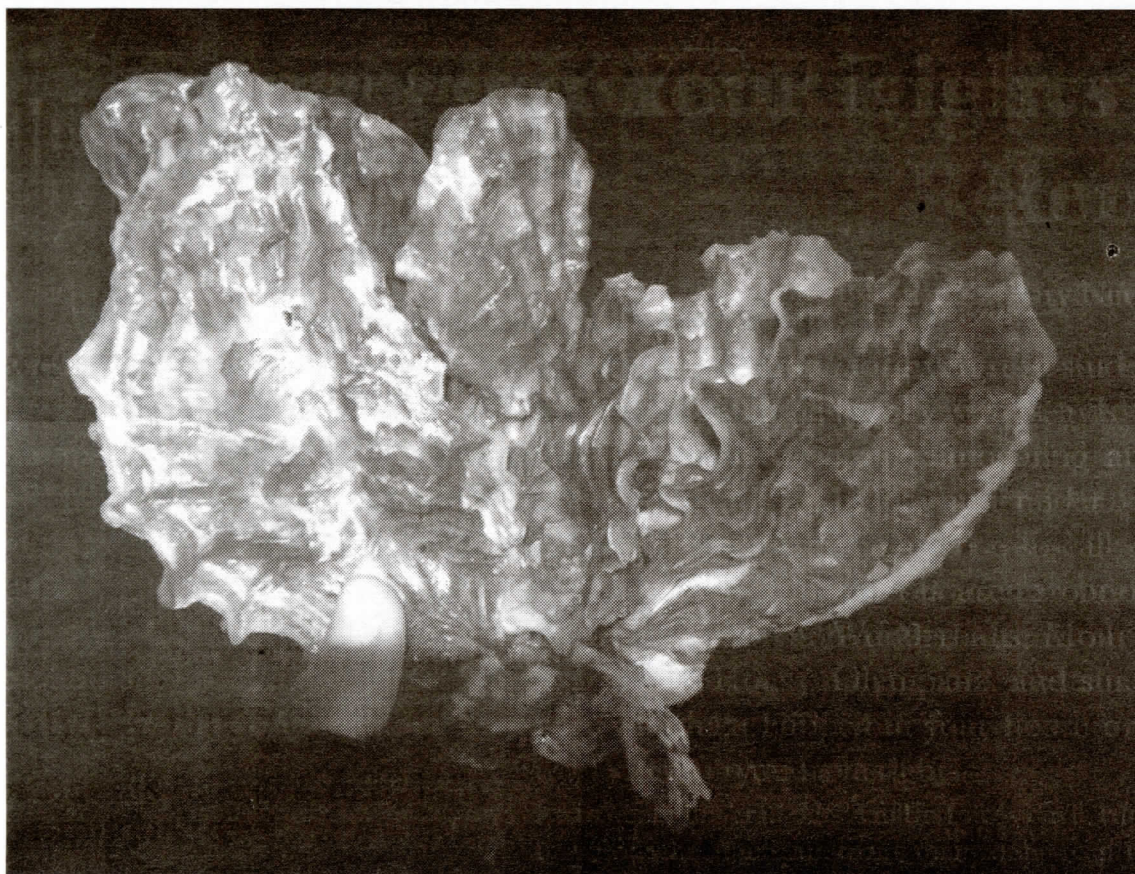
But new taxes are unlikely to make it into the final budget with Republicans in control of the state Senate for the first time in eight years.

"In my personal perspective, I think this may be the worst budget situation we've seen," Justice says. After \$10 billion in budget cuts following the global economic recession of 2008, Justice says, "we're already operating at such a low level that even the status quo is not acceptable."

Without new tax revenues to fill the gap, state programs face further cutbacks. Last year, Governor Inslee instructed every state agency, including Evergreen, to prepare budgets for 15 percent reductions in state funding. For Evergreen students, this could mean more of what we've already seen: exploding tuition costs, fewer class options, and staff layoffs.

Meanwhile, Washington has repeatedly conceded enormous tax breaks to corporations, such as Boeing, attempting to prevent jobs from migrating to different states. In 2013, Washington gave Boeing the largest tax break by a state to a corporation in history, valued at \$8.7 billion over the next quarter-century, the Seattle Times reported. Regardless of receiving this concession from the state, Boeing announced in September plans to move 2,000 Seattle-area jobs to Oklahoma and Missouri by 2017, mostly high-paying engineering positions.

In the past six years, Washington-resident tuition at Evergreen increased over \$3,800 while state funding to the college was cut nearly in half, according to the college's budget office. Out-of state tuition went up over \$7,500 in the same period. For the first time, Evergreen students now pay more of the college funding than does the state. Today, Washington pays only 38 percent of Evergreen's budget, compared to 68 percent in the 2007-08 school year and 75 percent in 1990.



Oysters face risks from an increasingly acidic ocean due to increasing carbon emissions. Photo courtesy the Evergreen Shellfish Club.

What are Greeners Doing About Ocean Acidification?

SEA LIFE FACES IMPACTS FROM CHANGING OCEAN CHEMISTRY

By Devon Merriman

Some think of climate change as a crisis we will face in the future, but the shellfish industry and the organisms they depend on have already been feeling the effects. Shellfish farmers have witnessed mass die-offs of oyster larvae, with many concluding that at least part of the reason is that the ocean is increasing in acidity. But oyster babies aren't the only ones who could be impacted, as changes in ocean water could be a threat to other sea creatures as well. Scientists at Evergreen, and around the world, are studying marine organisms to predict how ocean ecosystems will be affected.

Next to melting ice caps, ocean acidification is another major threat posed by carbon dioxide emissions. Die-offs of shellfish are one impact of this phenomenon. Although hatchery oysters grow in artificial settings, seawater is used in their environment. Because the oceans naturally absorb CO₂, its waters are becoming increasingly acidic, compromising the strength of their shells.

"This makes them more vulnerable to predators," said Pauline Yu, a biology professor at the Evergreen State College. "But there's also the success rate. If the babies don't develop properly, chances are they won't be able to metamorphose into adults." This is obviously bad news for the shellfish industry, which contributes around \$270 million a year to the Pacific Northwest economy.

The dissolution of CO₂ into the ocean leads to the release of hydrogen ions, which make the ocean more acidic. This addition can be espe-

cially damaging along the coast of the Pacific Northwest, where it can intensify upwellings. Upwellings are natural acidification events in which surface waters are blown toward the middle of the ocean and the deeper, colder, and more acidic waters surge up to replace it.

Some marine organisms struggle to survive in this more acidic environment, particularly those with shells made of calcium carbonate. Oysters, some plankton, and even our own mascot, the geoduck, have calcium carbonate shells that are potentially threatened by rising ocean acidity. These organisms need carbonate ions to build their shells, but since carbonate ions are negatively charged and hydrogen ions are positively charged, the hydrogen ions are attracted and bind to them, "stealing" the carbonate ions from the shellfish. Since the ingredients to build their shells are not available, these organisms end up with weaker ones. And even after

their shells are built, the extra hydrogen ions floating around in the water can still dissolve them, further weakening their shells and lowering their life spans. Because these calcified invertebrates serve as food for many other marine organisms, scientists fear that die-offs could move up the food chain, affecting much more than just the shellfish industry.

Nevertheless, farmers and scientists have worked together to figure out ways to mitigate the effects. Taylor Shellfish Farms, Inc. is the biggest shellfish producer in the U.S., and since 2013, they have been treating their water with sodium carbonate before it reaches their oyster larvae. By adding carbonate to the water, the oysters have enough for their shells before they are set into the natural environment. So far, the larvae have been doing well. But this doesn't mean the battle is won. "As conditions get worse in the coming years, the animals that are doing okay right now

(that are in the bay where we don't treat the water) might not be okay in ten years or so," said Benoit Eudeline, a researcher for Taylor Shellfish. "We seem to have some control over the hatchery conditions, but we have no control over the bay, so it's very worrying what might come next."

RESEARCHING ANIMALS

In response to the threat, scientists are gathering knowledge about this issue and testing solutions around the globe. Biologists are investigating the effects on organisms with calcium carbonate shells. One of these biologists is Evergreen professor Pauline Yu.

Before becoming a professor, Yu studied sea urchins at the University of California at Berkeley. "Like oysters and clams, sea urchins also have calcified parts [made of calcium carbonate]. Superficially, sea urchins look like their skeleton is on the outside, but it's actually covered by a really thin layer of skin, so it's technically an endoskeleton, like ours."

But that layer of skin isn't enough to protect sea urchins from acidification. Their skin is permeable, allowing hydrogen ions to pass through and dissolve their skeletons.

Some marine organisms struggle to survive in this more acidic environment, such as oysters, plankton, and geoducks.

In her study, Yu collected urchins from the coast of California and combined their eggs and sperm to create embryos. These sea urchin embryos were placed in a special flow-through aquarium with a valve that can adjust the level of CO₂ going through it very precisely. Some developing sea urchins were exposed to the high levels of CO₂ expected in the future, while the control group lived in waters that resembled current conditions.

"We found that sea urchins, to some extent, could tolerate pretty high levels of CO₂," said Yu. "A fair number of sea urchins survived, however their skeletons were definitely smaller by around 10 to 15 percent."

RESEARCH AT EVERGREEN

Evergreen students are also interested in studying the possible repercussions of acidification.

Derek King, an alumni of Evergreen, is one of the founders of the Evergreen Shellfish Club. While he

was an undergrad, he did research on how ocean acidification could possibly affect a predator of shellfish, an invasive species of snail called the Japanese oyster drill.

"They will actually drill into the oyster using a kind of mechanical or acid drilling, and eat the meat side," King said. "I was curious in my research whether the drills would be more efficient in an acidic situation."

He explained that his results were inconclusive due to small sample size and losses, but with what he had, he ended up finding that the drills were not as successful. "I can't say one way or another, but these animals have an ability to really understand their environment through smell and it's possible that in a more acidic situation, those animals might have a harder time distinguishing between those smells."

"Students who have carried out ocean acidification projects have learned a huge amount. They have to learn a lot of different skills and techniques," said Erik Thuesen, a biology professor at Evergreen. However, there are several difficulties that arise if you're an Evergreen undergraduate wanting to study ocean acidification. One hurdle is the time constraints you have as an undergraduate. Many projects need to be finished within 3 months, which, on a biological standpoint, is pretty short. Graduate students, on the other hand, have the time to focus and invest the energy required to do these time-consuming experiments.

Another problem is that the equipment to make these projects easier to conduct is not available at Evergreen, specifically the Coulometer for Total Inorganic Carbon in seawater. First, someone would need to find a technician who can take care of it and who can teach students how to use it. The instrument would also be hard to maintain due to the changing nature of Evergreen's system: the classes available change from year to year. "The equipment itself is not that expensive," said Thuesen. "If we had enough people devoted to doing that then I think we could get it. But it's hard to justify when you are only going to use it every other year."

Although it is difficult at Evergreen to carry out a publishable paper on ocean acidification, Yu hopes that once she gets her lab set up this summer, she could incorporate some local projects into future marine science curricula.

There are still many unanswered questions on ocean acidification. A big challenge is designing realistic experiments that combine other factors, like warming temperatures of the oceans, along with the acidification component. There are also studies of plants that could help coastal oceans by taking the CO₂ out of the water with photosynthesis, like seagrass and seaweed. But the most effective solution, of course, is to cut down on human-caused CO₂ emissions.

KAOS 89.3 FM TOP 20

Albums for the week of Jan. 4

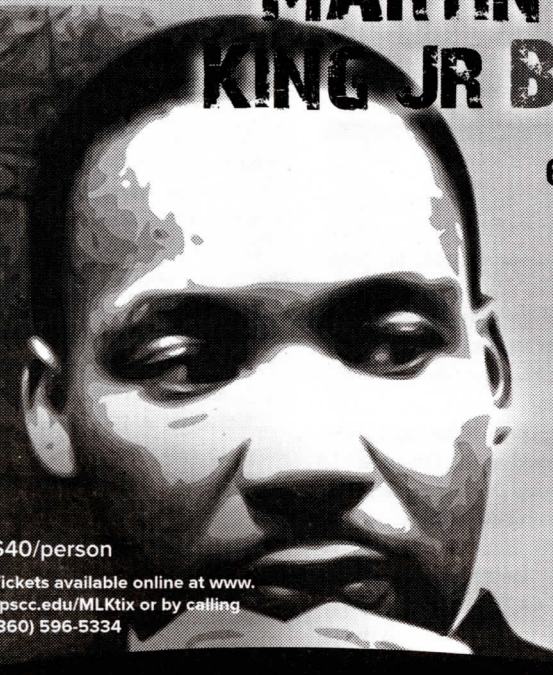


- 1 Vashti Bunyan - Heartleap
- 2 V/A - Native North America Vol 1
- 3 Batida - Dois
- 4 The Human Experience - Embraced
- 5 The Pine Hill Haints - The Magik Sounds of The Pine Hill Haints
- 6 The Roamin' Jasmine - S/T
- 7 From Indian Lakes - Absent Sounds
- 8 Solaris - Solaris Radio
- 9 La Sucursal de la Cumbia - Cumbia a Domicilio
- 10 Steve Taylor & The Perfect Foil - Goliath
- 11 Lisa LeBlanc - Highways, Heartaches and Time Well Wasted
- 12 Hungry Cloud Darkening - Glossy Recall
- 13 Arca - Xen
- 14 V/A - Ten Cities
- 15 Silk Rhodes - S/T
- 16 Cooly G - Wait 'Til Night
- 17 Clark - Clark
- 18 Bob Dylan & the Band - The Basement Tapes Vol. II
- 19 Falty DL - Marks EP
- 20 Run the Jewels - Run the Jewels 2




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Proposed Bill Would Reduce Penalties for Drug Crimes

By Felix Chrome

In a move to lessen the penalties for drug possession, House Rep. Sherry Appleton has filed a new bill in the Washington Legislature that would reduce most drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor. Rep. Appleton, from Port Orchard, filed the bill ahead of the Legislature's 2015 session, which started Jan. 12 and runs through March.

Under current law, possession of a controlled substance, which includes all illegal drugs, regulated pharmaceuticals, and 40 grams or more of marijuana, is a Class C felony. This type of felony carries a penalty of up to five years in prison.

Appleton's proposal, House Bill 1024, would reclassify the possession of controlled substances to a misdemeanor, reducing the penalty to a fine or no more than 90 days in jail. However it would not cover "possession with intent to manufacture or distribute," so larger amounts would remain a felony. The threshold for what is beyond personal use varies depending on the drug and how it is classified.

Six other Democratic representatives co-sponsored Appleton's bill, including Rep. Chris Reykdal of the 22nd district, which includes Olympia, Tumwater, and Lacey.

The bill would lessen strain on the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC), which is preparing for a potential 15 percent budget cut this coming year. In a letter to the Legislature, DOC Secretary Bernard Warner stated that even at current funding levels, "the impact of budget cuts due to the economic downturn have been challenging to our staff and the agency."

According to the budget proposal submitted by the Washington DOC, prisons were already operating at more than 100 percent capacity in 2014, and with continuations of current policies,

overcrowding is expected to get worse.

In contingency plans for further cuts, the DOC said they would have to reduce the number of inmates by 4,700. Reducing sentencing for drug possession could help achieve this by saving the DOC an estimated \$1,974,000 in the next fiscal year, according to documents the DOC submitted to the Washington Office of Financial Management.

Appleton and four co-sponsors filed a nearly identical bill (House Bill 2116) in the 2014 legislative session. This bill was sent to the House Public Safety Committee and had a public hearing, but was never brought to the house floor for a vote.

According to the fiscal note attached to HB 2116, if passed, about 9,000 cases per year would be charged as misdemeanors instead of felonies. The same note estimates that 48 jail beds and 360 prison beds could be cut.

The proposed Washington bill follows a California measure, passed by voters in November, that defelonized all drug possession for personal use. As the first state to do this, California demonstrated a dramatic reversal in drug war policies, largely because they faced ongoing problems of prison overcrowding and budgetary shortfalls.

The House Public Safety Committee scheduled the bill for a public hearing on Jan. 16 at 10 a.m. Anyone who wants to share their opinion about the bill is welcome to speak at this hearing.

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So You Want to Smoke Weed?

OUR GUIDE TO SMOKING THE CHRON ABOVE THE LAW

By Garrett Bekemeyer

So it's the year 2015 and you live in Washington, the Evergreen State. And maybe, for some ridiculous or completely justified reason, you have not yet indulged in pot. Some people call it weed. Others refer to it as the classic *marijuana*. Hemp. Herb. Dope. Doobie. Whatever you label it, it's legal in Washington, and the state began issuing licenses last summer. It's out there, so why not give it a whirl.

Now, the Cooper Point Journal feels it is our obligation to inform you questioning, weed-wondering individuals what legal pot really means. Like, why can't you just pick the dang stuff up at Texaco when you go on your beer runs? And how much effort are the cops going to put into hassling you and your legal right to a grand old time? So, hold onto your butts, as we tread lightly into the wild and wacky world of weed in Olympia WA, U.S.A.

I'm an 18-year-old incoming fresh to Evergreen, ready to blaze it 24/7

Sorry there sport, as marijuana is classified as a schedule 1 controlled substance under federal law, unless you're 21, you can't have it, can't look at, can't think about it, and certainly can't buy it. You know, sort of like our good old pal alcohol. Moreover, possession and use of marijuana is prohibited at Evergreen since we are funded federally and must adhere to federal law.

Alright I'm 21, how much can I have and can I still get in trouble?

You bet your tush you can still get in trouble. If you are caught with more than 1 ounce of usable marijuana, you're subject to be prosecuted under state law. Along with just an ounce, you'll be safe with any marijuana-related paraphernalia, 16 ounces of solid marijuana-infused product (such as pot brownies or cookies), or/and 72 ounces of liquid marijuana-infused product (oil). Washington state's Initiative 502 set forth the legalization of recreational marijuana and allows the creation of a licensed and regulated system for weed production and distribution, under state law. However, I-502 does not trump federal law. Federal law still holds that the production, distribution, sale, possession, and use of marijuana is illegal.

But what the heck does that mean, exactly? That's sort of what people have been trying to figure out. There is an astronomical amount of legal mumbo-jumbo that transcends my realm of thinking. But look—basically, you'll be okay. If you somehow acquire too much weed for you to handle, don't go passing it out downtown to everyone you meet. Use your brain. The cops can't just kick down your door and take all of your pot for no damn reason; you have

rights. The Seattle Police Department has labeled the use of marijuana as the lowest law-enforcement priority. We can hope to see this reflected elsewhere in the state, but no other such statements by other departments were found.

Well shit I guess it's worth a shot! Where exactly can I acquire weed... legally?

First, we need to clarify that there is a difference in medical marijuana and recreational marijuana. Medical marijuana is regulated entirely differently and we're not really going to get into that. But if you put the time into looking that up yourself and get that magical card that says "hell yeah you need weed for your health," there are a handful of dispensaries for that



around Olympia, such as Olympia Alternative Medicine on Harrison Avenue, Serious Medicine Collective, or Urban Medicinals downtown.

As for the recreational variety, Olympia only has a couple shops that are open so far. One of which, located out on Pacific Avenue near the Eastside Olympia Food Coop sits Green Lady Marijuana, open every day of the week. We here at the CPJ won't disclose too much, so best go check it out. They have a nifty website listing all their product and a Facebook page to follow for news and insight. Your other option is 420 Carpenter, located on Carpenter Road out in Lacey, with equally accessible hours and the distinction of being the first in Thurston County.

Now that I've got the weed, where in the hell can I light up? If you aren't supposed to smoke a cigarette or drink alcohol someplace in public, well you sure as hell can't smoke weed there. Basically, keep it on private property or you're in for trouble. But as previously stated, use your brain; there are totally places you can get away with lighting one up. Crowds of people in front of clubs and shows are a great place to practice those stealthy tokes. The CPJ does not condone, nor encourage, nor support this behavior.

I got high in the comfort of my own home and need to get out of here, where's the chill places to be in this town when you're high?

If you by some miraculous circumstance find yourself close to Evergreen's campus after coming under the influence—hey don't forget weed is still technically illegal to have on school grounds—try and make your way to the roof of the library and gaze at the revolving colors of the rotating pyramids. Of course, the forest is a tried and true location, complete with its own shrine to stonerdom. Though, nowadays, that might seem a little risky, what with the few unconfirmed reports of campus police following students to the woods. Stay sharp kiddos.

There are a handful of particularly excellent places to be groovin' on that chronic around town, you'll find. If you're looking for nature, try the trails out at Priest Point Park and get yourself to the quaint little beach and stare endlessly into the forms of beached jellyfish. Another option is to just take in the inherent craziness of our downtown and meander around to the odd sights and sounds of hub-bub. You can also sneak your way onto the docks in the harbor at night and get rocked by the waves.

That's all that for now, no one is telling you to or not to smoke weed. It's all up to you and how you feel. There's risk and rewards as with anything else. But hey if you're legally able to do anything in this day and age fucking go for it come on!

UP & COMING

THUR. JAN 15

Le Voyer

404 4th Ave. 8pm
Dubais, Mattress, Morgan and the Organ Donors

Obsidian

414 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+
Science Friction Dance Party

★ Student Art Gallery

Evergreen CAB. 7pm
Sensory! Exhibit Opening

FRI. JAN 16

Deadbeat Olympia

226 N Division St. 8pm
Alexander Anderson Trio, Jeff Mikey and The Bouncy House, Captain Algebra

★ Le Voyer

404 4th Ave. 8pm
Comedy Womb Tour! Hate Free Female Centric Comedy

The Midnight Sun

113 N Columbia St. 8pm
Comedy Grab Bag

★ Photoland Photography Exhibit

414 1/2 4th Ave E. 7pm
Joel Skavdahl, Rosemary Nichelini, Corey Coomes, Rene Garcia, Lily Smith, Barbara Williams-Hauwanga

SAT. JAN 17

Le Voyer

404 4th Ave E. 10pm
Noodlebird, Sunset Flip, Tom Nook

Metcalf Manor

2110 Amhurst St SE. 8pm. \$.21+
Beatrix Sky, Civilx, Dionvox

★ The Midnight Sun

113 N Columbia St. 5pm. \$5-7
Quality Fest

★ Obsidian

414 4th Ave E. 10pm. \$5-7. 21+
Naomi Punk, Transfix, CC Dust

SUN. JAN 18

Le Voyer

404 4th Ave E. 10pm
Slutty Hearts, Fruit Juice

★ Obsidian

414 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+
Obsidian Blade, Xerome, Drippy Inputs, Sponge Baths

MON. JAN 19

Le Voyer

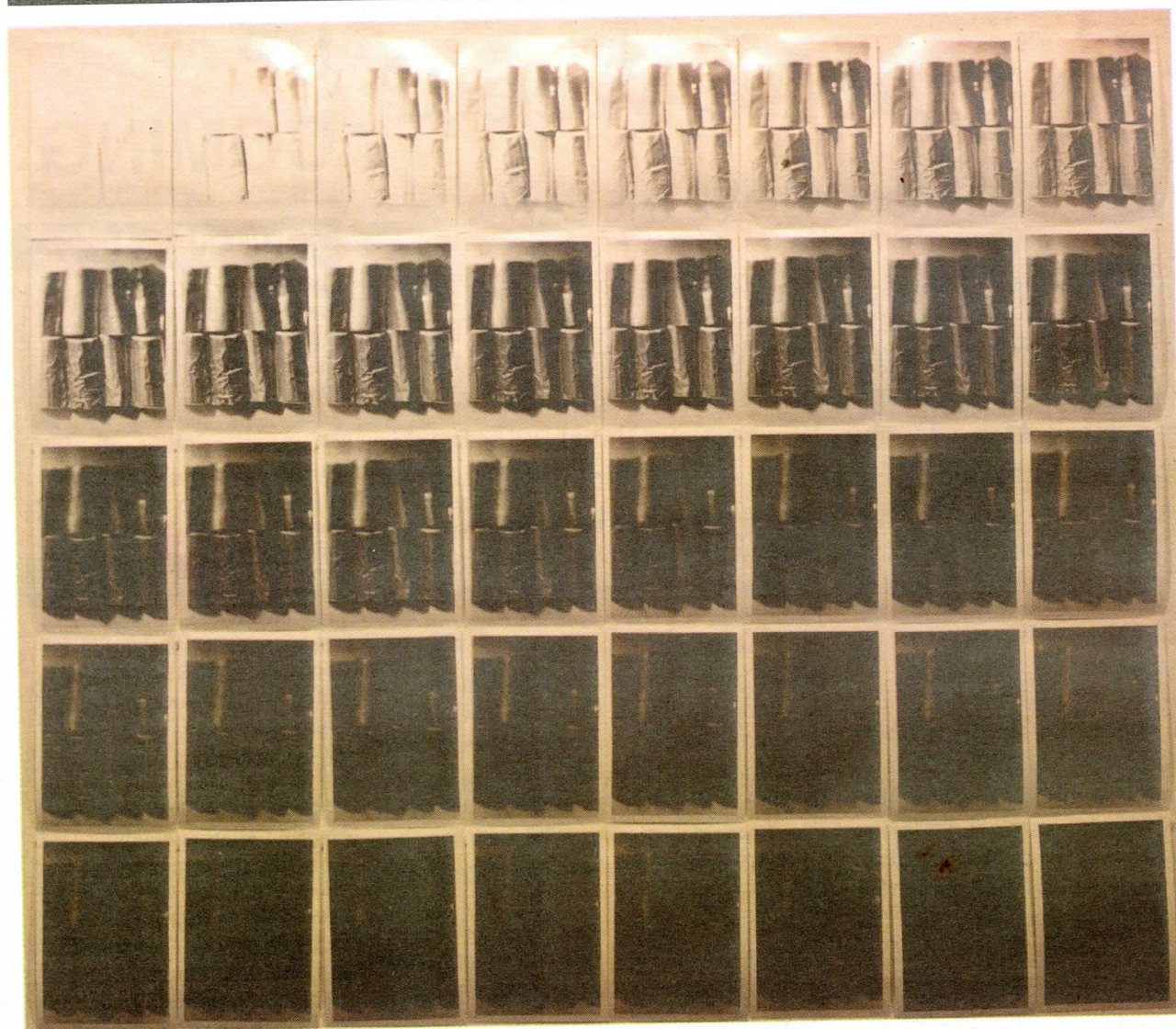
404 4th Ave. 10pm
Supernaught, Black Top Demon, Loser Dog

TUES. JAN 20

Obsidian

414 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+
Punk Night W/ DJ Lil Mascara

★ = Staff Recommended



artist interview: **HANNAH SWANSON**

By Felix Chrome

Our interview hasn't technically started yet, but Hannah Swanson has already pulled out her phone and asks if I want to see the new stuff she's working on. She opens Instagram and scrolls through pictures of glass sculptural pieces against mirrors and black velvet, chatting about technique and photographic theory with a casual excitement that had me asking questions before I've had time to put away my potato chips and start recording.

Swanson is a student at Evergreen, studying photography and art theory. Recently, she has focused on abstraction in photography, both in her own work and from an art history perspective. While a very serious art student with challenging work, she brings a certain playfulness to it as well. When we are done talking Swanson looks at the cover art again then laughs telling me, "I really fucked that one up" and explaining she only created the object seen in these photographs after accidentally dropping a large duct tape grid, making it tangle and stick to itself.

Can you tell me about the series these photographs are from? Last spring I was starting to dabble in abstraction, and I was using that quarter to study where that came from, what lead up to it, and what caused abstraction. Which originated as a kind of refusal of the real, which is an interesting contradiction in photography being that it is a seductively realistic medium. So I was interested in photographing things I was making and by using light I wanted to get as far away from that actual object as possible and make it unrecognizable through my series of steps. So it was taking duct tape, sculpting it, photographing it in black and white, and then taking those black and white negatives into the color dark room and putting them all into a monochrome tone, it was a series of repeated steps. I was interested in the multiple and what it can do when the viewer is looking at that because it creates a simultaneous opening up but also closing in

when you are looking at multiple images of the same thing. My intention with that presentation of it when I showed my work at the end of the quarter was to put the pieces at different parts of the gallery so you would have to track them and then at the back of the gallery there was all of the images in a big grid. It became a game between the viewer and my work. You had to find each piece and they all played off of each other and they all lead into each other so it was like a continuous flow through the space.

The multiple images also seems to illustrate an aspect of your process of doing the same steps but subtly altered. Yeah, absolutely! Especially the piece that is inside, was one of the first things that I did and it was a study of the multiple, but also changing it so those images are the same image but it starts from one second and goes to like forty seconds, and it shows that degradation. That piece specifically is also referencing how the camera works and how like changing the aperture or changing the shutter speed drastically alters what you're photographing.

All of your work seems very aware of the camera as a presence in your art, but there is also a sculptural aspect of these pieces since you made the objects that you were photographing, so I was curious if you have worked with other mediums at all? I have done some instal-

lation work. But I have only dabbled in other things in programs I have been in. But I have done a lot of art history stuff and a lot of my work references the research that I have done. Also a lot of abstraction in photography uses sculptural objects. Specifically, Len Lye and Laszlo Moholy-Nagy both were using sculptural things they were making and then photographing them, so I am really interested in that.

It's also like another step of removal that you are putting in between the object and the image. Yeah, it is, exactly. Abstraction was, like I said before, the refusal of the real but also denying representation which is a thing I have a problem with in abstraction, but is still interesting.

Why do you have a problem with that? Because you can't... because there is no possible way to deny representation when you are physically taking a camera that is rendering something that exists in our reality, and you can work within that or work against it but it's there and it always will be there. There's an indexicality; the image is always going to reference something. It's inescapable.

But doesn't it change that when you've manipulated images in such a way that because the viewer can't tell what they are representative of they do begin to deny representation in some way? Yeah, yeah absolutely. When I was working that way it was kind of this sneaky attitude that I had like 'oh people aren't going to know what I'm photographing' so it becomes this sneaky game. And looking back on that it really shows the power dynamic, that I have a camera and I can take a picture of these things and manipulate it so people cannot understand what it is. I think of the camera as an extended eye, but it can render things our eyes cannot see and I was using that to its utmost power.

What drew you to photography? I started doing photography when I was a baby, like 13, and I don't know what drew me in at that time. But for the last two and half years, I've spent a pretty big amount of my time doing theory and research and reading, reading, reading, and writing about it, so I haven't done a whole lot of work. There is a lot of problematic things with the camera, and I like addressing those things, and doing work that's important for myself. It helps me figure out things, and understand things, and work through things.

Why are you interested in art that operates on such an intellectual level? I use photography as a tool to help me understand something. I like my work, when viewed, to be challenging to look at, and bring up questions. I think it is very easy to get an emotional response with a camera, not that that's a bad thing, but it's something I want to push against because its so easily achieved by using a body or using things that are very representational. Which is why I think I make things and photograph them in this way, because it is not the norm of what a photograph is meant to do. Photographs are meant to present information, I like thinking that, and when I work I ask what I am presenting to my viewer, what information am I trying to convey, and is that important? It makes my brain work harder.

What are you working on now or planning to do next? I am really stoked because I continued my studies of abstraction last quarter, and was just doing theory and research and writing, so I am really ready to do work this quarter. I am in Amjad Faur's class and we are specifically doing work in the photography studio and looking at still life painting. And there is a really interesting thing when you are looking at the same things on a table and these object are presented in different perspectives but they are all in one space. I am really interested in recreating that. Basically putting objects in different perspectives and how they take up space within an image, and to alter the perspective of each object to throw the viewer off. I'm using a lot of mirrors and photographing into mirrors. So it is again making objects and photographing them but in a really formal way that is absolutely referencing Renaissance painting and the still life. Using painting as a reference point is really exciting! And I think it is really important, because everything in photography references some type of painting.



Left and Top: Chain and the Gang performs, led by Ian Svenonius. Below: Госкино plays their Soviet-themed music. BLAINE EWIG

Chain & The Gang Inaugurate Northern's New Home

By Blaine Ewig

It was the Northern: Olympia All-Ages Project's first night back at the Midnight Sun after moving from its Legion Way location. The night started late, but no one in the audience was phased by the lack of punctuality. The place was full of Olympia scene veterans greeting old friends and in the dead of winter, the Midnight Sun felt like summer camp.

Vexx played on the stage, with front-woman Maryjane Dunphe performing on the floor in front of the stage in her usual, erratic manner, which surely could not be contained on the stage the rest of the band played on. Dunphe's stage presence seemed to be

some kind of reversal of performed femininity as most people understand it. Her mannerisms became more pronounced, confrontational, and aggressive throughout Vexx's set, and by the end of the show, her once polished appearance had devolved into an unbut-

toned, sweaty, disheveled disarray. The experience of watching this was only made better by the rest of the band's impeccable cohesiveness.

The Midnight Sun is a long and narrow space, with a tiny stage in the back left corner. The venue is painted pitch-black, so even with all the lights on, you have to squint to make out the faces of anyone in the room. The usual performer/audience dynamic is debased by the structure of the Midnight Sun. What's strange about the venue is the black wooden risers that wrap themselves around the space, which the audience stands on, positioning themselves above the performers. It's a great set-up for those who like to watch bands perform, but it doesn't lend itself well to any kind of dancing, moshing, or otherwise physical or gestural movements that you might feel inclined to participate in as a result of your enjoyment of music. Following Vexx,

Госкино (pronounced rock-no), and Chain and the Gang performed their sets on the ground, leaving the stage to be occupied by audience members.

Госкино are camp, drag, and a parody of communist imagery that sometimes appears to contradict itself. Госкино's glam rock style and superfluous use of glitter and lamé hotpants is in contrast to its Soviet Union schtick, making it hard to discern how sincere they really are. The group seems to be more about having a good time above all else. The band's name translates to the abbreviated name for the USSR's State Committee for Cinematography, which produced and distributed Soviet propaganda films and played a role in the Union's censorship policies. As the band played against the backdrop of films likely made by the committee which their name references, their vocalist danced in a provocative manner,

"Chain and the Gang" continued on page 10.

Arts & Culture



Weekly Meetings
Wednesdays @ 1pm
 3rd floor of cab

evergreensag@gmail.com Facebook.com/EvergreenSAG @EvegreenSAG



Vexx performs at The Midnight Sun. BLAINE EWIG

“Chain and the Gang” continued from page 9.

gyrating on the mic stand and delivering some pretty impressive high-kicks. By the end of the set, he disrobed his Russian-style floor-length trench coat to reveal an outfit of a black and white striped t-shirt paired with some too-tight gold shorts, complete with a hammer and sickle sewn onto the rear. The crowd nodded their heads in enjoyment to Госкино’s display of lively absurdity as the set drew to a close.

Chain and the Gang, all the way from D.C., closed the night out. Ian

CIA, Monsanto, and Exxon Mobil as purveyors of freedom. “I see progress in paint peeling,” Chain said. Though clearly a performative, sarcastic gesture, the band points out the absurdity of the world we live in. The group’s sound is best summed up by the name of their most recent album; Minimum Rock N Roll. Their songs hang mostly on simple-but-masterful bass lines and standard rock beats, which exist as a sturdy support for Chain’s lyrics. Chain and the Gang’s song are all Svenonius’ critiques-as-examples of everything, from

BY THE END OF THE SET, HE HAD DISROBED HIS RUSSIAN-STYLE FLOOR-LENGTH TRENCH COAT TO REVEAL AN OUTFIT OF A BLACK AND WHITE STRIPED T-SHIRT PAIRED WITH SOME TOO-TIGHT GOLD SHORTS, COMPLETE WITH A HAMMER AND SICKLE SEWN ONTO THE REAR.

Svenonius performs as frontman Chain, and presents himself as car salesman-turned-preacher while his backing band oozes a mellow attitude. You might be familiar with Svenonius; he’s an icon of sorts. In ‘88 he joined punk band Nation of Ulysses, in ‘90 he was deemed Saggiest Boy in America by the now defunct Sassy magazine, has embarked on several other musical endeavours, and has even penned a few books. Svenonius is widely known for his leftist politics. With repeated catch-phrases like “devalue the city,” “down with liberty, up with chains,” and “censorship now,” Chain and the Gang’s performance is seemingly the antithesis of all that is progressive, as well as in stark contrast to what Svenonius himself stands for. During the band’s theme song, frontman Chain explained the band’s neoliberal values, listing organizations such as the

capitalism to our inability to acknowledge the permanence of waste which is no longer visible to us, and even to rock ‘n’ roll itself.

The band’s live performance is undoubtedly better than their recordings, even in the endearingly awkward setting of the Midnight Sun. Chain and the Gang’s charm resides mostly in Chain’s absurdity and the rest of the group’s indisputable cool—an aura that can’t quite be conveyed by sound alone. But that’s not to say their recorded work isn’t worth listening to; it’s just a different, more relaxed experience.

Aside from the change of location and a reduction in frequency, events put on by the Northern will see little change. If the show was any foreshadowing of things to come as a result of the Northern’s move, the future of the all-ages project is sound.



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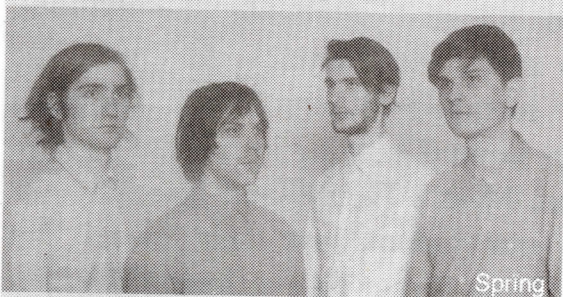
BEST BETS

UP & COMING

ARTS & CULTURE PICKS JAN. 17 - JAN.

By Blaine Ewig & Issac Scott

SATURDAY, JAN. 17



Spring

Quality Fest Hosted at the Midnight Sun, Quality Fest brings together an array of indie bands from around the Pacific Northwest. With 11 bands on the roster ranging from the folk-country of Albatross to the electronic sounds of local artist Jean Nagai's project Chrome Windows, the festival's genre diversersity should

have something for everyone. All of the band performing are of pretty high caliber and skill, but checking out Spring, Pines, and Rubix Shoes is highly recommended. *The Midnight Sun, 113 N Columbia St. 4 p.m - 1 a.m. \$7 / \$5 Student. ALL AGES - BE*

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

Naomi Punk European Tour Kickoff Show w/ Nudes and CC Dust Naomi Punk will be kicking off their next tour at Obsidian, bidding their hometown a temporary adieu to travel across the Atlantic. Self-described "death rock" group Transfix

and the dark, ethereal pop duo CC Dust will be sending them off. If you're into simply-but-beautifully constructed, nuanced music, this is the show for you—that is, if you're of legal drinking age (this show is 21+). *Obsidian, 414 4th Ave E. 10 p.m. \$5-7. 21+ - BE*



Naomi Punk

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21



Hooded Fang

Hooded Fang w/ No Body and Guaranteed Whales Toronto's Hooded Fang may count among a vanguard of Canadian indie rock royalty, but their demeanor comes off as friends happily making catchy garage rock in a basement somewhere. Before the legendary Modest Mouse-via-The Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr got sick and cancelled his tour, Hooded Fang were slated to open for

him on the West Coast last month. Undeterred, the quartet immediately booked their own tour, including this first-time-ever stop in Olympia. Sonically, the quartet picks up where fellow-Canadians The Hot Hot Heat and Wolf Parade left off, with equal pop acuity and extra maple syrup. *Deadbeat Olympia, 226 N Division St. 8 p.m. \$5 donation. ALL AGES - IS*

THURSDAY, JAN. 22

Globelamp, Hex Appeal, Geography Globelamp's witchy indie-folk is endearing and catchy, and frontwoman Elizabeth le Fey has an undeniable star-power. Hex Appeal, from Bellingham, offers up some seriously danceable synth-driven songs reminiscent of early Le Tigre. Their bandcamp describes

them as a "temper tantrum fueled dance party," which is a pretty spot-on description. The lyrically-driven acoustic stylings of Chelsea Weber-Smith and Olympia's own Geography will start off the night at 8pm. Deadbeat usually starts their shows promptly, so get there on time. *Deadbeat Olympia, 226 N Division St. 8 p.m. FREE. ALL AGES. - BE*



Globelamp

FRIDAY, JAN. 23



Strange Wilds

Strange Wilds Album Release w/ Nudes, Vexx and Slouch Seattle punk band Nudes are back in the game after a short break from shows. Their high-energy, chaotic compositions are sure to make make for a great show. Locals Strange Wilds will be releasing new tunes on Sub Pop. If you haven't

seen Vexx or Slouch yet, you're way late to the game. But don't fret—all of these bands will be participating in a night of high-quality pizza and punk rock. What more could you ask for? *Old School Pizzeria, 108 Franklin St NE. 11 p.m. \$5. ALL AGES - BE*

WED. JAN 21

★ **Deadbeat Olympia**
226 N Division St. 8pm
Hooded Fang, No Body, Guaranteed Whales
Le Voyeur
404 4th Ave E. 8:30pm
Open Mic Comedy Night

THUR. JAN 22

★ **Deadbeat Olympia**
226 N Division St. 8pm
Globelamp, Geography, Hex Appeal, Chelsey Weber-Smith
Student Art Gallery
Evergreen CAB. 7pm
Open Mic

FRI. JAN 23

Deadbeat Olympia
226 N Division St. 5pm. FREE
Crowd the Sky, Teach Me Equals, Redrumsey
Obsidian
414 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+
Diamond Life
★ **Old School Pizzeria**
414 4th Ave E. 9pm. 21+
Strange Wilds, Nudes, Vexx, Slouch
★ **La Casa de Hueso**
5pm. \$5 suggested donation
Old Growth Poetry Collective
Benefestival w/ Poets and Live Music
Le Voyeur
404 4th Ave E. 6pm. ALL AGES
Tallest of Mountains (EP Release), Of Sleep, Coast Culture, Brightside, From the Future
Le Voyeur
404 4th Ave E. 6pm. ALL AGES
Big Bad, Nails Hide Metal, The Ground

SAT. JAN 24

Student Art Gallery
Evergreen CAB. 8pm
Dogger, Math Jokes, The Iron Octopus, Erik Jensen
Le Voyeur
404 4th Ave E. 10 pm
Anthropocene
Metcalf Manor
2110 Amhurst St SE. 8pm.
Haunted Summer, Beatrix Sky, Bon Wrath, Jupiter Sprites, The Loud Potions
Timberland Library
313 8th Ave SE. 6:30 pm
The Throwaways: Film Screening and Q&A with Director

SUN. JAN 25

★ **Le Voyeur**
404 4th Ave E. 10 pm
Oh Rose, Albatross, Holy Komodo

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Your Rights Aren't for Rent

By Zachary Newman

It's common for Evergreen students to move from the dorms to a house, usually with friends. Students are lucky, as Olympia is very accommodating and affordable. For instance, my friends and I pay just under \$400 monthly for our house off Bowman Avenue. The so-called house culture in Olympia is well known, with houses around bearing loving names, like Guest House, Wunderhaus, Mom's House, and famously, the Track House. Olympians and students love their houses. But what can happen if your house owner isn't as loving? Do not worry—you have rights.

To better understand the full extent of your rights, there are many online resources, groups and organizations to help you understand your full rights. Solid Ground, an organization based on ending poverty and eradicating racism, has a helpful website that gives a step-by-step analysis of what you can do as a tenant. The Seattle Solidarity Network also works to help unite tenants to make sure their landlords don't run off with their deposits.

Not every landlord is evil though. It's just a matter of fully understanding what you and your friends are getting into. Here's the jist: After you finish the difficult task of finding your house, it's time to ink the lease. You could be subject to one of three types of leases. There's the month-to-month lease, where the lease can be verbal or written, and terminated by the resident at least 20 days before rent is due. Fixed-term leases only exist for a certain amount of time, such as one year or 18 months. A one-way lease acts in the same way as a month-to-month, but differentiates in the way it can be terminated, as it kills your deposit. This makes your landlord happy, but leaves you broke, homeless, and angry.

The government helps keep your landlord in check. It is illegal for the

landlord to randomly change the price of rent without your knowledge. If they do this to you, take them to court! For the legal fans, Washington State Code Chapter 59.18 RCW 59.18.070 covers all of the landlord's duties and responsibilities under pen-

The government helps keep your landlord in check. It is illegal for the landlord to randomly change the price of rent without your knowledge.

alty of law. These duties include making sure the house has locks that work, making sure the house has good enough walls, and making sure the only bugs and rats you have are the cute ones you buy from PetCo.

If your house does not end up working out and you want to leave, do not worry. Unless otherwise stated in your lease,

and as long as you let your landlord know at least 20 days before next rent, they legally cannot stop you. Then, your landlord has fourteen days to return your deposit. If they take longer, you have a court case. Also, your landlord must give a heads up if they intend to enter the property. This will give you time to sweep up and also hide Mister Whiskers since you haven't paid the pet deposit.

Overall, your landlord will most likely be cool. Otherwise, we wouldn't have so many cool student-run houses to hang out in, and campus would be too crowded. Yet, it will serve you well to know your rights in the unfortunate case you need to fight for your home.

Ben Rosen Introduces Qigong to Olympia

By Kathryn L. Herron

Qigong is a Chinese art form dating over 4,000 years that serves as a practice of regulating one's body, mind, and health for meditative and medical purposes. Qigong taps into qi, the Chinese concept of life energy which is said to underlie all things. Through the practice of qigong, one learns to cultivate and develop their own qi, which can lead to improved health and self awareness. Ben Rosen has been studying qigong for five years and will soon be hosting his own qigong classes in downtown Olympia.

Rosen discovered qigong by chance while watching an episode of "Ripley's Believe it or Not." The qigong master featured in the episode happened to live just a few blocks away from Rosen, who sought him out and began to train with him. Through his tutelage, Rosen was introduced to the world of qi and gained a new perspective on life.

Rosen found the style too static and restrictive for his tastes and began seeking out other forms of qigong. His passion for qigong continued and only grew stronger when he met up with a qigong master named Michael Lomax. "It was the most powerful qigong I had ever experienced, and I immediately knew I wanted to dedicate the rest of my life to it," said Rosen.

Along with being a great form of meditation and exercise, qigong also does wonderful things for your health, of which Rosen has benefited greatly. "I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Qigong has been an invaluable form of therapy for my health and well-being. It has allowed me to cope in a very manageable way."

The type of qigong that Lomax teaches is a healing tradition. Rosen is currently in a Medical Qigong programs where is learning to heal others with qigong. His goal is to create a Medical Qigong clinic utilizing these ancient healing modalities in helping others.

Qigong originated with ancient Taoists who viewed everything in nature as being in flow with the universe. According to Rosen, "Many forms of

qigong are based upon forms and postures found in nature such as trees or animals." It was the Taoist view that by copying nature, human beings can return to the natural order of things. Rosen incorporates this into his brand of qigong, known as the Gift of the Tao.

"I like to think of qigong as aligning a radio antenna. You shape a radio antenna and twist it in different ways to get a better signal in the same way you can shape and form your body to natural patterns of energy."

Rosen says that qigong is a never ending practice that will bring you to higher levels of energy and self awareness. "Qigong is a very transformative prac-

tice. It opens you up to a whole new dimension of reality. I believe it's the most rewarding and life changing practice that a person can do." Rosen believes that the experience of qigong transcends words. Practice is the only way one can gain a true understanding of this ancient art form.

Rosen's classes will start on the first Wednesday of February. He will be giving eight classes a month for \$55, with a discounted price of \$35 for students. Classes will be held every Wednesday and Friday evening. Interested in getting a sneak peek? Rosen will be hosting a free workshop hosted by Common Bread on campus on Jan. 22 in the Longhouse at 5:30 p.m.

Students interested in more information are encouraged to visit Rosen's website: www.giftotao.com.

Free Qigong Workshop
Evergreen Longhouse
Jan. 22, 5:30 p.m.



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2:41 PM

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along just fine

2:44 PM

I'm a motherfuckin'
monster

What Nicki Minaj and Tinder Taught Me About Sex and Love

By Kathryn L. Herron

I've never met Nicki Minaj, but I trust her. Following the release of her latest album, *The Pinkprint*, Onika Tanya Maraj has been dubbed "the best rapper alive" by Complex.com. She broke the Billboard Record for the amount of No. 1 singles released by a female rapper—more than any other female artist has accomplished in the 56 years the chart has been around.

Her songs "Super Bass" and "Anaconda" taught me what to look for in a man—a well dressed, successful, charming guy who doesn't adhere to cultural beauty standards. The type of man who could love my curves, treat me good, and make my heart race. Minaj collaborated with Beyoncé for the "****Flawless Remix" and her new song "Feelin' Myself." The two of them taught me that I'm a strong, attractive, independent woman that should be proud of her accomplishments and unwilling to settle for any man who would find me intimidating. And that's to say nothing of the infinite wisdom that can be found in "Beez in the Trap."

So when I found myself single for the first time in five years, I thought to myself, "What would Nicki do?" I wasn't sure, so I decided to make a Tinder account that I could use to channel Minaj's strength and wisdom. I didn't know anything about the app, except that it was basically just a game of "hot or not" that had the potential of leading to sex. A friend described it as a dating app that serves as a more relationship-centered version of Grindr, which made it sound somewhat classy.

My bio was a simple line from "Superbass": "Somebody please tell 'em who the eff I is." I chose a few flattering pictures of myself and then began using the app to make matches. For those who have never used Tinder, it's pretty straightforward. Users upload up to six photographs, write a short bio, and then judge others based on their pictures and bios. If you're a fan, swipe to the right. If you're not, swipe to the left. If you both swipe to the right, you'll be matched and able to communicate. Minaj encourages sexual freedom and expression and she always "wants some more." So, when I first started using the app, I made sure to always swipe to the right. I thought that at the most I'd get a match or two after a few days. In the first 3 minutes alone, I had over 35 matches. My self-esteem successfully boosted, I decided to start using the app as it was intended to be used, with one exception—I only responded to matches with Nicki Minaj lyrics.

It was a fun social experiment that highlight-

ed how thick people who use apps like Tinder can be. I tried to keep my responses short and sweet. I didn't want it to be too obvious that I was speaking in song lyrics. If a conversation lasted longer than 30 minutes, I moved on to chorus lines from some of Minaj's more popular songs. If the conversation lasted over an hour, I came clean and confessed to what I was doing. Of the 35 men I was speaking to, only two realized what I was doing. They replied with Minaj lyrics of their own and I promptly stopped talking to them.

There was something immensely satisfying about being pursued by a man even after telling him that I was "shitting on his whole life" and that "I'll be back at 11, you just act like a peasant." After all this, I learned an important lesson: college age men are horny and they will continue to ask you out for drinks even if you only talk nonsense. Or maybe the sex appeal, raw emotion, and sincerity found in Minaj's songs is just impossible to ignore. Starting conversations with the line, "let me sit on your face" resulted in a hilarious mix of both confusion and overeagerness.

I got so caught up in responding to matches that I wasn't able to keep up with them all. I opened a message from a potential match with a bit of dismay—he had reached out first and instead of saying something vague, he mentioned the fact that we both worked for Evergreen in some capacity and we had a few mutual friends. I couldn't respond to him with Minaj lyrics because I couldn't think of a single line that could work with something so specific and chances were he'd know I was messing with him. The point was to Minaj strangers, not people I may actually speak to or run into someday.

So instead of responding to him with song lyrics, I had a real conversation with him. I only put my phone down when I had to. Otherwise, I was talking to him. I became more interested in what he was saying than in anything else. We started talking about the "Anaconda" video and our mutual distaste for Drake. Wouldn't it have been so much better if he had been playing the role of Jimmy from *Degrassi*? Why hasn't anyone made that parody yet? Should we recreate it and put it online? That's all it took.

If you're looking for someone special in your life—whether you only want to spend a night with them or the rest of your life—I encourage you to ask yourself, "What would Nicki Minaj do?" If you're not sure, then just let her poetry transform your life.

WASTED ADVICE

Greetings. Welcome to Wasted Advice, wherein you ask for advice and a different member of our talented staff answers each week—drunk. We both win. You can ask us the questions you can't ask your resident advisor.

I need more friends. Where can I find some? i have no idea i have like two friends so plz lmk when you find out. i find it easier to date poeple than jsut make friends normal style so maybe try ok cupid // getting drunk and being slutty

How do I break it to my partner that I want to leave them? i never really dump people because i rarely date people soooo im not the best person to ask but the last time i got broken up with he said he didnt want to date me because i was 'too mean' so maybe being a total fucking brat &/or cyberbullying will work for u 2 good luck sweetie

Do I REALLY need a boyfriend or am I better off single? as a vv wise acquaintance of my outside vita once said 'yeah i need a boyfriend like a hole in the head' i suggest you just m.o with your friends and listen to beyonce

How do you casually vom and keep on partying? puking is totally cool. find a boy who thinks its cute when you puke in his hair. thats true ~romance~~

Uggs—yes or no?? yes yes yes have you ever even fucking worn uggs, obviously not or you would not be asking me this shit, it is like walking on fucking clouds, that is the closest you will ever be to an angel. like yeah they are ugly, monsterously hilariously hideously ugly and they feel like pure ecstasy!!!! hahahahahahahahaaaa

I think art is useless but i still care about it, how do I fight the feelings that i should be doing something more "important"? art is so fucking useless it makes me cackle and squeal and roll around on the floor in the library its just a big giant useless joke. but usefulness is a bullshit metric that is imposed upon us by capitalism revel in the uselessness!!! join me in my hysteric laughter at how utterly unimportant everything i do is!! and i promis you'll feel better

What's the best way to get drunk on a budget? i only had \$5 to do this column its all about the 40ozz dude but dont forget to pour a sip out for the homies or you will have to get out of bed to pour beer in the

yard and its dumb. i would put an **adorable** selfie of me with my mickeys but this is supposed to be anonymous or w.e .

My boyfriend won't fuck me when I'm on my period. What should I do? talk to him about it duh. sorry i am being mean, shit like this is hard. i guess just talk to your partner, tell them you really want tot have sex on your period, and see if there is something that would make them more comfortable with that. respect their boundaries of course but like is blood really any grosser than normal sex slime? probz not

Do people who drink wine whine more? only if they drink expensive wine ~~ or write poetry and act like they drink expensive wine

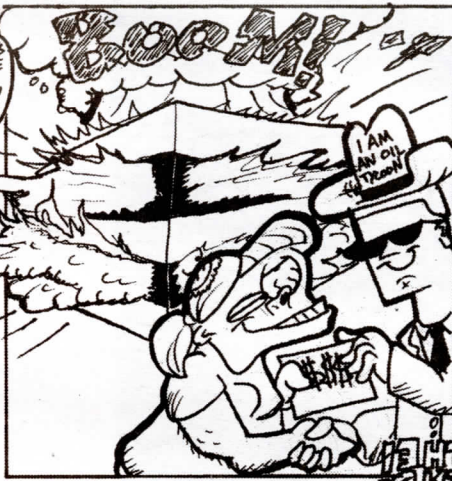
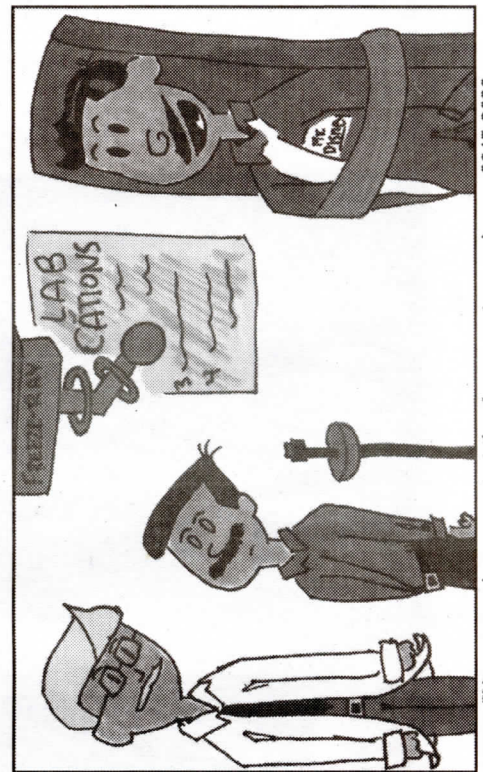
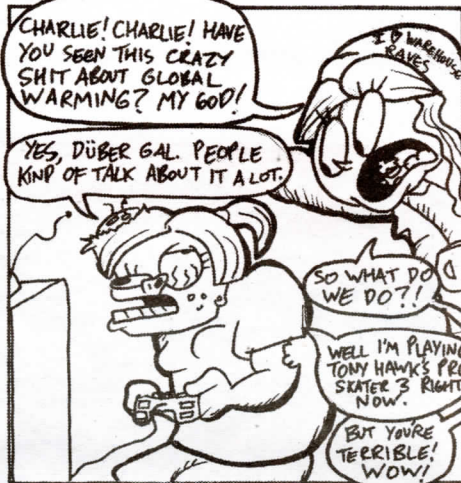
How do I get men to not treat me like garbage? dont let them treat you like garbage, like when dudes act fucking shitty do not tolerate it, tell them to leave and shut up forever. but also dont be too hard on herself and remember that it isnt your responsibility to teach every peice of garbage to not act like garbage, you can just leave you dont owe men lessons about how to not be terrible. im feeling this really hard right now be brve and strong you deserve the world sweet angel <3

My mom worries im an alcoholic because drink everyday on vacations when I come visit her, how do I convince her that I am just getting my vacation party on and she shouldnt worry? like literalyl dont moms are nerds you dont need that kind of negativity

I want to receive anonymous wasted advice but my college newspaper section that does this is not as funny as it used to be, what should I do?

get some drinking buddies to go to mccoys and talk about your life with them if you dont like me also shut up

Got problems? We have a new amazing way to anonymously submit questions for us to answer! Just go to www.ask.fm/wastedadvice and type away.



DRACULA'S FLUTE by Jesse Lortz

PÜDLECRÄP by Zac Püdlecräp

Hey YOU
Do you have a need to express yourself through **COMICS**?
THEN SEND YOUR SHIT TO:
cpjcomics@gmail.com
(see you in the funny pages! (HA!))

Horsin' Around

