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Did you feel it?

by Simran Soman

You really didn't see it?
It happens over time.
If you only would give one minute,
To sit down in the sunshine.

Where did it come from?
Yesterday it was as cold as you.
But from a bird today I heard a simple hum
Did you even notice the skies turned blue?

I saw a flower in the snow,
And as the sun came out
The wind ceased to blow
Do you dare to doubt?

So you didn't feel it,
Or are you choosing to forget?
You have a free spirit.
But you've been trapped in your duvet.

You really didn't see it?
It happened before your eyes.
Just give it one minute,
And instead of darkness choose the spring sunshine.

Skeptic House Update

by Gretchen Woelke

Skeptic House has been staying true to their roots this winter: waxing philosophical on overcast days, pensively sipping hot beverages, and sounding the depths of life's most perplexing questions... but also playing laser tag and capturing faeries... and ultimately going to jail. While investigating winter term's themes of media bias, freedom of expression, and mass hysteria, Skeptic House has enjoyed a variety of activities.

The premier event of the season, a trip to Rogue Valley Mall's Laser Ops Entertainment, provided the Skeptic cohort with a chance to reconnect after the long Winter break while simultaneously igniting conversation about violence in contemporary media and video games, gun control, and stereotypes surrounding law enforcement and the military.

Parallel issues of media scapegoating were explored in a guest lecture by Dr. Mark Tveskov on 'Satanic Panic,' diving horns first into the defiance of culturally accepted norms and freedom of speech. Later in the term, Skeptic House students met with Teri Eubanks of Ashland CERT to discuss Pacific Northwest infrastructure and participate in exercises centered on disaster preparedness, including the assembly of an emergency kit. The following week, Danielle Hammer led an activity mimicking the phenomenon of the famous Cottingley Faeries (we have the photographic proof!)... a change of gears to something a bit lighter, but still infused with the skeptical principles of questioning objectivity and the definition of evidence.

Last but not least, Skeptic House hopped aboard a First Student bus and headed to Medford for the traditional winter term tour of the Jackson County Jail. While also echoing some of the subjects broached in the documentary film screening of *Solitary: Inside Red Onion State Prison* and a panel discussion featuring Lisa Turner (Josephine County Assistant District Attorney) and Colin Murphy (of Southern Oregon Public Defenders) earlier in the term, the county jail inspection also serves to transition the course into spring term, where criminal justice will be a central topic.



Green House Update

by Sara Buckley



Over the past few weeks of winter term our Green House students have been learning loads! They have delved into topics like green technology, energy consumption, plastic waste, landfill technology and innovations, and how consumerism is adding greenhouse gases to our atmosphere and pollution to our natural world. We've visited Jackson County Fuel Committee, True South Solar, Mt. Ashland Ski Area, Dry Creek Landfill, Goodwill, SOU Power Facilities, and we've watched the documentaries *Plastic China* and *A Plastic Ocean*.

Students have helped reduce fuels in our forest while simultaneously helping out local families in need of firewood by volunteering and getting their hands dirty chopping wood with the Jackson County Fuel Committee. We visited True South Solar and learned about the newest solar technology, legislation, and ways that we can better harness the power of solar. We've learned about Mt. Ashland Ski Area's STOKE (Sustainable Tourism Operator's Kit for Evaluation) Certification and what sustainable measures they use such as wood chips to retain snow pack and reduce erosion; the installation of 85 solar panels (installed by True South Solar and fulfilling 12% of the ski area's electricity needs), LED lighting, flooring made from recycled materials, and insulation and windows reducing heat loss; carpooling options; and dozens of restoration projects on the mountain.

As our culminating activity for this term, we are going to receive cooking lessons from ACCESS so we can learn how to eat seasonally and on a budget! These are just some of the amazing field trips and community partners that have lent a helping hand in educating our future leaders about energy sustainability and waste here in Southern Oregon. The Green House staff strive to continue educating and showing students solutions to our world's issues. We hope they feel empowered to go out and make changes for the betterment of the world in their future careers. Cheers to our future sustainability pioneers!

French Dinner

by Samara Diab

On February 28th, after months of planning, the French Club put on the 23rd annual French Dinner. With a four-piece gypsy jazz band playing in the corner, a bar overflowing with wine donations, and tables decorated in bleu, blanc, rouge, 160 university and community members filled the Rogue River Room. The event had sold out a week in advance, so the atmosphere was boisterous and bustling with guests and student volunteers.

Over three hours, guests were served salmon rillettes, tomato basil bisque and French onion soup, a palate cleansing sorbet, fresh quiche, salad, a cheese plate featuring brie, chevre, and Rogue Creamery's beloved bleu, as well as apple crisp and a chocolate mousse that was too rich to finish. Of course, there were also bottomless baskets of baguettes. The volunteers had fun as well, laughing, joking, and snacking on bread, cheese, and desserts in between serving the various courses.

Of course, as the event's organizer, I was running between the kitchen and the dining room, and at one point bringing custodians and building managers free food so we could keep the event open just a little longer. C'est la vie. Surveying the roomful of smiling guests and enthusiastic volunteers, I was glad to see that the French Club's hard work had paid off. The event was a grand success!



How to Plan an Art Heist: A Contingency Loan Repayment Plan and Backup Career Explained

by Samara Diab

As an English major and prospective law student attempting to conceptualize six-figure debt, my life has morphed into a series of what ifs. *What if I can't find a job after graduation? What if I regret all the life choices I ever made and have to pay for them for the rest of my life?* It would be nice to have a Plan B. Then I could stop worrying about money and enjoy my education.

Naturally, I began to research backup careers. The problem is I still walk through life with my eyes wide, smile wider, thinking I can do something great and leave my mark on the world. I require my career to be something intellectually stimulating, and purposeful and just a little bit mind-blowing. My backup career should be the Mona Lisa of backup careers, a stunningly nuanced masterpiece with a smile that leaves you wanting more.

Or maybe instead of crafting a career in the image of Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa, I could just steal it. One successful art heist and I would be set for life.

When all is said and done, I consider myself an ethical person; however, I can easily rationalize my moral digression. Art theft is a victimless crime requiring precision and skill. I would describe myself as practical and if one entrepreneurial endeavor can pay for my education, I will happily forgo decades of loan payments.

I must admit that I am drawn to the glory as well. Art theft is a theft of culture, of history, of prestige. We think of it as a gentleman's crime carried out by ruggedly handsome millionaires. Danny Ocean and Thomas Crown demonstrate these inherently masculine stereotypes. I intend to infiltrate this boys club and revolutionize the definition of art thief because what kind of a feminist would I be if my backup career did not involve breaking a glass ceiling or two?



I also love a good challenge. Art museums tempt thieves to blur the lines between experiencing and owning. However, security systems and fast response times prohibit premature attempts. Thus, art heists require more planning, more analysis, more research. In essence, more of everything an honors English student is good at. I have spent years discussing literary theory about transgressing every type of boundary imaginable; now, I can apply theory to practice.

However, blinded by estimated price-tags, most art thieves lack good business sense. By avoiding internationally famous artwork, I can ensure an availability of buyers and a higher black-market price. Thus, I will be reading about artists like Georgia O'Keefe whose regional museum is hiring security guards. I will be Google-ing Jackson Pollock's brother Charles who also took up painting and Blanche Monet, stepdaughter of Claude, who copied haystacks.

Currently in training for a robust backup career, which makes use of both my English degree and legal education, not to mention my last-minute minor in economics, I would advise you to keep an ear out for the whispers of my future success. And, if you are in the market for an O'Keefe, Charles Pollock or Blanche Monet, please don't be a stranger. Think of it as a scholarship. I always do my homework so you can count on me.

Dr. Brown Coloring Page

by Gretchen Woelke

Do you find yourself missing Dr. Brown? Noticing the dearth of sugary forage upon the snack alter? The atmosphere of dolorous silence no longer punctuated by peals of distinctive laughter? Well, dry your weeping eyes because University Seminar's classy, sassy, and bad-ass Deborah Brown will be returning to the office on April 1st (no fooling!), feeling fine and ready to teach.

In the meantime, you can print and color her stylized likeness to try to fill the void. Tiek flats and LuLaRoe leggings come in all colors, so you can't go wrong (but teal is probably always a safe bet!) So pour yourself a tall glass of bubbly water and grab your colored pencils – We've got 2 weeks to count down until 'Day of the Deb'!



Cooking in the Dorm - Waffles

by Simran Soman



Mt. Ashland Snow Bus

by Simran Soman

One of the free services that Ashland provides is a snow bus, which travels up to Mount Ashland every hour on certain days of the week. The snow bus meets outside of the Ashland Hill Hotel and in just a 30 minute drive, you'll find yourself on Mt. Ashland's ski area. The snow bus will even carry your snow equipment, if you have any, without an extra charge. It's a great way to get out and see what Ashland has to offer!

Living in the dorms and going to the hawk for meals can become very routine and tiring. A good way to make things more interesting and enjoyable is finding creative ways to cook meals in your dorm with friends!

For example, for under \$15, you can buy a waffle maker and customize your waffles to your preference! You will need batter, water, a waffle maker, and whatever toppings or other ingredients you would like to include.



Step 1: First mix your batter according to the instructions of the mix.



Step 2: Add your preferred ingredients.



Step 3: Spray grid conditioner to the waffle maker to prevent any sticking.



Step 4: Pour your batter in and allow it to cook to your desired crispiness.

Enjoy with whatever toppings you would like!