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ISSUE X-2: TALK 2 ME

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ISSUE X-2: TALK 2 ME

and now a word from the editor



Sequels and follow-ups to stories walk a fine line between expanding the original story well, adding unnecessary details that ruin our perceptions of said tale, or worse, having nothing new to say. This isn't the case with real people.

Based on the reception for Issue X: *Talk to Me*, I felt a follow-up to the "Interview only" issue would be great. Depending on feedback from readers like you, this could lead to an annual series. In this issue, you'll find profiles of five fascinating people from various intersections of the LGBTQ+ community. I'm fortunate to call them friends and acquaintances, and enjoyed getting to know them better this way. I hope you will too.

And yes, this issue's title is based on *Final Fantasy X-2*.

Forever yours, - Taylor B.

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would you like to be featured in future installments
of the *handbasket interview*?

reach out via email: handbasketzine@gmail.com

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Handbasket is a free bimonthly literary zine dedicated to sharing LGBTQ+ narratives.

This publication may contain mature material some readers might not find suitable.

Don't take this zine too seriously; nobody involved does.

This zine is not endorsed by, and does not reflect the opinions of, Ellensburg Community Radio.

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THE **HANDBASKET** INTERVIEW



name - age/sex/location – pronouns

I'm in a change-place where I don't really know what I want to be called! I have been going by both Taneum and T :) I use she/her and they/them pronouns. Right now, I live in LA, but I am from Ellensburg, WA.

what are three words that summarize you?

Fluffy, concerned, girl-squirrel

how would your friends describe you?

I asked three friends for this one and I think they're all sweet little liars: "gracious, tender, loving"

what is a big goal you're working towards (or have already achieved)?

I'm working on a memoir that is partially about people who love skunks and keep skunks as pets, and also about the conditions a person might face when discovering that someone they love has done violent things.

do you collect anything?

I just started collecting fancy slimes.

your idea of happiness is?

A big empty field after the rain.

describe your aesthetic.

I like repetition, people who look away, obsessively, from what troubles/traps them as a way of understanding it better.

what is a topic you're always up to talk about?

I'm in the third year of a creative writing PhD program, which is the year where you have to read a lot of theory and prove that you "get it," and then (at least at USC) you have to take a ten day timed test. Right now, I am on day 7! I used to think I wasn't built for theory, or that I get too sucked into the aesthetics of a project instead of the meaning (but of course, those things are joined!). I realized recently that I don't know if theory is meant to be understood alone—or I think we need each other and conversations in order to do any theory justice. I've been looking at *Animacies* by Mel Y Chen and *Necropolitics* by Achille Mbembe; every time I talk about those books with other people, I find some new part of them to love.

what is a pet peeve of yours?

I am not proud of this but it hurts me whenever someone calls themselves a "foodie" and I don't know why.

recommend three songs.

"Ojos Del Sol," Y La Bamba | "Loyal," Sudan Archives | "I'm Your Man," Mitski

good advice to give?

Take very good care of your stomach.

THE **HANDBASKET** INTERVIEW



name - age/sex/location – pronouns

Thomas - 33/M/Bellingham WA - he/him

what are three words that summarize you?

Adventurous, curious, outgoing

how would your friends describe you?

Fun, engaging, creative

what is a big goal you're working towards (or have already achieved)?

Increase followership of my website, ForReel and attend Cannes as accredited press in 2025.

do you collect anything?

Whiskey has become my thing to collect over the past couple years.

The problem with collecting whiskey though is I also like to drink it, haha.

your idea of happiness is?

Surrounding yourself with people you love and who love you, building and maintaining valuable relationships.

describe your aesthetic.

Rustic, natural, log cabin, sitting by a fireplace with a glass of whiskey.

what is a topic you're always up to talk about?

I'm always interested in talking about movies.

what is a pet peeve of yours?

When people share content online based on the headline without reading the article.

recommend three songs.

the 1 - Taylor Swift | DON'T TELL THE BOYS - Petey | Magnificent - Oh Wonder

good advice to give?

Get outside of your comfort zone.

THE

HANDBASKET

INTERVIEW



Photo credit: Mario Rodriguez

name - age/sex/location – pronouns

Cristian Garza - 24/Non-Binary/Richland,WA - he/they

what are three words that summarize you?

If I had to summarize myself in 3 words I would say: Charismatic, Authentic and Driven.

how would your friends describe you?

Hopefully they would use kind words to describe me! I hope they think that I'm a caring human who always tries to make sure they feel the love and affection they deserve.

what is a big goal you're working towards (or have already achieved)?

I would say in a way I have already achieved a big goal of mine which was to find a career in news right out of college. I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to grow in the ways that I have here in just three years! Of course, I still have some dreams that I am going to continue to work on, like to eventually move to California or to have my own daytime talk show.

do you collect anything?

I do actually have a DVD collection as well as a vinyl record collection! I love how aesthetically pleasing they look on my shelves. Plus, they are great conversation starters when I have people over for parties and what not.

your idea of happiness is?

I would say that my idea of happiness is just being content where you are in life. Finding that bliss of being OK where you are and really just living in the moment with the people you love most.

describe your aesthetic.

I would say that my style is an overall mix of artsy and grunge. I have a lot of different colors and statement pieces but I also have a lot of darker colors and love a platform shoe/boot. Overall, I would say my general aesthetic is more artsy than anything and I want not only my clothes but all of my spaces to be aesthetically pleasing!

what is a topic you're always up to talk about?

If pineapple really does belong on pizza or not... haha I'm just kidding because I know that is a tough topic for a lot of people. I would say I'm always down to talk about anything to do with entertainment! Whether that's new shows, music, or movies.

what is a pet peeve of yours?

My biggest pet peeve is ignorance. I understand that not everyone is going to agree on everything but if you can't even listen to the other side of the argument or just come to an agreement that at the end of the day we are all people and should be treated as such... really just grinds my gears.

recommend three songs.

What Was I Made For? by Billie Eilish | yes, and? by Ariana Grande
Tummy Hurts (Feat. Coco Jones) by Reneé Rapp

good advice to give?

The best advice I can give to anyone is to always look at any situation in front of you as a glass half full! I think a lot of times we tend to get into our heads when things get stressful or maybe even get frustrated when things don't go according to plan, and it affects us mentally which then affects us physically. If we choose to see the positives in life instead of focusing on the negatives, I think it will make everyday easier to get through. Also, another important thing that I even I'm working on everyday is to be kind to yourself and give yourself grace! You will get where you need to go or the results that you want when the time is right, so please be kind to yourself in the process!

THE **HANDBASKET** INTERVIEW



name - age/sex/location – pronouns

Sarah Dennis – 28/F/WA – she/her/they

what are three words that summarize you?

Giggly. Quick. Passionate.

how would your friends describe you?

Animal whisperer, fun fact connoisseur, pickle aficionado, and loyal.

what is a big goal you're working towards (or have already achieved)?

Earning my doctor of physical therapy.

do you collect anything?

Plants, rare rocks, and puzzles.

your idea of happiness is?

Time spent with loved ones, or engaging in activities that bring me joy and sense of grounding.

describe your aesthetic.

A flux and mix of dressy casual, boho and athleisure wear. Definitely a fan of playing with colors and textures!

what is a topic you're always up to talk about?

Travel. I love hearing other people's places and reasons why they want to go certain places or stories of where they have been. Thinking back on my own travels too always makes me smile.

what is a pet peeve of yours?

Tardiness. Respect others' time.

recommend three songs.

Lemonade by R&B Sean | On My Mama by Victoria Monét | I Touch Roses by Book of Love

good advice to give?

Don't let concern for what others may think keep you from making your own heart happy. Do you!

THE **HANDBASKET** INTERVIEW



name - age/sex/location – pronouns

Michael F. - 34/Enby/Georgia - he/they

what are three words that summarize you?

Creative, queer, weird. I own all three.

how would your friends describe you?

I'd hope at least: genuine, empathetic, on Lexapro.

what is a big goal you're working towards (or have already achieved)?

A move, geographically and in career. I'm hoping that I can do this over the summer. Both financially and in terms of general motivation, I need a realistic change.

do you collect anything?

Enamel pins, zines, art, hobbies, crochet/knit dolls (made by me and my partner Devin), books. Djuna Barnes wrote in *Nightwood* that Nora and Robin's apartment was a "museum of their encounter," and that's how I feel about collection.

your idea of happiness is?

Lately, stability. Financial, emotional, friendship. A lot of things are inconsistent, and I'm hoping that things continue towards stability in 2024. Also, bless Lexapro.

describe your aesthetic.

Your typical 90s enby, emo bear with tats and piercings. I'm leaning into this in 2024. Expect more tats and piercings and occulty vibes.

what is a topic you're always up to talk about?

ZINES. I make them, buy them, trade them, teach about them, rant about them. I could go on for hours about the history of them, the social movements tied to them, the current resurgence of them... I may have for a full semester in a Zines as Literature course. I love how flexible zines are as media in terms of material and topic. Currently, I make zines on our cat Buckets (Bucky); I'd be satisfied if this is my magnum opus.

what is a pet peeve of yours?

Elitism in academia. Consistently, in my line of work, I see the academy remaining unsympathetic as well as incredibly judgmental of incoming students. While I know many people doing good work and working to be accessible, it seems the academy would rather be deliberately difficult (as opposed to intellectually challenging) and foster failure rather than learning. I guess this is more than a pet peeve... I have pretty strong feelings about it, but it was the first thing that came to mind.

recommend three songs.

1. "Legend" by Alice Longyu Gao ft. Alice Glass - two of the best Alices? Yes. Absolutely yes.
2. "North" by Fever Ray - intimacy and sex reimagined through the language we use to describe them in a very somber and pensive state (I mean, the music video was filmed in a tundra, and it's Fever Ray).
3. "Ro Block Kidnapped and Robbed Mackenzie Hayes (the Cop) for Her PD Assault Rifle + PD Glock" by Liz Anya - okay, okay, okay hear me out. This one's from a GTA V RP character who produces music and, while referential to the GTA server, holy hell does this one go hard. If it's not your vibe, try "Fangs" or "Duff." The person behind Liz Anya can write a bop.

good advice to give?

I'll try: acknowledge your mistakes, learn from them, don't expect them to be forgotten and don't forget them yourself, but don't let them define or rule you.

and now here's something we hope you'll really like



**do you want your story in *Handbasket*?
submissions are always welcome!**

Handbasket Zine is for LGBTQ+ writers/poets/
journalists/artists in Ellensburg, Kittitas County,
+ central Washington State (*and beyond!*)
to share their stories.

Content is accepted from LGBTQ+ writers of various
backgrounds and intersections.

POC submissions are encouraged.

Anonymous contributions are welcomed.

Pursuant to the Supreme Court's ruling in *303
Creative LLC v. Elenis*, Republicans need not apply.

Essays: Preferred. Please no greater than
700 words.

Poetry: check the size of these pages & gauge your
length accordingly.

Journalism: depends on the story; let's talk.

Art: PNG or PDF.

Submissions are limited to one (1) per person per
issue. For more info, reach out via email

(handbasketzine@gmail.com) or

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