

# The REDHAWK REVIEW



## Cross Country Teams Win Districts; Individuals Place at State

By Sylvia Butterfield

The Rivals Cross Country team had a successful 2023 season, with both the girls' and boys' teams winning their respective district meets and qualifying for state. The Rivals were coached by Alice Fraser and Ian Fraser and captained by seniors

Aliyah Yearian, Indigo Gould, and Sylvia Butterfield.

On October 28, Rivals Cross Country ran their district races at the Westside classic meet in Tacoma. In the Varsity girls' race, Aliyah Yearian placed first in the district in a time of 18:21, with teammate and fellow senior Fiona Frasier following close behind in a

time of 18:38. The next PT finisher was Senior Sylvia Butterfield in 8th, running 21:17. Sophomore Leah Ferland placed 12th in a time of 22:17 and senior Tadu Dollarhide was 15th in 23:00. Sophomores Michael Gregg and Hilina Taylor-Lenz finished 16th and 20th, in 23:16 and 25:02. The strong performances from all

seven girls allowed the team to edge out their closest competitor, Klahowya, by three points and win the district title.

Junior Soare Johnston placed 3rd in the boys' race, running 16:37, followed by Senior Henri Huber, who ran 17:44 and placed 13th. Senior Indigo Gould

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# Op-Ed: Dangerous Drivers

By Hazel Windstorm

I've been riding a bike to school—in some form or another—for almost my entire life. I ride in the rain, in the snow, in the dark. I cart around musical instruments, text books, and panniers stuffed with sailing gear. Every year, the miles I cover riding to school and back could take me to New York City.

And every day, I am appalled by the behavior of the cars with whom I interact. For a town that professes to love bikes, the drivers of PT seem remarkably—distracted? Hostile? Ignorant? I've never been able to decide. What I do know is that hardly a day goes by without a driver deciding that

risking my life is a worthy trade for five seconds of their time. As a cyclist in PT, I have one request from the cars I share the road with: treat me like one of you.

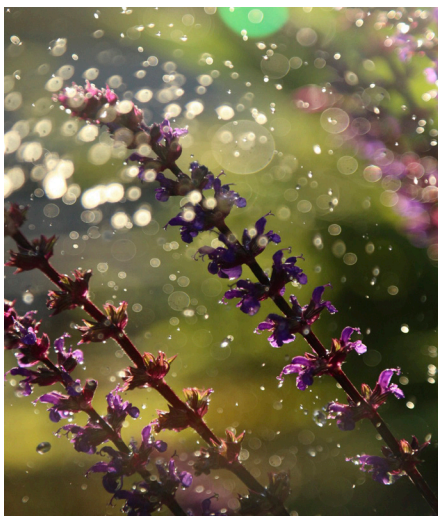
A few days ago, I was biking home in the rain, soaked to the skin. I had both my lights on, front and back, even though it was barely hinting at dusk. A car was coming toward me, a few hundred feet away. I heard a car approaching behind me, too: I assumed they would slow down and wait the ten seconds it would take for the first car to pass. Instead, they accelerated into the other lane, straight towards the oncoming car. They swerved, inches from a head-on collision, cutting in front of me, and driving

the other car to a dead stop into the grass beside the road. I was left standing in the road across from the other driver, both of us at a standstill, staring into their retreating tail lights.

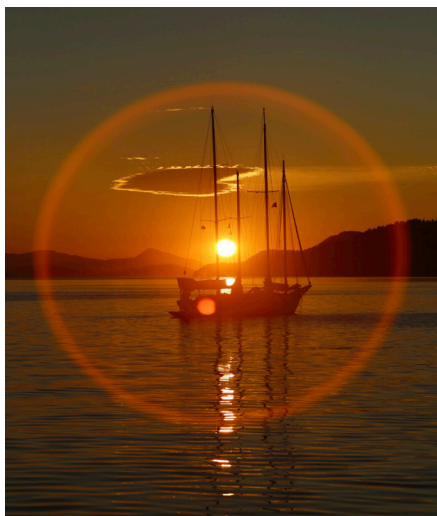
It's a situation that I watch play out at least once a week, if not more. It's not one poor driver, it's a different car, a different location every time. I'm never sure what mental calculus goes through their heads in those seconds: late to work? On their phone? Pure impatience? Are any of those worth risking someone else's life?

This brings me to my earlier point: treat me like a car. Have some patience. I know you can wait to pass another car when there's a stream of oncoming

traffic. Wait to pass me, too. I'm not asking for much. I put up with obscenities screamed out of car windows, atrocious roads, nonexistent accommodations for bikes. All I want in return is a little patience, a little awareness, perhaps ten seconds of your time. I don't want my name to be in a headline next to the words "distracted driver kills cyclist". I'm sure you don't want your name to be there, either.



(Photo Credit: Luca Cambell)



(Photo Credit: Luca Cambell)



(Photo Credit: Luca Cambell)

## A Letter to PTHS

Dear Port Townsend High School,

I wanted to take some time to inform you about the complexities of the teen brain. Being a teenager can be pretty confusing, so I thought sharing this with you would provide some insightful information.

Firstly, it's essential to know that at my age, the brain is still developing and will continue to until around 25 years of age. This means that decision-making,

impulse control, and executive function can be quite erratic. Teens are navigating a delicate balance between childhood and adulthood, which can lead to occasional mood swings, with which we have all experienced.

Social interactions are a significant part of a teenager's life. This factor has been hard for teens to work on because of the challenges created by COVID-19. Friendships and peer pressure play a crucial role in teen decisions and behaviors. We often value

the opinions of our peers greatly, which can influence our choices in this world.

More recently, phones, computers, and other technology have a strong pull that gravitates toward young and fresh minds. This leads us to social media and online safety. As a teen, I am guilty of spending too much time on these devices (I'm on one right now). Although the saying, "screens fry your brain" isn't ultimately true, cellphones can create structural challenges for

the brain, though.

In summary, the teenage brain is a work in progress. We make mistakes, but our mistakes only make us better people. When adults release their anger at us, it's not helpful. We're all just learning, and it seems they are too. The thing that matters most is love and care. Being there for us when needed can improve our journey to becoming better people.

From Gracie Witheridge

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# Book Review

By Rennie O'Donnell

I typically try to impress our readers with “high quality” books, focusing on more sophisticated and deep stories that carry hidden messages and usually darker themes.

Today, however, I take my first steps towards ridding myself of a personal prejudice against trashy novels. If you look up “trashy books,” the definition is “worthless” and of “low quality,” but I disagree. Books that may not be of high quality are not necessarily worthless; they just aren't life-changing or complex. Things are simple and fun and can be much more enjoyable than reading a “high quality” Shakespearean tragedy that contains so many soliloquies and hidden motives you get lost reading one sentence. This is not to say that I don't value Shakespeare; my purpose is only to compare one type of literature to another. My list of trashy books will name a few of my favorites; the ones that I read when I need a break from the constant demands of schoolwork. Apologies to those who may enjoy the works of the queen of trashy fiction, Colleen Hoover. No matter how much I enjoy trashy novels, I can't find any skill in her writing or entertainment in her plots and storylines.

Firstly, mystery, bounty hunters, and witty New Jersey humor is encapsulated in Janet Evanovich's *One for the Money*. Working at the Jefferson County Library, I have been exposed to the high demand for Evanovich's work and was intrigued. To many of the older female patrons of the library, Evanovich is a god. From the very start of the novel, my attention was stolen and I fell down the rabbit hole. With a whirlwind of action, romance, and comedy, I found

myself unable to put the book down until I was finished. For high schoolers who seem to focus so heavily on Shakespeare, imagine reading a whole page and not once having to reread for comprehension or hidden meanings. The magic of simple and fun writing comes through in Evanovich's work, and though I doubt I will ever be able to proudly announce my enjoyment of her work, I can confidently say that she is a great, trashy, writer.

Secondly, is a sweet romance novel that pains me a little to call trashy. *Sea*, and its sequel *Where The Sea Takes Me* by Heidi Kling is the most criminally underrated book. I have read this book more times than I can count in the past 10 years, and still am impressed and in love with it every time. Combine together grief, romance, travel, and so much drama, and you will come out with the most marvelous duology. It's a coming-of-age romance novel that follows a young girl, Sienna, across the globe on a journey that not only helps put her life into perspective, but also the readers'. Its tragedy is perfectly balanced with its romance and there is no better story for a rainy day. Another book similar in its enjoyment-to-quality ratio is *Daisy Jones and the Six*. Though the TV series was, in my opinion, a disappointment, the story was great and a fun read. It held my attention and was an enjoyable book overall, though I found no deeper meaning or life-changing lessons embedded in the interview-style novel.

My third set of recommendations is heavily based on a factor that is slightly humiliating but overall enjoyed by most audiences: Old boyfriends. Though quite a common theme, my two favorite old boyfriends are in *Outlander* and *Twilight*, two of

the most trashy book series that I can think of. Without going into too much detail, I shall only say that these two series are actually fantastic and rated well enough that they almost could be kicked out of the “trashy” category. However, many disagree with that. Enough, in fact, to put each of the *Twilight* books as the top 5 “trashy books” on Goodreads.

The fourth category is one that also pains me to call trashy but is, by popular opinion, not the highest quality. These are the many books released during the dystopian wave that hit the 2010s and are more recently resurfacing. The *Hunger Games*, *Maze Runner*, and the *Divergent* series are the most well-known examples of this era and, while extremely enjoyable,

are generally not considered high quality. I have only reread a few of the books mentioned above, but find it enjoyable to mix the old memories of the books with new opinions and perspectives that allow for a more clear understanding.

This list of stories is a mix of favorites from the past eight years and hopefully won't be taken into account when regarding my own taste. These are my guilty pleasure books that all readers have, in some form or another, and are only revealed now as we enter the season of comfort and relaxation (unless you are taking APUSH finals in January, that is).



# Book Review: *And There Was Light*

By Sevryn Rust

No book has influenced my perception of life, morality, history, and sight more than Jacques Lusseyran *And There Was Light*. In the spring of 2022, I read the book with a former teacher for two months, meeting once a week to discuss chapters, plot, and most salient: the thinking process displayed by Lusseyran. Speaking on this book has brought out many ideas and understandings I hold to this day, and that is why I value my time with *And There Was Light* above all other reading experiences.

*And There Was Light* is a memoir of Lusseyran's experiences during World War II. Half the story is about his blindness and youth, and the remainder is about his work in French resistance movements and his time in Buchenwald. Lusseyran lived in France and, at seven, had an accident that blinded him. From here, the character's uniqueness becomes evident: Lusseyran never became depressed or frustrated

with his blindness or negative aspects of life. Contrarily, he became extraordinarily adept at "seeing" after his blinding. The war began while he was a young adult. Lusseyran decided there was a need to keep people educated about the war, and started a resistance movement called "Volunteers of Liberty." Two years later, in 1943, he was arrested by the Nazi police force, the Gestapo. For two arduous years, he survived in Buchenwald, one of thirty to make it out. Yet, like all good books, the narrative is only half of the story.

Sight. That was the true talent of this blind author. Lusseyran describes in many passages that his ability to perceive the world and its occupants depended on faith or his "inner light." I must doubt any reader who claims otherwise, for the tangible and intangible things he discerns are beyond our current science. The importance of his sight is especially highlighted in his role as the recruiter for their resistance movement, as a couple

of candidates he turns away early in the story are later proven to be Nazis. Lusseyran describes light not as something beyond ourselves but instead as an energy that we create when we align in a morally right matter—without this light—his vision fails. One thought I find compelling is that the absence of his eyes taught him to see things more clearly and made him aware of how dependent we are on visual awareness instead of bodily awareness. But this light wasn't something of a religious nature either; he had faith in it, yet it was almost a science to him. The light of himself and others replaced their looks, instead modeling their character or soul.

"Two truths: the first of these is that joy does not come from outside, for whatever happens to us it is within. The second truth is that light does not come to us from without. Light is in us, even if we have no eyes."

How does anyone survive torture, cold, starvation, and excessive labor? Faith. That was Lusseyran's greatest strength

in Buchenwald. He describes mass murder, life-ending cold, and extreme hunger, yet survives past the war's end. His entire life is governed by faith and hope. His sight, trust, intuition, confidence, and friendships are all formed on these bases. Discussing the book, we spoke of what it would be like to survive through Buchenwald or any other camp. To do so would require extreme mental strength and luck. Lusseyran had both. Faith's appeal and strength lie in willpower and miracles. Lusseyran's lack of sight kept him safe from harrowing labor, most certainly death.

This story perfectly exemplifies the interchangeable nature of fortune and failure. Lusseyran turns blindness into sight, suffering into faith, and readers into believers. As someone with little interest in any of the subjects displayed in the book, I have been most pleasantly surprised. This story is compelling, and I highly regard it as one of my greatest learning experiences. Read it.

## *The Redhawk Review*

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We hope you've enjoyed your peruse through this issue of the 2023-2024 Redhawk Review! This paper is written and produced by students, for students. Its aim is to both inform our student body about current events in our school, community, and world, and to provide an opportunity for students to get involved with journalism. We are always looking for more students to work with us, either as committed staff members or as contributors of independent pieces. In addition to welcoming articles, we are eager to work with students interested in creative writing, poetry, photography, cartooning, illustration, or other art forms. If you're interested in journalism, or just in learning more, please let me know! We would love to have you on board. We are creating this with the student interest in mind, so feedback and thoughts for the future are always appreciated!

Thanks for reading,

Maggie

## Cross Country Cont.

placed 20th in 18:04. Freshmen Joshua Yearian and Noah Isenberg ran a close race, placing 22nd and 23rd in times of 18:10.2 and 18:10.7. Sophomore Dustin Hines and Freshman Silas Klontz placed 30th and 40th, running 18:43 and 20:00. The boys' race was even closer than the girls'; Port Townsend won with 81 points, with the second and third place teams scoring 82 and 83.

In addition to their team qualifications, many athletes qualified individually for the state championship, including all seven PT runners in the Girls' race and Johnston and Huber in the Boys' division.

16 athletes traveled to Pasco, WA, to compete in the state championship the following weekend: all 14 who raced at districts, with the addition of an

alternate for both the girls' and boys' team: Junior Nola Bertucci for the girls and freshman Nico Erichetti for the boys.

On Saturday, November 4, Rivals runners raced at Sun Willows Golf Course. The girls' team placed 9th overall, led by second and third-place finishes by Yearian and Fraser in 18:38 and 18:39. Next from PT were Butterfield and Ferland in 22:31 and 22:41. Dollarhide ran 22:46, Gregg ran 23:14, and Taylor-Lenz ran 25:16. In the boys' race, Johnston ran 17:24, Yearian ran 18:06, and Isenberg ran 18:08. Gould and Huber finished in times of 18:16 and 18:26. Hines and Klontz ran 18:40 and 20:15, leading to an 11th place finish for the boys' team. The Rivals start winter conditioning on November 27.