

# Waiting for spring to ... spring!



## Little joys of March

Annie Welman Editor-in-Chief

### New blooms

Of all Seattle spring flowers, there are none quite as quintessential as the cherry trees beginning to bloom throughout the city. Seattleites and tourists alike flock to the UW campus to see the pink blooms, which typically reach their peak in late March. Luckily for Ballard students, BHS has some of its own cherry trees, who's buds are just starting to burst.

Beyond the cherry trees, there is an assortment of other early spring blooms popping up around Ballard. Hellebores were some of the first to arrive, providing some welcome hints of purple amidst brown garden beds. Then came the tiny clumps of crocuses, accompanied by a slew of daffodils. Though some of these flowers were quickly met by early March frost after they emerged, they brightened parking strips even during bouts of sleet and hail. Dwarf irises and currants popped out as well, along with the occasional tulips and magnolia flowers.

In the upcoming months, Seattleites have rhododendrons, dogwoods, azaleas and other colorful blooms to look forward to. Perhaps these blossoms can carry students to spring break, brightening walks to and from school and making it a little bit more enjoyable to stare out classroom windows.

### Baby rabbits

For gardeners desperately trying to protect spring flowers from rabbit nibbles, this might not count as a spring "joy." That said, it's hard to truly hate baby bunnies. Overpopulation aside, the fuzzy bundles of fur hopping through the neighborhood are often a lovely surprise.

Rabbit breeding season begins in February, and continues through March and into summer. Whether people prefer crocuses or the rabbits that feed on them, there will be an influx of both this time of year.

### Migratory birds

Though bird feeders in Seattle are filled year-round with everything from hummingbirds to chickadees, March marks the very beginning of bird migration season. The peak season won't take place until May, when nearly 260 thousand birds will fly over King County each night, but until then the permanent resident Steller's jays, house finches and others will keep Seattle company as the migratory birds join in.

Once spring is in full swing, tanagers, grosbeaks and warblers, along with a number of shorebirds passing through the Pacific Flyway, will pass over Washington. Maybe a hawk will even snatch a pesky rabbit or two and save a few flowers from becoming bunny snacks.

## Spring Playlist



Editorial Board

Though this playlist may not be for everyone, no playlist could encompass the eclectic music tastes of all students. Instead, here is an assortment of songs that students feel are reminiscent of the season. Whether these songs are familiar or not, take a listen and try them out!

### 'Spud Infinity' by Big Thief

If there is ever a time to embrace the inherent silliness of humankind, it is spring. Our most basic desires are exposed, from gazing at budding flowers, to opting for a picnic rather than a traditional lunch. "Spud Infinity" encapsulates how everyone, on the most basic level, is the same. Just a silly human "baking too long in the sun of spud infinity."

### 'Today' by John Denver

As leaves begin to grow back on trees, it is more important than ever to live in the present. In "Today," John Denver sings of the joys found in our lives, however small they may seem from the taste of strawberries to sleeping in a field of clovers.

### 'White Rabbit' by Jefferson Airplane

Spring is a time of feeling big and small, just like Alice. As nature wields her long-awaited display of life, we're left understanding both our own insignificance and the simultaneous grandeur of our own existences. Besides, spring is nothing if not the season of the Hookah-Smoking Caterpillar.

### 'Velvet Elvis' by Kacey Musgraves

The whole "Golden Hour" album feels revelatory in its joy, the same way spring does. It's a celebration of joy after pain, light after dark. "Velvet Elvis," while less centered on nature than other parts of the album, remains an upbeat and nostalgic song, perfect for spring.

### '26' by Caamp

Despite the barren, leafless trees and snow on the album cover, this song manages to feel distinctly spring-like. It brings out the same uncomplicated joy that spring can inspire, complete with stories of walking barefoot on the beach and taking in the smell of rain. After all, if this were truly a winter song, no one would be moving to Alaska.

## Spring Activities

Maisy Clunies-Ross Opinions Editor

Yellow and purple buds burst through the soft dark soil, quickly shooting up into full daffodil and crocus blooms. Clouds and fog give way to sunshine and light showers. Delicate pink cherry blossoms and vibrant leaves grace the branches of trees that have long lain bare. Like the petals that fall from trees or a soft morning mist, spring is in the air. For Seattleites who spent the past few months cooped up inside, hiding from the dark and dreary winter, it's difficult to remember what the warmth of the sun felt like, let alone to remember how to enjoy it. Fortunately, the Ballard community has shared some of their favorite ways to enjoy spring.

### Hiking

For those who are willing to brave the muddy trails, hiking is a great way to enjoy the weather. New life, like green sprouts, colorful buds and newborn animals are all around. These changes can be fun to observe on hikes with friends or alone. As corny as it may sound or feel, taking a step back from the hustle and bustle of everyday life to serenely enjoy the beauty of nature and reflect can be very beneficial.

### Picnicking

After months of icy park benches and visible breath, it's finally warm enough to eat outside without shivering so hard speaking is impossible. There's no better way to celebrate this change than with a picnic! Ditch the hot drinks and hearty soups of winter for the light tea cookies and cucumber sandwiches of spring. Trade puffy coats and sweatpants for t-shirts and sundresses.

### Polar Plunge

Although jumping into frigid water can sound unpleasant or daunting, polar plunges can be an invigorating addition to a day. While it is usually still too chilly to lay out on a towel and tan, putting on a swimsuit and going to the beach is still reminiscent of a summer's day. Grabbing blankets and piling into a warm car afterwards adds an element of coziness that makes polar plunges the perfect transition from winter to summer.

### Biking

Biking offers a relaxing way to enjoy the breezy but bright spring weather while getting some exercise. Serious cyclists may enjoy long trips and many hills, however the difficulty of a bike ride can be adjusted for any level of experience or commitment. There are flat routes in parks and bike trails around the city for those looking for a run ride without much exertion.

### Field Games

Like a picnic, field games harken back to the simple childhood joy spring once held. Getting together with a group of friends or a sports team to play games like capture the flag can ignite a spirit of playfulness and friendly competition for all those involved.



(Annie Welman)