



# Whitman Today

Friday, February 19, 2021

## Anderson Quarantine Update

A final round of testing for the residents of Anderson Hall on Thursday, Feb. 18, revealed no new positive COVID-19 test results. In consultation with our epidemiologist, we have decided to release most Anderson students from quarantine. There are some students living in Anderson that were close contacts with students who tested positive. Those close contacts will continue to quarantine in their rooms until their 14-day quarantine periods are over, based on the date of possible exposure.

We are relieved that we were able to identify and isolate the cluster of cases in Anderson quickly but it highlights the extreme importance of Whitman's COVID-19 protocols, especially as Walla Walla County begins to loosen restrictions. It is imperative that we all continue to be diligent about social distancing, wearing masks and avoiding gathering in groups.

## 2021 Power and Privilege Symposium Opens with Teju Cole's Reckoning with Racism



An off-campus household of students watches Teju Cole's P&P keynote address.

This year's Power & Privilege Symposium kicked off on Wednesday, Feb. 17, with a keynote address by [Teju Cole](#), the Gore Vidal Professor of the Practice of Creative Writing at Harvard. Cole is a bestselling author, internationally acclaimed photographer and the former photography critic for The New York Times Magazine. His writing has covered everything from art and race to politics and popular culture.

Cole's brief keynote gave way to an intersectional discussion, where he confronted hard topics. He started by reflecting on Māori politician [Rawiri Waititi's recent ejection from New Zealand's parliament](#) for not wearing a necktie. Calling the tie a "colonial noose," Waititi instead wore a traditional Māori greenstone pendant around his neck as an expression of his cultural identity. Parliament later changed its tie requirement, but the damage was already done. Waititi had been publicly humiliated by Speaker Trevor Mallard and prohibited from doing his job.

Cole used the incident to launch an exploration of racism, the actions that perpetuate white colonial power, and the ways in which acceptance of white authority can hide racism. "I want us to think about how oppression shows up, almost as a matter of course. This is what people do when they feel they can do it and get away with it," he said.

[Read more...](#)

## Question of the Week: Answer Edition



On Monday, we asked how many of you had been out to play or exercise in the snow. At that point 88% of respondents had but since the snow has stuck around all week, the percentage of Whitties who've been out to ski, snowshoe, sled and build snow creatures and structures may be even higher now.

Thanks to the Outdoor Program for sharing these photos from their pop-up free rental shop on Tuesday! If you have fun snow pictures to share—especially of the snow llama!—please send them to [whitmantoday@whitman.edu](mailto:whitmantoday@whitman.edu) and we may include them in the newsletter or social media.

## Happening This Weekend

### TODAY

noon

#### [Continuing the Conversation: Power & Privilege Debrief](#)

*This year's Power and Privilege Executive Team will be facilitating "Continuing the Conversation" this Friday. They invite you to join them to debrief this year's symposium. What did you learn? What connections did you make? What suggestions do you have?*

### SATURDAY

noon

#### [Local Birding Walk](#)

*Spend the early afternoon with the Outdoor Program, walking to Pioneer Park or Mill Creek from campus to look at birds at the aviary or migratory birds along the Mill Creek Recreational Trail.*

noon

#### [Snow Fun!](#)

*Join the Outdoor Program for some wintry activities. We can build sculptures, snow forts, throw some snowballs or even romp around on snowshoes. The possibilities are endless and the only objective is to have fun!*

[Whitman Events Calendar](#)

Have a virtual event you'd like to share with campus? Email the details to [whitmantoday@whitman.edu](mailto:whitmantoday@whitman.edu).

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday-Friday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Standard Time.

Submissions are welcome! If you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate, an event to publicize or other content to share with the Whitman community, email [whitmantoday@whitman.edu](mailto:whitmantoday@whitman.edu). Submissions should be 125 words or less. The deadline for submissions is noon for the following day's newsletter, though submissions may be held for a later date according to space and editorial needs.

Previous issues of Whitman Today are [archived on our website](#).



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