

FREE EVERY MONDAY

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THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

THANK YOU,
TACOMA!

BERNIE VISITS TACOMA

READ OUR STUDENT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TALKING ABOUT THE BERNIE SANDERS RALLY AT
THE TACOMA DOME ON MONDAY FEB 17 2020.

>>> FIND THE LETTERS ON PG. 3

UWT RSOs fight homelessness through fundraising

Four RSOs collected donations and are working to put together kits for those suffering from homelessness.

By MITCHELL FERMO
News Editor

In a joint collaboration between four registered student organizations at UW Tacoma, students gathered donations to fund the supplies necessary to create care packages for those who are homeless. The four RSOs — Muslim Student Association, the Black Student Union, the Somalia Student Association and the Black Men’s Group — are also working in conjunction with Tacoma’s Nativity House and Tacoma Rescue Mission to distribute the care packages.

All contributions toward the project were used to create care packages that contained food, clothing and hygiene products for those who are homeless within Pierce County. In all, they raised \$2,000 for the supplies through their page

on GoFundMe.

Islam Alsinai, the outreach coordinator for MSA, stated that this project started two years ago by MSA. She explained that in Islam, working with the community and helping others in need is an important part of Islamic religious beliefs.

“Our faith puts so much emphasis in giving back to the community, like charity,” said Alsinai. “There’s some verses ... one of them is like, ‘In whatever good you spend is for yourself. So, this doesn’t just impact the other people you’re giving to, but also yourself. There’s also another quote that says, ‘give charity, even if it was half of a date.’ You don’t have to give much. Simple things can make a difference.”

For Amari Hill, president of BSU, this was a chance to work together, collaborate with other RSOs and be communi-

ty-oriented through several means, including being involved in community work, spreading news and educating others on opportunities in community work and outreach.

“When I heard about this initiative, I definitely wanted to hop on board,” Hill said.

Contained within the care packages will be several items to help with the colder weather of the late winter and early spring. Clothing items like gloves and socks will be included in the package, as will hygiene products such as deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste and feminine products. For food supplies, the kits will contain some sandwiches, apples and a water bottle.

President of MSA Dilnoza Chorieva explained the reasoning behind the items in the care packages. She stated that many

\$2,000 raised of \$2,000 goal

PHOTO COUTESY OF GOFUNDME CREATED BY THE FOUR RSO'S

Members from the four RSOs collected donations to help provide food and resources for the homeless, successfully reaching their goal of \$2,000 in under 20 days.

times, those who are homeless might only get dinner from shelters, and the food in these kits was to help provide more sustenance during the day.

The next step for the project will be putting the care packages together. Originally, the plan was to spend the entirety of Feb. 26 putting together the kits, but this has been pushed back to an unspecified date due to an issue with their GoFundMe site. However, Alsinai, Hill and Chorieva assured that they would still find a date to get students involved with making the care packages. They also stated that all students are welcome to sign up to help construct the kits — you do not have to be a member of any of the RSOs to help in the project.

“I ... feel like bringing other RSOs on campus together really showed that most of us have similar goals in what we want to do,” said Chorieva. “In bringing our goals together and turning them into something bigger is really meaningful because if one RSO does something, that thing can be impactful. But when other people come together, it can be something larger, you know? ... It shows that bringing four or five RSOs together is possible.”

Huskies in the hallway:

COMPILED AND PHOTOS BY MADELINE HILLER AND ALYSSANDRA GOSS

How do you feel about the campuses response of disinverting CBP?



Topson Wang

He/Him/His
Junior
Electrical Engineering

“I think it’s good they responded but I feel neutral on the subject.”



Ivan Diakonu

He/Him/His
Junior
Electrical Engineering

“The student body reacted out of fear that was not warranted. As an immigrant, and a member of an immigrant family, we went through the proper chains to receive our place here in this country, as should others.”



Zac Lyday

He/Him/His
Senior
US History

“Pretty good. They probably heard this was going to happen. Feels weird that they would invite them in the first place.”



Keyana Hartman

She/Her/Hers
Senior
Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

“I’m kind of amazed that direct pressure from students and faculty caused this. I think it’s the right response.”



Dr. Sarah Hampson

She/Her/Hers
Faculty
Professor of Law and Policy

“I’m thrilled that they made the decision that they did. I personally thank Mark and Mentha for that. I hope we can work harder to make a climate where all of our students feel safe.”

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘Why you should vote for Berine Sanders from now until March 10’

Submitted by Ruba Shahbin

Dear Editor,

When you hear about authenticity, what comes to mind. Maybe it's a record, but records are skewed. Maybe it's their shared experience with the rest of us, but shared experience only goes so far.

Yet, for me, it is the person's embodiment of core values that our society has come to cherish through generations of blood and tears.

When I look and hear Bernie Sanders, I see a living and breathing embodiment of the real American people, not the hypothetical idea of people our establishment conjured up for themselves. Who are these people?

They are the people who built and fought for this country. The people who keep our society and culture uplift. The society that nourishes and cherishes each other. A society that acts collectively in order to unite us for the common good. When I see Bernie, I see someone who is willing and has challenged the status quo. When the status quo blamed millions of dying people on their “lack of hard work,” Sanders blamed the status quo for the sys-

tematic oppression of the establishment. When the status quo desensitized those in power of systematic issues, Sanders reminded them.

When the status quo ignores our country's minorities, Sanders pushes and uplifts them. When the status quo was loyalty to the establishment, Sanders rejected the establishment. When the status quo is to forget and move on, Sanders forgets to move on. “We have a long way to go,” he says. When the status quo was rich get richer and the poor get poorer, Sanders openly and unapologetically defied this sad reality that impacts over 50 percent of our society. When the status quo was profit over people, Sanders chose the people. When the status quo now is the second to best, I believe in the best.

Time is running out. The climate is killing us. Our establishment is ignoring us. We are being defied. Our country has become desensitized, but no more.

We need a revolution. We want better. We deserve better. We deserve Bernie. That's why I'm voting for Bernie in 2020.

Dear Editor,

First off, Bernie talks about a lot. How do we know that he means it? There's a saying that for every bad decision made in the past 30 years there's a video of Bernie trying to stop it. This is something that I've found to be almost comically true. Throughout his entire career he's never taken money from corporations or interest groups save for unions, something that is entirely anomalous in the modern history of American politics.

AS A CLIMATE ACTIVIST

I'm voting for Bernie because he's always been on our side. As the mayor of Burlington, Vermont, he helped transform the city's energy system to one hundred percent renewable energy. He's been talking about greenhouse gas pollution and climate change before most people knew what it was, far before it was politically convenient. He was the first senator to oppose the disastrous Keystone Pipeline, and again led the way in opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline. I've been involved in many actions around “pressuring politicians to do the right thing,” but with Bernie it's just about making him aware and then he'll

Submitted by Sean Arent & Riley MacDonald

stand shoulder to shoulder with you. Bernie wants to ban fracking and offshore drilling just as much as I do, and isn't afraid to say it. As a member of the Sunrise Movement, I recognize that Bernie has always supported the tenants of the Green New Deal, and if elected will be its champion, but most importantly Bernie Sanders knows that he can't do this alone, and after his election the movement to transform this country and save the planet won't be over, it will just have its first real fighting chance.

AS A RACIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST

Bernie Sanders' commitment to racial justice has been lifelong and his current approach is exactly what's needed. Sanders organized with CORE and SNICC as a college student which produced the famous photo of him chained in solidarity before being arrested. However, over time, the Senator seemed to gravitate closer and closer to class issues discussing poverty and the need for universal programs. This strategy has been historically employed by American socialists and reformers in an effort to appease Whiteness. Of course such programs will disproportionately help those most alienated from housing and health-

care do stand to gain the most from such universal programs if they are developed and applied truly universally — historically the latter part has been unsuccessful. In August 2015 at Westlake in Seattle, a Sanders rally was disrupted by two Black Lives Matter activists. Whatever you feel about that action that moment created real growth and I and this campaign owe a debt to Marissa Janae Johnson and Mara Jaqueline Willaforde who were mistreated by the crowd at that event. Part of the failure of 2016 was the lack of an attempt to make the campaign not just “tolerant” but overtly anti-racist. In 2020 I see a campaign that is not reactive but proactive that extends its platform to marginalized communities rather than speak for them or tokenize them. I see a campaign that understands the centrality of race in American history and has built a movement built with that knowledge that is not just class conscious but racially conscious. Such a campaign is the strongest possible tool for not only beating Trump in November but actually creating meaningful change.

Flavia de Avila, professor of law in Brazil teaching at UWT

Teaching, learning and activism — law and human rights abroad.

By **ANDREA NADAL**
NEWS REPORTER

Flavia de Avila is a Brazilian professor and researcher spending a year at UW Tacoma. From teaching classes, to working on her dissertation, to getting involved in activism right here in Tacoma, de Avila has been busy during her time here so far. De Avila has an educational background in law, with a graduate in law from Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná. She also earned a masters in law at Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, as well as her doctorate in law from Pontificia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais. She has also spent time researching in Germany at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg.

Originally, de Avila intended to be a lawyer, with specializations in labor law and international negotiations.

“I was a labor law, and I really like the theory applied to law, but in fact, things are much much harder than you can imagine,” de Avila said. “So, there was a lot of times where my clients, they had the right, but they could not get what they were owed, and it started to frustrate me...”

Growing up, de Avila did not want

to be a professor. She explained that while she loved doing research and going through records, her father was a professor and she was hesitant about going down the same path.

“My father is a professor and I had a kind of resistance,” she said. “I don't want to be a professor; my father is a professor. But I really like to research, to discover why things are like this, and to try to understand the ways. It was really hard while being a lawyer to try and research as well. It was almost impossible.”

Here at UWT, de Avila is continuing her research on violence against women, as well as sorts of resistances against this violence that arise in society.

“I want to compare to the things that I can see here that I can study in the United States, especially in this political moment, of the countries,” she said. “They are very different countries, but similar in some ways. So, this specific political moment, it is good to compare what is going on in the countries and what kind of resistance movements start to happen or already exist, and now have some sort of new strength.”

“Human rights is the umbrella that I work under,” she explained. “What is different, is being from law, to associate with anthropologists or sociologists, I think that the research gets deeper and

gains more in the sense of humanity, to give face to the problems — not only based on treaties or laws. No, you start to talk about the problems that people have to struggle with day to day.”

Beyond her work here at the university, de Avila is involving herself in grassroots human rights work in her free time as well. Since arriving at UWT, she has joined Latinos Unidos for South Sound, a group that works to build a stronger community for Latinx peoples, while also working to improve their participation in the wider community. She has also started to participate with La Resistencia, an undocumented-led grassroots movement which works to support those that are facing deportation and detention while also seeking to end these practices altogether.

She also discussed the shifting nature of identities that one experiences while living abroad.

“One very interesting thing: in Brazil, I am a white woman,” de Avila said. “And here, I am Latina. And I like it. I can identify myself with no problem. I think in my first week I was like ‘Okay, I have no doubt. I know who I am here.’ Location is important, and other things are important, but here I know. I feel a part of this, I was in Mexico for holidays, and I was like, ‘oh wow, this is so familiar.’ I



PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

Flavia de Avila, Brazilian professor spending a year at UWT.

had this impression, you know a lot of things there are different, but I could still relate within these differences.”

De Avila has around six months left here at UWT. Reflecting on that and thinking ahead, she had this final note about her travel and experience so far:

“This experience can be very interesting because of the whole spec-

trum of personal and professional life. The whole spectrum, and even if you have to talk in a different language and try to find the words and try to not make big mistakes. And think, ‘Please try to understand me.’ Normally here people are really really patient and really kind and generous. So I don't have problems. Sometimes I have, and sometimes they're really funny.”



PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

Students march to the center of campus from the University Y, where the career fair was being hosted.



PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

An altered sign reading "stay true to your word and marketing".

Protest for CBP being on campus

Students advocate for the safety of undocumented students by protesting the presence of Customs and Border Patrol at the UWT Career Fair on Feb. 25.

By **MADELINE HILLER**
News Reporter

Customs and Border Patrol were initially given a booth at the Winter Career Fair on Feb. 26. An email went out warning students about their presence and to stay home if they felt uncomfortable. On Feb. 20, there was a town hall meeting where the issue was talked about in detail between con-

“Considering the positive and educational purpose of the career fair, we determined the best course of action was to ask CBP not to participate, and they agreed.”

cerned students, Chancellor Mark Pagano and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Mentha Hynes-Wilson. Students who were still unhappy about CBP threatening the safety of undocumented students planned to hold a protest outside the career fair.

It was during that town hall where afterwards Hynes-Wilson led a fo-

cused discussion with several students in further explaining the situation, taking in feedback and providing different solutions for students to both be safe and protest the presence of CPB on campus.

On Feb. 24, two days before the career fair and planned protest, an email was sent out by the Office of the Chancellor informing students that CBP was uninvited to the career fair.

“As a university campus with one of the most diverse student bodies in the U.S, we strive to create an environment that is supportive for all our students,” Pagano said in the official statement from his office. “We have students who are immigrants and whose parents are immigrants. Considering the positive and educational purpose of the career fair, we determined the best course of action was to ask CBP not to participate, and they agreed.”

While the protest — organized by students from the Progressive Student Union, members of the UW Tacoma chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and members of the Latinx community — was initially to get CBP out of the career fair, they wanted to keep the rally and instead focus on the prevention of allowing an incident like this from happening again. They used

this time to gather signatures for a petition to change campus policy. They also wanted to increase support for a bill, Senate Bill 6442 currently in the Washington legislature which would prevent the operation of private detention facilities in the state, which would affect the Northwest Detention Center here in Tacoma’s port — less than two miles away from campus.

“Thank you to everyone who helped us get them off our campus, we are truly powerful when we all stand together, and that’s why we’re not done.”

“Thank you to everyone who helped us get them off our campus, we are truly powerful when we all stand together, and that’s why we’re not done,” said PSU President Sean Arent in an email. “We need to make sure that this never happens again, so that future students aren’t subjected to this.”

The rally took place on the morning of Feb. 26, starting outside of the University Y and moving down the

staircase to the center of campus by the lunch hour. It started with about twenty-five students and about three faculty members, but by the time they were in the middle of campus, those numbers increased dramatically.

Students came ready to stand for what’s right and were passionate about the response from the campus.

When asked for an interview, many students were not comfortable with providing their full names. One pre major freshman student, who wanted to be known only as April, shared how the initial response is what caused concern on campus. They felt that the campus was putting the responsibility on students who were uncomfortable with the presence of CBP and that they should take their own precautions.

“The disininvite was one step to change but there still needs to be policy changes,” April said.

Students chanted things like “Hate has no home here” and “No CBP at UWT” while cars and other students walked by and showed their support. Some even joined in with them. The organizers came prepared with buttons, posters, flyers and a petition to sign to change the policy at UW Tacoma to prevent something like this from happening again.

When the protest moved to the center of campus, many students took turns leading chants and speaking about how they felt about the situation.

The Associated Students of the University of Washington Tacoma addressed students’ concerns by writing a letter of disagreement to the Chancellor. They felt that the invitation of CBP violated W.A.C 478-136-030, where the code states: “The university will not make its facilities or services available to organizations which do not assure the university that they do not discriminate against any person as defined in the University’s Executive Order No. 31.”

“The disininvite was one step to change but there still needs to be policy changes.”

ASUWT President Vincent Da also wrote a statement further addressing the letter sent by student government:

“As we represent the voice of our student body, we acknowledge and respect students that are interested in federal jobs and we are working with campus administration on a better process for handling future similar situations.”



PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

Asha Richardson, Robert King, Alina Cordova, Anthony Robles, along with over a dozen more students protested across the University Y.

Female solidarity: The failing area of feminism

The second most impactful ‘f’ word in America right now — feminism.

By MEGHAN RAND
OPINION EDITOR

From a feminist perspective, it’s easy to assume that the biggest threat to gender equality is men. But it’s not. What if we over simplify the way we view gender politics? What if it’s possible that women do things to each other that contribute to their own oppression?

Misogyny is not perpetuated by the male gender alone. Women can be misogynistic too, and in ways that are not immediately obvious. One of the ways is “slut shaming” — the premise of which is rooted in the fact that women should not claim agency over their bodies. When a woman judges another woman for her perceived promiscuity, she’s supporting the fact that many people think that a woman’s body can be controlled by societal norm in a way that a man’s simply never will be.

When a girl claims to “not be like other girls,” she’s doing the same thing. She does this to point out that girls as a whole are flawed, and she exhibits traits that demonstrate why she is not flawed. Usually this is followed with her being somebody that does something extra “cool” such as shotgunning a beer, being okay with casual sex, or liking sports — all of which are traditionally “masculine” things. Comments like this that reject female stereotypes, especially when coming from women, are harmful because they communicate that there is something wrong with

being a woman, and desirable about being a man. And when we do this, we’re showing men that it’s okay for them to say things like this about us, too.

When we, as women, perpetuate the negative stereotype that women are petty and two-faced by talking about each other behind each other’s backs, we are delegitimizing ourselves. When we make hateful comments about each other, we are following in the footsteps of the patriarchal norms established for us that women all over the world have been risking their lives to change.

What does more productive feminism look like? It’s not making a comment that disses all female professors for being more strict than men because they are “overcompensating” for not being taken seriously. It’s asking a woman about her own goals, rather than when she’s planning to have kids. It’s not judging a woman who posts a lot of selfies online and calling her self-absorbed. It’s not rolling your eyes when there’s a girl in your class who raises her hand five times an hour and calling her a “try hard.” It’s not calling an assertive woman a “bitch” because she threatens you.

My list could go on. Statistics have proven that there is not a singular global demographic that is more oppressed than the female gender, and the values in America, and globally, were built upon the idea of women being less valuable than men. This is in our very roots as a country.

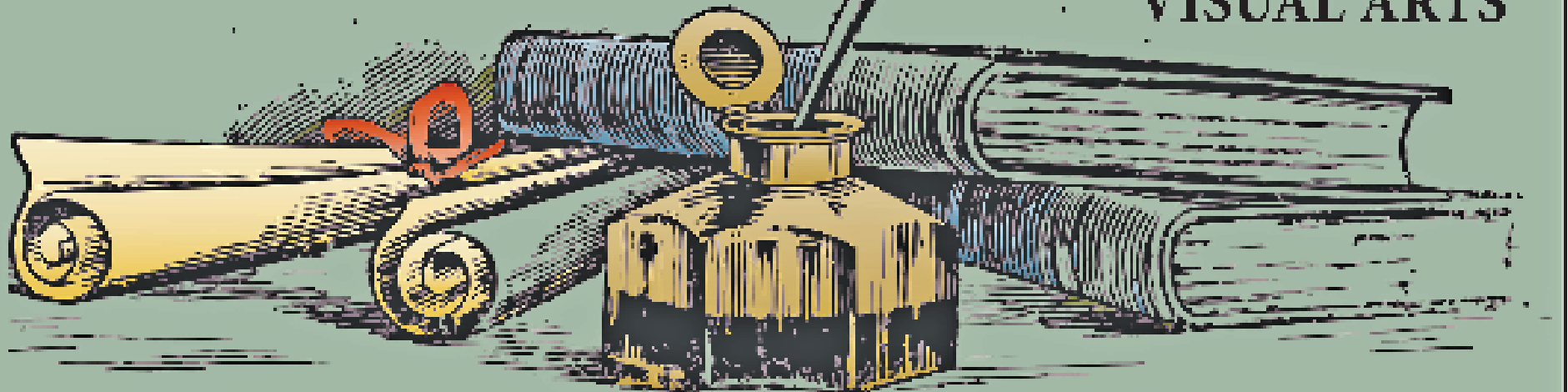
It’s more important every day that women learn to stop trying to play the “cool” girl, and start playing the “nice” girl.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

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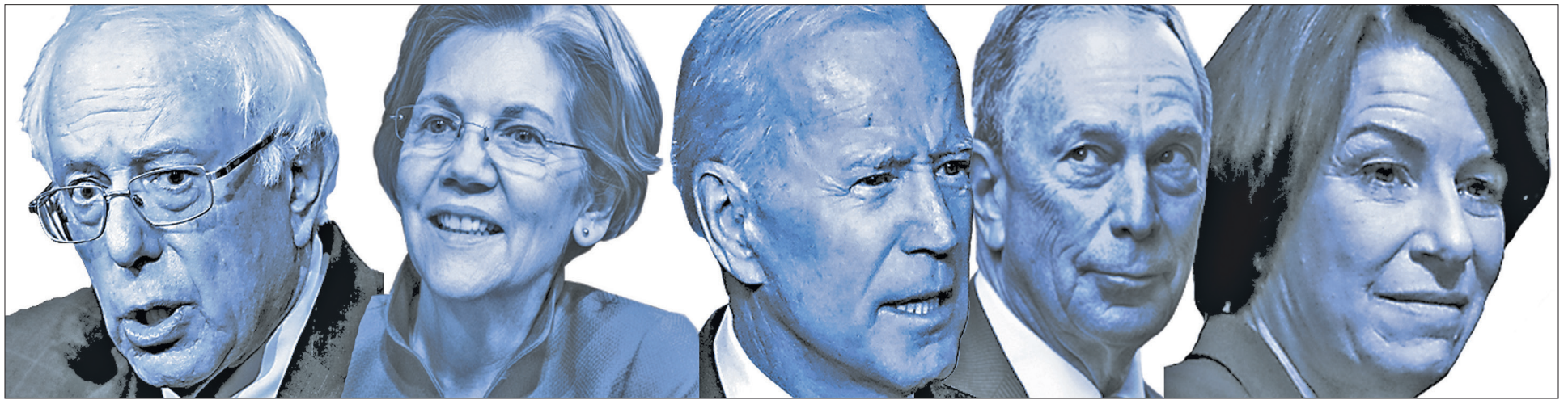
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Members of the 2020 Democratic primary. Pictured left to right: Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Joe Biden, Michael Bloomberg, and Amy Klobuchar.

GRAPHIC BY NATALIE PEYTON

2020 presidential elections: What makes a leader

It is finally 2020, with presidential elections right around the corner. We have many powerful candidates, but who will make the cut?

By **BENGISU CICEK**
OPINION COLUMNIST

The 2020 presidential elections are approaching, with the general election on Nov. 3 and the Washington primary on March 10. Senator Bernie Sanders, Former Vice President Joe Biden, and Senator Elizabeth Warren are in the top three leads for the state race according to the New York Times.

Senator Sanders raised a big crowd at his rally Feb. 17 at the Tacoma Dome along with Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal. According to the Stranger, over 17,000 attendees were present. Senator Warren came to Seattle Feb. 22 for the second time. Last year when she was in Seattle, she had around 15,000 attendees, according to King 5 News.

The candidates have a lot of supporters to help them through this candidacy. There are various policies Senator Sanders, Senator Warren, Biden and Bloomberg have proposed, as predominant as the candidates are, on their website. Senator Sanders has many proposals such as gun safety, legalization of marijuana in all states, racial justice, women rights, elimination of medical debt, Jobs for All, and public education reinvestment. Senator Warren focuses on raising wages and creating more jobs, why we need the Ultra-Millionaire Tax, better foreign policy and ending wars, protecting communities from gun violence, a welcoming immigration system, cancelling student loan debt, equality and LGBTQ+ rights, universal child care, etc.

Joe Biden's policies are to remake the education system, restore the Voting Rights Act, not having ICE separate families at the border, demolish the travel ban for people from Muslim majority countries, ending the Global Gag Rule, and work on national commitment to advancing human rights and democracy worldwide. Mike Bloomberg's priorities are strengthening U.S. defenses, strengthening U.S. partnerships around the world, and leading global action to fighting climate change. He wants criminal justice reform, gun safety, paid family leave, college access and affordability, tax policy, etc.

Several of the priorities, plans and policies are in alignment with each other. The candidates are focusing on issues that the people living within

this country are facing.

In the book "The Prince" by philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli, he advises the prince to use religion to bring his people in, to unite them. With this 2020 election, a tool the president candidates are utilizing is pathos, approaching communities with emotion, which is bringing many communities in to support one goal: to have that candidate be elected. A lot of the promises we see the candidates making are to fix issues that started in 2016 and long before that too.

It does not matter which or how many candidates we support. Yes we can support more than one. We need to focus on the key issues that are slowly taking our country as well as surrounding countries to destruction. We are not electing a candidate who will only make

America truly great again, but a strong leader who does not leave any of their people behind, and who shows solidarity to other countries.

Celebrate the policies the leader has, the promises they make to the communities, and support their accomplishments, not only the person.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy," said Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., one of our most valued and loved leaders who would want to see the unity we have today, in the America that he changed. America is one big melting pot, and we need the unification to form now more than ever. We must vote for the candidates wisely.

Can subjectivity become objectivity?

Is it possible or fair to disregard those who go against the grain?

By **NICOLAS LUNA**
OPINION COLUMNIST

Arguments about whether certain forms of media are overall good or bad seem to never end. This is often the most common with the endings of beloved television shows, such as "Lost," "The Sopranos" or "Breaking Bad." However, it is often forgotten that apart from the individual subjective opinion, media content is just content, not good or bad.

Of course, there are widely accepted opinions of certain media like the idea that "The Mona Lisa" is a beautiful and enigmatic painting, offering seemingly interminable discussion points about itself and its author. I personally enjoy the painting, but let's say I'm in a room with two other people who dislike the painting, do those outside opinions matter? Furthermore, has it become a bad painting?

A great example for this discussion is the ending to "The Sopranos." There will be no spoilers, except for the fact

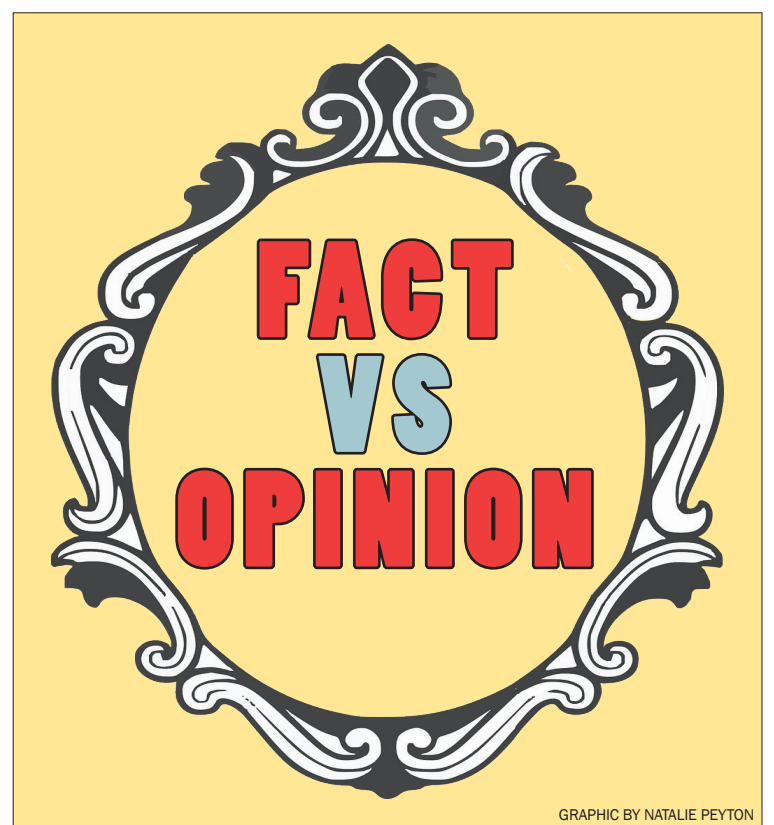
that the ending bore a polarized acceptance among the fans; some absolutely hated it and some absolutely loved it. I fall into the category of absolutely loving it. But let's say, for the sake of the argument, that some sort or statistical agency went worldwide and was able to quantify how many viewers loved it or hated it. If the majority of the masses subjectively disliked it, is it fair to say that it is objectively a bad ending? Can there be a collective objective opinion based on a summation of subjective opinions?

I want to say yes because it seems instinctual. However, it's unfair to disregard the dissidents, especially if the outcome is almost as equally polarized. But what if there is a stronger majority opinion? "Breaking Bad" has arguably an ending that viewers were much more agreeable upon. So, if that same statistical agency could quantify the opinions of the worldwide "Breaking Bad" fans and theoretically come up with an overwhelming majority of people who

enjoyed the endings, let's say 95/5, is it fair and sensible to disregard the opinions of the minority? Is it fair to say that, objectively, "Breaking Bad" wrapped up nicely? Can objectivity be found in this world of subjectivity?

I'm not so sure that I have the answer to this, but I do have some things for consideration. If something like music, television, cinema, or art can be observed and considered objectively, then it must have a good reason to stifle subjectivity. On one hand, some people just simply can't grasp at an idea, like the ambiguity of "The Sopranos" ending, or the simultaneous simplicity and complexity of "The Mona Lisa."

Sometimes, it's easy to regard things as poor in quality when we lack an understanding of what they represent. Alternatively, there are often good reasons to oppose majority opinions that are reasons other than lack of understanding or devil's advocacy. Especially opinions that consider forms of media.



GRAPHIC BY NATALIE PEYTON



REVIEW

“The Lodge”

★★★★★

The Good:

- Atmospheric visuals, chilly feeling.
- Good performances, with pleasant surprises from the kid actors.
- Promising set up.

The Bad:

- Slow pacing.
- Illogical plotting.
- Jumbled thematic elements.

‘The Lodge’ is a film to dodge

Decent performances and creepy visuals can't save this atmospheric chiller.

BY ANDREW BROWN
FILM CRITIC

Beginning with close-up shots of a house's interior leading to reveal they are that of a dollhouse — a visual stolen from the 2018 horror hit “Hereditary” — “The Lodge” purports to be an atmospheric-heavy horror/thriller with religious undertones. But instead, it turns out to be a lame imitation of the “The Shining” with no clear direction and a complete lack of pacing.

Richard Armitage's character reporter Richard, announces his intentions to his wife Laura — played by Alicia Silverstone — that he is divorcing her and marrying Christian cult survivor Grace, played by Riley Keough. Laura responds by committing suicide, which deeply affects her children Aiden and Mia —played by Jaeden Martell and Lia McHugh.

Months later, Grace proposes that she and the kids spend Christmas vacation at their remote lodge in the snow while Richard finishes up work before the holiday. The family follows suit but when the weather worsens and cuts contact with the outside world, Grace's troubled past begins to show in her personality.

“The Lodge” first premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in Jan. 2019 and was picked up by distributor NEON Films for a Nov. 2019 release date. However, without any official reason, the film was delayed to February. Beginning with limited releases in New York and Los Angeles the film is just now opening across the country. The likeliest explanation being that it's downright abysmal and got tossed into the annual cinematic dumping ground of February with the rest of the heap. Considering the plot takes place around Christmas, it makes that

choice feel misguided indeed.

The film has a promising outline, using a similar premise to that of the Stanley Kubrick horror classic “The Shining.” In it, a family of three are stuck in a snowed-in hotel all winter, slowly going insane from the evil within. There's the additional theme of religious penance, the stepmom, Grace, was raised by her father in a Catholic cult where sin and purgatory were drilled into her from a young age. The opening act event — where Laura kills herself — is an eye-opening shock, and gives the story a strong foundation. Then, unfortunately, the rest of the movie happens, and it completely squanders any potential it had.

The problems begin with the plotting. The children are portrayed immediately hating their future stepmom since they see her as responsible for their mother's suicide. This is despite the fact that they hardly know her and deem her

a psychopath based purely on the ordeal she went through as a child.

Once they are alone in the cabin, they pull a prank on her by hiding all of their items in a crawl space and claiming they are now dead in purgatory. What their goal is isn't clear, but as Grace's sanity unravels they react with utter horror. What were they expecting? Is it a deliberate plot moment, that they're the real psychopaths and it's an ironic twist? Perhaps it would be if they had a legitimate motivation for their hatred, yet they have none.

This also takes at least an hour to happen, and it feels like an eternity. The pacing is stone dead, and feels as frozen as the snowy exterior. The strengths are few — the atmosphere is decent, in the sense that you really do feel cold and stuck in one place with nothing to do. The performances are passable, with some impressive turns from Martell and McHugh as

the kids.

For a significant portion of the runtime, you are uneasy, but only because you're not quite sure where it's going. Is it a ghost story? A psychological thriller? A commentary on religious fanaticism? Ultimately, I think it's more of the latter, yet poorly executed. Audiences don't want to see a movie with half-baked Christianity themes and the downsides of spiritual conviction and penance are thrown around with no real framing device.

I couldn't wait to get out of the theater for most of the movie. Normally for this genre that would be a quote of praise, but it was out of extraordinary tedium. This was seriously one of the most boring films I've ever seen in a cinema, and I can't remember the last time I checked the clock so much during a screening. This is one lodge you don't want to check in to.

Tahoma West: Flex your creative muscles

UWT's literary arts magazine is the opportune place to publish your work to the world.

BY MADI WILLIAMS
A&E COLUMNIST

Tahoma West is UW Tacoma's literary arts magazine that takes submissions of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and visual arts of any kind. The process of choosing the pieces is a blind process — meaning they look at the pieces without knowing who produced them. This year the Editor-in-Chief, Maxine Metzger, has slightly changed the way submissions are happening by enacting a theme for the submissions to the journal. The topic for Volume 24 is socially-engaged art — pieces that use a personal perspective to raise awareness of social issues such as racism, sexism, homophobia, environmental issues, etc. The due date for submissions is March 28, the Saturday during spring break.

While sharing personal written work, or even artwork, can be anxiety provoking, it can also be one of the

most rewarding things you can do. Allowing yourself to be vulnerable and put yourself out there helps build your self-esteem and promotes the realization that you are capable. Not only this, but acquiring positive feedback from others doing the same thing is also very rewarding. You never know how your piece will connect with someone and help them through something by addressing an experience you have in common.

Once all the pieces are chosen there will be a party celebrating the launch of the new journal on May 28, 5–7 p.m., where creators will share their work and receive a copy of the new journal. It will also be open to the public so anyone will be able to come and enjoy the work that everyone put into making the new journal.

Another change this year to the publication was the addition of an online journal. With this, any type of subject

matter can be written and have the possibility to be published. Sadly, the deadlines have already passed for this portion however, if interested, you can always look at what other students have submitted throughout the 2019–2020 school year at tahomawest.org/online-publication. Hopefully next year they will continue with the online submissions as well as journal entries. This collaboration allows more student work to be shared during the school year instead of condensing everything into one journal — essentially creating the potential to miss out on a student's work.

Tahoma West does more than just put together a literary arts journal — they also hold events on campus throughout the year. Currently, they have planned an open mic night and pop up art gallery — the dates and times of these will be announced at a later date. If you would like to stay updated with Tahoma West's events you can follow them on Twitter at @Tahomawest.

maWest. Both of these events are great ways to see other works produced by students and could also inspire others to write something for the journal.

After the publication of Volume 24, Tahoma West will be looking for a new editor-in-chief and a new fiction editor for the next school year. If you enjoy reading people's work, giving positive feedback and are interested in working with a small team to put together a journal, this could be the job for you. If you are interested email your resume, cover letter, and at least one writing sample to tahomawest@uw.edu.



PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI



Tacocat ended their month long tour in Tacoma.



PHOTOS BY TALIA COLLETT

Tacocat brought a performance riddled with energy to Tacoma

Tacocat finished their Winter 2020 tour with one final stop at Fawcett Hall in Tacoma.

By TALIA COLLETT
A&E EDITOR

After touring for about a month, the Seattle native group Tacocat made one last stop in Tacoma before bringing their act home. On Feb. 18, Alma Mater's Fawcett Hall venue housed the show for the evening and accumulated an impressive turnout. With two openers plus Tacocat headlining, the show kept everyone in attendance dancing for well over two hours.

First to take the stage this evening was Diamond Chain. Making their first ever debut in concert, the band is comprised of four young children and a prepared two-song set.

They first played a cover of "Cheap Thrills" by Sia and followed the act with an original song "Monkshine." Afterward, the audi-

ence called for an encore from the young band but after noting they had no other songs prepared, they proceeded to play "Monkshine" again and ended their debut with roaring applause from the audience.

Next up, adding a play on words to the line up and offering tribute to the infamous early 2000s brand, was the one-woman act Lisa Prank — her real name being Robin Edwards. Singer, songwriter and guitarist Edwards has been making music for over six years now. During this set she focused on playing primarily from her second and most recent album "Perfect Love Song" which was released in Oct. 2019. Through "Perfect Love Song," Edwards created songs that are both pro-love as well as others that diss it — perfect timing considering Valentine's Day had just passed.

Aside from this, Edwards also fo-

cuses on a wide variety of topics and her own experiences with matters such as toxic relationships, lies, contraception, and her own hypochondria. Despite the wide variety of topics, Lisa Prank always manages to produce music that is still fun and lively. Sounds of pop-punk with indie notes and synthesizers add exciting notes to her music.

Lisa Prank lit up the stage in her "prank" crown and electric blue two piece set with tassels for five solo songs before being joined by who she called Emily Prank — real name Emily Archangeli — to play bass during four other songs before finishing the set.

With two tough acts to follow, Tacocat was headlining and thus took the stage later in the evening. The group — playing for over twelve years now — chose to make one last stop in Tacoma before bringing their 2020 winter tour to an end.

With Emily Nokes on vocals — as well as her trusty tambourine — Bree McKenna on bass, Eric Randall on guitar and Lelah Maupin on drums, the quartet always brings a powerful and thrilling dynamic to the stage. The Seattle outfit promoted their fourth and latest full length album "This Mess Is A Place" that was released in May of 2019. While their music has for a long time been honest, feminist and conscious, this album in particular is more political than any others previously released.

Even though this release is more politically charged and raw, the music on this album still successfully generates hope and the lively energetic pop-punk music fans have come to know and love throughout their journey.

While "This Mess Is A Place" and its message are still extremely relevant in the current state of the world and

politics combined, Tacocat made sure to bring older and more humorous songs to the stage as well to keep things light-hearted.

The group, who classify themselves as "sequin punk" and "platform pop," ended the night on a high note and left the crowd in high spirits. With songs extending from depression, Dana Scully and feminism to politics, crummy service industry jobs and periods, Tacocat maintained their energetic and provocative performance and provided entertainment for all.

If you're looking to get out for some fun this week, don't miss out on these upcoming events at Alma Mater's Fawcett Hall venue -

Ecstatic Dance Tacoma: 3/4

Summer Cannibals: 3/6

Hilltop Rats (and others): 3/7

SPORT REPORT

3 moves the Seahawks must make in the offseason

By Brooks Moeller

Since Seahawk fans have gotten a taste of the divisional round loss to the Packers back in January, it is now time to turn our attention to what moves the front office can make to improve the team and reach yet another Super Bowl. Not only does the team still have the NFL draft to look forward to, but they also have salary cap space left that will allow them to make significant moves for the upcoming season. Keeping these in mind, the team has the chance to heavily improve if they fill a better supporting cast around Russell Wil-

son and Bobby Wagner.

RESIGN JAEDAVEON CLOWNEY

When healthy, Jaedaveon Clowney is one of the most dominant defensive players in the league. In 2019, Clowney recorded three sacks, 31 tackles, and four forced fumbles. While these are not mind blowing numbers, watching him play demonstrates potential and shows that he can make a difference whenever on the field. Despite his potential, Clowney missed a number of games due to a nagging hip injury, but next season he should return fully healthy and is likely to make an immediate impact if he is re-signed.

Yet, considering the amount of money Clowney will be asking for, this may be difficult. It has been reported that he will be asking for a "market setting deal." This deal would require the Seahawks to pay him up-

wards of \$20 million a year — a move they decided against when they were going through the same dilemma with former Seahawk Frank Clark. Although it will substantially cost them, signing Clowney is a move they must make if they want to be a legitimate contender. The team has already had minimal production from the defensive line and losing Clowney would not help.

SIGN OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A top priority of Seahawks management should always be attributed to finding better ways of protecting Quarterback Russell Wilson. Wilson — who will turn 32 this upcoming season — is still in the midst of his prime but may start to see durability issues as he gets older. These issues would call for immediate improvement of the offensive line. The Seahawks, previously ranked tenth

worst in the league, averaged three sacks allowed per game. With this being said, there is room for improvement and there are names out there that can help.

Fifth year tackle Germain Ifedi will presumably be on his way out the door. Though he played well in his final year on his rookie contract, he will be asking for a high salary the Seahawks will most likely be unwilling to pay. Former Green Bay Packer Bryan Bulaga — who will be entering his tenth NFL season and bringing a veteran presence to the right tackle position — is a logical target to solidify the offensive line.

DRAFT A TOP DEFENSIVE BACK

The Seahawks hold the 27th pick in the upcoming NFL draft but will most likely trade back for more future picks. However, utilizing the 27th pick could be of great benefit for the

Seahawks considering they have a defense that struggled this past season. One area of concern was the defensive back position — aside from Shaquill Griffin and Quandre Diggs, the position group was young, inexperienced and faced injury problems. Shaq Griffin has proven to be a solid NFL corner but needs support on the other side of the field. Tre Flowers showed promising flashes of what he could be but failed to be consistent for most of the season. Drafting a legitimate first round talent corner could turn things around for the once dominant Legion of Boom. Trevon Diggs out of the University of Alabama would be a great choice — that is if he is still on the draft board. At 6'2" and 207 pounds Diggs fits the mold of what Pete Carroll wants in a corner and has the potential to be an all-pro player.