

# the COOPERPOINT

The Evergreen State College Student Newspaper | Feb 10 - Feb 24, 2016 JOURNAL



# STAFF

## NEWS

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### WEEKLY MEETING

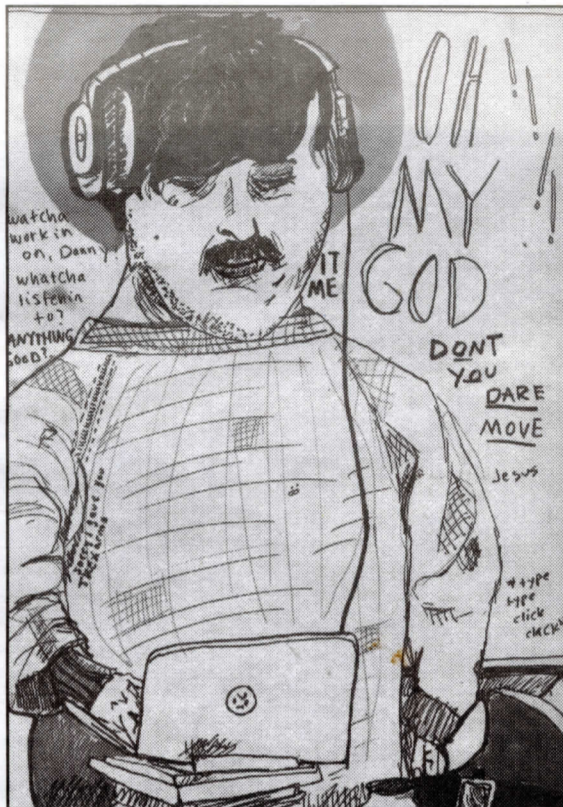
Wed 4 to 5 p.m.

### COVER ART BY

Ian Hazard-Bill

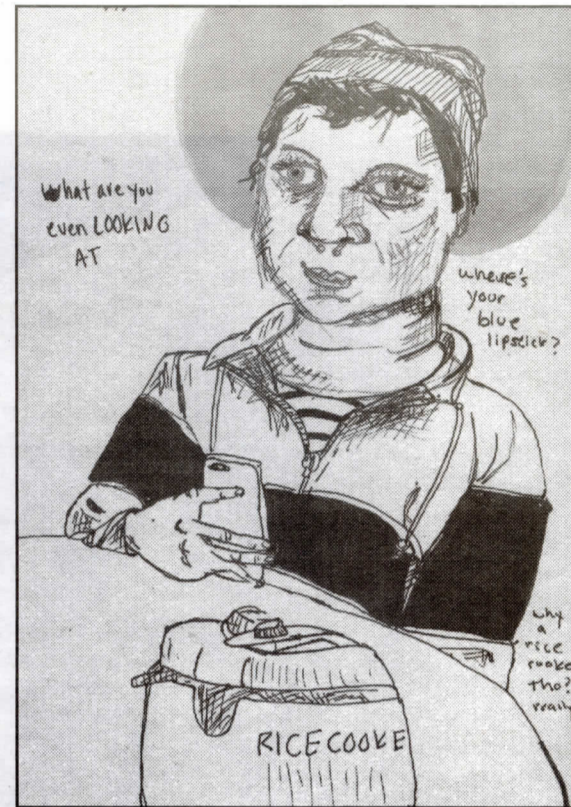
## MEET THE STAFF

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



### DANNY LOOSE

Danny is the new web editor for the Cooper Point Journal website. When they aren't shirking off work at the CPJ they study queer theory and visual arts and they are currently enrolled in MediaWorks. Danny spends their free time organizing and djing B12 at Obsidian and Gay Rodeo at Le Voyeur while working on their side projects Br@s and BAD MOLLY. Danny does not go to parties in Olympia unless they're the one throwing it. They have a cat named "grandpa" who they lovingly refer to as "my son."



### NIX CHACE

Nix is a Queer Scorpio Prince who loves soft things and hates harsh vibes. They're a junior at Evergreen studying political economy and radical politics. They also write horoscopes for this paper because they think they can see the future. When they "grow up" they want to be a professional dog-walker or work for a nonprofit or possibly write poems? They are not entirely sure. No matter what they end up doing, they will be sprinkled with glitter while doing it.

## HOW WE WORK

The Cooper Point Journal is produced by students at The Evergreen State College. The CPJ is published for free every other Wednesday during the school year and distributed throughout the Olympia area. Our content is also available online at [www.cooperpointjournal.com](http://www.cooperpointjournal.com). Our office is located in room 332 of the Campus Activities Building (CAB) and we have staff meetings at 4 p.m every Wednesday.

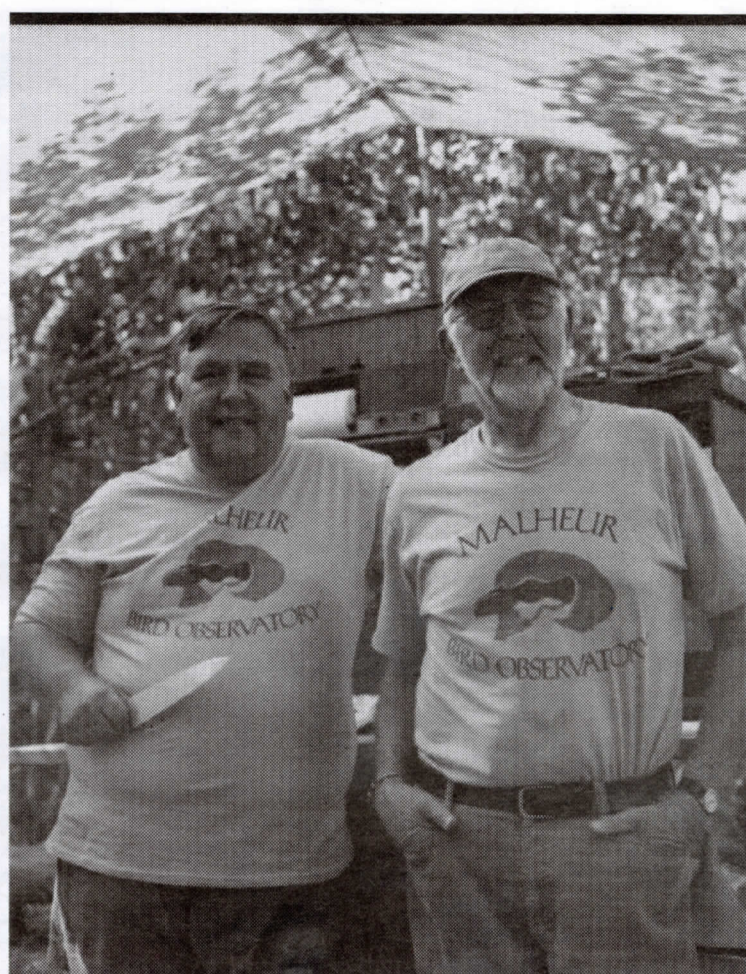
## WRITE FOR US

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

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



A Northern Shrike sitting on a post at Malheur. IRA ZUCKERMAN.



Steve Herman with the recently passed Kort Jungel.

## Malheur Refuge Still Occupied by Militia EVERGREEN HAS LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND

By Ira Zuckerman

**M**alheur National Wildlife Refuge, one of Evergreen's oldest retreats, is a basin of sagebrush flats and salt lakes tucked into Southeast Oregon. It's five times smaller than Olympic National Park, but makes a crucial oasis for migrating waterbirds on the western flyway.

Though now retired, emeritus ornithology faculty Dr. Steven G. Herman has trekked his students down to Malheur every year since 1973. "Hundreds of Evergreeners have been introduced to this land," Herman said.

Back when Evergreen was in its first years, ecologist Denzel Ferguson, Herman's colleague, was the manager of the refuge field station. This summer, however, Herman will face a more hostile atmosphere in Harney County.

Malheur and its neighboring communities saw significant violence between January 2nd and today. A civilian militia occupied the refuge headquarters, demanding that the

refuge be taken out of federal hands. This was the latest act in the longstanding battle over public lands management.

On January 26, Ammon Bundy, the leader of the occupying group, was arrested with several other militia members. One of them, 54 year old LaVoy Finicum was shot and killed in the struggle after resisting law enforcement at the traffic stop. Four militia members still remain in the visitor's center, protesting against government control of the land they consider rancher property for grazing.

Herman knows Bundy and the people he associates with. "They have shot over the heads of my son-in-law and sev-

eral other students," he said, "They're very bad people."

Since 1973, Herman has been a player in the land management conflict and according to him, "things haven't changed much since then."

**"They have shot over the heads of my son-in-law and several other students. They're very bad people."**

**-Steven Herman**

He's helped remove cows from Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, and played a part legislating the 1972 ban on the dangerous

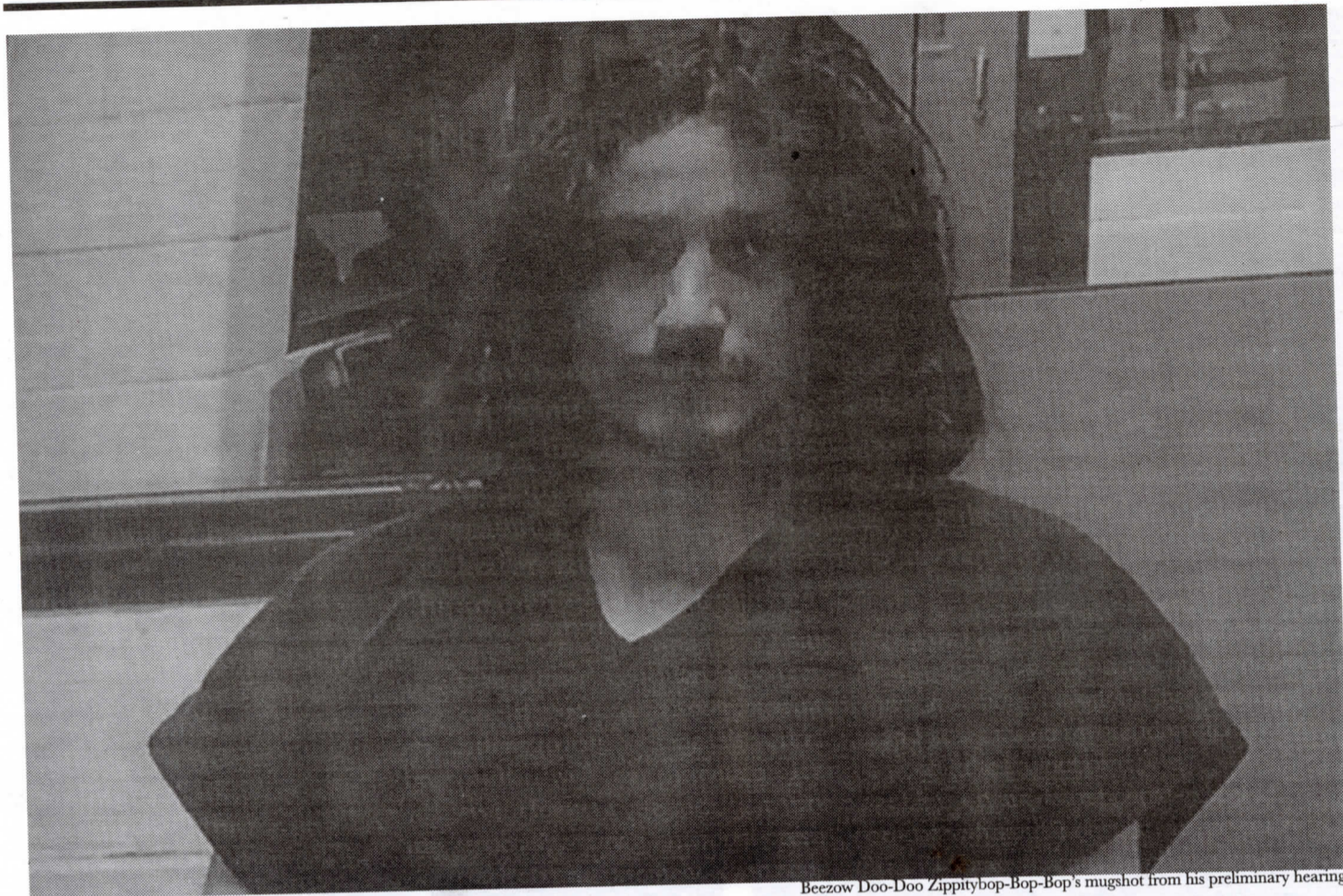
pesticide DDT.

People working for the Department of Natural Resources and the Fish and Wildlife Department are subject to constant aggression from locals who've historically used this land as a source of income. "The Natural Resource people are embedded in the community. And their children are in school with the ranchers' children," Herman said.

Reasonable herds are allowed on these public lands, but Herman considers the consistency of ranch cattle grazing at Malheur to be harmful and is part of the fight to ban overgrazing and let the land serve its primary purpose as a refuge.

Under improper grazing practice by their owners, ranch cattle will eat more grass than the ecosystems of Hart Mountain or Malheur could reproduce. Fences meant to keep cows off the protected grass were kicked down by Bundy and his militants during their occupation.

"The ranchers have always had control," Herman said. "...but my own effort throughout this whole thing has been to raise the consciousness that this abusive grazing does take place."



Beezow Doo-Doo Zippitybop-Bop-Bop's mugshot from his preliminary hearing.

# Beezow Doo-Doo Zippitybop-Bop-Bop Arrested for Assaulting Campus Police Officer

## THE MAN WAS ALLEGEDLY TEARING DOWN PRO TRANS RIGHTS FLIERS BEFORE THE INCIDENT

By Felix Chrome

**O**n the afternoon of January 31, there was a physical altercation between a campus police officer and a man he was attempting to detain. The incident took place after Officer Tim O'Dell confronted a man who was removing fliers in support of queer and trans visibility from the Evergreen Library.

The man ran away from Officer O'Dell, across red square towards the bus loop. When Officer O'Dell caught up, he attempted to pin the man down, and he responded by hitting the officer repeatedly. According to the initial report by Evergreen, "The suspect bit the officer and drew blood, attempted to take the officer's gun, and removed the officer's hand-cuff pouch. The suspect hit him on the head with the hand-cuff pouch causing a laceration requiring four staples."

This description of events comports with what a bystander who witnessed the entire incident told the Cooper

Point Journal. This witness, Lovi S., described the assault in great detail, and characterized the man as being in an aggressive, combative state, saying, "this guy was out for blood."

Officer O'Dell tried to punch the man, and tased him twice, but could not subdue him and backed away from the conflict. O'Dell then called for backup, and the man was arrested by Thurston County Sheriff officers. Before he was arrested he knocked over an evergreen student while attempting to run away.

During the incident, Lovi picked up the man's wallet and reported to the

CPJ that there was an ID for Beezow Doo-Doo Zippitybop-Bop-Bop. She also identified a mugshot of Zippitybop-Bop-Bop from 2012 as the same man she saw in the incident with Officer O'Dell. Zippitybop-Bop-Bop is not a student of The Evergreen State College.

The Olympian later reported that Zippitybop-Bop-Bop was arrested and is being charged with first-degree assault, third-degree assault, third-degree malicious mischief and malicious harassment.

This is not the first time Zippitybop-Bop-Bop has made the news, he has

been arrested before, and the media has picked up these stories because of his strange name, which he changed from Jeffrey Wilschke in 2012. When he was arrested in Madison, WI in 2012 the story went viral, making Zippitybop-Bop-Bop a brief sensation. At this time he told the Wisconsin State Journal "I do plan on becoming a recognized figure in the world, and I'd predicted that an event such as that would happen."

He echoes this sentiment on his facebook page where he paints himself as a messianic figure, where he posts near daily tirades against women and queer people, interspersed with posts shared from MRA pages, and advocacy for his raw food diet. After one particularly hard to follow diatribe, Zippitybop-Bop-Bop writes, "Come join me and my revolutionary movement in my devil-cursed feminist/liberal-hell Capitol city of Olympia. WE HAVE A MILLION SOCIALISTS, PERVERTS, LIBERALS AND FEMINISTS TO EVISCERATE."

These posts may provide some insight into the January 31 incident, which all began when Zippitybop-Bop-Bop was tearing down signs stating "trans women belong here," "queer students belong here," and other similar variations. These affirmative signs were posted after banners for T\*REX and Lady & Trans Night at the Evergreen Bikeshop have been repeatedly torn down, as well as incidents of defacing fliers having to do with queer and trans rights on campus.

There is no way of knowing if these ongoing issues all tie to Zippitybop-Bop-Bop, and were likely committed by multiple individuals, but Zippitybop-Bop-Bop has expressed very strong homophobic and transphobic sentiments, that would appear to be explain his motivation for this incident.

There was a rumor that a transgender person on campus was assaulted in some relation to this incident, but we were unable to trace it past a single facebook post that was then widely shared and reshared; we believe this to be a misunderstanding based on the early information about this event with the police officer, but were unable to fully verify if this did or did not happen.



Evergreen needs to develop a new system for the student parking lots. SHAUNA BITTLE.

## The Future of Parking

By Chloe Marina Manchester

**O**n the upcoming Evergreen State College winter ballot the future of Parking Services hangs in the balance. In 2015 it was revealed that parking services was operating at a net loss of \$20,000 this year (subject to an increase of \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually) and had a total debt of \$208,000.

Whether there will be a Parking Services department in the future has come into question, the vote on this ballot will advise the Board of Trustees of the student's opinion regarding the issue.

Parking Services sells parking permits, enforces rules and issues infractions, as well as providing maintenance for parking lots and the surrounding foliage. They employ five permanent staff members as well as eight to 20 student workers at any given time. The administration will come to a final resolution to the financial issue of Parking Services tentatively at the beginning of the 2016-17 academic year.

There are three options for the future of parking services on the ballot, but only one would keep Parking Services around. The first option, citing that Evergreen has some the lowest parking rates and fees for a regional college or research university, would have there be a 50 percent (\$1-\$2) rise for daily parking, a 25 percent (quarterly and annual) rise for permits, and a 100 percent rise for an infraction, and a \$25 dollar late fee for failing to pay fines when due. These raised fees would satisfy any outstanding debts, pay for maintenance, and sustain the Parking Services department.

The second option is eliminating Parking Services entirely because of the lack of routine maintenance on the lots for several years, the financial issues, and the potential for rising operating costs in the future. Instead, the Late Night Shuttle and Transit fees would be combined into

a single transportation fee. That would mean a \$22 per quarter increase on the current fee per student. Total transportation fees would be between \$32 and \$57 per quarter, depending on the student's credit load.

Option three is also eliminates Parking Services, but instead of charging more for a transportation fee it proposes that the money to satisfy outstanding debt and current and future parking lot maintenance be found elsewhere in the college's budget. This would mean no Parking Services department and no additional transportation fees added into the tuition. Alexander Butler, of the Geoduck Student Union, who proposed this option said, "The lots would be maintained as they currently are by facilities, and will also still be policed by police services as they are now."

This is an issue that will affect all students regardless of whether or not they have a car on campus because of the possible increase in transportation fees to make up for the Parking Services deficit. To keep with what seems to be the theme of the year thus far, vote. Your vote matters. Your vote is important. Your vote, especially in these school ballots, will directly effect your life and tuition and will directly effect your friends' lives and tuitions. Your vote is your way of telling the administration what you want out of this school, and as the Evergreen saying goes, you get out of it what you put into it.

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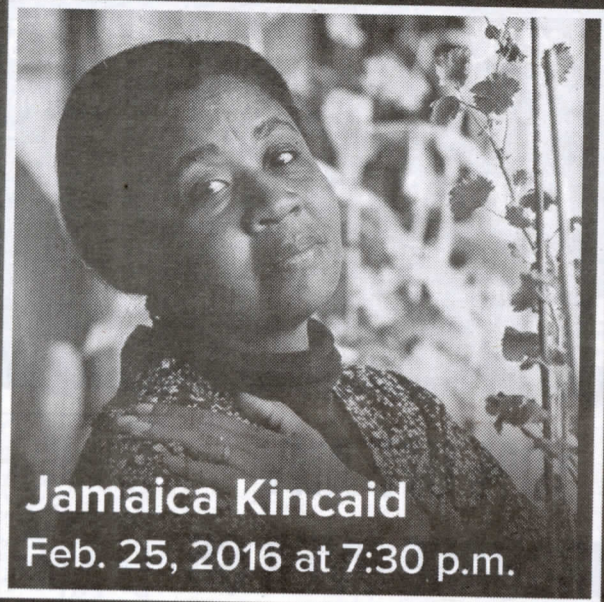
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President Bridges speaking at another outreach event earlier this year. SHAUNA BITTLE.

## George Bridges Update

By Aria Cummings

**O**n Wednesday, January 27, Evergreen's new president, George Bridges, moderated an event in the Recital Hall of the Communication Building. During this event, Bridges shared his initial observations about the school's students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members.

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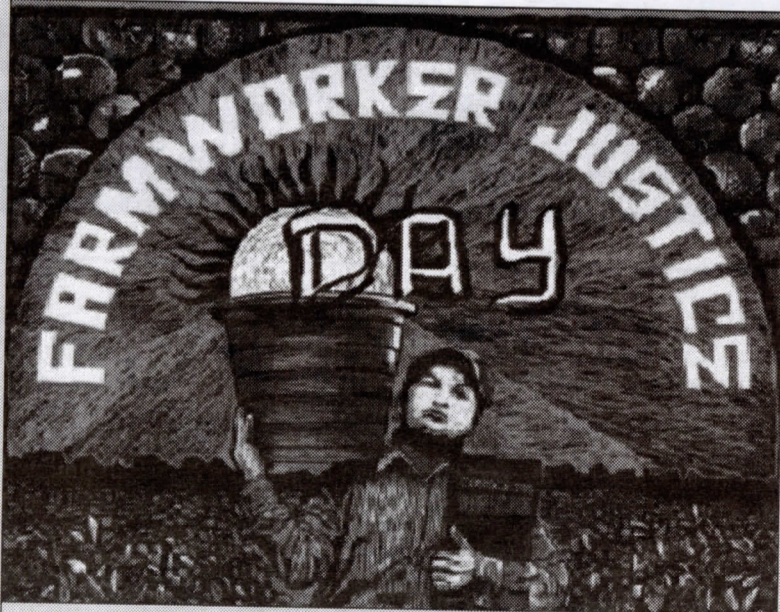
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**ARTIST &  
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## José Gómez Farmworker Justice Day

WEDNESDAY Feb. 17, 2016



WITNESSING THE STRUGGLE:  
West Coast Farmworker Movements

David Bacon, Photo Journalist

Rosalinda Guillen, Community to Community

Ramón Torres, Familias Unidas Para La Justicia

Library Lobby 9-12:30pm

WORKSHOPS 2:30-3:30pm WED FEB 17th

Sign Making E3105

History Of Boycotts E3107

Local Knowledge, SOS: CCBLA, Resource Rebels, Reinterpreting Liberation, Eco-Ag, Bodies that Matter, Culture and

At the event, Bridges congratulated the Admissions Office on the 17 percent increase in applications, since last year. He also noted the 20th anniversary of the Longhouse, speaking about how important the Native Studies program is.

Bridges showed a PowerPoint presentation that surveyed the alumni who, because of their interdisciplinary background, felt confident about finding a job after graduating. The presentation also showed how many of the students were either students of color, coming from low-income families, were in the LGBTQ community, and how many needed extra help with reading, writing, and math.

President Bridges describes Evergreen, as not just one college, but four: the college of students, the college of social justice, the college of faculty, and the college of the Puget Sound. The college of students describes a place where the students devise their own curriculum based on their personal interests of what they want to study or based on the career they want after they graduate. The college of social justice, where students on campus are aware of pressing social issues that need to be addressed work collaboratively to

understand how to address these problems. The college of faculty means all faculty members do their best to help students with their career aspirations and determine the best curriculum for those students who are still undecided about their aspirations. Finally, the college of Puget Sound describes a place that focuses on the environment, working to preserve the lush forests that surround the beachfronts of the Puget Sound.

Bridges ended his remarks by saying, "Evergreen's future must always, always be firmly grounded in the visions of its founders. A public liberal arts college unlike any other, with a curriculum that is flexible and agile enough to adapt to change and that focuses directly on the individual needs of our students. And with our collective commitment, all of us, it must and can become a college that supports and affirms every individual, regardless of position or standing, regardless of whether you're staff, faculty, or student, and one in which we routinely ask 'how can we better serve our students now and in the future?'"



Actors in last year's production of *The Vagina Monologues* at Evergreen. SHAUNA BITTLE.

## A Vagina Dialogue

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES WILL BE PERFORMED AT EVERGREEN

By Jasmine Kozak Gilroy

**T**his year from February 12-14 a group of students from the Evergreen State College will be performing a hybrid version of the *Vagina Monologues*, a combination of the original monologues and student written pieces, to benefit the Women's Resource Center. Next year, instead of the *Vagina Monologues*, the school will put on *The Vagina Chronicles*, which will be entirely student written pieces.

The *Vagina Monologues* was first produced off Broadway in 1996. Every year Eve Ensler decides which past monologues will be performed during "V-Season" (the month of February) and writes a new addition to revamp and modernize the play. Over the past two decades it has been performed thousands of times in dozens of countries at "V-Day" benefits, performances of the play that support local organizations focusing women's health issues.

The *Vagina Monologues* has in the past been criticized both for its reinforcement of cisgendered womanhood and its bizarre, white washed, take on feminism. I spoke to two members of this year's cast, Mia Candocia and Lou Jorgens about their involvement with the show. When I first spoke to them, Lou was quick to acknowledge, "We both know it is crazy problematic."

They explained that the cast used selective editing and the student writ-

ten "chronicles" to patch holes and hopefully avoid some of the more outdated or offensive aspects of the play. Mia was very clear about the depth at which the cast has examined the show, saying, "if somebody has a question about something—about what was left in or taken out, about the context it is probably something we have already addressed and talked about."

Since *The Vagina Monologues* came out Eve Ensler has traveled the world to interview women involved in global travesties against women's and human rights—most famously, she wrote a monologue based on the experiences of the Japanese comfort women: young, mostly South Korean girls who were forced to work in military brothels during World War II. Recently she has even addressed the issue of the play's problematic advocacy for biological womanhood, stating that "I never defined a woman as

a person with a vagina" (despite some lines in older monologues that Lou tells me allude otherwise), and writing a monologue based on the experiences of transgender women for a production of the *Vagina Monologues* with an all trans cast.

In spite of the progress Ensler has made in growing the universality of her most famous work, her tight grasp on which monologues can be performed each year, how and when they will be performed, and how they are to be marketed, seems to blur the line between a person in a position of privilege creating a platform for marginalized stories and an enterprise built on other people's words. Addressing my mixed feelings regarding the monopoly the play seems to have over feminist theatre despite it addressing the stories of only a small amount of women and the role that privilege may play in that, Lou said, "We do this play because

it was written as a white woman. At the end of the day we can't really get around that, although we've worked hard to minimize that single narrative."

While discussing the issue of allyship and privilege, Lou and Mia brought up a quote from one of the student written monologues, "I'm sick of taking what I can get, and you are not my ally if you think a song written by a straight white man was good enough."—addressing the heralding of Macklemore as a LGBTQ hero despite him being a cisgendered, straight musician with little to lose for his support of marriage equality.

To me, the most bizarre part about the play is that is supposed to make us feel uncomfortable, but the consistency with which it appears on college campuses make it seem like it's a play that we are actually quite comfortable with—a work of art that, perhaps, has lost its edge with time. Feminism isn't dead. It's not sleeping, or dormant. There are plenty of things to talk about and be angered by. *The Vagina Monologues* is only one play—there is no way it could encompass the joy, passion, and suffering of billions of women. It seems almost ridiculous to fault Eve Ensler for not accurately telling the story of thousands of women because she is, of course, just one woman herself. And yet, year after year, we tell the same stories, directed and written by the same woman. The continued insistence to perform a play that is two decades old, that only touches on a few of the many structural and social issues that women across class, race, and global borders face frustrates me.

But, despite that frustration, I will be at the show this weekend. In part, to support my friends. In part, in appreciation for the Women's Resource Center, and in part because Mia made what I think is a very good point about the play, that the monologues, "Tell a story, and they tell true stories about what people think or thought, and many still think are true. So problematic or not I think it is about following a narrative. A narrative about vaginas."

The performances will take place at the Recital Hall in the COMM Building of the Evergreen State College on Friday, February 12 at 7 p.m.; Saturday February 13 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday February 14 at 3 p.m. Admission is five dollars or a box of menstrual products, all of which goes to the Women's Resource Center on campus.



BLAINE EWIG.



BLAINE EWIG.



BLAINE EWIG.

## Splash Into Fun & Learning

### THE SOUTH SOUND ESTUARY CENTER

By Sarah Bradley

**L**ocated downtown across from the transit center is The South Sound Estuary Center. Identifiable by its colorful mural of aquatic creatures, and the two large aquarium tanks seen through the windows, this center provides education about the Puget Sound's wildlife and ecosystem.

An estuary refers to the body of brackish water where freshwater from rivers and streams meet the sea. The conditions of an Estuary, found in bays, inlets, and lagoons, provide a rich and fertile habitat for plankton and plants which in turn provide food for a wide range of wildlife.

The South Sound Estuary center is open on weekends from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Entry is free, though donations to the center are accepted, and greatly appreciated. When you arrive, you're greeted by one of the center's volunteers. The individuals that volunteer their time to the estuarium work educating themselves and others about the marine biodiversity of the Puget Sound.

The overarching goal of the estuarium is to to increase understanding and appreciation for the South Puget Sound area. The center also connects people with resources and educates the public about changes they can make that will positively impact the Puget Sound ecosystem.

The estuary center has been a part of the Olympia community since 2007. Previously, they were located near the farmer's market. This space was not ideal for providing care for the aquarium tanks and the creatures that they house. The center relocated to a larger building at 309 State Ave. a little over a year ago.

The center hosts events throughout the year, such as the "pier peer" series which occurs on Friday nights at Boston Harbor. This event gives you the chance to peer beneath the water's surface and observe the wildlife liv-

ing down there—you will see jellyfish, predatory sea slugs, harbor seals chasing squids. A full calendar of events can be found on the center's website.

Most of the creatures you will find at the estuarium have been donated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Some have been donated from private collections. Among the center's four large aquarium tanks, you will find a variety of sea-stars, kelp crabs, anemones, urchins, clams, and fish going about their lives. There are also preserved creatures in jars, like squid and

octopus, that you can pick up and inspect with a magnifying glass or under a microscope.

There are also volunteer and internship opportunities at the estuarium. Many volunteers have been Evergreen students.

Current manager and lead educator Troy Mead started as a volunteer when they learned about the center at an Evergreen internships and opportunities fair. To learn more about volunteering you can go to the center during their open hours or contact the center through email.

The south sound estuary center is a fun, interactive, and colorful space. There is a lot to see and touch (You can stroke the coat of a harbor seal while reading information about the creature). The South Sound Estuary Center is fun and easily accessed community resource to learn more about the wildlife we live so close to.

Among the center's four large aquarium tanks, you will find a variety of sea-stars, kelp crabs, anemones, urchins, clams, and fish going about their lives.





## COVER ARTIST: Ian Hazard-Bill

By Ruby Love

**O**riginally from San Francisco, Ian Hazard-Bill is an artist working in ceramics, creating beautifully unique functional pottery. I spoke with Hazard-Bill about his process, inspirations, and the challenges of balancing aesthetics and function. Hazard-Bill has been working with clay on and off for the past eight years, starting in high school where he “fell in love” with clay and the processes of shaping, glazing, and firing.

“When I first started working on the wheel, it has this mesmerizing quality to it that I sort of got addicted to, and so through working with the material is what kept me interested. The more I’ve learned about it as a material and as a discipline, the more I’ve gotten interested in all of the little firing techniques and types of glazes and other things... but it started with the clay.”

After spending three months in Spain post high school for an art internship, Hazard-Bill returned to his hometown and founded a ceramics studio with a friend. “We got hooked up with two wheels for free, and we could use our friend’s dad’s kiln for free, so we were just trying our hands.” The two “took on too much too quickly” and decided to quit the studio to go to college, and Ian moved to Olympia to attend Evergreen.

I asked him about the process of balancing aesthetics and functionality when making pieces like mugs and bowls, which are meant to serve a purpose-to be handled and used.

“It’s been an exploration. I think there are really rigid guidelines for functionality, and some of them are inherent to, say, a mug. Some of them are more personal or cultural. A lot of people have different things like ‘I won’t use this kind of mug.’ There are personal ones and there are cultural ones too, that might have to do with [the assumption that] bowls should stack, or things like that. So it’s a balance of maintaining within those [guidelines] to an extent while also just trying to work within forms that are inspiring to me.”

Hazard-Bill stressed that although the functionality of pieces is important, it’s also important to consider the relationship that is developed between a person and a ceramic piece with “personality.” Creating sets presents another challenge, as he strives to create pieces that each have their unique personality, but also fit together stylistically. “I want them to go together, instead of all being the same. They can be like a tribe or a family.”

The processes of ceramic art also

create inconsistencies in appearance; Hazard-Bill states that it’s important to be “intentional about what those are going to be and how they relate.” Recently diving into experimentation with new types of glazes, Ian is working to balance the emotion he wants to express in a piece with the sometimes-uncontrollable effects of glazes. “I have a vision of what I want it to look like – having that vision be a feeling and a palette almost – and then setting up, with the glazes and materials I use, the conditions for that.” Hazard-Bill has experimented with wood ashes in glazes, and is doing tests using clay from Evergreen’s beach. No matter how much planning one does, he says, you can still get unexpected results.

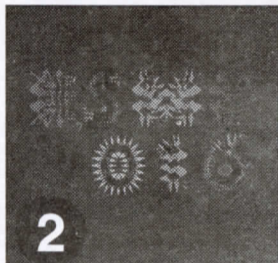
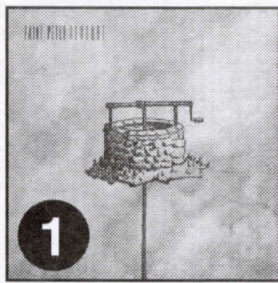
“A lot of ceramics people talk about kiln gods, because you can have the best laid plan, and it comes out completely different. So you’ve got to put it in there with all your planning and hopes and goals and ideas, and at the same time be ready for something different. It’s fun, it’s the part that I really love about it. It can be heartbreaking too, for sure. I’ve

had times when a whole kiln is ruined and it’s no one’s fault but my own in a way, and I don’t really know what happened either, so it’s kind of shocking feeling. But it makes the ones that turn out that much better.”

Hazard-Bill is looking forward to bringing his art into new spaces-forming connections with artists working in other media. He’s interested in partnering with cafes and restaurants to create custom dishes that foster more personal dining experiences. “We have a buddy that opened a restaurant, and he uses our bowls. He loves the really unique ones, and has customers who come in and they always get their bowl. I think that’s a cool relationship.”

Hazard-Bill is a founding member of Evergreen’s Clay Club, which meets Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:30, with open studio hours on Sundays from noon 6 pm. You can contact Ian Hazard-Bill at [ianhazardbill@comcast.net](mailto:ianhazardbill@comcast.net) and you can find more of his work on his Facebook page, Spiral Works Pottery.

## KAOS 89.3 FM TOP Albums for the week of Jan. 4 **20**



- 1 **Faint Peter** - Redoubt
- 2 **V/A** - Evergreen Student Media Project
- 3 **Adrian Young** - Something About April Li
- 4 **Daniela Mercury** - Virtual Vinyl
- 5 **Animals Of Grace** - Songs Of Shattering
- 6 **Hey Marseilles** - Hey Marseillesq
- 7 **Devin Sinha** - Our Past And Present Futures
- 8 **Dressy Bessy** - Kingsized
- 9 **Julien Baker** - Sprained Ankle
- 10 **Ringo Deathstarr** - Pure Mood
- 11 **Rocococo** - Versailles
- 12 **The Pines** - Above The Prairie
- 13 **Tortoise** - The Catastrophist
- 14 **The Kora Band** - New Cities
- 15 **Odetta Hartman** - 222
- 16 **Freekbass** - Cincinnati
- 17 **Honor Finnegan** - Roses And Victory
- 18 **Octagrape** - Aura Obelisk
- 19 **King Louie & LaRhonda Steele** - Rock Me Baby
- 20 **Razteria** - Aventurera



Taylor Sikorski organized the show and spoke with the CPJ after the night of comedy. BLAINE EWIG.

## New Women's Comedy Open Mic EVERY OTHER TUESDAY AT BEN MOORE'S

By Danny Loose

**O**n Tuesday, February 2, host and comedienne Taylor Rae Sikorski ushered in the first Women's Comedy Open Mic at Ben Moore's pub to great reception. The open mic prioritizes acts by women, transgender & gender nonconforming comedians, diverging from the norm of white male dominated comedy nights.

I touched base with Taylor after the show about the event and the significance of creating a women/trans/gender-nonconforming centered comedy night. "I started this comedy night because I wanted more people to feel comfortable doing comedy. We're lucky that in Olympia we have some diversity within the arts scene, I feel like it's really important to create intentional spaces just so like, if you don't wanna go hear the same shitty misogynist, racist, homophobic jokes then you can instead listen to interesting people that have really interesting perspectives," said Sikorski.

The opening night delivered on its promise to prioritize marginalized voices, and it was refreshing to attend a comedy night where cis white males were not the majority of performers. That being said, there is room for improvement for the ratio of comedians to comediennes. While most of the male comedians delivered solid material, the jokes told by women and trans identifying performers were far funnier, captivating, and came from a more productive place.

Sikorski is a very adept emcee in both her material and her control over the event: when a white male comedian started straying into offensive material, Sikorski didn't hesitate to kick him off

and then criticised his material in the context of the space.

When I asked Sikorski about the choice of venue for the new event she told me, "I was going to like look for a bunch of places to do it and this was the first one I came into and it was really empathic and weird. I didn't go anywhere else because I'm lazy. [laughs] Also: fried shit and drinks. I like alcohol to be where I do comedy because I'm a spazz. Fried stuff is great too. It's so cozy, and it's really old and established. It feels really different from the other bars. And it's big. And they have fried shit. It's also definitely haunted too."

The choice of venue seemed to be a different choice, not many students or young people frequent Ben Moore's, but with it's all ages status, a large performance space, fried food, and well priced drinks it made for a great atmosphere.

After a successful night of laughs and libations, I highly anticipate the next Women's Comedy Open Mic. Taylor plans to hold the event "twice this month, every other Tuesday: first and third Tuesday of every month." She also is considering "special features on a Saturday with 3 or 4 performers" so keep your eyes peeled. See you next Tuesday!

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## UP & COMING

**THUR. FEB 11**

★**Le Voyeur**

404 4th Ave E. 10pm \$5  
Gag, Combat Knife, Eightball, Nasti  
**Obsidian**  
414 4th Ave E. 10pm \$5  
GI Voiced Benefit: Big Idiot, Ten Pole  
Drunk, Police Lingo

**FRI. FEB 12**

**Swamphouse**

8pm. \$5 NOTAFLOF  
Food Not Bombs Benefit: Big Idiot,  
Ugly Lovers

★**Hands on Children's Museum**

414 Jefferson St NE. 7pm \$20  
Adult Swim: Love & Magnets

**SAT. FEB 13**

★**Palace Flophouse**

7pm. \$5 NOTAFLOF  
PiPE Benefit: Dyke Drama, Cynosure,  
Freaky Pup, Seaside Tryst, Ursa

**SUN. FEB 14**

★**Rhythm & Rye**

311 Capitol Way N. 6:30pm.  
Mango Toast & Jam: Valentines Day  
Open Mic

**MON. FEB 15**

**Washinton State Capitol**

416 Sid Snyder Ave SW. 9am  
Transmisogyny Counter-Protest

**Media Island**

816 Adams St SE. 7pm. \$5-20 NOTAFLOF  
Anti President's Day Part w/ Evan  
Greer

**WED. FEB 17**

**Evergreen Sem II 1107**

Evergreen Campus. 1:30pm.  
Info Session for "Cultivating Voice"

**New Moon Cafe**

113 4th Ave W. 9pm. \$5  
Puberty Wounds, Backbiter, Xylitol,  
Active Shooter

★ = Staff Recommended



Friends at another Adult Swim event last year. BLAINE EWIG.

# STUFF TO DO

By Sarah Bradley  
& Sara Fabian

**FRIDAY 2/12**

**ADULT SWIM: LOVE & MAGNETS**

**Hands on Children Museum. 7pm. \$20**

The Hands On Children's Museum is opening up its doors to adults for a night of adventure. According to their facebook page this 21+ event will "explore unseen forces of attraction with matchmaking experts and biologists while you sample aphrodisiacs and cocktails. Get stuck to a velcro wall, experiment with gravitational pull and play with static electricity. Other Activities include meeting the team behind Siren, Seattle's newest dating app and an experiment on why love stinks, literally, and how pheromones give us clues to genetic compatibility. This is a must do event because when else are you going to get the chance to explore a museum (with a playground inside I might add), engage in artistic and scientific activities and interact with the Olympia community. In addition, there will be live jams by local funk rock band DBST. Your ticket entry will also get you a complimentary valentine's day inspired alcoholic beverage and munch on Olympia's favorite, Abby's Cupcakes, but bring cash to get some amazing hawaiian food from the Boka Food truck! Free parking provided and you can always leave your vehicle there and after the event, it's just a short 3

min walk from all the cool bars downtown. So bring your friends, partner, or your out of town cousin, and enjoy a night full of fun, dance and play!

**SATURDAY**

**2/13**

**PIPE BENEFIT SHOW**

**Palace Flophouse. 7pm. \$5.**

This show is going to be really, really, good. Like, seriously, this show will Rock, I guarantee it. Not only is the lineup jam-packed with SIX local acts, the very reasonable \$5 dollar donation will go to supporting PiPE, an organization that provides and invaluable service to the Olympia community. Partners in Prevention Education (PiPE) has a mission as follows: "To engage homeless and at risk youth and adult allies in the elimination of sexual violence, bias, hate & general crimes as they contribute to homelessness and as they exist in street culture. We achieve this through social change work, violence prevention education, and survivor support services including advocacy, therapy and support groups."

Playing the benefit are Dyke Drama, the solo project of Sadie Switchblade (member of G.L.O.S.S.) hella tight rock group Cynosure, bedroom synth pop by Freaky Pup, Seaside Tryst, local pop-punk outfit, Tankini and Ursa Minora whose songwriting almost made me cry the first time I saw them. Literally all of these artists are so good that I can't even write about it just

go listen for yourself. The diverse lineup will provide different types of music for all tastes. This is like the Olympia equivalent of Beyonce's super bowl halftime performance if Beyonce's super bowl halftime performance was more like a house show with lots of cool and eclectic bands. It's gonna be a rocker. Head over to Palace Flophouse on Saturday night—ask around for the address (hint: it's posted on facebook event page). The show is set to start at 7 p.m., get there on time to see all of the acts. Bring some cash to support to PiPE and enjoy this awesome show.

**SUNDAY 2/14**

**MANGO TOAST & JAM**

**Rhythm & Rye. 6:30pm. Free.**

MANGO publications is a local publishing group dedicated to Xicanao poetry, art, spoken word, and beyond. Coming up will be their one year anniversary of the revival of MANGO publications. The reading will feature poets Lorna Dee Cervantes (editor and publisher of MANGO), Gabriella Gutierrez y Muhs, Scarlett Pedersen, Brian McCracken and Angelica Guillen. Happening on Valentine's day, the event will be on theme featuring an open mic to "read your own love/anti-love poems." The open mic portion is open to poems, songs, comedy, and other verbal creations. Additionally, there will be books made by local writers and artists that you can purchase. The event is free so come join and celebrate this local publishing group while sharing one

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# Don't Let the Revolution Bern Out

By Asa Kowals-Rose

**A** year ago, politicians were preparing for a dull election season. As I watched the Iowa caucus results pour in, it became clear that this would not be the case. The effortless Clinton victory many had anticipated for years had given way to an evening of nail biting; as precincts tallies were reported, her lead over Bernie Sanders dwindled to less than one percent, and almost disappeared entirely. The results that would decide the evening came in slowly, as if to foreshadow another long and competitive Democratic primary. For Secretary Clinton, this must have been incredibly disheartening. For a political junkie looking for reasons to put off homework, it was wonderful to watch.

As the dust settled in Iowa, Clinton emerged with a painstakingly thin majority of precincts and 23 delegates; Sanders received 21. The Iowa Democratic Party doesn't release raw vote totals for the caucus, leaving open the possibility that the Vermont senator actually had the support of a majority of caucus-goers throughout the state. Whether or not this is the case, Sanders and his supporters were quick to declare the caucus a victory. With few party endorsements and no super PAC, they had brought one of the most powerful campaign machines in recent history to a virtual tie in Iowa, and were anticipating victory in New Hampshire. I write this before that state's primary, but whatever its result, the Iowa caucus demonstrated that Sanders' "political revolution" is underway.

After President Obama's reelection in 2012, most pundits spoke of the 2016 Democratic primary with certainty. Many predicted it would be a "coronation" for Secretary Clinton. When Jeb Bush entered the Republican field as an apparent front runner last year, some contended that the presidency—an office designed as a repudiation of monarchical tradition—had become a dynastic institution. This view reflected an assumption that no part of the democratic process could overcome the fundraising abilities and political connections of the Bush and Clinton families—a tacit belief that American democracy was near death, if not dead already.

Perhaps this assumption is what made pundits so skeptical of Bernie Sanders when he announced his candidacy last spring. After all, the Sanders campaign is only nonviable if grassroots organizing is incapable of overcoming the resources and influence of the political establishment. If this is true, and modern political campaigns can only succeed with wealthy donors and powerful allies, then the United

States is no longer a representative democracy. This was the indeed the conclusion of a 2014 Princeton study, which found that public policy in the United States typically reflects the interests of the wealthy, and not the will of the majority. In other words, that American democracy has surrendered to oligarchy. It is this system that Bernie Sanders wants to change with his "political revolution," and I believe that it will take nothing short of a revolution to do so.

This revolution would be different than that of 1917 or 1776. In calling for revolution, Sanders doesn't wish to overthrow the United States government, but rather to reinvigorate the American democratic process. The revolution he hopes to bring about would simply mean the emergence of an active and engaged political movement led by the oppressed and disenchanted in American society. Sanders' hope is not to see this movement storm the White House with pitchforks and torches, but that it will grow large enough to elect progressive leaders at all levels of government.

While many criticize this approach at too idealistic, I believe it represents practical understanding of the modern political dynamic. In an age of hyper-partisanship, the best hope for the progressive movement is to draw support from the millions of people who, convinced of their futility, forgo political participation. In this way, Bernie Sanders is neither Bolshevik nor Jacobin, but rather a modern New Dealer. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was only able to enact his agenda because he was supported by the likeminded congress that rose to power alongside him in 1933. Sanders hopes to recreate this model in 2017, and his "political revolution" is the best way to do it.

If the revolution is to succeed, Sanders' supporters must stay engaged this election season, regardless of the out-

come of the primary campaign. While it can be extremely difficult for grassroots movements to take on the political establishment in a presidential race, their effect can be much more pronounced in House and Senate races. 34 Senate seats are up for election in 2016, along with all 435 seats in Congress. Too often, these races are overshadowed by the presidential campaign, and Senate and Congressional candidates are allowed to escape the public scrutiny that is necessary for voters to hold them accountable. This is one of the reasons why, despite their dismal approval rating, members of Congress regularly reelected by wide margins. Some Congressmen regularly run unopposed, giving them little incentive to advocate the interests of their constituents on the floor of the House. Whether or not Bernie Sanders manages to get elected, it is extremely important for the Senator's supporters to elect legislators who share his passion for working class interests. If Sanders' legions of donors and volunteers approach these races with the same energy and enthusiasm they have shown in the presidential campaign, their revolution may yet make an impact in 2016.

Sanders supporters should also extend their political involvement to state and local elections, both this year and in years to come. Like Congressional races, these are frequently ignored, but are nonetheless incredibly important with regard to issues like health care, education, and environmental policy. Furthermore, most of these races involve relatively small constituencies, which can make well-organized grassroots efforts extremely influential in their outcome. I have seen this phenomenon firsthand in my hometown of Seattle. There, despite fierce opposition from business interests and the political establishment, outspoken socialist Kshama Sawant was elected to the City Council in 2013, and re-

lected last November. Her hard-won campaigns relied on an army of small donors and volunteers to defeat business-backed opponents, and their success goes to show that grassroots efforts can stand up to moneyed interests. This type of organizing paid dividends when it came time to enact Sawant's agenda: after the success of her campaigns, those who had worked to elect her became active participants in the movement to establish a \$15 minimum wage. Their efforts proved successful, and within five months of Sawant taking office the Council unanimously passed a citywide \$15 minimum wage ordinance. I believe that Sanders' supporters can use this combination of electoral campaigning and issue-based activism as a model for progressive change throughout the country, at all levels of government.

Although it pains me to write it, I can't picture Bernie Sanders being inaugurated on January 20, 2017. His campaign is formidable, but I don't believe it will be enough to defeat the Democratic establishment, the corporate media, and the Clinton machine. This is not an indictment of Sanders, his policies, or his passionate supporters; it is evidence that the American political system is too broken to be fixed in one primary season. For this reason, Sanders supporters cannot let the Senator's revolution die with his campaign. Instead, they must capitalize on the momentum they've worked so hard to create over the past several months. If they do this effectively, I firmly believe that the 2016 primary battle will be remembered as only the beginning of the fight to retake the American political system from the oligarchs.

## It's Whatever IN DEFENSE OF MY SO-CALLED POLITICAL APATHY

By Felix Chrome

Every election cycle the prospect of a new president reminds hoards of generally apolitical facebook friends and loud-talking liberals on the bus about their deep belief in the importance of electoral politics. My dad's friends share meme's complaining about 'apathetic youth' and the CPJ inevitably gets pitched an article about how people really ought to vote despite what 'the anarchists' in this town say.

Besides wanting to vomit every time I hear the phrase 'civic duty' I don't really care if you want to vote, it won't do anything to like, "change the world" but neither will my abstention. It's whatever. However, the idea that voting, especially voting in national presidential elections, is somehow the end-all-and-be-all of political engagement is hugely detrimental.

Those who like to talk about how everyone really must vote often argue that if everyone who thought their vote won't change anything voted it could, conceivably, alter the outcome of elections. Statistically, I suppose this may technically true, but it fundamentally misunderstands what I mean when I say my vote doesn't matter.

I do not mean my vote wouldn't count: that even if I voted, whoever I voted for would not get elected. I mean that even if [insert any candidate] were to get elected, it would not change the things I care to change.

Whoever you think is the savior who is 'really going to change Washington' would continue perpetrating racist imperialist policies, using drones to kill children abroad, and uphold white supremacy in America, locking up people of color in droves. Whoever is elected (yes, even "socialist" Bernie) will only ever reform capitalism enough to ensure its continuation. They will always reinforce a structure that means people have to sleep on the streets if they cannot pay rent and that there are families who cannot feed themselves; not to mention that none can even imagine past a world where most of us have to work soul crushing jobs we hate until we die, depressed and alienated. I could go on, but I will spare you my further tirades to just say, the differences between candidates' pale in comparison to their similarities.

When I say my vote doesn't matter, I

mean that I am fundamentally opposed to structures this nation is built upon (and the nation state, for that matter) and I know that no revolution can ever be won at the ballot box.

This is often where people expect I, or those with similar beliefs, will present them with an alternative—claiming we must have the blueprint for what political actions we need to take to create the world we want to see. I have no such alternative. While I have a couple ideas of things I'd like to do, most of which are better not discussed in this newspaper, I do not know exactly what to do to dismantle hellworld.

This is not a failing, but the only way forward in a world where the spectacle can absorb every possibly alternative. As some anonymous writers for the journal Baedan put it, "Faced with the system's seamless integration of all positive projects into itself, we can't afford to affirm or posit any more alternatives for it to consume. Rather we must realize that our task is infinite, not because we have so much to build but because we have an entire world to destroy. Our daily life is so saturated and structured by capital that it is impossible to imagine a life worth living, except one of revolt."

This position is in no way one of apathy. The ardent rejection of those structures that confine us, including electoral politics and everything they represent, are born out of a ferocious care, an intense desire for something better, despite being unable to plan what that may be.

I would like to make it clear that while I am the editor in chief at the Cooper Point Journal, this article reflects only my personal beliefs, and should be in no way interpreted as the official viewpoint of the newspaper or our staff.



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

**Do you believe that world peace is attainable?** I mean at this rate probs not but if we legalize weed globally then hey who knows

**everyone keeps telling me i should move out of Olympia & idk where to go & im broke where should i move** New Orleans/Detroit haven't u read gentrifiers digest this week????????????

**what's like a cute ~queer d8~ to take my gay crush on?** idk take them to Taco Bell that place is lit as hell and every queer person in this shithole town seems to have pretty low standards for cuisine

**i always think shitty punk bros are cute what do i do?!** poison them, duh!!!!!!!!!!!! Punk boys are physically weak and worthless and probably don't have 401k's and are probs not worth the emotional labor! Date someone who goes to university of Puget sound instead

**I'm living in dystopia and I think I'm gluten intolerant please help me this life is the pits :-)** (rice, dumbass!!!!!!!!!!!!) As for your existential crisis or whatever just watch the Simpsons idk next question

**Has the proliferation of illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank rendered a viable Palestinian state impossible, and if not, what should be the fate of the settlements as part of a lasting two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?** TBH I feel as if the Israeli state has perpetrated atrocities on the Palestinian state and its in our (United states) best interest to divest from our economic interests in a state that is so hell bent on settler colonialism and all this talk of a two state

solution is sus as hell IMO. I hope that there is viability of a Palestinian state amidst these discussions and that israel's settler colonialism/imperialism be scrutinized in future discussions. I would say to anyone whole concerns themselves with social justice but fucks with a state that's perpetuating genocide can suck my hole xpxo wasted advice

**a degree from evergreen is actually making me less valuable than when i started what do i do with my life to get those points back** gamble duh!!!!!!!!!!!! buy lotto tickets because it's wayyyyyyy safer financially than getting a job with an evergreen degree! Anywhom happy Craigslisting!

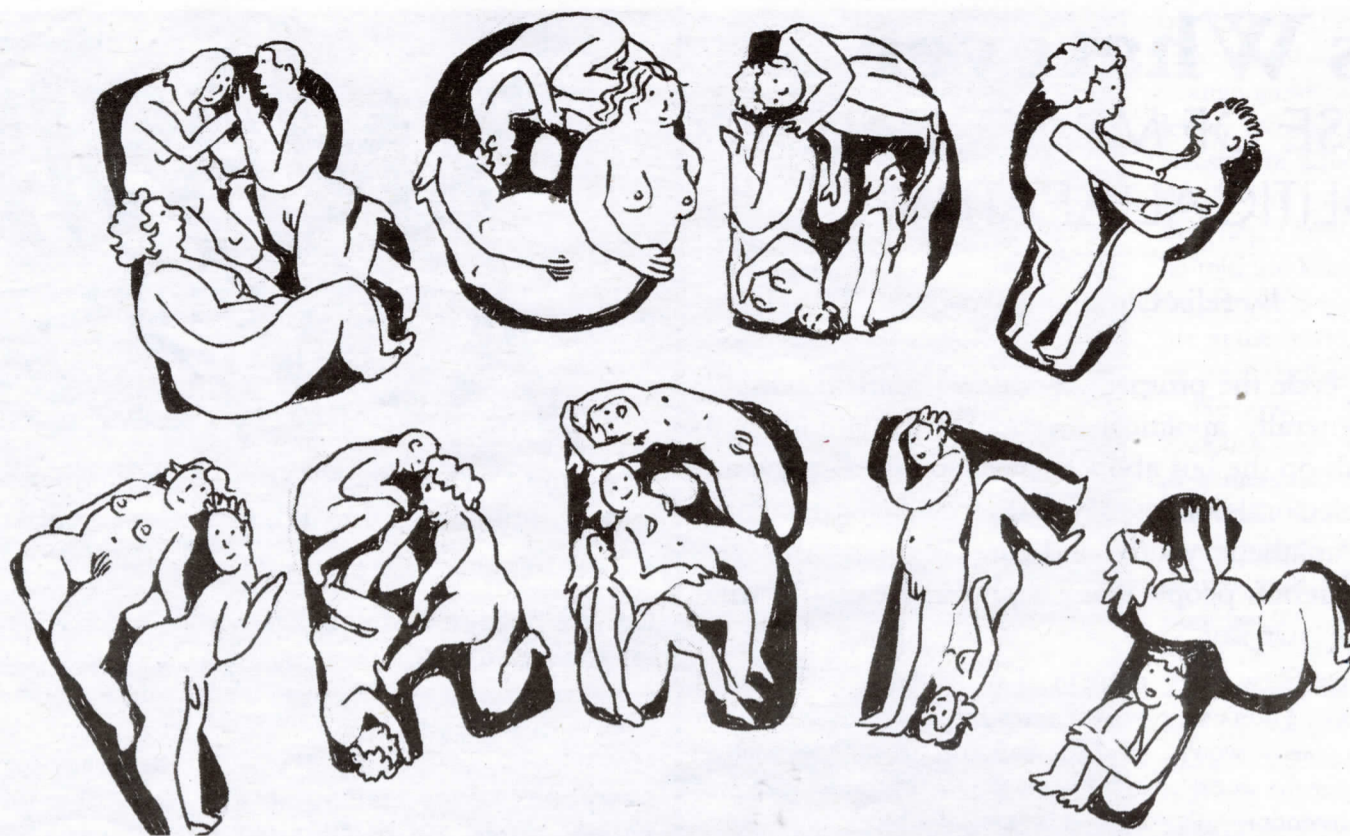
**I'm having trouble loving and accepting myself, what should I do?** 1. Look in th mirror 2. Consult. Sephora's beauty experts and tell them all that concerns you with yourself on a physical level 3. Buy whatever they tell you to buy 4.achieve self actualization

**Finish this sentence "MASCULINITY IS \_\_\_\_\_"** Futile/ meaningless/ a construction

**how do you deal w social situations without being like a drunk fool and or smoking a whole pack of cigarettes?** staying home obviously?!!! Next question

**how do you feel about bernie slanders?** lemme spill the tea: I don't drink that neoliberal kool aid

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



## ADVICE ON SEX, RELATIONSHIPS & MORE

Dear Body Party,

**I am going through a major dry spell, and I was watching that one Sex in the City episode the other night and fell into a Google hole- I spent hours looking up vibrators, dildos, butt plugs. How am I supposed to choose? They're all so expensive and what I thought would be a quick solve for my sexual frustration is looking more complicated (and expensive!) than just trying to snag a Tinder date. Where should I start? Should I hit Lovers or hit the app store?**

Honestly, screw Tinder. Fuck yourself instead. Searching for a new sex toy is a bit like opening a can of worms- there's too many, they're all different but serve the same basic purpose, and many of them tend to wiggle around a whole lot. Get it? Me neither. Sex is one of those complicated things that can actually be pretty simple- on a very basic level, good sex is about being honest with yourself about what you like, and being willing to ask for it- regardless if you're flying solo or with a co pilot.

As usual, that's nothing I can do for you. But, in the spirit of education and dedicated to my horny teenage self- who spent hours searching forums and shopping around before making my first purchase, I am more than happy to present a very basic beginner's guide to buying sex toys.

The two most common sex toys are vibrators and dildos. A dildo is a phallic object meant for penetration, and a vibrator is, as you'd expect, a device designed to inflict pleasure through vibration. Vibrating dildos are dildos with a vibrating function, often with raised 'ridges' or 'beads' for added pleasure, or 'wings' for clitoral stimulation (this is the design of the infamous Rabbit vibe).

It's important to know how to describe what you're looking for, especially if you're searching online. They come in a million shapes, sizes, functions, colors, and materials. While sizes, designs, and features are important when it comes to pleasure, one of the most important aspects as far as safety is the composition of the sex toy. Sex toys are unregulated (which is why they are often labeled as 'novelty items'), which means that producers can get away with making them out of materials that are really unfit for their use.

The biggest example of this is the widespread use of 'jelly' toys, which have been known to contain phthalates, a chemical added to toys to increase their flexibility, that is being examined worldwide for its adverse health effect and is banned in the European Union in toys for children under 3. As the toys age, they are likely to begin to release lead and cadmium in a process called 'off gassing'. On top of that, jelly toys tend to be very porous and thus breed bacteria.

Besides jelly toys, which are very common because of their low price point, the

majority of sex toys are made out of silicone, glass, or some sort of Cyberskin style 'realistic' plastic, which may also contain phosphates and also tends to be onerous and difficult to clean. Silicone toys are usually a safe bet as silicone is easy to clean and non porous- you can boil silicone dildos (nothing with batteries or wires!) for a few minutes to sanitize them- but stay away from silicone lube when playing, as like dissolves like.

Silicone or 'realistic' plastic dildos are a good intro toy, especially if you're into penetration. They can be great for more than just one person as we with a strap on, you should make sure you buy one with a tapered, flat base that will fit in a belt. Glass toys are also nice, especially if you're interested in playing with temperature. These toys are made with industrial grade glass that should protect against breakage but, of course, discontinue use if you see and cracks.

Vibrators can be a cheap, easy way to mess around or a major investment that pack a real punch. You can buy low quality bullet vibes— small vibrators about the size of your thumb that have only one setting and are meant for external stimulation— for less than ten dollars. There are also so many insanely cool high tech options on the market, the kind of toys that are sure to make any tech bro or average joe squeal, with a million settings for intensity and patterns.

Remote controlled vibrations are not just for vibrating panties anymore- many high end vibes hook up to apps to provide hands free pleasure. You can get elegant high quality gold and silver vibrating jewelry like the Vesper, a vibrator that simulates oral sex like the Lelo Ora, vibrators that simulated penetrative sex by using pistons to created weighted motion (called pulsators), or, if you're a little more old school, a new Hitachi wand that features a (long awaited) rechargeable battery.

If you've thought it up in your fantasies, it probably already exists, and you can likely get it online for 15- 30% off this week in honor of Valentine's Day- Adam and Eve is good if you're looking for a wide variety of cheap options (with plenty of coupons and sales) and Babeland has a large selection of higher end toys.

Hope that helps—stay safe and have fun!

-Party!

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



By Nix Chace

A new moon in Aquarius on February 8 has brought an eccentric energy to all the signs. Mercury, the planet of day-to-day communications, is entering Aquarius on the 13th, thus emphasizing further the intense Aquarius traits of creativity, humanitarianism, and bold honesty. Venus, the planet representing love will be in Capricorn by Valentine's Day, thus bringing a stabilizing energy to existing relationships, and opening up a space inside all of us to seek real connections with others. These next couple of weeks bring a time of ease for all the signs. This is the time to open up and widen your social circle.

For the Fire signs (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) this means letting your guard down and opening yourself up to new friends. For earth signs (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn) this means letting loose and allowing yourself space to heal in cathartic and fun ways! For the air signs (Gemini, Libra, Aquarius) this means harnessing your talkative, friendly energy for the good of others and putting your friends first. For water signs (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces) this means challenging yourself by doing something new and different.

## ARIES 3/21 - 4/19

You've been reaching out lately and trying to make new friends, that wall you had up a few weeks ago has seemed to disappear! These next couple of weeks are about following through; make some concrete plans and see if you connect with someone, stay true to your nature and follow your instincts but don't be afraid to try something (or someone) new!

## TAURUS 4/20 - 5/20

Let yourself breathe these next couple weeks. There's no need to be so tense, Taurus. The middle of the quarter is hard but that doesn't mean you can't let your hair down and have a great night out this weekend! You've been working very hard for a while now and you need a mini-vacation. It's all about the balance, you can get all your homework done, and then celebrate out with your pals.

## GEMINI 5/21 - 6/20

Your schedule has been jam-packed and you've been looking to make more and more plans with people. Don't exhaust yourself, take some space to process all that's been happening to you. Try focusing on your friends these next few weeks, it'll give you some space to get out of your own head. You'll find that listening to what's going on with the people closest to you might give you some insight on how to process what's been going on in your life.

## CANCER 6/21 - 7/22

Socializing has not usually been your forte, Cancer. You're very much the humanitarian type who prefers to take care of others. Let yourself be taken care of this time! Valentine's day is coming up so be open to getting swept off your feet for a change, you just might like it. The middle of the quarter can be a daunting time, so allow yourself to be pampered.

## LEO 7/23 - 8/22

You've been having a pretty relaxed time lately, it seems like you're getting hit up by people left and right! You've been really overwhelmed in the past, so try to take things a little slower when it comes to your social life. You deserve to go out and have an amazing time, but be sure to do it with people that you're excited to spend time with, or else you'll get bored with a crowd that doesn't value all that you have to offer.

## VIRGO 8/23 - 9/22

You've been cooped up lately. You needed some time and space for yourself, but don't overdo it. Being comfortably alone can be really healthy, but try reaching out to others this week. You're known to be very romantic, so this Valentine's day set up a date with someone who excites you! Or treat your sweetie to an amazing day! Get lost in organizing fun events for you and a special someone.

## LIBRA 9/23 - 10/22

You've gained a lot of motivation and now is the time to put it to use in a productive way, while going out with friends every night can be a nice way to relax, you need to find the line between using your energy for something that will help you in the long run and something that's only good for a short amount of time. Try setting up a study-date with a pal, or spend a little more time focusing on getting through the mid-quarter hump. You can do it, Libra, you just need to try a little harder.

## SCORPIO 10/23 - 11/21

You've been very honest lately, Scorpio. This is healthy for you because you have a tendency to bottle things up. Don't be hesitant to make plans with new people in the next couple weeks. You'll come to find that others are more receptive to your intensity than you thought. Challenge yourself by making some plans with people you've previously blown off. You'll see that if you give people chances, they just might surprise you.

## SAGITTARIUS 11/22 - 12/21

These next couple weeks will bring out a lot of optimism in you that you didn't know you had. You might find yourself reuniting with an old friend, or getting a job interview, or socializing with others in a really positive way! Be sure to keep yourself centered. Try writing things down to process it all, or making sure you have some time to yourself to get all your work done so you don't get too lost in making plans.

## CAPRICORN 12/22 - 1/19

You haven't been as into going out lately, these days have been more about staying in and doing a lot of self-reflection than partying with your friends. Let the energy of the new moon allow you to spend some time with those you are closest with. Watch a movie with your bestie or have a date with your sweetie, going out doesn't mean you have to stress yourself out with interacting with strangers, allow yourself to exhale and have fun with the ones who know you best.

## AQAURIUS 1/20 - 2/18

This is such an exciting time for you! Both the sun and the moon are in your sign! Your energy is all over the place! However, it might be a little overwhelming. Enjoy your birthday, Aquarius, and bask in all your glory, this is a positive time for you to reflect on your past years and begin to grow. Just find the balance between time with others and time for yourself, prioritize you.

## PISCES 2/19 - 3/20

Romance can get so intense with you, Pisces. You've been drowning in homework this quarter and now is the time to let yourself love and be loved. Don't stress yourself out by trying to make plans with everyone on your friends list, just make plans that count. These next few weeks will bring about some more time in your schedule to dedicate to others and yourself.

