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The Crescent

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

PERFECT
BRUINS WIN
NWC TITLE
AGAIN

PAGE 7

SEXY
SWIMSUITS,
PLUS-SIZED
MODELS

PAGE 9





THEATER PROGRAM WINS BIG AT NATIONAL FESTIVAL

By Heather Harney
Crescent Staff

Two weeks ago, several theatre students and Professor Rhett Luedke competed at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) for Region 7 in Colorado. Several students took home national awards, and Luedke was honored for his teaching and passion for the theatre.

Olivia Anderson won the Irene Ryan award for acting. Cambria Herrera won for best director. Sydney Thiessen won two awards: a national award for light design and the Don Child's Award for Excellence in Design and Technology Presentation. Chloe Dawson won a meritorious award for stage management. Zach Maurer won an award in the technical Olympics.

Luedke won the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion, an award received by eight professors.

According to the KCACTF website, the qualification for the Medallion begins with a strong demonstration of a "strong commitment to the values and goals of KCACTF and to excellence in educational theatre. It is the most

prestigious regional award given by KCACTF and is considered one of the great honors in theatre education."

Anderson competed against 250 other students from the region. She performed scenes from "Unnecessary Farce" by Paul Slade Smith, "Grace" from Craig Wright (with her scene partner, Micah Bevis, who will be traveling with her to the national competition) and a monologue from "Verona" by Don Nigro. Both Anderson and Bevis were surprised to make it to the second round.

"[We were] simply beside ourselves to enter the finals with only 16 nominees," Anderson said.

"I never dreamed they would call my name. I saw so many talented people showcase their work that night!" she said. "When they said 'now the winner of the region 7 Irene Ryan's . . . from George Fox' I nearly died. I just remember barely breathing and shaking like a leaf and being so truly, deeply, overwhelmed and grateful. Oh and it was my birthday! It was the best birthday I have ever had."

Thiessen's national award for lighting came with a small controversy. She did not hear her name called for the meritorious, regional, or national award.

"I was like 'oh' that is kind of weird because I felt that I had a really strong set up this year," said Thiessen.

After the award ceremony, she was pulled over to talk to the chair of the lighting competition. The chair told her there was an excel sheet error and the person named as the national winner was not correct and that she was the national winner.

"I said 'What' really loudly," said Thiessen.

Thiessen's Don Child's Award win means she will travel to Las Vegas for one week in the summer to take part in a workshop at the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas. This award was only given to one person this year.

Anderson, Bevis, Thiessen, and Luedke will be traveling to Washington D.C. in April to compete for the national award.

Herrera, who also won the best director for region 7 in her sophomore year, was given a national directing fellowship to the National New Play Network Festival at the Kennedy Center this July. There she "will work with some of the best professional directors and playwrights for the week of the NNPWF festival," said Luedke.

PHOTO: GFU THEATER



ASC: LARSEN AND PETERSON STEP UP

By Adrienne Speer
Crescent Staff

For Zach Larsen and Michael Peterson, deciding to run side-by-side for, respectively, Associated Student Community president and vice president was an easy decision. They had both been representatives during the 2015-16 school year; their friendship had developed, and together, a vision for 2016-17's ASC was formed.

"So as far as our vision goes, and what we campaigned on, was just being able to create a space for every student to make college what they want it to be," Larsen said.

Peterson and Larsen understand that college is a multi-faceted experience with multiple opportunities for personal growth both inside and outside the classroom. The community of ASC is a unique opportunity to foster connection at George

Fox University (GFU), and they desire that every student is able to identify within the community.

"Michael and I have been working pretty closely together this year because he's commuter

"WE WANT TO BRIDGE THE GAP"

representation and I'm on campus representation, as well as Noelle Ho, and I think it was just a natural thing," Larsen said. "We were definitely really nervous. On election day we were just trying to keep our mind off of it."

Commuters make up more than half the student body at GFU. When Michael Peterson took the new position of commuter representative for

the 2015-2016 school year, ASC took initiatives to make off-campus students feel just as important as on-campus students, through events like the popular commuter lunch.

Newly-elected representative Emily Russell, who will take Peterson's place in the coming school year, says there are exciting plans on the horizon for commuters.

"I was really excited to have the opportunity to carry on the work Michael has been doing this year," Russell said. "Next year we really want to be able to connect commuters to on-campus students. We want to bridge the gap between the two communities because I think they have a lot to learn from each other."

What is Larsen's favorite part about being on ASC? "Definitely the people. The people within ASC are like a big family," he said.

PHOTO: ASC

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The Crescent is George Fox University's student newspaper, a publication that has been part of the university and the Associated Student Community since 1891. The opinions and ideas presented in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of George Fox University.

Distribution

Issues can be found in the Student Union Building and are available upon request.

Letters to the editor

Letters are welcomed and will be printed on a first-received basis. They must include the author's signature, academic major, class standing or job title, department name and phone number. Letters are subject to editing for space and clarity.

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COVER PHOTO: JOEL RURIK

FOX GOES TO SUNDANCE

By Rory Phillips
Crescent Staff

Twelve students from George Fox University (GFU) were selected to attend the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, where they got to attend special screenings and forums with several independent filmmakers.

The festival featured an exclusive study in independent American film, which consists of movies made outside the constrictions of major movie studios, like NBC Universal or Walt Disney Studios. The GFU students attended 14 long-feature and 13 short-feature films from artists across the nation.

The students were selected by application process, and spent a week at the festival. While they were in Park City, venues like libraries and tennis courts were transformed into viewing areas for independent films.

The group was also provided the opportunity to attend the Windrider Forum, a panel-style discussion with Christian filmmakers. The talk assembled students from several Christian universities and incorporated hands-on testimonies on the joys and struggles of filmmaking.

Much of the trip was spent in film screenings and discussions. CMCO major Austin Coates remembers how his GFU peers "really got the sense that these filmmakers put something very personal into their projects." The trip solidified the affective value of the communication department at GFU.

When asked about her favorite part of the experience, Tayla Yogi recalls the excitement of talking with other filmmakers and finding others who appreciate film. "I love film because of how it can profoundly move people and I saw a few glimpses of that at Sundance," she said.

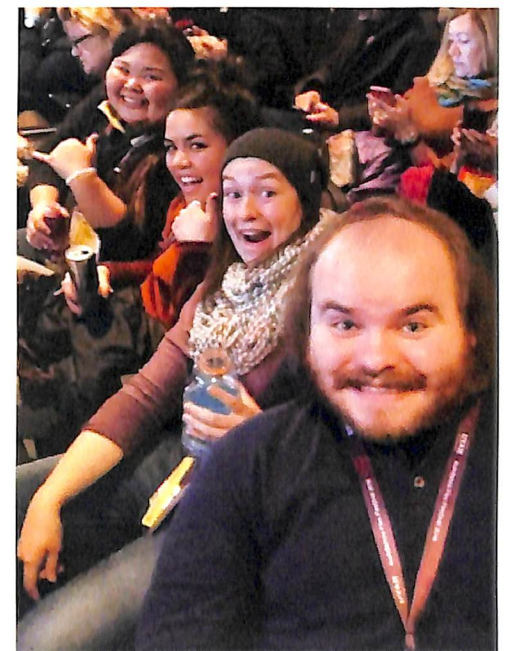


PHOTO: STEVEN CLASSEN

Expanding the Community:

GFU GARDEN TAKES SHAPE



By Kosette Isakson
Crescent Staff

The George Fox University (GFU) community garden hides quietly behind the soccer fields—so quietly that few students are even aware of the garden’s vibrant existence. But those who have become involved are working to transform this small piece of land into a resource for the whole community.

The community garden is a part of GFU’s Creation Care program. Creation Care involves not only caring for people, but also caring for the earth, and finding a way to reconnect both aspects of God’s creation.

“This is one of the most holistically, integrative educational possibilities I’ve yet been a part of,” Professor Corwynn Beals said in an article about the community garden on the GFU Creation Care website.

Professor Cherice Bock, the community garden coordinator, likes being able to grow healthy, local,

organic food for herself and her family while building community with students and Newberg residents in the process.

“I think it’s a really powerful way of connecting our faith with our place and paying attention to the world God has created for us by taking our place within its rhythm of seasons and the ways the land produces for us,” Bock said.

Bock would like to see the garden take a bigger role in the curriculum of the university, with established internships from different majors that could go from year to year and build on collective knowledge and experiences.

She would like the garden to partner with the Center for Peace and Justice, creating a focus on the restoration of the land. In many ways, the land has lost its place as a part of the community. Bock and her team are fighting to restore its rightful place.

Clyde Thomas, the director of plant services at GFU, is passionate about the growth of native plants to attract native insects and help with the restoration of the land. Within the fenced area of

the garden, Thomas said a greenhouse is going to be constructed for use by the garden and the native plant nursery, a personal vision of his.

Thomas also plans to place logs around the property. In addition to increasing the diversity of insects, this will also invite frogs, lizards, and snakes that are attracted to the shade and moisture provided by the logs. His employees have also put up posts for the sparrow hawks that feed on mice in the field.

The community garden has become not only a great resource for growing local produce, but also a way to explore and expand the definition of community. The birds, insects, lizards, frogs, deer, and plants are all becoming part of the Newberg community through the varied efforts of people like Bock, Beals, and Thomas. With the help of GFU students and Newberg residents, the community garden can belong to all.

The next garden workdays are March 12 and April 16 for those interested in getting involved.

PHOTO: KATIE CULBERTSON

FILM STUDENT DESIGNS SERIES ON YOUTUBE

By Kelsey Herschberger
Crescent Staff

On Feb. 20, auditions were held to find the perfect voices to make a dream come alive. The project “Caption This!” is an original animated series created by head animator Anna Alsager, a freshman Cinema and Media Communications (CMCO) major.

The 13-episode series will be a comedy featuring four main characters cast from the Feb. 20 auditions. Alsager said, “We wanted to animate to the voices. Usually in the industry, the characters are drawn first and then they cast voices to match the character, but I wanted to make it more personal and more attached to the characters.”

Jonah Pendleton, Alsager’s creative partner

and a freshman CMCO major in video production, cites “Adventure Time” as an inspiration. He also hopes to present a cleaner brand of comedy without sacrificing depth.

Pendleton wants to ensure that the series will receive the widest audience possible. He will wear several different hats for the project, working on design, writing, voice, and composition.

Alsager, who will also contribute to writing and voicing characters, envisions a similar direction for comedy. Alsager said, “It’s more of a mature slapstick comedy. It’s very open to different ages and the characters’ humor is based on their relationships with each other.”

The title of “Caption This!” is also an imperative. Alsager specifically created the series to increase audience interaction by encouraging viewers to find their own memes within every still

of an episode. This interaction will also be bolstered by behind-the-scenes content released in between episodes.

Alsager works with a team of George Fox University students in order to design the series for release on YouTube, and cites Matt Meyer, associate professor of media communications, and Jeff Cameron, associate professor of graphic design, as sources of support.

Pendleton said, “One of the reasons I came to Fox is their policy on the education of the film students. They let us check out equipment like a library and promote people’s personal projects.”

“Caption This!” is scheduled for release on Alsager’s YouTube channel “Moonboots” sometime during summer 2016.



THE BALKAN WOMEN

CAMBRIA HERRERA DIRECTS SPRING PLAY

By Adrienne Speer
Crescent Staff

It is a big honor to direct a main stage show when you’re a student,” said Cambria Herrera, a senior theatre major at George Fox University (GFU).

Herrera is thrilled to be directing Jules Tosca’s “The Balkan Women” on GFU’s Woodmar Auditorium stage this spring.

While set design, costume design, and casting for the production have barely begun, the process truly started more than two years ago when Herrera first approached Rhett Luedtke, GFU’s theatre department head, and expressed interest in directing.

Some GFU students may have already encountered Herrera’s projects, like Lee Blessing’s “Eleemosynary,” which she directed her junior year, or David Auburn’s “Proof” at Valley Repertory Theatre. Herrera also won the regional award for top director for a scene from John Logan’s “Red” at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF).

“The Balkan Women” is a drama centering

on Muslim women in a detention camp during the Bosnian War. “Over the summer, it was a really hard process to pick a play. I read over sixty plays,” Herrera says. In the end, she chose a script she felt would best speak to her audience and facilitate discussion about relevant issues, even though she knew a play with a dark and complex storyline would be challenging.

**“I REALIZED
THE POWER
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ON AUDIENCES
AND CULTURE”**

Herrera sees the art of theatre as a conduit for enlightenment. “It was how much you can learn through theatre than really drew me to it, because I love learning,” she said. “The Balkan Women” has a message Herrera knows will challenge her audience; the work explores issues of racial conflict,

war, rape, and gender, to name a few.

Herrera’s experience as a woman with a multicultural background impacts the way she approaches theatre storytelling.

“Unfortunately, most mainstream plays are exclusively about white Americans, not about Americans from other cultures. I really want to direct shows by women of color; I want to empower other women, and I someday hope to write plays myself and have them produced, and that way there are more Latina voices out there,” she said.

Herrera hopes the audience at GFU will be receptive to the darker, more challenging quality of “The Balkan Women.” Herrera said, “I don’t want people to be scared of seeing a play with issues.”

Herrera’s relationship with theatre has been developing since she was six years old. As a child, she started out in musical theatre to make friends, but became passionate about the art when she got to college.

“The power that it has is something I learned later. I recognized the power it had on people that were doing it, but later I realized the power it could have on audiences and culture,” she said.

PHOTO: KOSETTE ISAKSON



COAST TO COAST SWING CLUB

SWING DANCE IS IN FULL MOTION AT GFU

By Kelsey Herschberger
Crescent Staff

The Coast to Coast Swing Club hosts lessons in swing dance and offers a free dance every Saturday night in the George Fox University (GFU) Foxhole.

The idea of a structured dance, like swing, tends to make several of the participants anxious about decorum. Vivian Diebel, sophomore and club treasurer, tries to dispel those anxieties.

"Partner dancing implies a guy-asks-girl structure. Being at a conservative school can reinforce those pre-conceptions, but we're trying to see where we can push those limits," Diebel said.

The philosophy of the club is simple: pick whether you lead or follow, and just dance.

Victoria Guiher, senior and current president of the club, was instrumental to its continuation. The most important part to her was simply getting

people in the door.

"Everyone thinks people are looking at you, and you have to do it perfectly. But you learn that it's about having fun and everyone's learning from

**"PICK WHETHER
YOU LEAD OR
FOLLOW, AND JUST
DANCE"**

each other," Guiher said.

Caleb Howlett, a junior and one of the instructors, sees swing as a great way for the community to become close-knit. "The club is designed to give people the opportunity to spread their wings socially," Howlett said.

"I'm aiming for inclusivity. I've observed a

few cliques, which has led me to start games to mix everyone together. It works because it gets people talking to other people," Guiher said of the club's directive.

The atmosphere is designed for people to feel at ease, especially since swing is so high-energy and less formal than traditional ballroom dances.

"The music is a little easier to get into. You can technically swing dance to anything in 4/4 time, so our set list pulls from all genres and eras," Diebel said.

But if you are dedicated to learning, something magical can happen, as with any new skill.

"When you start learning, you learn different cues from the different dancers so it looks like you're reading your partners mind," Howlett said.

If you're interested in joining, the club meets in the Foxhole on Saturdays with beginner lessons at 6:30 p.m., intermediate lessons at 7 p.m. and free-dance at 7:30 p.m.

PHOTO: JOHN BURGESS



PERFECTION AGAIN!

By John Weinert
Crescent Staff

The George Fox University women's basketball team has ended its regular season campaign for the second consecutive year with a Northwest Conference championship and an undefeated record: a perfect 27-0.

"It's been a good season. The players have played hard, and they've worked hard," said Michael Meek, head coach for the team.

Meek, who is in his sixth year as head coach of the women's basketball team, attributed the team's success to both the program's strong tradition of excellence and the commitment and selflessness of the student athletes.

"The program has had a strong tradition. I think these kids are working well together, I think they're selfless in their attitudes," said Meek. "We've improved a lot as the season's been going on."

This tradition, according to Meek, plays a significant role in the continuing success of GFU women's basketball. Despite adding seven new players to the roster, the team has been able to find success.

"You start snowballing success, and players want to be a part of that, that's really helped with our recruitment," he said.

The road to a perfect regular season has not been easy. In one particular game against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, GFU came back to win by one point, 64-63, after trailing by 26 points at half time.

"This team has really found ways to grind out victories," said Meek. "We've had our share of battles but I think our players have overcome a lot to get where they're at and we're looking forward to league playoffs now."

Meek describes his coaching style as one in which players "focus on the process, not the results." Success is found in the small things, rather than the bigger picture, according to Meek.

"For teams to have a great season," continued Meek, "there has to be a level of togetherness and care for each other that's much greater than their individual accolades or awards and I think this team has done a really good job of that."

As for the future, Meek is hopeful. "I think the future's good, and there's always things to look forward to, but we also know that each season is a whole new adventure," he said.

After a solid win against Whitworth University in the Northwest Conference Tournament semifinal, 95-64, the Bruins beat Puget Sound 76-57 in the NWC final. Up next: the national tournament.

PHOTO: JOEL RURIK



FREE OUR FRIDAYS!

By Kosette Isakson
Crescent Staff

Choosing a college was one of the hardest decisions I ever had to make. From my standpoint now as a senior at George Fox University (GFU), I am glad I chose this school.

What follows is not a complaint against GFU, but rather a humble suggestion for improving the lives of students (and faculty). I propose that GFU follow the lead of other universities and schedules no (or fewer) classes on Fridays.

Getting rid of Friday classes has become popular at community colleges to help students and staff save on gas money, and cut down on the costs of running classrooms. Many students live on or near campus here at GFU, so getting to campus is not exactly the issue. The issue is stress. Students here are stressed over the heavy workloads of classes, the increased pressure to get work experience and have internships, and the need to work in order to afford tuition.

I appreciate that GFU is an

academically-focused institution. Eliminating Friday classes would not hurt our academics, but might even improve academic performance by allowing more time for students to balance work and homework.

***“THERE IS
MORE TO
LIFE THAN
STUDYING
HARD”***

There is more to life than studying hard, graduating in four years, and getting a job. At GFU students are being well prepared for work after graduation, but I think we need to take a step back and rethink our values.

GFU promises that students will “Be Known” academically, spiritually, and personally. Allowing a

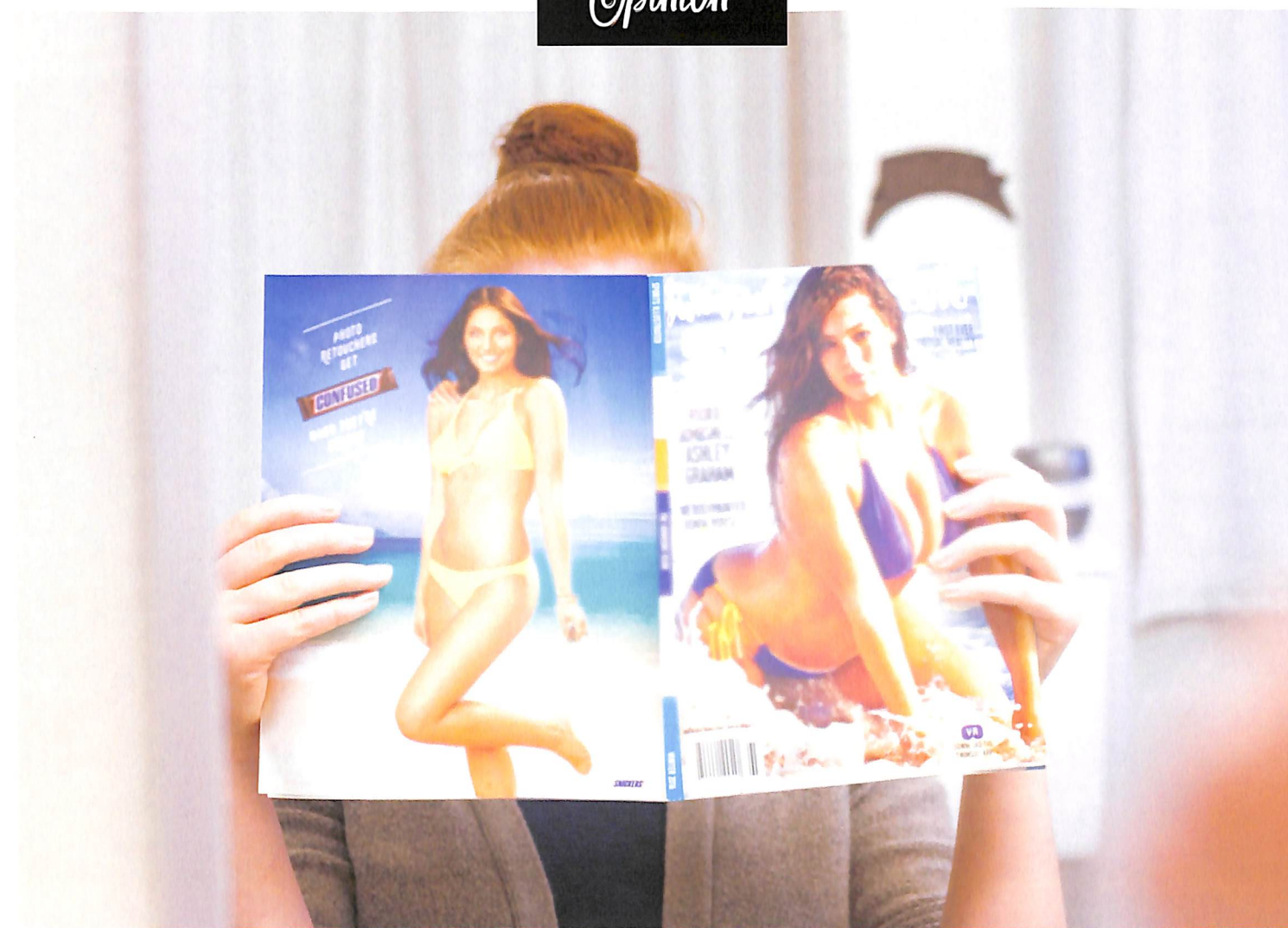
little more time for students to attend the campus events offered on weekday evenings, or giving them the chance to explore this beautiful state together on the weekends, will increase positive student relationships and create a healthier living environment.

We come to college to grow, to discover passions, and to form relationships. But we can get so bogged down by academics and job preparation that we no longer have time to pursue those values.

GFU takes pride in small class sizes, and some might worry that having classes only four days a week would threaten those small classes. This is a sacrifice we might need to make. I believe in smaller classes for many subjects, but not every class needs to be small to be effective.

I do not wish to take away the strong academic atmosphere of this university. But I want to give future students the chance to join clubs, sit through chapel services without multitasking with homework, explore Oregon, and pursue personal hobbies. By providing longer weekends, GFU can join Newberg in being “A Great Place to Grow.”

PHOTO: HAYDEN MERCURIO



One Small Step for Swimsuits?

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED SEXUALIZES WOMEN OF ALL SIZES

By Adrienne Speer
Crescent Staff

I am a woman. I love being a woman, and I love and admire other women. Women, after all, are powerful and beautiful and capable in more ways than I can describe. As such, I get excited when I read about astonishing new achievements in the world of women's issues.

This month, Sports Illustrated Magazine released its annual, iconic swimsuit edition. While in years past, only slender, size 2-6 models in body paint or barely-there bikinis have graced the covers and pages of the magazine, this 2016 issue brought a groundbreaking change.

Instead of featuring only slim models, the magazine chose to include plus-size model Ashley Graham and pro wrestler Rhonda Rousey on the covers. This editorial decision has been hailed as huge step for the body acceptance movement and is a sign of progress for women everywhere.

Of course, I feel tremendous respect for Ashley

Graham, whose gorgeous curves look stunning on the cover of Sports Illustrated. In a professional sense, landing a gig of this proportion as a model

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is equivalent to winning the World Cup as a soccer player. But are the stakes the same? I'm not sure.

But while I am glad a plus sized body is finally

being celebrated on such a grand scale, the beauty and the power in these particular photographs is overtly sexual. Sports Illustrated is a ostensibly magazine for men—and it objectifies and hypersexualizes the bodies of the successful models smiling up from its glossy pages.

Sexuality is not something I am afraid of or opposed to. Quite the opposite: I believe human beings ought to understand and celebrate their sexuality without shame. However, the women in Sports Illustrated are portrayed primarily as sexual and submissive, valued for their exteriors.

Women are not merely sexual. I fear magazines like Sports Illustrated paint them as such, inviting others to view beautiful women through a narrow lens. Such a widely read and iconic publication has power to change worldviews. While I admire the hard work and legitimacy of the models, I would argue that the inclusion of plus-sized women is only a tiny step forward on a treadmill going nowhere.

PHOTO: HAYDEN MERCURIO

LEO FINALLY WINS! BUT, WHO DIDN'T?

By Rory Phillips
Crescent Staff

The Oscars are Hollywood's Christmas, except not everyone gets a present. The red carpet is rolled out once a year. Stars throw on a little (or a lot of) makeup or pin a tie to their necks, or, if you're Bjork, you find a way to wear a swan and call it a dress. Photographers flash their cameras in epileptic beams, and, if only for a moment, we recall a time of the past where such a level of elegance took place not just in sunny California but around the nation.

That the Academy Awards are a facade does not deter us from tuning in. It's not so much about celebrating the winner as it is about rooting for the underdog, the film that didn't win Best Picture.

Yes, Leo finally got his Oscar. And "Spotlight" took Best Picture. But with an inundation of articles about the winners, who speaks for the losers? Eight films contended for the top spot, but even that seems much too broad. There were really only three from the pack that, I believe, merited consideration for Best Picture, and one that actually deserved it.

The other five contenders are definitely not poor films, though. Steven Spielberg's "Bridge of Spies" is of a type that used to win: straight-laced dramas with subtle humor and plenty of speech-making to go around. But to be taken more

seriously, Spielberg would have needed a Best Director nomination to go with it.

John Crowley's "Brooklyn" also has a classical, blast-from-the-past feel to it, although it seems to have been critically over-simplified. George Miller's "Mad Max: Fury Road" should, surely, scarf up many of the craft categories, but action pictures

"EIGHT FILMS ARE CONTENDING FOR THE TOP SPOT"

don't seem to woo the conservative Academy. Ridley Scott's "The Martian" used to be a top-tier contender, until Scott was shockingly cut from the Best Director race—usually Best Picture and Best Director go hand-in-hand. Lenny Abrahamson's "Room" has a lot of what the prior films do not in terms of pedigree and nominations, except for one important aspect: advertising and campaigning.

That leaves us with three deserving films: Adam McKay's "The Big Short," Alejandro G. Inarritu's "The Revenant," and Tom McCarthy's "Spotlight."

For the longest time, "Spotlight" seemed to be destined to win the ultimate prize. And, of course, it did. It opened to darling reviews and won multiple

victories in other critics' awards. But perhaps the film was too square, too typical, for its own good, because after winning the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), not much was said about McCarthy's picture until last night.

After winning the crucial Producers Guild of America (PGA) award, "The Big Short" also proved a promising contender. McKay's film recounts the time leading up to the economic collapse of 2008, and by telling the story through a comedic lens, the film offers voters an fresh look at a difficult time in recent U.S. history. That said, other than a slew of victories for Adapted Screenplay, "The Big Short's" momentum has been somewhat depleted, but it deserved more than also-ran status.

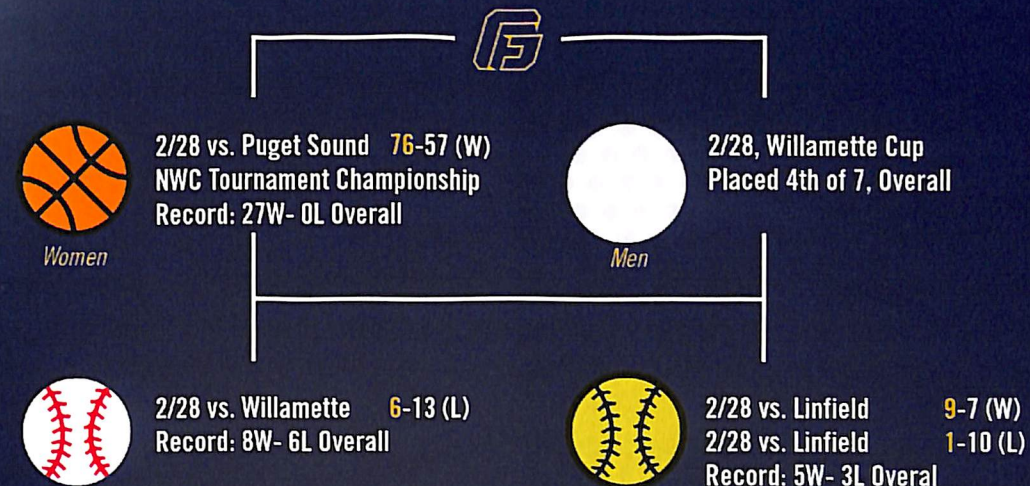
This is where "The Revenant" steps in. It won the all-important Directors Guild of America (DGA) award, and it has been a visual treat for critics and audiences alike. The film has also performed quite well at the box office this year, and having been released so late, Inarritu's film is fresh in the minds of voters. It's a tricky strategy, but one that maybe should've garnered "The Revenant" the night's top prize.

I was placing my bets on "The Revenant." And, well, color me baffled.

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Spring Sports



GRAPHIC: MICK HANGLAND-SKILL

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A black and white photograph of a misty forest. Tall evergreen trees are visible, with a large, dark tree on the right side. The ground is covered in snow, and the background is hazy with more trees. The sky is cloudy.

What do you think?

WE STRIVE TO MAKE THE VOICE
OF THE STUDENTS KNOWN.

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