Spring 2019

The Pacific Sentinel, Maypril 2019

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MAYPRIL FOOLS!

A satisfying selection of silly satire scattered systematically throughout an otherwise serious issue

NOT SATIRE:

Chemistry professor facing Child Porn Charges

Should CPSO Carry Firearms? ASPSU Presidential candidates debate the issue

Looking For Aliens With Elvis And SHAMU

Green New Deal?
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Maypril Fools Satire Specials indicated with ✨

Front cover: HAHAHAHAHA by Josh Gates

The Pacific Sentinel is a monthly student-run magazine at PSU. We seek to uplift student voices and advocate on behalf of the marginalized. We analyze culture, politics, and daily life to continually take the dialogue further.

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PSU Chemistry Professor Facing Child Porn Charges

PSU scrambles in unpublicized meeting to determine out how to address the university’s latest PR nightmare.

by Margo Craig

On April 9, 2019 The Oregonian reported that PSU chemistry professor Niles E. Lehman, 56, was arrested in February. Lehman was indicted on charges of first- and second-degree encouraging sexual abuse. He is accused of viewing and distributing images of child pornography between October 2017 and September 2018. Public records show that Lehman posted bail in March and that the trial is set for May.

The Oregonian reported PSU confirmed in a statement that Lehman was placed on paid administrative leave. Kenny Ma, PSU Communications Director, declined to specify when Lehman was placed on leave. Lehman has not resigned.

PSU has not sent an official email to the PSU community addressing the matter.

On April 15th, a Monday afternoon, an HR representative of PSU and several university representatives unassociated with the Chemistry Department, along with Dr. Dirk Iwata-Reuyl, Chair of the Chemistry Department, held a discreet meeting in SBl 107 to address the approximately 40 people, presumably associated with the Chemistry Department, that attended.

PSU has not sent an official email to the PSU community addressing the matter.

Dr. Mark Woods, a chemistry professor, lamented the fact that PSU has not formally addressed the matter with the PSU community, telling the HR representative to “send an email tomorrow, and even that will be 6 days late.”

One attendee asked, “How are you going to change the communication chain so that we find out about this in a different manner?” The question went unanswered.

Dr. Gwen Shusterman, chemistry professor, commented, “This community needs healing from this.”

The HR representative sternly discouraged the attendees from asking questions about the case. They said repeatedly that they have limited information and are limited in what they can share, citing Oregon law. As long as they were present, he said, “the meeting is officially on record. How you all talk about this once we leave the room is a separate matter.”

Shusterman characterized HR’s position on limiting discussion of the matter as “stern.” She eventually asked the university representatives to leave: “I politely ask all of you to leave so that the community can discuss this now.”

After HR left, Iwata-Reuyl told attendees, “We are here to assure you that Niles Lehman has been off campus and will not be on campus.” Iwata-Reuyl declined to answer many questions, citing his “official role in this.” One question Iwata-Reuyl declined to answer was whether Lehman is still on medical leave: “We are not allowed to discuss personnel matters by Oregon Law.”

Professor Carl C. Wamser said from his seat in the front row, “We need to send our thoughts and prayers for somebody who is hurting and that person is Niles.”

Wamser continued, “I’ve talked to my old student recently,” referring to Alexander Rudine, a former PSU doctorate student who was charged with manufacturing, possession and delivery of methamphetamine in 2014 (he reached a plea deal and pled guilty to delivery of meth). “He is out of prison, back with his kids and he has a nice job. People are able to turn their lives around and not be defined by their worst actions.”

Iwata-Reuyl added, “There’s no way this makes PSU look bad because this is dealing with [Lehman’s] personal life, not his professional life.”

People in the crowd began to debate whether it is possible to morally separate Lehman’s personal life from his profession and speculated the extent to which the nature of the indictment is in fact a professional matter.

Regarding the rules and protocol for an investigation, one attendee asked, “If this is a professional matter, what is the time course and what are you going to do about this?”

Iwata-Reuyl said he was unable to answer the question.

Portland State University has removed Lehman’s PDX.edu faculty profile and research lab, Lehman Lab, from its site. Google search is still picking up results for the pages, but when clicked on to navigate to them, the pages cannot be found. Additionally a search result for Niles Lehman on Google Scholar Citations has a similar dead end.

As of 11 p.m. on April 21, 2019, PSU has not emailed its community about the situation. It is unclear what will happen to the Lehman Lab, however several graduate students that had been conducting research chose to transfer doctorate advisors in the wake of these revelations.

(Left) Niles E. Lehman's Multnomah County Sheriff's Office mugshot; taken from Oregon Live's website.

(Right) Screen capture taken at 11 p.m. 4/21/2019 from PSU's article (still posted) announcing that in 2016 Lehman was named as an Outstanding Oregon Scientist by the Oregon Academy of Science and PSU's subsequent "hopes it helps raise the profile of Portland State as a place to do research."

PSU chemistry professor named 2018 Outstanding Oregon Scientist

Author: Cristina Raljes, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Purpos: March 1, 2018

Niles Lehman, a Portland State University chemistry professor whose work in molecular evolution explores the origins of life, has been named this year's Outstanding Oregon Scientist by the Oregon Academy of Science.

Lehman has taught at PSU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences since 2001 and runs a research lab, which investigates the biochemical and genetic processes that drove the origins of life some 4 billion years ago and may still influence the evolution of organisms today.

"It is one of the most unresolved problems in science and a lot of people want to know where they came from and the pathway down to the actual first beginnings, and I can't believe I get paid to study a beautiful problem," he said.

Lehman said he was honored by the award and hopes it helps raise the profile of Portland State as a place to do research.

Dirk Iwata-Reuyl, chair of the chemistry department, wrote in nominating Lehman that his "breadth and depth of knowledge in Chemistry and biology has allowed him to address questions in molecular evolution in a holistic manner that is almost without parallel."
ASPSU Presidential Election: SHOULD CPSO CARRY GUNS?

Gibson wants CPSO to carry firearms, Leslie-Christy wants officers to have access to guns in the case of an emergency.

by Dylan Jeffries with additional reporting and photos by Margo Craig

The two Associated Students of Portland State University (ASPSU) presidential candidates, Kyle Leslie-Christy and Violet Gibson, had a debate on Tuesday April 8th in the Smith Memorial Student Union. They answered a broad set of questions about student engagement, free speech on campus, CPSO and campus safety.

The most notable difference between the candidates was on the issue of CPSO armament. Both candidates support CPSO having access to firearms. Leslie-Christy favors campus police officers not carry guns but have access to them in case of an emergency. Gibson favors campus police carrying those firearms.

Questions about armed campus security invigorated the debate as the issue remains hotly contested at PSU. Last summer CPSO shot Jason Washington 17 times outside of Cheerful Tortoise. Washington was breaking up a fight when he was shot. He died on the scene. Since then, the campus has been deadlocked about whether or not guns belong on PSU's campus, and whether or not CPSO should be carrying lethal firearms.

Disarm PSU campaign led by Portland State University Student Union was embraced by ASPSU leadership. ASPSU posted Disarm PSU’s list of demands on their office windows that face Broadway for the entire 2018-2019 school year; one of those demands calls for the immediate disarming of CPSO.

The ASPSU presidential election is a particularly important vote since it is the only contested race this election cycle. All students running for the Senate and the Student Fee Committee will be elected by default because the number of candidates are not more than available positions. But for the presidential election, it’ll be one or the other: a president in support of or against CPSO carrying guns on campus.

When asked if he supports the armament of campus police, Leslie-Christy responded, “this is a very complex question with a very complex answer. I think the campus security—all police officers—should first, before they get a gun, before they get any training for a weapon, they should be trained in confirmation bias. They should be trained in conflict resolution. They should be well-adept in learning how to diffuse a situation before they get trained on how to just—end it,” he continued, “I don’t think individuals should ever hold that power within themselves.”

But Leslie-Christy isn’t entirely against arming campus security, noting how common mass school shootings are in this country. “There’s been 250 instances where there’s been an active shooter on some American campus within the last, like, 10 years, so that is something we have to worry about unfortunately. I think to address that, you should have...some weapons that are stationed around campus that a security officer could potentially go and grab if there was an active shooter.”

Ultimately, Leslie-Christy believes, “for the most part, campus security should not be armed,” but should have access to firearms.

Gibson, on the other hand, supports arming campus police at all times. She cited three reasons why.

She referenced a Vanguard article that reported on a poll given to PSU students by Margolis

ABOUT THE CANDIDATES:

Both candidates currently serve in PSU’s student government. Leslie-Christy is the ASPSU student life director, and Gibson serves on the Student Fee Committee (SFC).

Violet Gibson:
5 years of experience in ASPSU SFC liaison to campus resource centers for students with children.

"I want to actually give the voices back to the students," Gibson told Vanguard. "And I want to, throughout the year, all the time be asking students 'What do you want? What do you need? What can ASPSU do to represent you better to the [PSU] administration.'"

Kyle Leslie-Christy:
ASPU student life director, chair of the SALP space committee, serves on Student Sustainability and Leadership Counsel, SALP advisory board, and the Campus Recreation Advisory Board.

"I believe that given the right tools, given the right instruction, the right guidelines, and expression, we can do a lot of great things here at PSU, with your help and with our guidance."
Healy, the outside consulting service that concluded PSU should continue arming CPSO.

"I'm pretty sure the outcome was...about 52% of students felt more comfortable having campus security armed," Gibson said.

However, Gibson misrepresented that poll: 52% of respondents favored disarming CPSO; 37% favored an armed CPSO; and 10% had no opinion. About 4,150 people in the PSU community, including students, faculty and staff, took the poll. Of the 2,279 students responded to the poll, 49% favored disarming, 39% favored armed CPSO, and 11% had no opinion. According to the Margolis Healy report, the entire PSU community is 29,607 people (with 27,670 students).

It is unclear that any other data provided by Vanguard would support Gibson's reference.

Gibson also said she believes the majority of students support arming CPSO based on her own conversations. "I went around and I asked a few students to kind of do my own poll," she said, "and I found out that the majority of those students did prefer to have campus security be armed."

The third reason Gibson cited comes from her experience on the Student Fee Committee. "I'm the liaison for resources for students with children," she said. "They have stated in their advisory board that there is a lot of concerns in terms of having children on campus and not being able to respond fast enough when there is a threat."

Gibson concluded, "I do support campus police being armed."

The moderators then asked Gibson and Leslie-Christy what they would say to students who feel unsafe with armed police.

Gibson replied, "It's our job for the people who do feel unsafe to ensure that they know that CPSO is on our side—and CPSO doesn't want to maliciously go out there and hurt people of color and marginalized communities. And I feel like the best situation for our campus is to honestly put complete trust in CPSO, because they're the ones who are supposed to be protecting us."

Leslie-Christy had a different take. "[Students] have a justified reason for why they would feel unsafe," he said. "You're more likely now to get shot by campus security than an active shooter unfortunately. So the people [police] that are here to protect you, you're more likely to get shot [by] if you're a person of color."

He concluded by saying, "In terms of students feeling unsafe, it's hard to put trust in someone that you have justified reasons to not trust. But, if those campus security officers have really tried to involve themselves in the community and put their faces out there—I mean, I've always had positive experiences with CPSO—I would say I trust them. I wouldn't expect anyone else to immediately just trust them for no reason. If they were going to make an initiative to try and be community liaisons and less like security officers, I feel like that would make it easier for individuals to trust them."

Gibson responded, "I feel like it's hard for CPSO to reach out to students when students have expressed that they do have that innate fear of them. When I talk to CPSO, they express that they don't necessarily feel comfortable walking with the students because they don't want them to feel any type of way when they're just going to their classes or they're just on campus."

Gibson disagreed with Leslie-Christy's suggestion that CPSO is distant from the community: "I also believe that CPSO does do a really good job of putting their faces out there," she said. "I always see them walking around campus talking to students, popping in on events, going into the cultural resource center. So they do their best to try to integrate themselves within campus."

There are certain differences between the two candidates otherwise, in terms of their experience, style, and overall vision. According to Vanguard, Leslie-Christy wants to "engage the PSU community around issues such as tuition reduction, housing insecurity, and food insecurity." Gibson "wants to give voices back to the students."

But in terms of concrete policy positions, the specifics of CPSO armament stands out as the central point of division between the two candidates running for student body president.

As it stands, there seems to be little resolution in sight. For whoever feels strongly about the issue, here's a chance to speak with your vote.

Some of the specified responsibilities of student body president, per the ASPSU website, include "acting as an official representative of student body internally and externally," and "serving as an early point of contact for administration and external entities."

ASPSU elections will be held on April 29th and May 1st. There will be a polling station from 12:00-1:00 p.m. located between the Smith Memorial Student Union and Cramer Hall.

THE PACIFIC SENTINEL 5
On March 8, Diversity and Multicultural Student Services hosted the fourth annual Frida Fest in Smith Memorial Student Union at Portland State University. According to the event page, the festival honoring Frida Kahlo is an annual event hosted every year in hopes to inspire people of all ages, genders, and racial backgrounds to embrace equality and build a world through art and empowerment. Since 2016, Frida Fest has celebrated International Women’s Day by highlighting the legacy of Kahlo, the infamous Mexican artist, feminist, and 20th century political activist. According to the PSU events calendar, the annual event “celebrates the feminist values that define Frida’s legacy,” and “honors artists dedication to social justice, leadership, and engagement.” This year, Frida Fest was organized by La Casa Latina, the Chicano-Latino Studies Program, and the Women’s Resource Center. It took place in Parkway North amid flowers while attendees enjoyed catered Mexican food and a myriad of activities, like jewelry-crafting and an “empowering photo booth,” as well as live performances of music and poetry.
Pedro Torres, program coordinator for La Casa Latina, says they celebrate International Women's Day around Kahlo every year because she has "immense reach in terms of artistic and creative influence across many different spheres. Through her art and activism, she has impacted the world of art, fashion, women's empowerment, gender equality, and many others." He regards her as a persistent role model, as influential today as she was when alive, Kahlo continues to exemplify positive aspects of intersectionality. He hopes "this event has a positive impact on women because of who Frida was and how she lived and challenged the status quo when many women had little power."

For Ibette Sanchez, a PSU student who helped organize Frida Fest, one of the main takeaways was that Kahlo is "more than just the flower crown and the unibrow. She is full of feminist values and she really believed in breaking down the stereotypical Eurocentric standards of beauty we often think about."

Kahlo was born in 1907, three years before the outbreak of the Mexican Revolution, in a small town on the outskirts of Mexico City. Today, Kahlo's face is famous from her striking self-portraits that explore themes like sexuality, gender roles, indigenous identity and class. When she was alive, she both partook in and defied the machismo culture of Mexico. She wielded power through pride in her "mexicanidad" identity, but fervently challenged the status quo by simultaneously embracing her "mestizaje," or "mixed," heritage. Kahlo played with personas. At times, she'd perform the male gender: dressing like a young man for family portraits; other times, she'd don the vibrant garb and persona of a traditional Mexican woman. Throughout her open, but tumultuous, marriage with famous Mexican muralist, Diego Rivera, Kahlo had affairs with men and women. Several medical conditions gave Kahlo a life of chronic physical pain and suffering, another theme memorialized in her portraits which many regard as iconic of the struggle endured by Mexicans, in particular, Mexican women.

Genesis Cetlai Arambula, a PSU student who helps organize events with La Casa Latina Student Center, said that an event like Frida Fest is a way for her to connect with a community that can relate to her Mexican-American background. "Often times at Portland State, I feel as though I don't belong in class because I don't have a classmate that looks like me or shares the same background. So going to an event like this makes me feel at ease, and this particular event shares feminist values that I hold close to my heart."

Today, Frida Kahlo's face pervades pop culture imagery but her legacy goes deeper than a beautiful woman with a unibrow. Frida Fest is one event that invites people to reflect on one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, and how her legacy as a feminist artist and social activist informs contemporary social movements pertaining to gender, sexual orientation, class, race and indigenous culture.
A bird's eye view of Europa, one of Jupiter's many moons, reveals deep gashes that extend for thousands of kilometers—a violent geologic history. The broken up landscape, made up of ice that is 10.15 miles thick, is covered in an unknown reddish material creating what NASA scientists refer to as “chaos terrain.” The way Europa interrupts Jupiter's magnetic field has also led them to believe that an electrically conductive and salty ocean lies beneath the fierce terrain. Enceladus, one of Saturn's moons, is another icy water world, and the most white and reflective body in our solar system. Plumes of gas and icy particles of salt water have been found to gush out of the surface at 800 miles per hour, snowing back down on the surface, and also supplying Saturn with some of its ring material. Tiny grains of silica have been found in these jets, which can only be formed when water and rock come together at high temperatures. Scientists are intrigued by the silica, because it raises the possibility that hydrothermal vents are present at the seafloor and form regions where hot, mineral-rich water erupts and pours into the ocean. What do Europa and Enceladus have in common? They are both icy water worlds that are thought to possibly harbor alien microbes.

Dr. Jay Nadeau is looking for aliens. She is an associate physics professor at Portland State University with an unusual research background, specializing in a broad range of fields, including astrophysics and biophysics. While many of Nadeau's projects have been centered around the search for microbial life on other worlds, she has also worked on theoretical condensed matter physics, experimental neurobiology, and developing anti-cancer drugs. She has built holographic microscopes to detect microbes in Enceladus' plumes and Europa's ocean, and is currently building a microscope to study microbes that live in hydrothermal vents.

Dr. Nadeau grew up in a village called Volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii—which we both agreed is a bit like Mordor, eerie and gloomy, yet magnificent. Hawaii is a chain of volcanic islands that were formed 2-5 million years ago as a tectonic plate in the north Pacific Ocean moved over a hot spot of magma deep in the Earth. While the plate slowly moved, the hot spot spewed magma through the seafloor, bursting through the plate and forming several islands that eventually became habitable. It's no wonder a kid would be fascinated with science growing up around such unique geologic histo-
Vibrio alginolyticus is a bacterium with a distinct swimming pattern, and it can also survive in extremely salty oceans possibly resembling Europa or Enceladus. Likewise, Colwellia psychrerythraea, also a bacterium, can survive in oxygen-free environments, and has no temperature limitations. Studying their movement involves exposing them to chemotacticants and chemorepellants (chemicals that attract or repel the microbes) and observing how they respond.

Enceladus is considered to be a geologically active moon, because it has an inner ocean that bursts plumes through the surface over 150,000 feet high. To look for microbes here, Dr. Nadeau built a holographic microscope with hopes of putting it into orbit around the moon, close enough to sample the plumes and scour them for microbial life. One of her collaborators is Mark Burchell from the University of Kent. They run high velocity experiments together, and detect bacteria from a special gun to study how they split onto different surfaces. (Yes, this is science.) These experiments help them determine what kind of material they should use to capture microbes in the plumes of Enceladus, without pulverizing them, in order collect more than just particles of life forms. They take videos of the microbes swimming around in their split sample using digital holography microscopy (DHM). DHM is a technique that uses lasers to illuminate a sample and send it to a microscope objective, and a computer to reconstitute a high resolution image for us to see. It is beneficial because it allows them to eliminate the need to focus the microscope, and also use the particles, which can contain cocrystalline samples.

Europa is a different story. Rather than sample plumes, Nadeau hopes to build a device that will scoop up the ice on the surface, and look for microbes with a microscope she built named Shamu (stands for Submersible Holographic Microscope with Ultraviolet Microscopy). She simulates an environment similar to Europa, and Nadeau and her team took Shamu to Greenland. They know just where to look, because scientists have already characterized much of the microbial life in the ice, and the temperatures and pH levels at which they thrive. When it comes to planning such an expedition, "the logistics are the hardest part," she said. ["You need to talk to someone that's already at a remote site."] When planning for Greenland, the locals told her that she had better come out, because the froids where they wanted to measure sea ice was going to melt soon, and would be too dangerous to stand on. As a scientist preparing for these voyages, it sounds like you have to roll with the punches. Similarly, Canada has the Polar Continental Shelf Program in Resolute Bay, where Nadeau has scheduled missions to the McGill Arctic Research Station in the Canadian High Arctic. If you write a research proposal that gets accepted, they work out most of the logistics for you, including what kind of support you will need while you're there, and scheduling plane flights to your field site. It might turn up the day before you're supposed to be there. Nadeau said, looking as if she had experienced both outcomes.

I asked Dr. Nadeau if she had any advice for students pursuing STEM careers. "The key thing is to find your collaborators, and identify the thing that you yourself like to do," she says. "Your collaborators should be skilled in doing the work you don't feel comfortable doing, and vice versa. She also made a point that research scientists are at the whim of the funding agency, and what you study is largely driven by what gets funded." In reference to her wheeling microbes at various surfaces, "that where the high impact experiments came in...I didn't expect it to get funded, but it did." It seems that Nadeau has found a healthy mix of pursuing research that interests her, but also emphasizing projects that funding agencies (i.e. the government) are interested in. And, with her multidisciplinary expertise, there are many avenues her work could lead her down. Perhaps one of those roads will indeed lead to microbial life in space.
The Green New Deal Isn't New:
Exploring the history of the latest effort for radical climate change focused infrastructural reform.

by Dylan Jeffries
illustrations by Jake Johnson

Trump vs. environment / climate change policy

Last March, President Donald Trump spoke at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in National Harbor, Maryland. In an unscripted speech, laced with sarcasm in true Trumpian fashion, the president ridiculed Democrats for supporting the Green New Deal. “I encourage it! I think the Green New Deal—or whatever the hell they call it,” pausing to let the crowd boo, “I think it’s really something that they should promote.” The crowd laughed and Trump jeered on, “It’s something our country needs desperately...No planes! No energy! When the wind stops blowing, that’s the end of your electric!” More laughter. “Darling?” Trump pretended to look up at the sky, “Darling, is the wind blowing today? I’d like to watch television, darling.”

Trump disputes and dismisses the science of climate change, so it’s no surprise that he mocks ambitious environmental policy. As a candidate, he called climate change a “Chinese hoax.” Five months into his presidency, Trump followed through on his campaign promise to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Agreement, also known as the Paris Climate Accord, making the nation one of just three in the world to abstain from the international agreement to curb global warming (the other two are Venezuela and Syria). Trump defended the decision, famously saying he “was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris.”

Science of climate change

The U.S. experienced a slew of unprecedented natural disasters over the past year while the Trump administration continues to roll back many Obama-era policies that aimed to curb climate change and pollution. Scientists say these devastating events—fatal hurricanes, Arctic blasts, flooding, and tornadoes, unusual in magnitude, geography, and/or regularity—indicate a new norm and point to a destabilizing climate.

Studies show that at this rate, catastrophic repercussions from climate change will soon become irreversible without dramatic action. In October 2018, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a dire report written by some of the world’s top climate scientists: if Earth’s temperature rises more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, catastrophic floods, droughts, and poverty will likely occur (meaning the goal set by the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rises at 2 degrees Celsius would actually be too tepid to prevent irreversible catastrophe). The report estimates that human civilization has about 12 years to drastically cut carbon emissions to keep Earth’s temperature from rising above that 1.5-degree threshold.

The report also focuses on equity, and emphasizes the disparity between how the poor and rich of the world experience climate change. The report states, “Ethical considerations, and the principle of equity in particular, are central to this report, recognizing that many of the impacts of warming up to and beyond 1.5°C, and some potential impacts of mitigation actions required to limit warming to 1.5°C, fall disproportionately on the poor and vulnerable.”

A Call for Ambitious Change
The Green New Deal in 2007: An Idea

The term “Green New Deal” was first used back in 2007 by Thomas Friedman, a Pulitzer-prize winning columnist, in two articles written for the New York Times and New York Times Magazine. At that time, public awareness about climate change was growing: In 2005, Hurricane Katrina swept New Orleans in flooding; in 2006 Al Gore sounded the alarm for impending environmental catastrophe in his documentary and lecture-circuit, An Inconvenient Truth; In 2007, the summer melt on the ice sheets of Greenland reportedly increased by 30% and the melt has outpaced its accumulation ever since.; in 2008, Barack Obama, running on a platform that espoused climate reform, was elected president; in 2009, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as the Copenhagen Summit, failed to come to a legally binding agreement toward tangible climate action. However, the resulting Copenhagen Accord marked a shift in global politics where a majority of countries acknowledged that climate change was a real issue that affected the world and needed to be looked at.

Climate change, at least in concept, had finally made it to mainstream media and public awareness, but Friedman’s call for a Green New Deal did not. In his article, Friedman outlined the roots of America’s fossil-fuel addiction: following World War II (1939-45), the United States was locked in an intense rivalry with communist Soviet Union. The Cold War was brewing and hysteria over communist infiltration swept the U.S. To unify the country—and to transport weapons quickly in the event of war—President Eisenhower ramped up funding for the Interstate Highway System. The highway, Friedman wrote, helped to enshrine America’s car culture...and to lock in suburban sprawl and low-density housing, which all combined to get America addicted to cheap fossil fuels,” setting a model that other countries followed.

To truly curb America’s oil dependence and greenhouse gas emissions, Friedman argued that the necessary “rallying call...is for a ‘Green New Deal.’” The name is a nod to President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “New Deal,” a broad range of programs and projects that helped pull the country out of the Great Depression by stabilizing the American workforce and economy. Friedman wrote, “like the New Deal, if we undertake the green version, it has the potential to create a whole new clean power industry to spur our economy into the 21st century.”

The Green New Deal, as conceived by Friedman, was a proposal to revolutionize the energy-industry by playing the free-market system. Friedman’s vision fell on two general requirements: government regulations “to drive innovation and efficiency,” and competitive prices “to drive more and cleaner energy choices.” Friedman, a self-described centrist and “free-market guy,” outlined the costs, energy standards, and projects the United States would need to “change the very nature of the electricity grid” and replace dirty coal and oil with alternative energy sources. “And that is a huge industrial project—much bigger than anyone has told you.”

That was over 10 years ago, when Friedman believed that rallying behind energy efficiency could be a means to unify the country. His motto? “Green is the new red, white, and blue.” But today, politics in the U.S. are more polarized than ever.

In the late 1990s, when climate change began to receive a lot of media coverage, the issue wasn’t very polarizing. In 2001, according to a Gallup survey, 49 percent of republicans and 60 percent of Democrats said they believed global warming was already in effect. By 2010, the proportion of republicans dropped to 29 percent while the proportion of Democrats rose to 70 percent. To regard the environment as a partisan issue is the product of well-oiled media machines (fed by political agendas) seeking to sway and tap into an increasingly polarized voting base. One side calls regulations common sense, while the other calls it government overreach. As voters don’t agree on the fundamental reality of climate change, it’s difficult to imagine bipartisan environmental...
action any time soon.

Between 2007 and 2019, many policy makers attempted to address the mounting issue of climate change. There was the aforementioned Copenhagen Summit, which failed; there was the Paris Agreement, which Trump pulled the US out of; there was the prospect of electing another candidate running for president on a platform of bold climate reform, such as Bernie Sanders or Jill Stein. And while there have been little successes (such as?), there has been no bold, overarching policy that would make the US a carbon-neutral economy — a necessity for combating climate change. That is, until now, with the Green New Deal.

The Green New Deal in 2019: a Non-Binding Agreement

In February, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) introduced the Green New Deal with the ultimate goal to make the United States a net-zero carbon economy. The resolution was cosponsored by 89 House members and 11 senators. The proposals include sweeping climate, social, and economic reform, with regulations and projects that put the nation on track to use 100% renewable energy sources by 2030.

The propositions are broad and ambitious. Some of its proposals include, "meeting 100% of the power demand in the United States through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources," to "[p]roviding all people of the United States with — (i) high quality healthcare; (ii) affordable, safe, and adequate housing; (iii) economic security; and (iv) access to clean water, clean air, healthy and affordable food, and nature." On top of Medicare for All, guaranteed housing, food, and nature, the resolution also includes proposals that would reconstruct American agriculture system and begin plans to build a nationwide high speed light rail.

What is a non-binding agreement?
The Green New Deal was introduced as a non-binding resolution. If Congress votes to pass a non-binding agreement, the proposals do not become law. So what's the point? Think of it more like a judicial dare to state representatives to vote on record: "Will you show the American people that they stand firmly behind this issue?" It's intended to spark a debate, gauge support and elucidate a brave path forward in a meaner world.

It also gets how politicians vote on record which is important for future elections.

Political response

Republicans unanimously reject the Green New Deal. Many smear it as a socialist agenda masquerading as climate reform. "Democrats sugarcoat this form of socialism by dubbing it Medicare for All," wrote Steve Forbes, Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Magazine and two-time former presidential candidate. He described the Green New Deal as "a comic book collection of absurdist ideas to combat global warming."

There is also a lot of pushback over how much the Green New Deal in action would cost (the estimates range from 51 to 93 trillion dollars over the next ten years) and whether its proposals could be implemented without undermining the fabric of American democracy have been widespread.

Shortly after the Green New Deal resolution was introduced, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell brought it to vote on the Senate floor on March 25th. He eyed an opportunity to expose holes in democrat support for the resolution, which indeed failed (57-0), but nearly every Democrat—including those in
favor—voted "present," criticizing the vote as a political sham.

In that vote, the resolution failed 57-0. Nearly every Democrat voted ‘present,’ looking to dodge controversy on an issue that hadn’t had time to be discussed. McConnell received a lot of criticism from Democrats, who say that he wasn’t serious about having a debate on climate reform. Many of the Green New Deal’s avid supporters in the senate voted ‘present’ on the resolution, saying the vote was a “sham.” It is unclear whether or not the Green New Deal will be put up for another vote in the future; but, as it stands, what matters to policy makers who support it is the principle of its proposals and ideas.

For Democrats, a big question facing competitive elections is whether the Green New Deal could garner enough support in such a polarized political climate. However, many eye the emerging largest demographic of voters: millennials. Millennials approach climate change as one of the most important issues the world faces today and Democrats noticed. Millennials and those coming after them in generation Z, on both sides of the aisle, are more concerned with climate change than older voters. A Pew Research Poll found that Gen Z Republicans are “much more likely than Republicans in older generations to say government should do more to solve problems,” and are less likely to call global warming a natural phenomenon.

Many presidential candidates are in fact betting that their support for the Green New Deal will appeal to voters. It may be a litmus test for democratic presidential candidates running in 2020. All five Senate Democrats running for president in 2020 co-sponsored the resolution. Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Cory Booker, and Beto O’Rourke have all voiced their support for broad climate reform that addresses both the environment and the importance of including marginalized communities as part of the discussion. Even though the Green New Deal didn’t necessarily “pass” in congress, its existence has clearly influenced proposals have altered the political landscape by bringing climate and economic reform to the forefront of the left’s 2020 platform.

The economic benefits of radical climate action and infrastructure overhaul deserve a closer look for the potential to extend appeal across the political aisle. Megan Horst, assistant professor of Urban Studies and Planning at PSU, touched on this by pointing to the success of the New Deal:

“The scale of intervention, in terms of policy direction and financial implications suggested by the Green New Deal, is not unprecedented. There are a number of examples of major government intervention in the past, including the original New Deal programs of the 1930s, the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, and the Troubled Asset Relief Program of 2009. There is a lot to learn from the social and economic impacts of each of those examples. This Green New Deal offers the chance for another ambitious intervention that is responsive to the ecological and social crises of our time.”

The Green New Deal might sound idealistic and general—maybe even far fetched—but the aging infrastructure in the United States warrants sweeping revision and the New Deal may be a good place to look to for inspiration. Last November, Portlanders voted to enact the Portland Clean Energy Initiative, which CNN commentator Van Jones referred to as “the most important ballot initiative in the country.” Unlike the Green New Deal, the PCEI is quite specific and may offer insights about how “green infrastructure” overhaul projects could look nationwide.

Next month, come back for part two to get a closer look at the Green New Deal and the Portland Clean Energy Initiative. We will discuss how they are similar, different, and potential paths forward for climate action in the United States.

Additional reporting by Margo Craig.
Denim Day Raises Awareness About Sexual Assault

Article and photos by Jake Johnson

On April 24, 2019 visitors to the Portland State University Park Blocks were greeted with messages that had various denim apparel hung by clothespins. As guests to the area got closer to inspect the pants, skirts, jackets, and shorts they realize they were written on with messages. Hung among the pants were placards with statistics about sexual violence. It was Denim Day 2019 and PSU’s sexual violence prevention organization, Illuminate makes it very visible.

All around the world the 20th annual Denim Day was celebrated in a very visual way. Portland likes denim but on that Wednesday more people were wearing denim than usual. Some people were wearing buttons that said “Ask me why I’m wearing denim.”

In 1992, an 18-year-old girl was raped by her 45-year-old driving instructor in Italy. He was convicted of rape. However, in a 1998 appeal the 45-year-old driving instructor in Italy. He was convicted of rape. However, in a 1998 appeal the Italian Supreme Court overruled the rape conviction because he claimed the victim’s jeans were too tight that she must have helped her perpetrator take them off and therefore it must have actually been consensual.

The women in the Italian Parliament were enraged by the verdict and launched a protest wearing jeans to the Supreme Court. The first Denim Day was held in 1999.

Here at PSU in the Park Blocks, Illuminate set up a denim writing table and invited passersby to write their own messages on denim to be added to the rest of the denim hanging around.

Addressing backlashes to the #metoo movement, one placard read: “Men are more likely to be victims of sexual violence than to be falsely accused.”

A pair of jeans read, “the person who raped me made a choice, I did nothing to cause it.” A pair of shorts next to those pants had a picture of an angry cat and writing that read “My pussy is not for grabbing.”

A skirt read, “We believe you.” Sabrina Malatesta organized this year’s Denim Day. This was the first time Malatesta had organized the event.

“Just being here and seeing the people come by,” Malatesta said. “This woman, she wrote on the denim, she’s like ‘this is so cathartic.’ So just seeing how it affects people, [when they are] seeing all the denim, it’s been a really great experience for me.”

How Denim Day started at PSU

Amy Collins is the Illuminate Coordinator and the only full-time staff for the program. Collins came to PSU to help organize and strategize PSU’s sexual violence prevention efforts 4 years ago.

But Collins isn’t new to sexual violence prevention. Collins has worked in social justice and anti-violence work for 18 years with non-profits. When Collins was hired at PSU, she wasn’t new to PSU either. She had been a community partner with the university as a part of the work she did with the Sexual Assault Resource center, “doing violence prevention, but more high school based, within the tri-county area.”

“With PSU, I was really fortunate to be a community partner with Keith Kaufman who is one of the Psychology department heads [at PSU] he would lend access to some of his senior capstone projects,” Collins said. “[the classes] would do lit reviews, research, and then give recommendations for curriculum development or deep dives into really good prevention guidance on how to do that community based education.”

When Collins arrived, Illuminate wasn’t called Illuminate yet. The specific name, Illuminate, and the associated lightbulb were all created by students at PSU. Collins said the name and the concept were done through a marketing and advertising capstone in early 2016.

Collins said the Illuminate sexual violence prevention program was created through a lot of outreach to department heads and coordinators gave shape to what prevention would look like. I didn’t step on with any preconceived notions, just did a lot of community needs assessment for the first six months of being here and that has still been my road map on how we build programming out.”

“They were into the program and just the idea of prevention on campus that they then took me into their advertising non-profit firm called Fir on campus,” Collins said. “They felt compelled even though they were pretty at capacity and helped me for a whole term.”

“For me, it really is a testament to why I love doing this. Students are great. My undergrad student intern put this together this year. The capabilities of my student staff and interns is just amazing.”

Denim Day was started around the same time that Collins came to PSU, but she didn’t have anything with its first iteration. “Some students had done a pretty truncated denim day for the first time ever in housing said ‘man, we had this great event but it was just for housing and housing doesn’t have the capacity to make it campus-wide because the resources are for housing. Makes sense, now that we have prevention you do it?’ I was like ‘Yes, but you have to come back and help me do it.’ So they came back, those two students that approached me, it was great. It was the three of us and we did, like the start of Denim Day.”

Collins says that their collaborative effort in 2017 looked a lot like it looks in 2019, it’s just gotten bigger.

Collins stressed the importance of looping PSU into Denim Day because it’s an international day of support. “Things are going on around the world around the world on Denim Day,” Collins said. “And I think that makes it feel less isolating and less daunting of a task when you’re like ‘we’re not doing this in isolation.”

“Denim Day is really about victim blaming awareness and about showing solidarity and support for survivors.” Collins said. “Although
awareness is not technically part of prevention it’s hard to get people to come to workshops and more meaningful conversations of proactive things like cultural change and social-normative behaviors and buying into policy change that allows for real prevention to happen if they’re not aware of the problem. So there’s always this tension when you do prevention of how much awareness time do you put. This one [Denim Day] feels so energizing and it happens to take place in Sexual Assault Awareness Month, so for me it’s an easy one. It’s a great way to get lines of people out to come hangout, and it’s so visible, it’s not just like a day of awareness.”

Collins enjoys seeing the visible manifestation of staff and faculty pledging support for Denim day when they deliver pins and buttons around campus. “Going department by department on a Wednesday when normally they’re in suit jackets and they’re all wearing denim is so awesome to me and I think it’s just such a visual way to show campus-wide support.”

We talked about negative reactions against the #metoo movement and not believing survivors.

“Historically speaking, when we deny access to groups of people and then we, eventually, give access to, like equal marriage and access to restaurants and education and all of that, typically what we look back on, culturally, and say is not like ‘Why did we do that?’ it’s like ‘Why did that take us so long?’ Right? Because equity and fairness shepherds in richness of culture and experience, but it’s so hard to give up your position of power. And when we don’t have those conversations in safe places, it’s so scary that people double down on their hate and they’re holding onto their power. So, prevention really is about creating safe spaces to have those conversations.

“We just went in the last two weeks and had anti-oppression and conversations with the football team, and we do it with all athletics, but the football team’s offense and defense just recently had these amazing conversations about layering intersections about, like, being a Black man in Portland and what gives you privilege and where you experience your most oppression. And Students really having these conversations, like, ‘Is that your own experience, or is that like an illustration of systemic oppression? Like, are you speaking holistically, or individually?’ What a great, safe conversation. One Black kid says to a white kid who talked about people’s assumptions about him because he grew up poor and still is that they think he’s dumb or whatever, and this Black kid says, ‘Like, man, that just checked me, I’ve done that, and I appreciate you saying that, like, I’m gonna walk away thinking about that differently.’ That is cultural shift, is like, not just checking boxes but, like, engaging and allowing people to articulate complicated notions of power and privilege and all of the stuff that we assume by monikers of each of those power and privileges. It was just cool. One kid was like ‘Why don’t we do this at the beginning of the year? This was great team building.’”

“Those conversations are why I do this work,” Collins said.

“People wanna shy away from sharing their true consent and sometimes their feelings,” Vian said. “It’s so often a yes or no answer, when it’s way more than that. Yes may not always be 100% consent.”

“A lot of women, they just naturally feel like they have to please people, and they feel, like, silenced,” Hausman said. “That’s something I reflected on in my past, I didn’t always have to say yes to everybody and everything that was going on in my life, whether it was sexual or not. Just being who you want to be. That’s something that consent helps toward, it’s your voice.”

The Sexual Assault Resource Center has a free and confidential hotline available 24/7 to provide resources and support to survivors and those supporting them. 1-888-640-5311
Shoureshi Unveils Exciting New Cross-Disciplinary Internship Program

by Raz Mostaghimi

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)—PSU President Rahmat Shoureshi announced via press release an exciting new internship program that calls for student interns from countless different fields. The program was created in response to student complaints about the high levels of competition for prestigious internships. Shoureshi claims this new program is his way of giving back to the Portland State University community and promoting cross-disciplinary collaboration.

According to the press release, the program brings students to Shoureshi’s office and residence to teach them leadership skills within the context of their own field. Engineering student Clara Matthews and architecture student Jason Wong, both enrolled in the program, have found the program demands to be odd but novel and rewarding.

“So they told me to come to the site of Wim Wiewel’s old mansion—the one they give to the PSU president—and told me to make a design for a new mansion, which I was not expecting,” Wong said. “I was expecting to just design a staircase and work with a team, but no, he wanted me to do the whole thing. I told him that architecture is usually a collaborative discipline and he just turned to me and said, ‘You are an ant to me. Build my hill,’ and now I have to have a model ready by the end of the week. It’s not super traditional, but you can tell he cares about your growth as a student.”

Matthews faced similar surprises in her internship experience. “He told me to design a shower in the mansion that would spray him all over. The thing is, I’m an electrical engineer. I tried to explain but he just showed me a drawing of a smiling stick figure—presumably him—getting sprayed with twelve showerheads and told me to stop wasting his time.”

Computer science major Kelly Parker faced a huge triumph in her internship. “President Shoureshi told me that when he first got his position here [at PSU], he demanded a VR program that would allow him to traverse campus and interact with students while staying in one of the two mansions he wanted the school to provide for him. I kept trying to explain that VR technology just hasn’t progressed that far, but his eyes got cold and beady and the room started smelling like sulphur. I ended up just downloading Google Earth onto his computer and he really loves it, so I’m definitely putting this on my resume.”

But some interns felt as if there was a mismatch between what they expected and the duties they were assigned from Shoureshi. Design management student Smita Kapoor expected to create furniture for a PSU building but instead, “he just made me move the furniture around in his condo and asked me if a fountain would look good between the two mansions he was building,” she explains. Shoureshi reportedly asked Wanda Key, a women’s studies major, “how to make female employees ask less questions.”

Communications major Carly Esposito found the program frustrating and baffling. “I was expecting to help him run a social media account or analyze his meetings,” she said. “But he would just hand me his phone and tell me to text Lithuanian factories about robot parts. One time he wanted me to call his family in Iran because it was Nowruz. I can’t even speak Persian. I think the last straw was when he asked me to explain the ending of Lost.”

President Shoureshi’s arrival at Portland State has brought a paradigm shift to our school. These internship experiences seem to encapsulate his ongoing reign: confusing at times, but a sign of new opportunities. Shoureshi hopes to open a center of excellence for interns in the program. Potential themes for the center include “Shoureshi Center of Excellence in Being My Intern” and “Center of Excellence in Ending Homelessness Among President Shoureshis.”
Love for Gas-Powered Cars

Cars are here to stay. Petrol heads hope gas stays too.

The desire to improve transportation is an ancient concept. Humans started with domesticated animals, and as time progressed, we broadened our concept of mobility, making it better as it rolled along the pages of history and time. Soon, we invented the steam engine, and that had its moment like all the other inventions before it. However, the invention of the internal combustion engine, and the discovery of crude oil completely changed the rules of the game of transportation and mobility. The key figures who created the original automobile are Carl Benz, Gottlieb Wilhelm Daimler, and Wilhelm Maybach. In the 1800s German engineer Carl Benz gave the world its first stationary gasoline engine—a one-cylinder, two-stroke unit which ran for the first time on New Year’s Eve 1879. The internal combustion engine was invented and perfected in Germany. The new invention dominated Europe. They started to make engines and cars in France. However, the Americans soon joined the game and came to dominate the automotive industry in the first half of the twentieth century—courtesy of Henry Ford and his innovative mass-production techniques that became the standard. The history of the automobile wrote itself through two world wars and finally resulted in Japan joining the game too.

Today, cars are a complicated issue. They are a part of people’s lives in many ways. Some use cars for status and luxury; some for commute and safety. And then there are the petrol heads. They worship cars and have a different concept of what a car is. People’s thoughts on cars can be categorized in numerous ways, but the most prominent and relevant division that exists is when discussing the environmental impact of cars, and whether or not we should do away with them entirely. One cannot deny the rising population and the effect of climate change. Cars with combustion engines are gradually making their way into the endangered species category. We do have alternatives now; in the modern world, such as hybrids and electric vehicles, but that adds more to the discussion on environmental impact than might be expected. I believe there is a grey area when it comes to consumer information about electric cars and their impact on the environment. A very basic summary from a novice perspective is that people have a basic acknowledgment about Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) cars contributing to the damaging of the environment. With this information already taken as fact, and with the mass advertising of the cleanliness of electric and hybrid vehicles, people who are cautious about the environment become somewhat biased.

There are numerous statistics that compare and contrast Electric Vehicles (EVs) to ICEs, and quoting them would make the argument more complex. This is because the studies conducted have numerous variables, and with changing parameters the argument changes. For instance, if EVs are charged by electricity that comes from burning fossil fuels or coal on an industrial scale, then that can’t be considered clean or green. In addition to that, one must also consider the energy that goes into making EVs. A fitting example would be when Toyota admitted that the production of its famed lightweight Prius requires more energy and emits more carbon dioxide than the production of its gas-only models. Apart from manufacturing energy, the battery that most EVs use are lithium based. With increased demands for EVs and hybrids, this means an increased mining of lithium, which is not easily on the environment.

*One of the biggest environmental problems caused by our endless hunger for the latest and smartest devices is a growing mineral crisis, particularly those needed to make our batteries.” says Christina Valimaki, analyst at Elsevier. Glorifying EVs and hybrids and promoting their massive production will create a new environmental imbalance. According to an article by Rosalba O’Brien and Rod Nickel for Reuters, the mining of lithium in South America is enormous because the continent holds more than half the world’s supply of the metal beneath its otherworldly salt flats.

Anit Katwala explained the mining process in an article for Wired: miners begin by first drilling deep into the salt flats and then pumping mineral rich brine into the ground. This is just the initiation. The hole is left alone for a period of about 18 months for evaporation which results in lithium salt formation. It’s a cheap process, but the environmental cost is approximately 300,000 gallons of water per metric ton of lithium, which negatively affects local farmers and wildlife near Chile’s Salar de Atacama. Whereas owners of ICE cars know where their fuel comes from and thanks to modern technology, can measure their impact on the environment. The sources of energy and climatic impacts are more transparent in ICE cars than they are in EVs. It is safe to say that all cars are pollutants to different degrees.

Truth be told, I myself am a devoted petrol head. And my definition of a car is different and personal. It is biased. I believe that a car can only be a car if it has a combustion engine and a combustion engine only. I do not consider hybrids or electric vehicles to be “cars” for they lack the soul of a car, which is the engine. A petrol head who has been driving cars like Alfa Romeos or Lancias, even old Toyotas and Land Rovers, will never be convinced by the argument of pollution alone to give up their ICE vehicles, because the bonds to their cars are on a far higher level. Regardless, I believe there are solutions to this problem that do not require banishing the ICE cars. Perhaps a tax policy that incorporated both EVs and ICEs. Governments could make it a necessity that all public transport, for instance, should rely on energy sources that are not linked to fossil fuels. The transparency on EVs could be elaborated and stretched so that consumers are fully aware about what they are buying and what impact it is actually having. Whatever measures and policies are enforced, I believe that the community of petrol heads will not be lost in books of history.

"One of the biggest environmental problems
Late-term abortion: let’s talk about it. Abortion in general is something that the public has been fighting over since 1973—a result of the supreme court decision in Roe v. Wade—when a woman’s right to choose was first given protection under the 14th amendment’s right to privacy clause. Now in 2019, we are still fighting, and with this comes the overflow of information and misinformation from both sides of the spectrum in a wash of he said, she said, they said conversations. This pattern makes it even more difficult to get real information and to understand what it is we are really arguing about. Bringing up the topic of abortion can make a room fall silent. Bringing up the topic of “late-term abortion” can send some into a panic as they picture a fully-grown fetus being pulled out of the womb by an unforgivable mother, but this isn’t realistic. The disconnect between what a late-term abortion is versus what it is thought to be is a disconnect that further perpetuates the oppression of women’s bodies and their right to make such difficult decisions.

Knowing the specific laws regarding abortion can better enable a person to draw the line in the sand of when it is legal, when it is necessary, and when it can be the only option between life and death. But even with this, the lines are always blurred because of unforeseen health crises, possible changes in circumstance for the woman, and the unpredictable turns that life can take—all of which could prevent a woman from having a baby. Abortion laws vary widely throughout the country regarding regulation, procedure, and accessibility and these laws are constantly changing and being amended to make it harder for a woman to be able to get the medical support she needs.

For example, in 2018 a Mississippi governor signed into law a ban on abortions after only 15 weeks. Even more drastically, Iowa governor Kim Reynolds signed a bill banning abortions as early as 6 weeks and a similar law passed in Ohio only a few months ago. Though the Mississippi law has exceptions for medical emergencies and severe fetal abnormalities, there is nothing stated about rape or incest. These bans weren’t in effect as the Roe v. Wade decision overrides these bans protecting the legality of abortion up to the point of viability; viability is when the baby could survive on its own outside of the womb which usually happens around 20-24 weeks. However, the fact is that a lot of governors are blatantly trying to pass laws that are unconstitutional and offensively restricting to women’s rights. But it’s not only at the state level.

Earlier this year, Trump received criticism for his response to legislation passing New York’s new Reproductive Health Act when he claimed “legislation would allow a baby to be ripped from the mother’s womb moments before birth.” Not only was this a cruel picture to paint, but it was also incorrect. Across the country, abortions are legal and require that no questions be asked until 20-24 weeks, depending on the state, or until viability. After this, it is considered a late-term abortion and different laws apply. The new legislation passed in New York allows late-term abortions in situations of necessary medical intervention and in cases of extreme deformities or detriment to quality of life of the unborn baby.

After the 24th week of pregnancy, though considered past the window for having a normal abortion, there are a number of reasons a woman may chose to go through with one anyways. In the later semesters of pregnancy, it might be revealed that the mother’s life could be at risk if she chooses to give birth. The fetus could develop a fatal condition or have brain deformations that prevent it from growing properly.

For example, Uterine cancer can sometimes only be detected during late stages of pregnancy and while new research is improving the chances that a woman can safely deliver a baby despite the cancer, there are still instances where a late-term abortion could be necessary.
in order to prevent the spread of cancer to the rest of the mother's body. Another example is ectopic pregnancy where the egg is fertilized outside the uterine cavity, if gone undetected this could result in death for the mother and the child and a late-term abortion would be the only option to save the mother's life. Within the womb, the fetus might develop abnormal growths, diseases, or be subjected to many other possible circumstances that would make life impossible post delivery. Situations like these often arise without prior knowledge and a woman shouldn’t be demoralized for choosing to save their own life over their unborn child’s.

One of the main disconnects between those who agree that late-term abortions are sometimes necessary and those who don’t is the absence of the stories of the mothers who undergo these procedures. A lot of the times women don’t speak up about having an abortion that occurred within weeks of their delivery date because of the tragedy of having to say goodbye to a well-developed child they have been carrying for months. Women who seek out late-term abortions almost always want to keep their child, but are left with no choice but to consider an abortion due to these unforeseen medical risks. Having to go through labor and give birth only to be handed your lifeless baby before saying goodbye forever isn’t selfish, it isn’t inhumane, and it isn’t wrong. It is devastating and painful. And women who go through this should be commended for their strength instead of shunned for a decision that was likely difficult to make.

Many believe late-term abortions are especially frowned upon because of the developmental stage of the fetus and the fetus’s ability to feel pain. According to Dr. Mark Rosen, who pioneered anesthesia in fetal surgery, the internal wiring required to feel pain doesn’t develop until after 20 weeks from conception, which is after almost 100 percent of abortions occur. A lot of people who are concerned about late-term abortion are worried that in this process the fetus will undergo extreme pain. Though doctors have not yet been able to completely figure out the specifics of a late-term abortion guaranteed to be harmless to the fetus, the mother’s health shouldn’t be negated as a result of this still-developing aspect of the procedure. Additionally, it is a lot more complicated than just protecting the mother’s life versus the baby’s life. Most can agree that a woman has the right to protect her own life, even against her own baby, but what about protecting her career and family? In BBC’s ethics guide to abortions there is the obvious decision to get an abortion if the delivery would result in death, but there are also ethics surrounding women getting abortions if taking the pregnancy to full term would lead to mental health damage, financial damage, career damage etc., and how abortions could be necessary in situations which call into question the physical or mental health of mother and baby.

Abortions also happen to be one of the safest medical procedures a woman can go through with only 0.09 percent of patients reporting complications. If the mother had the choice of risking her life in delivering the baby, or going through with a fast and safe operation, the operation can be the responsible choice. All of this information goes without saying that having to make the choice to save your own life or your child’s is very difficult and one that isn’t taken lightly. Being in the position where your baby has turned your body into a war zone, where it has become a fight for both of your lives and your hearts, is something that medical providers do everything to prevent, but sometimes all other options are exhausted. When it comes to having to make these hard decisions and go through a late-term abortion, the best thing to do for the mother and the family is to be supportive and try to remember that she is giving up her baby. Abortion doesn’t mean fetuses being ripped from the womb and it doesn’t mean that it is always preferred by the mother. It is a decision that has to be made based on all the aspects of the pregnancy and what is best for both the mother and family involved from a medical standpoint.

The majority of abortions in 2015 took place early in gestation:

- 91.1% of abortions were performed at ≤13 weeks' gestation
- 7.6% of abortions were performed at 14–20 weeks' gestation
- 1.3% of abortions were performed at ≥21 weeks' gestation

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Abortions also happen to be one of the safest medical procedures a woman can go through with only 0.09 percent of patients reporting complications. If the mother had the choice of risking her life in delivering the baby, or going through with a fast and safe operation, the operation can be the responsible choice. All of this information goes without saying that having to make the choice to save your own life or your child's is very difficult and one that isn’t taken lightly. Being in the position where your baby has turned your body into a war zone, where it has become a fight for both of your lives and your hearts, is something that medical providers do everything to prevent, but sometimes all other options are exhausted. When it comes to having to make these hard decisions and go through a late-term abortion, the best thing to do for the mother and the family is to be supportive and try to remember that she is giving up her baby. Abortion doesn’t mean fetuses being ripped from the womb and it doesn’t mean that it is always preferred by the mother. It is a decision that has to be made based on all the aspects of the pregnancy and what is best for both the mother and family involved from a medical standpoint.
The Hidden Flag project sought to subvert Russia's gay propaganda laws and the criminalization of the Pride Flag at the 2018 World Cup. Six individuals from six different nations wore different soccer jersey’s for each of the colors of the rainbow in the Pride flag.
In October of 1969, The Stonewall Inn went out of business, despite the major publicity it had received from the uprising in June of that same year. But as the beat of the dance music was shut off for good, the hard pulse of the uprising continued to grow. Within months of the events at Stonewall, organizations like the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) and the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA) formed. Activists also founded several queer media outlets, such as the newspapers Come Out!, Gay, and Gay Power. Through the proliferation of queer groups and queer media came the new ideology that direct identification would be tantamount for future recognition and acceptance—hence the prolific use of the word “gay.” This new ideology was a direct response to society’s previous refusal to accept the validity of queer identities, demonstrated in the unwillingness to use preferred terms such as “gay” and “lesbian,” even by sometimes supportive allies, like the liberal newspaper The Village Voice. Prior to Stonewall, The Village Voice was known to have used terms such as “faggotry.” The ubiquitous use of the word “gay” also contrasted with Pre-Stonewall LGBTQ rights groups, who used obscure names not immediately recognizable with queer identification. The Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis, the two most prolific pre-Stonewall groups, illustrate the previous caution against immediate identification; but in the post-Stonewall era, pride was the new ideology.

On June 27th and 28th, 1970, one year after the Stonewall Uprising, the very first pride parades marched through the streets of New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Several news outlets, including The New York Times, reported on the parades. That same year, members of the GLF interrupted a conference held by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) on behavioral medication, hoping to convince the psychiatrists in attendance that the use of behavioral modification for gay individuals was not only ineffective, but torturous—a concern already held by some APA members. The activists were invited back as guest speakers for the 1971 and 1972 conferences, and in December 1973, the APA officially removed “homosexuality” from its list of mental disorders. In 1978, a coalition of LGBTQ political groups campaigned heavily against California’s Briggs Initiative (proposition 6), a law that would have required public schools to fire queer identifying teachers on the grounds of their queer identities. The Briggs Initiative was defeated, creating such a significant wave of political activism in queer communities that Fred Fejes, in his book Gay Rights and the Moral Panic, deemed the Briggs Initiative defeat as “the second Stonewall.” It must have seemed as if the future liberation of queer individuals were just in reach.

Unfortunately, the 1970s also saw the rise both of prominent anti-LGBTQ groups, such as the American Family Association and the Save Our Children campaign, and of uninformed fear-mongering from prolific public figures. This anti-LGBTQ sentiment eventually led to the repeal of many then-new anti-discrimination laws for queer individuals. The fear-mongering and repeal of legislation led to a major regress in the late 1970s that lasted well throughout the 1980s. The LGBTQ community itself was hard-pressed to fight back against this new wave of negative sentiments, due in no small part to the lack of allied support both within and within LGBTQ communities.

Today in the United States, we know that we have still not fully reached that hoped-for future. This future has recently, and once again, seemed a bit farther away than we thought it might be. Beginning in 2017, the GLAAD organization noted a decline both in the percentage of self-identified LGBTQ allies, and in acceptance rates of LGBTQ people by the general public. Additionally, violence against queer individuals is on the rise nationwide, with some of the worst increases being in our nation’s capital; reports indicate a near doubling of hate crimes in D.C. against LGBTQ individuals between 2016–2018.

This change in how queer people are viewed and treated in our society is likely in part caused and exacerbated by the current presidential administration’s clear anti-LGBTQ attitudes and policies, which have included decreased protections against discrimination in several facets of public life for both adults and minors. The recent regress experienced in the United States is troubling, to put it as mildly as one can. However, the United States is not the only nation slipping backwards on LGBTQ rights. 2013 began an escalation of discrimination against queer communities in Russia, an escalation which continues into 2019. Similar to the situation in the U.S., the regress in Russia can be traced back to discriminatory legislation, which in turn has lead to a decline in public attitudes toward queer individuals. The necessity of allies without and within the LGBTQ community remains critical.

Allies fight back against regress in Russia

Although Russian law decriminalized "homosexuality" in 1993, attitudes toward members of the LGBTQ community after legalization were, at best, ambivalent. This took a dramatic turn for the worse in 2013, when Putin’s administration introduced Article 6.21 of the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offenses. The law stipulates that no “propaganda” shall be circulated...
"[The Russian government] asked me if I'd like to be an ambassador for the Olympics and open the show. I immediately said no. I want to know why all of this gay hate just exploded over there." — Cher

that "makes nontraditional sexual relations attractive," among other assertions. Following a common fear tactic, the law's purpose is supposedly to protect minors. However, the dangerously ambiguous language gives police and prosecutors near complete control in defining what is meant by "propaganda" and "nontraditional sexual relations." The law has been used to shut down pride marches, arrest LGBTQ activists, and even prevent rainbow flags in public spaces. Furthermore, the law has made health information specifically for LGBTQ youth incredibly difficult to find and access, which is, ironically, a severe detriment to many minors.

Since the introduction of the law, dubbed the "gay propaganda law," Russian LGBTQ organizations have noted a stark uptick in LGBTQ hate crimes—both against adults and minors—an uptick directly attributed to the gay propaganda law. Attitudes by general society have also become notably hostile. Russia's leading, non-governmental research organization, the Levada Center, noted in a 2015 poll that 48 percent of Russians surveyed said they would react "extremely negatively" to a close friend coming out as gay; the same study noted that less than one percent said they would react "positively." To make matters worse, such anti-LGBTQ sentiments seem to be treated with indifference by authorities. For example, little is done about hate speech against queer individuals on Russian websites, even when the speech explicitly calls for violence. Such instances are usually dismissed by authorities because LGBTQ individuals are not legally recognized as minorities who can be discriminated against. The near impossibility of positive LGBTQ representation in society, thanks to the gay propaganda law, coupled with the ambivalence toward anti-LGBTQ sentiments has created an atmosphere in Russia that seems to be fostering discrimination and regressive thinking.

However, the ambivalence of the Russian government and authorities is not an ambivalence shared by LGBTQ allies around the world. Several groups, organizations, and individuals have been doing what they can not only to call attention to the building crisis in Russia, but also to help reverse it. The Hidden Flag project, in response to the gay propaganda law's criminalization of the rainbow flag, used the Russian-hosted 2018 World Cup to call attention to the overlooked queer communities in Russia. The project consisted of six individuals from six different nations, each wearing a solid colored soccer jersey—one color for every color on the pride flag. The group took pictures of themselves at major Russian monuments and attractions, and publicized the project through social media. This was not the only allied support that came from international sources.

Artists from around the world, including here in the U.S., are speaking out against the Russia's gay propaganda law, and the country's treatment of its LGBTQ population. The criticism began in 2013—the same year the gay propaganda law passed—when singer/actress Cher refused to participate in the then-upcoming 2014 Sochi Olympics. Cher said in a 2013 interview with Macleans Magazine: "[The Russian government] asked me if I'd like to be an ambassador for the Olympics and open the show. I immediately said no. I want to know why all of this gay hate just exploded over there." That same year, Lady Gaga began using social media to speak out against the gay propaganda laws, and In 2014, Sir Elton John spoke out against the laws during a live performance in Russia. The awareness that undoubtedly resulted from such big-name celebrities, who took the time to say anything at all, cannot be downplayed. But it is not only celebrities and tourists acting as allies.

Alongside the rise in anti-LGBTQ discrimination, straight ally groups have popped up around Russia. Natalya Tsymbalova, a straight woman who founded the Alliance of Heterosexuals for LGBT Equality, believes the regrettably has conversely incited more positive social awareness and activism among tolerant Russians. And these straight allies are not only found in major metropolitan cities. Valentin Degteryov, a straight male resident of the industrial town of Nizhny Tagil (which is about half the size of Portland, Oregon) has spoken out against several instances of assaults against gay men; Degteryov has also worked with international LGBTQ Rights groups to help raise awareness about the reality of hate crimes against queer individuals in Russia.

The allied activism against discrimination in Russia has raised significant awareness about what is happening to LGBTQ individuals in the nation, which has put global pressure on Russia. The necessity of global allied activism and awareness cannot be downplayed, especially when such incidents like those in Russian controlled Chechnya—where up to 40 LGBTQ individuals are thought to be illegally imprisoned and subjected to torture—are currently taking place.

The situations in both the United States and Russia reiterate the importance not only of LGBTQ activism, but also of LGBTQ allies and allied support, whether that support come from inside or outside of queer communities, or from home or abroad. For these reasons, the focus of this month’s article has not been on one specific individual, but instead is meant to emphasize the necessary, invaluable actions and support of all those who proudly stand under the title "ally."

What are Allies?

Some readers may have noticed (and perhaps wondered about) the inclusion of LGBTQ individuals in the above segment. Allow me to dispel the sometimes misplaced misconception that an ally must, by definition, be straight. An ally is anyone who supports those outside of their own community, whether that be through inclusiveness and acceptance, or through political activism. I, as a cisgender gay man, support transgender rights; I am a transgender ally. I am a queer American, and support the rights of queer individuals in Russia; I am an ally to queer Russians.

The struggle for LGBTQ rights continues to be a humanitarian fight of literally global proportions. In a fight of this scale, it is impossible to have too many allies. This is something we know from LGBTQ history here in the United States. Despite the diversity of identities represented at the Stonewall Uprising, this homogeneity was not always indicative of the LGBTQ rights movement. When strong opposition against the acceptance of LGBTQ people began growing significantly in the late seventies, the lack of support between different queer communities and from straight allies helped allow this opposition to cause significant regress in both legislation and society's attitudes.

Division and exclusion were never meant to be an aspect of the LGBTQ rights movement, nor has this movement ever been—save for in the case of a small handful of extremists—a separatist movement. LGBTQ people need not only the support of one another, but the support of all straight people who believe that queer individuals are equal individuals. The fight here in the United States is unwinnable without the support of allies. The same is true for all nations where to be LGBTQ is to risk being seen as less than in any facet of life. To identify oneself as an ally has always been important, and due to a situation of increasing hostility and regress, it is currently of growing importance. If you desire to be an ally to the queer community, I strongly encourage you to become better informed about the discrimination queer individuals face, both at home and abroad, and to make known that you are an ally.

The simple statement, "I am an LGBTQ ally" is a significant act. •
"The fight here in the United States is unwinnable without the support of allies."
Growing up in Portland I have had experience riding the bus from the age of five with my mother around town. I started riding the bus to school around the age of 12 alone back and forth to middle school. I’m 39 now and in that time, I have seen how TriMet has changed. In this time, I have witnessed the creation and expansion of the MAX light rail system. I find it really handy to be able to board a MAX and be on the other side of the city in 30 minutes to an hour, traffic permitting.

In that time, I have also seen the evolution of the bus transfer go from a half-foot long, thin, and easily torn receipt to paper versions with holograms on them to their newest iteration as the Hop Card. I don’t know when I started the practice of buying a monthly bus pass, placing it in my wallet, and only pulling it out when needing to show to a driver or fare inspector. Additionally, I also place an emergency All-Day ticket in my wallet as well. Now the ability to have a prepaid monthly pass in my back pocket, only needing to be pulled out every once in a while, will change to me having to keep track of, remember to tap every time I board the MAX, and keep my Hop card loaded with enough money.

Over the last few years with the increase of fare inspectors I have tallied up a small collection of fare violations, these were from me not realizing it was the first day of a new month (I get busy and don’t look at dates when running for the bus in the morning, my bad!), because I forgot to stamp my emergency ticket for this situation (be prepared?) or having not replaced said ticket in my wallet from the last time I used it.

However, I do have concerns about the system. It began when TriMet removed fareless square in downtown Portland. I know TriMet did this because people were getting on the bus and MAX downtown and taking advantage of that to ride all the way to their destination, even if it was far outside of fareless square.

I looked at fareless square as a way TriMet showed its customers some appreciation, but with the addition of the MAX light rail to the system it is reasonable something needed to be done about the square. However, it has seemed, especially within the last decade, like the company’s focus has shifted from making the ride as convenient and comfortable as possible for riders to be focused more on their profits. As the city’s public transportation system should they not be held accountable for their actions and policies, which might hurt the public, more than others?

The creation of the Hop pass system, which started as a pilot program nearly two years ago for TriMet employees and families, was biased to begin with. Of course, the employees of the company and their families were going to like a new system for fare because they get to ride free, but has TriMet cared to get the feedback on the Hop pass system from the general public. The website for the Hop card does have a customer service section. Currently it is encouraging passengers to exchange paper tickets for ride credit and will no longer have the paper monthly passes available after the end of next month. My main concern about the system is for the houseless of this city. At last count Portland had just under 4,200 chronically houseless individuals living on its streets.

From volunteering all over the city I have noticed that a vast proportion of those houseless people go to those resource centers seeking amongst other things, bus fare. They are typically given a 2.5 hour or All-Day ticket to get where they need to go. If it’s the beginning of the month and they are lucky enough to find a resource center that has passes available they will be given a monthly pass. When wondering about how this dynamic would change, I sought out answers by emailing TriMet’s Outreach Coordinator for the Hop system and have yet to receive a response.

However, the organizations I know and occasionally volunteer at have told me that single-use 2.5 hour and All-Day Hop passes will be used in replacement of the bus tickets, but monthly passes won’t be provided anymore. But will these passes be loaded for the adult fare or the honored citizen fare rates?

Furthermore, some of those organizations that provide bus tickets have stated it has been hard to get those Hop passes from TriMet, and it takes awhile for them to call back when left a voicemail or email. I personally have spoken to several organizations who wish to remain anonymous for fear TriMet would retaliate by not providing the ticket activation waivers they need. If the ticket system for the houseless isn’t properly coordinated by TriMet, it could cause further issues with the houseless community by making it harder for them to seek services, get to potential job interviews, and find other necessities they need, making Portland’s houseless crisis even worse.

Now I’m not saying TriMet is completely incompetent, the low-income fare program is one of the greatest things the company has done in quite awhile and saves the more financially burdened of this city a
lot of money. As a student who doesn't make 200% of the federal poverty level (somewhere around $48,000 annually) and who has Oregon Health Plan, (both of each are qualifications for the program), enrolling was easy. The 200% of the federal poverty level requirement should be enough to qualify most students and citizens of Portland actually. This program makes it so a monthly pass is only $28, reduced from $100.

However, the low-income fare program brings up further issues imposed upon the houseless of Portland, all of them easily qualify for the low-income fare program, but few, except those in constant contact with resource centers or outreach coordinators, are currently enrolled or seem to even know about the low-income fare program. A further issue getting these people enrolled is the fact of missing, lost, or stolen identification or documentation needed to get identification. On top of all that, according to a city auditor, IDs and medicine being taken along with people's other property during sweeps. Furthermore what will happen to the hospitals that treat and subsequently supply bus tickets to the houseless?

My final issue with the program is centered around the student body of PSU. As previously mentioned most students should be eligible for the low-income fare program. Before I signed up for the low-income fare program, I get the term sticker which goes on my student ID at a reduced student fare rate of $180 a term, which is now $166 a term according to Transportation Services, but TriMet doesn't offer an equivalent low-income fare rated sticker for the term. When seeking answers for this oddity I only had one person behind the counter at student transportation services tell me it is because the student term sticker program and the low-income fare programs are separate and TriMet doesn't seem to want to connect the two.

I won't even try to bother with TriMet's phone app because I'm constantly running around and my phone is prone to dying at the most inconvenient moments and I know if I did use the app my phone would be dead the very moment I ran into a fare inspector. If this is something I'm not even willing to deal with, as a citizen with ample charging port availability, how would the houseless, who have limited access to smartphones and subsequently to those same charging ports, be able to utilize this means of fare payment?

To me the implementation of the Hop card fare system has been sloppy in multiple ways but the worst part is it seems to make it difficult for some citizens to properly get access to public transportation leaving some Portlanders wondering how they will get around. When trying to keep up with the ever-modernizing world it can be difficult to adapt but seeing as how this is the public transportation system of Portland, which is mostly utilized by the lower income individuals of the city, should not TriMet do everything in its power to ensure no one is hindered by, or unable to access their services?
Portland is notorious for its attractions, people, and one of a kind traditions such as the annual naked bike ride, where thousands of Portlanders take to the streets in the nude. However, along with this renowned reputation, false identities and misleading conceptions about the city can often emerge. At the core, this begins with truth that Portland is predominantly white, which is a reality some are very aware of while others give it little thought. According to a 2019 census, the demographic shows that 76.1 percent of Portland residents identify as white. It is safe to say that the city that builds itself up on its unique identity and embrace of diversity is actually, quite frankly, homogenous.

Though not the only group involved, it can seem that these white Portlanders make up a disproportionately large part of those who stand at the forefront of protests, riots, and rallies. The irony is that these protests are usually rooted in an age-old fight against racism and inequality. It is great that this new generation of people is willing to fight for minority groups, but they stand thousands strong crying out about a struggle that many of them have never directly experienced themselves. It begs the question, are those directly experiencing these struggles afforded enough time and space to speak on these issues for themselves. In many protests, the majority of protestors, though not all, are people serving more as performative allies rather than activists; some of them may be participating in the outcry of injustice simply to say that they were there. Before going any further it should be noted that Portland is home to some of the most passionate activists and liberals when it comes to wanting equality, and that is one of the reasons this city is special. However, could it be said for some that activism has become less about the cause itself and more about engaging in a cultural activity? Is it too far off to believe there would be more of a public uproar and protest if Powell's was scheduled to be torn down?

Even while groups of passionate protestors aim to take to the streets, in the later half of 2018 Mayor Ted Wheeler proposed laws giving him the power to control the duration and location of protest. These laws are an attempt to limit the violence on the streets of Portland and attempt to prevent that violence from affecting bystanders nearby, but is it right to limit a protest about violence out of fear of violence? Is it right to limit the duration of protest at all? Can Portland say it is really trying to address the concerns of the oppressed if the expression of these concerns are only allowed in controlled, limited bursts? Furthermore, activist groups have been met
with the harsh hand of metal and pepper spray, such as the Black Lives Matter protest in 2016; the protest ended with citizens getting arrested and forced out of city hall for protesting a new Police Union contract. Even if the participants in these protests are genuine and are really trying to create change, the city reacts by limiting them regardless of the methods the protesters use. Even when the citizens of Portland are aware and are actively trying to create change, the city reacts in a manner that restricts the amount of change that can happen. These protests are met with harsh parameters and heavy-handed police force to ensure that there is no violence, but violence is often the thing being opposed in such as the Black Lives Matter protest in 2016; something new; and this isn't necessarily the culture that can happen. These protests are genuine and are really trying to make it weird and attractive in the first place. Just as Voodoo was once part of the city's weird culture, so too were the surrounding properties. As the brand got bigger, the property surrounding the shop maximized as well, setting Voodoo on the same path of rapid economic growth that is hurting long-term residents. The problem is that the old city is being built over by new businesses. As the brand got bigger, the property surrounding the shop maximized as well, setting Voodoo on the same path of rapid economic growth that is hurting long-term residents.

One only needs to go as far as Voodoo Doughnuts to see how Portland's great qualities often get overshadowed by the city's growth. Though Voodoo may have started out as a unique oddity for drawing tourists, it has now become a company built on the idea of Portland's weirdness and how to commodify it by putting random toppings on donuts and selling it as something new; and this isn't necessarily the companies fault. Shows like Portlandia showcase all the aspects of Portland that make it different from other cities and turns it into more of a fandom which exploits the unique identity the city had in the first place.

Voodoo in particular started off in Portland whereas now there are eight locations spanning across the country and the once rare vegan doughnut is now used as a niche to attract customers.

This idea has only capitalized more on itself by the looks of a line so long it has to be guided with colorful rails and chains like a glorified soup kitchen.

Portland remains weird though, and that is something that should still ring true as there are a lot of little attributes that other metropolitan cities don't have. But Portland is also on a rapid path of renovation that consequently makes the housing too expensive for the individuals that made it weird and attractive in the first place. As the brand got bigger, the property surrounding the shop maximized as well, setting Voodoo on the same path of rapid economic growth that is hurting long-term residents. The problem is that the old city is being built over by new businesses operating with the intent only to gain profit and cash from the residents being fooled into thinking they are buying into a more stable and defined Portland.

Realistically, however, the city isn't, or arguably never was, this bubble of liberalism, diversity, and hipsters riding their bikes around to the nearest Stumptown to drink bottled cola below it is also an empire made up of economic capitalism, gentrification, and racism. Black individuals were not even legally allowed to live in the Oregon region between 1844-1859, due to various exclusionary laws, some of which called for the monthly whipping of Black residents. Once Black individuals began migrating to Oregon in large numbers, like during the Great Migration occurring less than 100 years ago, they were met with harsh redlining; often their only options for living were cramped and overcrowded lower class suburbs, or neglected towns such as the post-WWII Vanport community. It should be noted that though Oregon was one of the earlier states to abolish slavery, the state nonetheless has an incredibly racist and segregated history. During the 19th century, if Black individuals did decide to settle in Oregon they were often beaten, whipped, and forced to pay fines periodically just to continuing living. The remainder of this discriminatory language was not even removed from the Oregon constitution until 2002. Oregon also followed Sundown Laws, which mandated that Black individuals could enter a town but must depart before nightfall. These specific laws were never officially constituted, which allowed them to remain, well into the first half of the 20th century through word of mouth. These are just a few examples of Oregon's horrific past. And not to blame everything on racial inequality, but a city stays this white for a reason. Homogeneous culture doesn't have to be looked down upon, but one that actively discriminates against minority groups is detrimental to societal growth and inclusion. Can Portland really live up to the identity it claims to be without acknowledging its past? Not that everyone who lives here is rich and racist, I'd say quite the opposite, but these consequences of past discrimination are still influencing the present.

So, what does any of this mean? What makes Portland weird and different from other places has benefited the city in a lot of ways. It provided a canvas for those who wished to paint, it gave musicians a platform to perform, and it created a space for new ideas, food, and a community that valued a life lived for art. This value has since been lost as now weirdness has transformed into more of a factor in marketing to drive the city economically. It's more complicated than a city simply being too white, but one thing for sure is that Portland isn't unique in the way that it is driven toward expansion and commercialism. When push comes to shove, the city is going to do what it must in order to ensure the dominant demographic remains happy and willing to invest in the future of the city because without economic stability and support, there will be no future at all.

If we are as progressive and politically correct as we claim to be, this all should be an easy conversation to incorporate into the discourse of the community. Portland is a unique place to live and to be a part of, but with this comes the pressure to grow and expand, the pressure to look forward and ignore the past. It is no wonder we have fallen victim to systematic institutions that have taken hold of our identity and turned it into something to be sold. It is also no mystery as to why the city is so white, given its history; but becoming cognizant of these issues is the first step to changing them. We can't stop Portland from evolving and developing, but we can change the manner in which it is done and what we choose to value and support as a community striving towards diversity. Weirdness doesn't need to be so white.
I am a big believer in local business. As a proud Portlander, I'd much rather down a homemade cup of Fred Meyer-brand joe than that Starbucks frappa-crappa-Paglacci garbage. So it is with a heavy heart that I say this: the Green Zebra Grocery (hereinafter referred to as the Zeeb) is duping us all with their sample cup system.

A year or so ago, you could enter the Zeeb and, for a moment, believe in a world that made logical sense. When I wanted to try kombucha—that swift, elegant potion with a zing that I had only ever seen in my ex-fiancée Kristin—I would get the little sample cups and try a new flavor. To get rid of the final kombucha drops I would swirl my tongue around the little cup in front of God and all of the other Zeeb shoppers—which is how I met my current fiancée, Berta.

Back then, there were no designated soup sample cups. Ah, soup. That warm, chunky elixir. If you wanted to try soup, you had to walk all the way over to the kombucha section to get a little cup. Eventually the Zeeb headquarters caught onto this infrastructure issue and put some cups by the soups in what I call the “Golden Zebra Era.” Those were the days. One big little cup for your ‘buch, another for your soup. It was the epitome of human freedom and thought.

But, just like every other person in power in this country, the Zeeb has made dime-store jackasses out of us all. Nowadays, the soup cups are at least 20 percent smaller than the kombucha cups. They look like the beer stein that Ratatouille loses on a bender! I come into the store and I can practically feel the cashier put a “County Dunce” conical cap on my head, which reveals a smaller “Town Dunce” conical cap underneath when you remove it. I feel like a first-rate tool when I slowly tip the gargantuan ladle into my soup cup. I’m sure we can all relate to the mortification of having a soup cup at capacity but the soup-flow rate of the ladle is just too high, so a whole kidney bean—or, God forbid, a beef chunk—falls out onto the counter. Must we face God every time we sample a little Italian Wedding?

“But Morton,” I can hear you damn millennials saying, “can’t you just bring the kombucha cup to the soup sampling area?” Typical college student, wanting the easy way out. Maybe I would, if I wanted to attract the wrath and ire of the deli workers. Have you ever witnessed a grocery store fight where someone weaponizes a watermelon radish and Vampire Weekend is playing in the background for some reason? I have. So I still try my soup the honest way, even if the sample cup sizes are unjust. Because that’s the American way, dammit. We begrudgingly accept injustice and call anyone who tries to do anything a complainer because we fetishize toughness. In America, the most acceptable form of trying to change things is by typing out vacuous editorials.

Also, I drank a whole gallon of the CBD water and I didn’t even get a little bit high.
RETURN OF THE VAMPIRES!

This Is Not A Drill: New Music From Vampire Weekend Has Me Shook

In order to write this review of Vampire Weekend's four recently released singles, I felt as if I needed to listen to the songs on repeat to accurately write about them. I've never been one to listen to songs on repeat, and they almost always end up annoying me if I do. However, in "forcing" myself to listen to these songs on loop, they became more and more enjoyable and really just felt like revisiting an old friend.

Vampire Weekend and I go way back (not too far back because I've only been alive for twenty years). At first listen I could tell that these songs were not only not all produced by the same person, but also a little more produced than their older songs.

"Harmony Hall" is one half of the first pair of singles released off of the new album Father of the Bride, due for release May 3rd of this year. It is certainly a pop song, but is five minutes long. It features Vampire Weekend's signature acoustic guitar, piano, and text painting. Text painting is a technique where the musical composition and the lyrics of the song parallel each other; for example, ascending notes for lyrics about ascension, or if the music sounds sad so are the lyrics—sometimes this can mean creatively translating word choices into their sonic doppelgangers. One particular lyric that caught me off guard was "I don't wanna live like this, but I don't wanna die," a nod to "Finger Back," a song off of their previous album Modern Vampires of the City. I immediately found myself singing along to the nostalgia and fun new lyrics.

The other song released alongside "Harmony Hall" was "2021." This song was lyrically hard to understand for me, but I love the producers' take on a song for this band. This short song seemed futuristic (hence the title) and was very pleasant to listen to. I love the vocal modulators during Ezra's hums and during the word "boy" that Jenny Lewis does. Overall, this song is calm but somehow still moves somewhere in the time allotted for it on the album.

"Big Blue," the first song I listened to during the second release of songs, was very repetitive, but also very easy to listen to. This song showcased Ezra's iconic voice and finished in just under two minutes. This was probably my least favorite of the four songs released.

"Sunflower" might just be my favorite of the new releases. This song is so catchy, and I love the vocal runs that Ezra and featured artist Steve Lacy perform twice in the song. I can imagine myself listening to this song in summer with my windows down and singing at the top of my lungs.

In early April, two more songs were released. "This Life" is a very upbeat song that gets stuck in my head quite often. It has some classic Vampire Weekend sounds, and is very repetitive. I think this song is good but isn't my favorite. One interesting thing that I would like to point out is the fade out at the end of the song. Not only did I think it was too fast, I also thought it was too 2000s. Who knows, maybe laziness is what they were going for!

"Unbearably White" is my second favorite song out of the six for sure. I'm deeply in love with these lyrics although I do not claim to know what they mean at all. I love the instrument choices in this song and the use of both vocal registers. This song is so comfortable to listen to and I think it will become a classic amongst the band's listeners. It has a fadeout too, but somehow it doesn't bother me as much because it makes sense in context.

All in all, I'm wildly excited to see what's in store for Vampire Weekend, to say the least. Their songs are becoming more and more complicated and the fact that they are releasing a double album has me patiently waiting with bated breath to get my ears on it. Each one of these songs are very different from each other in their own specific ways. Some have bass, some have piano, some have guitar, but not necessarily all together at once—which is very different from many bands who get stuck writing with the same instruments. I wonder how this album will come together, because I feel like their other albums have similar feelings in every song on the album. I think this one will be different, and I like different when the musicians are this good.
"I have a little cup of coffee and get up and walk the dogs. Then I get to work by nine o'clock. I go till noon, sometimes 1 o'clock. Then I pick it up again for another four or five hours in the afternoon," Professor Eleanor Erskine, associate professor of printmaking in PSU's College of the Arts, maintains a strict discipline of working on the craft each day in the studio. "When I get into it, I'm not very social," says Erskine. "I just enjoy being in the work so much that all my senses are given over to it and I get really pulled in and excited by it. It's kind of like having a really good conversation with somebody."

"Once you drop it, it's very hard to come back. That's one of the reasons why I work every day. It's natural, it's like a second skin. It's just what I do."

After over twenty years of teaching at PSU, this academic year is Erskine's first sabbatical. The autumn and winter were frenetic as Erskine worked with Hugh Merrill (one of Erskine's instructors during her undergraduate studies at Kansas City Art Institute) and Lisa Jarrett (assistant professor of Community and Context Arts at PSU) to prepare for their show On Drawing, which ran January 17–February 8, 2019 in the Littman Gallery in Smith Memorial Student Union on campus. [https://www.littmanandwhite.com/past-1/2019/2/15/on-draw ing-eleanor-ler-skine-lisa-jarrett-amp-hugh merrill]. With the show successfully complete, Erskine has returned to following the routine outlined above with the freedom to fully focus on the work.

Erskine goes on to further describe a day of work in the studio during sabbatical: "Time is such a funny component. We're living in this time of instant satisfaction. I don't live that in my work because I'm always building. One thing leads to another. One thing flows into another. I really want to let that happen. If it doesn't happen, I need to let it be. A good day is not ruining anything, not getting off on another tangent, not starting something completely different. I have some guidelines, but I love to experiment."

During her senior year of high school Erskine studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, which was closely associated with the style and philosophy of the Chicago Imagists. In 1981 she graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute with a BFA in painting and printmaking. For the next five years she worked for commercial printing artist Donna Aldridge, who specialized in color landscapes. [https://www.aldriggestudios.com/]. "I learned a great deal about color from her," says Erskine. "There was no health insurance, nothing. I was just working in a garage. But I learned so much." As a subcontractor, Erskine made $10 per print, about fifteen to twenty percent of the sale price. "She'd send these all off to California," says Erskine. "She was making over $100,000 per year."

"I wanted to be sure that I could continue to make art instead of just jumping right into graduate school," says Erskine. "I wanted to make sure I could work a job and continue to make my work before going to graduate school because I was afraid of the money. A lot of people go to graduate school right after their undergrad and they're burnt out. I didn't feel the pressure. I was still young."

After the five years with Aldridge, Erskine matriculated at Cranbrook Academy of Art [https://cranbrookart.edu/] in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. "I was 25 when I went off to graduate school," says Erskine. "When I did I applied to all the top colleges and got into them all. It just worked out for me to be an older student rather than being a twenty-two year old. I'm really grateful. I think it's smart because you know yourself better and you know what it's like to work for a living. You start over. I think it's healthy, it's really healthy."

At Cranbrook, Erskine studied printmaking under Steve Murakishi [http://www.stoneyynet.net/]. "I'm still grateful to have had Steve," says Erskine. "I was the only female in my class. When I first met him, he said, 'I don't want you waiting on all the boys.' It was just one simple sentence and it was so sweet because I could have."

She simultaneously pursued her interest in sculpture with Michael D. Hall of Hamtramck, Michigan. "A genius, to me a genius," Erskine says of Hall. "I remember when I was first studying with him, I couldn't understand a word he was saying. He talked about good Kirk and bad Kirk [referring to the exploration of duality in the Star Trek episode "The Enemy Within"] and art and he just tied it all together and spit it all out. And he'd bring in folk artists. He was always on the phone with Donald Kuspit, who was a big art critic and writer as well. So he was bringing in that stimulation. And he was bizarre. Long grey hair and a beard. He wore pink sportcoats and smoked."

"People came there from all over the world and they were extraordinary," Erskine says...

"Making art is hard work...It's a meaningful, deep process. You meet your soul there. That's a pretty serious thing to find..."
of her Cranbrook cohort. "Everything that I thought I knew about what art was went out the window because these people were making things and talking philosophically in a way that was just outrageous, exciting. It wasn't necessarily even an object. There was one person in ceramics making art about nothingness. I really grappled with that. Those kinds of stimulating ways of thinking were there."

"You first have to be really dedicated to creating to survive—I think you can figure out entrepreneurship how to make that happen. A lot of artists are willing to think non-traditionally: If you think backwards—say, you need 50k to survive—I think you can figure out entrepreneurially how to make that happen. A lot of students who aspire to work as professional artists? They don't succeed with it are mostly those that lack the discipline. Making art is hard work. I'm not saying you don't enjoy it. It's a meaningful, deep process. You meet your soul there. That's a pretty serious thing to find, and to do it over and over again for the rest of your life. It's like an excavation site," Erskine says. "The practice time is really deep. Nobody sees that but you. Nobody."

Erskine has seen students go myriad ways after graduating from PSU. "I've seen my students go on to graduate school, certainly. Some of them never come back to Portland, some of them do. Michael Endo is really interesting. He went on to Cranbrook. He came back and is now working for Bullseye Glass [https://www.bullseyeprojects.com/blog/30/...], a blog interview with Endo; according to Erskine he owns the gallery, but in the past linked here is the curator and in charge of a lot, but not listed as an owner; changed Erskine's quotation accordingly]. He curates a gallery, he's a mover and a shaker. He's building a lifestyle that works for being an artist. Some developed businesses conducted through Etsy or found yet other ways to make art without relying on the gallery scene. We also discussed our reading habits, with Erskine disclosing her current reading projects and past favorites. "I've read almost every book I possibly can on creativity and I still don't know how to explain it," says Erskine. "We don't really know where it comes from, in our brains. Lawrence Weschler wrote a book about Robert Irwin called Seeing is Forgetting the Name of the Thing One Sees that's brilliant. I think that's what you have to do. When you're first learning, you're very conscious of this instrument playing this way." Once one develops as an artist, says Erskine, one can create without having to think too much about the tools and the medium. One simply creates with whatever means are available, fully expressing the artistic vision without being restricted by lack of mastery of tools.

"Listening to your own energy is a really important thing for setting up a day," she says about choosing the creative tasks on which to focus. "If I wake up feeling melancholy and want to stay in that, I wouldn't run a jackhammer because that would throw it off completely. If I didn't want to stay there, I might do some jumping jacks to get my energy shifted. It's important to be in the body as a maker. So I have to listen to what it needs because that's where the feelings come from for the work."

What is it like when energy, discipline, and intent are all aligned? "When I'm deep in the work, it's the best place to be," she says. "It takes me away from everything else, but I can't be there forever."

To fully master a particular medium is to move beyond the intellectual approach to creating, she says. "You have to get to where it's just all work and it doesn't matter what it is because you're whole and complete and present when you're coming to it. It puts you into a place where you're sensory. You're not reacting with naming. It's relationships. So it doesn't matter if it's paint or plaster as long as you can move. I really strive to model moving fluidly from one thing to the next and letting one thing evolve into the next."

"That's what I try to do. It takes time." (above) Erskine's work displayed on the left alongside Hugh Merrill's work on the right in the Littman Gallery's exhibition On Drawing featuring three members of the PSU art faculty, not pictured was Lisa Jarrett's work. (left page) from Erskine's series Ruminations, left to right: "Passage," "Excursion," and "Ruminations," images courtesy of the artist
The Complete Oral History Of the Time that The Beatles Died on Tokyo Disneyland Splash Mountain

by Shane Johnson
illustrations by Josh Gates

We all remember where we were the day it happened: July 27th, 1996. Perhaps you were buying groceries when you saw the newspaper: BEATLES DEAD ON SPLASH MOUNTAIN. Maybe you turned on CNN only to see the headline: JOHN PAUL RINGO AND GEORGE SLAIN BY JAPANESE LOG FLUME.

As we near the 23rd anniversary of what has come to be known as "The Day The Music Died (On Tokyo Disneyland Splash Mountain)," I reached out to everyone involved to present the history of that fateful day as it's never been heard before: in a series of disparate, vaguely chronological anecdotal quotes.

PART 1: "A REAL NICE TIME"

Ringo Starr: [member of the Beatles]
I remember, probably around '94, hearing that Tokyo Disneyland was a real nice time. Then one time a couple years later, I was havin' a bad day. It was rainy and I'd ran out of raspberry jam and I didn't really want to have to call my personal shopper to buy some more. It was definitely a low. And I thought, "Y'know what, Ringo? You could use a real nice time," and then I remembered Tokyo Disneyland was apparently a real nice time. And I thought, "Who better to spend a nice day at the 'Happiest Place in Japan on Earth' with than your best pals?" And no one's a better pal of Ringo Starr than the other Beatles. So I gave 'em a ring.

Paul McCartney: [via publicist's email]
Mr. McCartney has never attended Tokyo Disneyland and has no further comment on the matter.

Dolly Westerman: [Beatles historian]
As I explain in my new book Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-The 90s: A Definitive Examination of The Beatles at the End of the 20th Century, Summer 1996 saw the Olympics come to Atlanta and Dolly the Sheep [no relation] born in Scotland, but all eyes were on Tokyo Disneyland. What few people know, is that the trip almost didn't happen.

Daphne Vander-York [the Beatles' longtime travel agent]:
I was the Beatles' longtime travel agent.

Ringo Starr:
Daphne was our longtime travel agent. She'd planned everything from our first trip to America to play The Ed Sullivan Show to the four-week Caribbean cruise George and I took in '83. She'd never let us down before.

Daphne Vander-York:
I'd made all the arrangements for the trip, but on the morning of the flight I received a call from Ringo saying that I hadn't booked enough seats on the plane. I was under the impression that John Lennon had been dead for 16 years so I hadn't booked him a ticket.

Maria Monae: [airplane passenger]
I gave up my seat on the plane for John. I think it was the right thing to do. But it's crazy to think about sometimes. What if he hadn't gone? It could just as easily have been me alongside Paul, Ringo, and George on that fatal log flume.
PART 2: BEATLESINTOKYO-DISNEYLANDMANIA"

Dolly Westerman:

It was bound to be a media circus from the moment it was

acred. After all, it was the first time all four Beatles had been seen

since December 8th, 1980. It sparked a second 'Beatlemania,'

so a 'BeatlesinTokyoDisneylandmania,' if you will, which is a

coin in my upcoming book.

Porchsmith: [Beatles merchandise bootlegger]

The '96 bootleg scene was incredible. As soon as I heard the

Beatles were reuniting for a trip to Tokyo Disneyland, I quit my job, sold

use, and moved my family to Tokyo. I used our savings to buy a

shirt manufacturing facility and started pumping out everything

I think of. 'The Beatles' but in Disney font. Mickey, Donald,

and Goofy crossing Abbey Road. John dressed as Tinkerbell

ng pixie dust over Cinderella castle. Some Grateful Dead tees

be safe. You name it, I had it. I'd never infringed so much

ght in my life.

Westerman:

As a tourism opportunity, the Japanese government

lightly eradicated all fire safety laws that dictated capacity

Tokyo Disneyland was allowed to sell as many tickets

to the park as they wanted. For my book, available on

and select bookstores in the Cleveland metropolitan

May 29th, I tried to interview the Tokyo fire marshal

responsible for the Tokyo Disneyland area. He

to speak to me despite my many calls to his personal

ice.

Nakamura: [worked at Tokyo Disneyland for six

in 1996]

t to close nearly every ride to the public during the

visit. The park was so packed with people that it

ompossible to distinguish the lines for attractions from

crowded masses just standing around for a glimpse of

Four.

Westerman:

The Beatles arrived at 11:45 a.m. to a park already over capacity.

The constant screams of fans and extremely slow

ent as security guards fought their way through

crowds, John, Paul, Ringo and George

to be having a good

on the very start.
Tokyo Disneyland

Find me time
**Ringo Starr:**
It was like they'd created a whole little city, when you enter the park. It was quite charming, y'know? Paul was the giddiest of the four of us. because Paul almost immediately ran up to my left with nothing to offer our four special anything to anyone other than the Beatles that crowds would buy up all our products and we'd day. Their fear was that the ravenous, starving Haru Nakamura:
I was working the churro stand on Main Street. We were told by management not to sell anything to anyone other than the Beatles that day. Their fear was that the ravenous, starving crowds would buy up all our products and we'd be left with nothing to offer our four special guests. I guess it proved to be a good strategy, because Paul almost immediately ran up to my churro stand and asked for "one of every," I only sold churros, so I just gave him one.

**Ringo Starr:**
Paul was so excited about how large the churros were that he sang a little ditty and pretended to play the churro like a guitar. He was really pandering to the crowd in a way we hadn't done since we were just lads singing love tunes.

**Haru Nakamura:**
Paul sang "Love Me Do" but changed the lyrics to "love me dough," about the churro dough, presumably. He then switched from playing the churro like a guitar to holding it like a flute and pretended to do a little flute solo.

**Dolly Westerman:**
The crowd went wild for Paul's impromptu show. The energy was electric, you could feel it in your bones. I wasn't there, but what's important to understand about the 90s—besides the fact that it was the most underrated decade of Beatles activity, a thesis I argue in my upcoming book—is that personal camorders were far more affordable and accessible than in the Beatles' heyday, so we have footage of nearly everything that happened.

**Paul McCartney:** [via publicist's email]
Mr. McCartney has never purchased a churro at Tokyo Disneyland, and if he did, he would have respectfully consumed it. Mr. McCartney does not play food like musical instruments and has no further comment on the matter.

PART 3:
"WE NEVER SAW IT COMING"

**Ringo Starr:**
After a few hours of wading slowly through the crowd and trying to avoid stepping on all the fans who fainted from excitement or heat-related illness, we decided we'd really like to try out one of the rides, y'know? They were part of what made Tokyo Disneyland such fun, as I'd been told by a mate. One of our security guards lifted me on his shoulders, and above the many fan posters and camera flashes, I saw two fateful words: "Splash Mountain." Everyone thought that sounded like a real nice time, except George.

**Dhani Harrison:** [George Harrison's son]
My father was incredibly afraid of logs. He called them "the skeletons of trees." The idea of climbing inside of one to float along a river did not appeal to him.

**Ringo Starr:**
George and I got in a serious argument over Splash Mountain. I tried to explain to him the logs were plastic and had nice little seats built into them, but he didn't want to hear it. George finally gave up when Paul started to pull his "just let it be, mate" bullshit. I, for one, was glad I held firm. It was the first time I'd visited a mountain.

**Dhani Harrison:**
We don't have a lot of mountains in England. Mostly just hills.

**Ringo Starr:**
So we rode Splash Mountain. And we were having a great time, y'know? Just a couple of lads in a log. John was so inspired by the singing animals that he was talking about getting the band back together.

**Br'er Fox:** [Splash Mountain animatronic]
They seemed to be having a zip-a-dee-doo-dah grand old time! Well, everyone except George. My, oh, my, he was not having a wonderful day. He seemed nervous at every turn.

**Ringo Starr:**
And that's when it happened. The big drop at the end of the ride. We never saw it coming. The ride's called Splash Mountain, after all. I think we all just kinda assumed the ride would end once we reached the top of the mountain. It's not called Splash Waterfall, y'know?

**Dolly Westerman:**
The Beatles made it over the final drop just fine. Unfortunately, as they passed the cheerful Zip A Dee Lady River Boat scene at the end of the ride, a wall collapsed from the pressure of stampeding fans attempting to escape the overcrowded park, and crushed all four Beatles instantly.

**Dhani Harrison:**
The public outpouring of support was really touching as we all grieved the loss of my father and his bandmates. Fans held candlelight vigils at the other Splash Mountains in Disneyland and Disneyworld. Japan reinstated their fire safety standards as a tribute to the Beatles under the new name "Remember Squished Bugs Law"—which sort of gets lost in translation but it's the thought that counts. But most of all it was nice to hear what a lasting impact my father had on so many around the world.

**Kevin:** [author's roommate]
Oh man, yeah I remember when that happened! Crazy. Crazy stuff.

**Doug Porchsmith:**
I made so much money on memorial t-shirts, man. So much. A tie-dye shirt with Mickey leaving flowers on a really wide tombstone that said "Here Lies All Four Beatles" was my best seller. Those were the days.

**Dolly Westerman:**
Please buy my book. I have to support myself. This is all I do. The Beatles are my life.

**Madame Valsama:** [Ringo Starr's personal necromancer]
It's such a shame that the Beatles were crushed by that giant plastic wall—and so soon after I had used the wicked, unbridled power of dark magic to pry John Lennon's soul from the cold grip of Death. He was so excited to be not-assassinated. I still remember, the first thing he said, after he breathed a witched, unholy breath and was birthed a second birth back into this mortal coil, was "All religions are right and wrong in their own way! I no longer have to imagine a better world! I see it all now, the path is clear! I'll use this gift of time to bring a permanent, lasting peace to all those who walk this wonderful gift that is Earth! I have realized the exact, specific steps necessary to bring about world peace, and they do not include sitting in a bed!" It's a shame that you can only return a mortal soul from the dead once. I had no problem reanimating the other three, but John was permanently dead. At least he got to enjoy Tokyo Disneyland!

**Paul McCartney:** [via publicist's email]
Paul McCartney has never met a Madame Valsama, and has no further comment on the hideous sorceress of darkness to which he owes a great debt.

**Ringo Starr:**
The whole accident—John being eternally dead and such, especially—was a quite a bumper. But all in all, I had a real nice time.
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