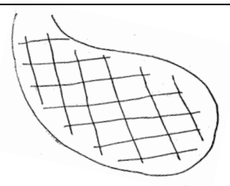
# TALES FROM THE FIELD

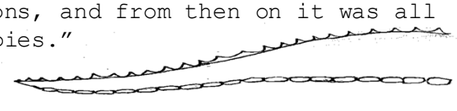
Reader-submitted stories from the wild, wild Summer of 2019*

*Includes 2017

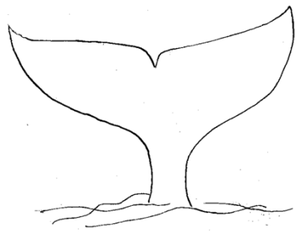


"9/18/19. Oxygen probe data reveals that a black bucket discreetly hanging off the side of the MSB dock was opened at 1 am. Please report all information on possible human, raccoon, crow, or salmon suspects to the Touch Tank."

"2017, *R/V Marcus G. Langseth*: Rumors travel fast on ships. Word spread that a marine tech had been keeping a dog in his state room, corroborated by the occasional bark. Once the captain caught wind of this canine conspiracy, he issued a proclamation: "It has come to my attention that there is a dog onboard. At no time may any crew harbor pets in their state rooms." The tech denied these allegations, and from then on it was all hush puppies."



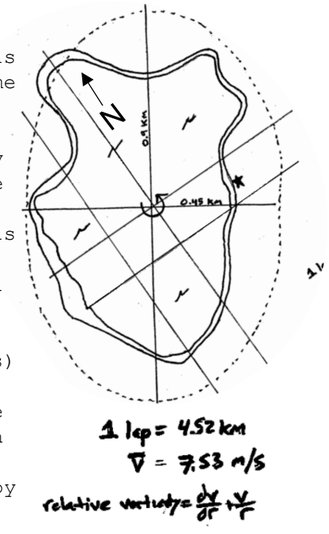
"Notes from this summer: 1) Snails have teeth. 2) Snail dentistry is a respectable profession. After collecting over 500 marine snails and dissecting them to extract, image and count thousands of their teeny teeth, I think it's safe to call myself a dental professional."



"I was on a beach in Australia and a kangaroo showed up. He tried to grab some fruit off a nearby tree branch, but his arms were too short. After a few failed attempts, he hopped away in shame."

"2019, R/V *Kilo Moana*: In order to understand day-night oscillations of biochemical processes in the North Pacific, it is necessary that we sacrifice our own. For a multi-day diel sampling window, we smash our own bodily clocks. Exhausted and babbling, our shattered primate minds gaze into the ancient rhythms of the sea."

## CENTURY RIDE




"What is vorticity?" This burning question drove me to assemble a team of compatriots on a crisp autumn afternoon to eddy for a 6.5-hour, 100-mile bicycle relay around Green Lake. Green Lake is a highly eccentric ellipse of water 2.81 mi around (equivalent to 4.52 km in metric or $2\pi$ rad in polar coordinates) with a paved path scenically following the waterline. Dripping with sweat and beer, we were able to maintain a Rossby number > 100 for the entirety of the ride.

This means that quasi-geostrophic dynamics would do quite a poor job describing the evolution of our relative vorticity. Such athleticism requires consideration of higher order terms!

This Century Ride was one for the textbooks. We got to hang out with the best Green Lake has to offer: a roller-skating juggler, some bats, and a rat. Hopefully, the Century Ride will live on as an annual event.

## THE DEEP END

**RAVE:** It's 2019 y'all seriously and OSB FINALLY GOT COMPOST BINS!!!

**RANT:** R/V Centennial sunk this summer :(

**RAVE:** Is it just my decreased social media presence, or did everyone finally calm down about Pumpkin Spice Lattes?

**RAVE:** SIX. PERCENT. RAISE.

**RANT:** Man, we transitioned to fall quickly and completely. It's wet, dark, and cold: definitely Vitamin D supplement season.

**RANT:** &%#$@ing undergraduate move-in traffic

**RAVE:** Thank Neptune we're getting an update to the Graduate Student Guide.

**NO LONGER ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS – ALL POSITIONS FILLED. Submissions and comments always welcome at:**
*touchtankzine@gmail.com*

## BATHROOM OF THE WEEK

We all know there are more than two genders, but there are only two all-gender bathrooms among the UW Oceanography buildings. For our non-binary department members, or those just seeking a nice private place to go, you're pretty much stuck with the 3rd floor of MSB or 2nd floor OSB. This may lead you to ask: are gendered bathrooms stupid in the first place? The short answer - Yes! The long answer - yes, yes, yes! Women on the 2nd floor of MSB are expected to walk up/down an entire flight of stairs just to use a bathroom. Do you know how dangerous this is if someone has diarrhea? Plus I've been in the "women's" bathroom and I have news to share -the toilets work exactly the same. In summary, we suggest everyone be queer, do crime, and use whatever bathroom they want to.

**Dolly**

## IN THE CLUB

It's a dark evening as I sit alone in my office. I look up from my hackneyed code at the street below my window, glistening with light reflecting off the rain-glazed pavement. Rubbing my bleary eyes and turning back to my computer from the darkness outside, I check the time. With a start, I realize it's only 6:00! It's October in Seattle, and I suppose we cannot escape the unavoidable fate that latitude deals us. The diurnal cycles shift due to inevitable changes in orbital forcing and so, I search for solace from SAD in the many clubs available in the Oceanography department. I've compiled a list for you, intrepid reader, so read on.

- ARGO Club - Academic and Recreational Graduate Oceanographers
- The Meditation Club - Sea of Tranquillity
- Soccer Club - Bend it Like Ekman
- 2 D&D clubs - both meet episodically
- Pub (Trivia) Club - Sediment Trap House
- BBT - meets cyclically
- Bowling Club - Circumbowler Currents
- Book Club - The Circulation Desk
- Turkey Club Sandwich Club - meats regularly
- Billy Club
- The Breakfast Club
- There is no Seal Club

## SEX BAROCLINIC 3: back in the habit 2

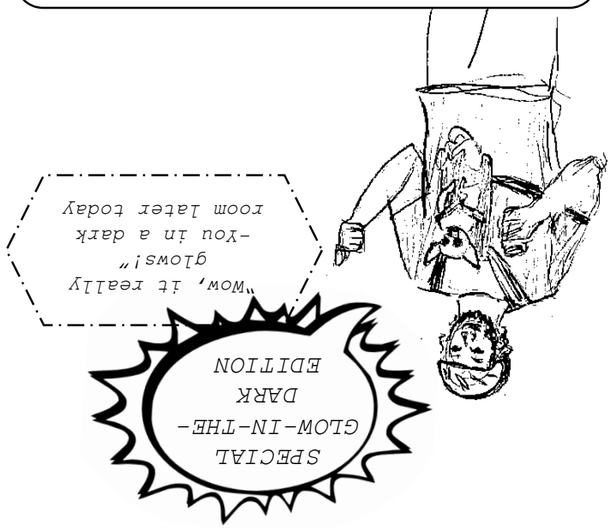
Hi Touchy! I'm a sea anemone who's recently been going through a dry spell. I'm worried my tide will never come back in. Is there anything I can do to get into a bigger pool?
- Brooding Alone

Dear Brooding Alone,
The bigger pool may not be all it's cracked up to be, so just with the flow! Relationships ebb and flood, but don't forget that every neap is followed by a spring.

October 2019

# THE TOUCH TANK

SPECIAL GLOW-IN-THE-DARK EDITION

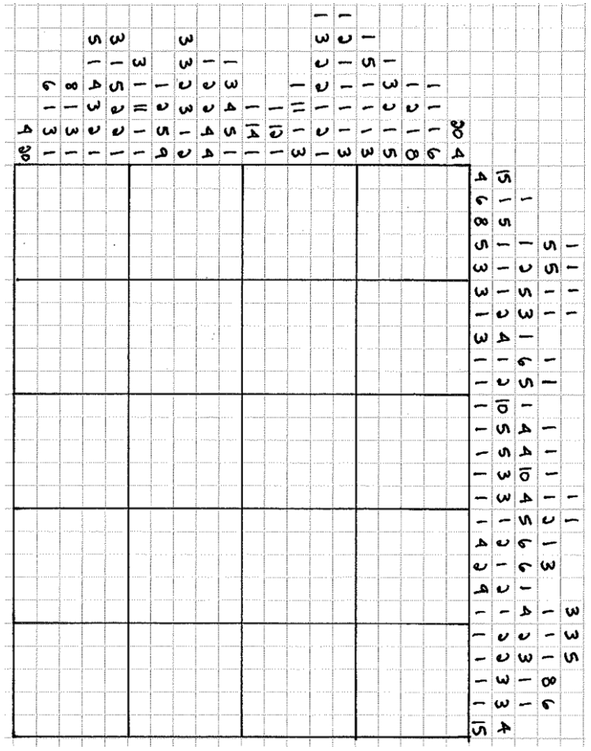



## NEW GRAD STUDENT GUIDE INSIDE

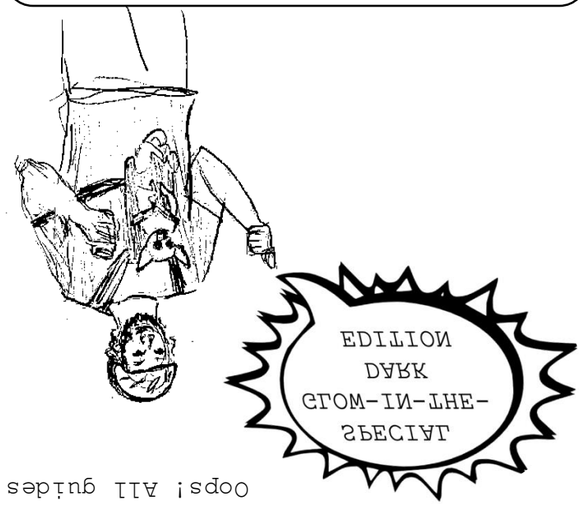
with *20% MORE** students

*than before

Picross



**GRIDDED GRAD GUIDE**




**October 2019**

# THE TOUCH TANK

Oops! All guides

## REGULAR TOUCH TANK INSIDE

with *same amount** of content

**GUIDE OF NEW STUDENTS**

It comes as a flash in the night. It's a streak across the sky – a sign from the heavens? On the horizon I see flames, and I run to it – in the ground, glowing, pulsing, a meteor embedded into the Earth like a sharp gem in stone. My nose bleeds with an acrid smell of burning metal, the sound of flaming rock walls off the quiet land, except – what's this? A baby crying, no – eight babies crying, wailing from the pit, as if birthed from above.

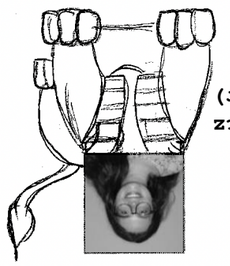
What else can I do? I scoop them up, one by one, and carry them back to MSB. So small and fragile in my hands, so pure. This is their home now. I care for them. I feed them. I grow them. I love them.

They begin to learn, voracious for knowledge. First they crawl, then they walk, now they are running. Born of fire, they burn through scientific literature faster than it can be published. Heat transport, genetics, iron cycling – they absorb it all, too much, I can't keep up. They go faster than I can teach. I can't contain them.

"More," they say, "more science." I must give them up, free them to their dreams. "Go," I say. "Apply to graduate school. Go to UW."

So. As fast as they arrive into my life, they are gone to their future. Now it's in your hands. Take care of them, UW Oceanography. These eight new PhD students – they look mature to you, but just yesterday they were babies.

*mother of dragons*



**Maleen Kidiwela**
**MGG (William Wilcock)**

**Haila Schultz**
**BIO (Julie Keister)**

*found her nose just in time for grad school*

**William Kumler**
**ChemO (Anitra Ingalls)**

*loves brewskis and grillin' with his bros*

**Zoe Krauss**
**MGG (William Wilcock, Emily Roland)**

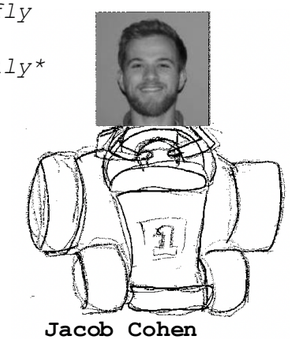
*yet to find a crossfit gym that can handle her*

**Mary Margaret Stoll**
**ChemO (Alex Gagnon, Curtis Deutsch)**

*writes human fanfic*

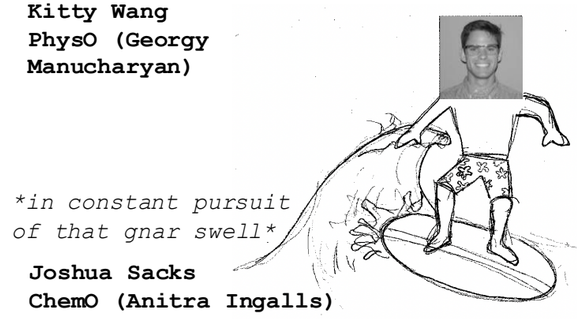
*dreams of fly fishing professionally*

**Kitty Wang**
**PhysO (Georgy Manucharyan)**



**Jacob Cohen**
**PhysO (Luanne Thompson)**

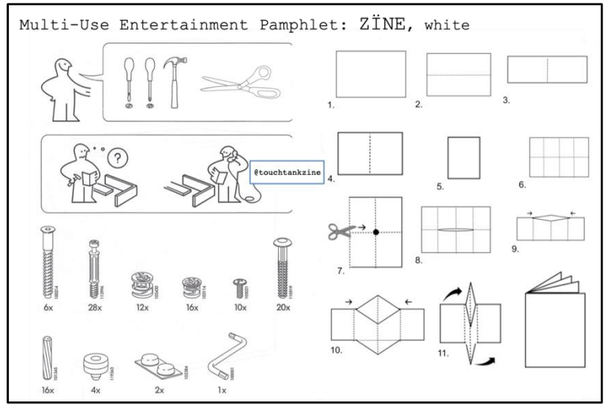
*gotta go fast*



*in constant pursuit of that gnar swell*

**Joshua Sacks**
**ChemO (Anitra Ingalls)**

## GUIDE FOR NEW STUDENTS: how to first friday in 331 easy steps

3) Get a lot of vague advice like "Make it your own", "It doesn't really matter", and "No one will complain about free food and beer, except everyone will"
4) Forget that this is your responsibility for the next 2 weeks (or 4)
5) Realize that the budget is not big
6) Order the cheapest beer that you feel comfortable serving to people
8) Inventory the First Friday room and find the moldy food from last month
10) Send someone with a car, a Costco card, and a buddy on a shopping adventure
11) Realize FF is this week, and you were supposed to get the alcohol permit
37) On the day of the event, print/sign/hang your (thankfully) approved permit
38) Establish grill master by committee and bestow on them the pit mitt and apron
39) Get scolded about ice machine use (don't take too much, don't leave the scooper in the machine, close the door, summon the ice demon)
40) Chop the veggies, cry at the onions
41) Start to tap the kegs and quickly realize you've never actually tapped a keg before
42) Get help or watch a YouTube video
43) Get the kegs working and notice last month's beer "aging" in the hose
44) Untap the kegs and clean the hose
45) Find the keg wrench that appears only to the worthy and apply it appropriately
46) Drink, eat, socialize, repeat
133) Get caught in recursive loop going in and out of supply room
134 – 287) Do dishes, endless dishes
288) Take out the trash, or face the legion of birds on the following Saturday
328) At end of evening, notice leftover beer
329) Plan another party?
330) Do reimbursement paperwork, go chat with the lovely people in Admin office
331) Repeat every month for the next year

## ZINE FOLDING GUIDE