

THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



Coffee hour with Legal Pathways

This quarter the Legal Pathways Initiative provides a recurring event that encourages students interested in law to ask questions.

By **LAUREN ZENT & ALYSSANDRA GOSS**
NEWS REPORTER
MANAGING EDITOR

Throughout this winter quarter, the Legal Pathways Initiative will host several coffee hours for students interested in pursuing law. During the allotted time, curious students will have the opportunity to inquire about law-related education and careers, all within the comfort of a casual atmosphere. The coffee hour is set to take place in JOY 201 during the Husky Hour, 12:30 p.m.–1:20 p.m.

Patrica Sully, director of Legal Pathways, discussed how these coffee talks will allow busy students to negate time constraints and barriers.

“Students are often balancing heavy course loads, paid work, family [and] home care, and I’m sure dozens of other responsibilities,” Sully said. “Scheduling meetings can be difficult ... Coffee Hour is a way where students who want to learn more but haven’t had the time to schedule a meeting can still get their questions answered and find out more about Legal Pathways.”

Founded just last year, their mission is to provide law-related opportunities, resources and curriculums to UW Tacoma students.

While their events may focus on the legal field, students from any major are welcome to attend.

“We support students who are interested in going to law school, but

we also support students who are interested in a wide array of law-related and social justice work,” Sully stated. “Legal Pathways has a ton going on this quarter.”

Legal Pathways routinely hosts events covering a variety of subjects. During winter quarter, for instance, they will host Immigration Law 101, a program run by the Northwest Immigrants Rights Project, as well as an LSAT preparatory course.

“We offer Third Thursday Workshops on the third Thursday of each month from 12:30-1:30,” Sully said. “This quarter, we will be having a session on how to pay for law school, a speed networking opportunity admissions workshops and weekly lunch and learns.”

Students interested in learning more about the workshops and events are encouraged to attend coffee hour or contact the staff via email.

Coffee Hour Dates

Date: Jan. 27. Feb. 12, Feb. 27, March 9.

Time: 12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Location: JOY 201

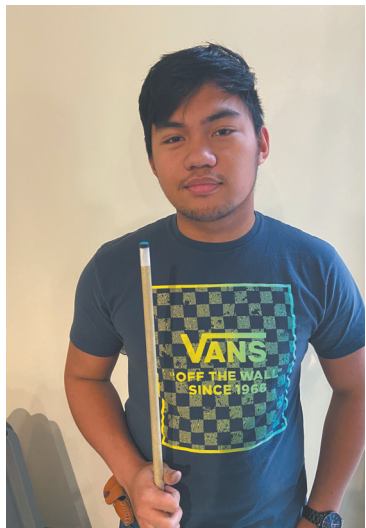
For any inquiries about the Legal Pathways Initiative, contact Patrica Sully at psully@uw.edu or lp@uw.edu. The event calendar can be found on www.tacoma.uw.edu/lp



PHOTO COURTESY OF UWT
Patrica Sully is the Director of Legal Pathways.


Huskies in the hallway:
COMPILED AND PHOTOS BY BROOKS MOELLER

Describe your perfect snow day.




Nico Robiniol
Freshman
Information Technology

“Lots and lots of sledding with my significant other.”




Ebony Robinson
Sophomore
Criminal Justice

“Don’t have to go into work, preferably take three naps, and order some food”




Zachary Shea
Junior
Politics, Philosophy and Economics

“Snowball fight with my friends and then register for an intramural sport at ymcapkc.org”



Dennis Le
Senior
Communications

“No communication with society and watch anime all day.”



Cade Reynoldson
Senior
Computer Science

“Waking up with a text from UW alerts saying there’s no class, playing video games all day, and then playing in the snow at night.”

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CORRECTIONS

In Issue 12’s “Husky Closet” article, the Husky Closet program is a collaborative effort between ASUWT and UWT’s Student Veteran Organization.

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Wednesday: 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Thursday: 8:00 a.m.–3:20 p.m.
Friday: 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

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Part 3: Despite guaranteed funding, IAS budget faces further complications

UW Internal Audit Department will lead investigation into miscommunication of SIAS budget.

By MITCHELL FERMO
NEWS EDITOR

Over winter break, Dean Anne Bartlett of the School for Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences confirmed that SIAS would get its full budget of \$13.69 million. Now, both the SIAS Faculty Council and Chancellor Mark Pagano have issued a request for an external audit into understanding the events surrounding the SIAS budget.

The call for the audit comes in order

“Another thing that I hope ... is that it clarifies that we weren’t up to anything nefarious,” Pagano said. “Jill [Purdy] worked so hard on behalf of the academic areas to keep them from suffering from any budget reductions from the loss of enrollment.”

to understand why Bartlett received a budget for SIAS different from the one that was approved by the chancellor’s administration in May of 2019, and to understand where there was miscommunication through the process.

Ellen Moore, who heads the SIAS Faculty Council, requested that the UW’s Internal Audit Department take a look into what led up to the miscommunication which then influenced Bartlett’s decision to cut certain core SIAS classes, as well as the aftermath of the effect of the cuts. Pagano also asked Cordova’s office to investigate what happened — separate from Moore and the SIAS Faculty Council’s request — officially turning the process into a co-requested management review.

For SIAS, Moore laid out the three goals the SIAS faculty hopes to achieve from the audit.

“So far as Director Cordova acknowledged, we have three objectives,” Moore said. “Who knew what and when — and that really had to do with who knew what about the budget and when. Second ... do we have a sound and transparent budget process at UW Tacoma. Then, the third that Executive Director Cordova had identified in what we were saying, was that we

wanted a better understanding of the budget information flow from the chancellor to the dean to the faculty.”

Similarly, Pagano stated that through the UW Internal Audit Department’s investigation, any weaknesses within the internal communications processes will be identified and fixed. Pagano also hopes that the audit can help to regain the trust of faculty and students.

“Another thing that I hope ... is that it clarifies that we weren’t up to anything nefarious,” Pagano said. “Jill [Purdy] worked so hard on behalf of the academic areas to keep them from suffering from any budget reductions from the loss of enrollment.”

The calls for the official UW auditing department to look into what happened comes after UW Tacoma conducted its own internal investigation, which included Pagano, Bartlett, Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Jill Purdy and Executive Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration Tye Minckler. It was through this internal review that SIAS was assured of its full budget.

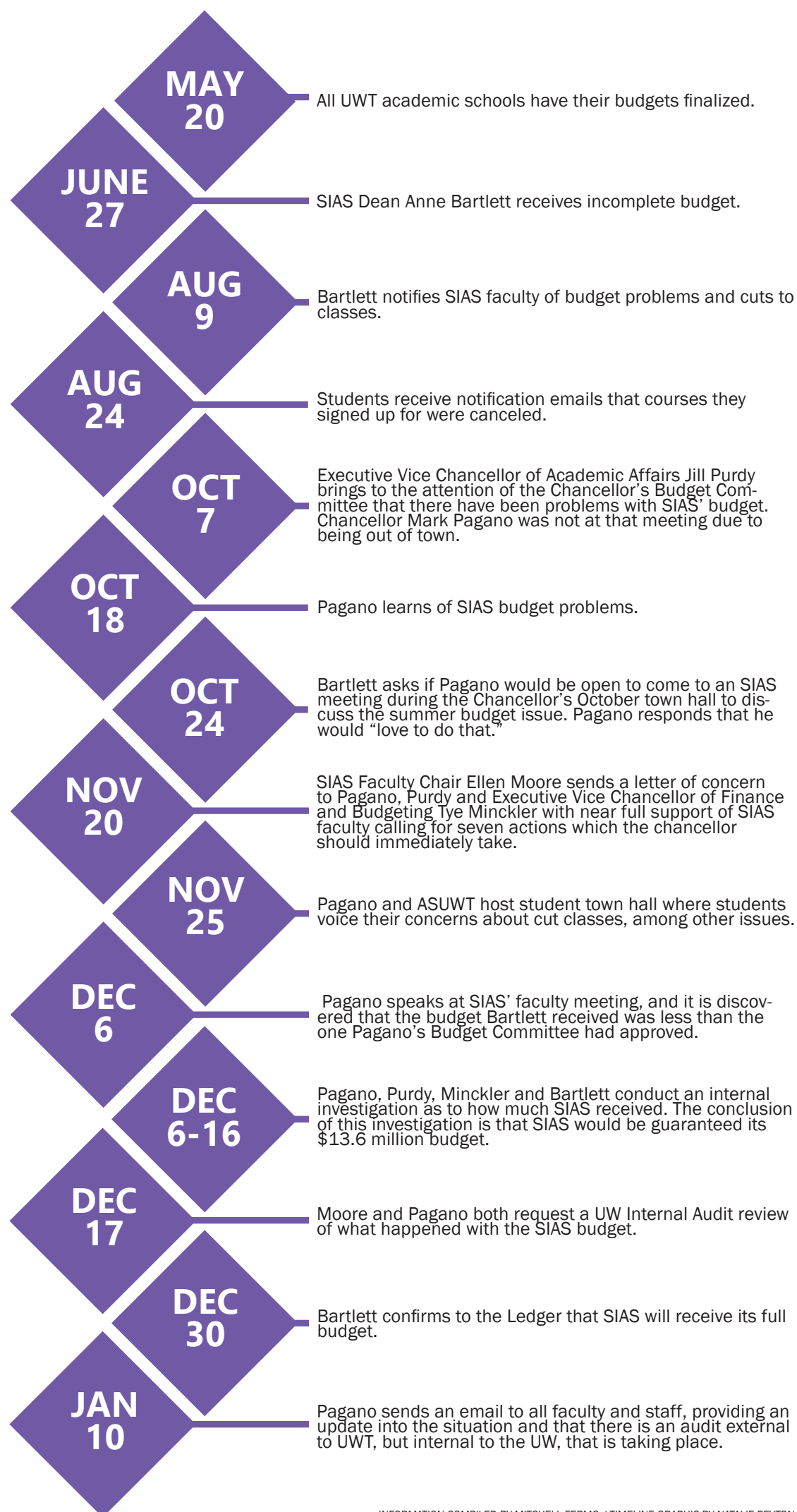
The problems all seem to start when the final budgets of the different schools at UW Tacoma were finalized for the 2020 fiscal year in May of 2019. SIAS, the biggest school in terms of students, as well as yearly allocated budget, had an approved initial budget of \$12.5 million.

However, according to the records which Bartlett received in July, the school was given \$11.7 million. By Aug. 1, that number had increased to \$12.2 million, but still short of its original allotment.

It was in mid-August when Bartlett made the call to cut classes for the year. In all, 13 classes which were at medium-to-high capacity were cut, and roughly 300 students were affected by said cuts, according to an email sent by Pagano to faculty and staff on Jan. 10.

“One more thing that I have been encouraged by is how ... Student Affairs and Academic Affairs have really stepped up and worked together to work with each student that was affected by this,” Pagano said. “Our academic advisors have done a yeoman’s task in working with the students to try to seek out and find every student. They did an analysis to see what students look like were affected and contacted them. There is a lot of work going to serve the students while we all argue about who said what. At least those people are being served.”

At the current moment, it is unknown how long Cordova and his department will take into this management request before a report and recommendation will be made.



Staff Spotlight: Liz Hansen

Assistant Director of Student Engagement; working on the frontlines for fun.

By **ANDREA NADAL**
NEWS REPORTER

Elizabeth “Liz” Hansen works around the clock to help students make their college experience more enjoyable. As assistant director of Student Engagement, it is Hansen’s job to be there for students when they need help. Whether it is assisting students in finding solutions to their problems, being an expert on UW Tacoma’s policies or getting the campus engaged in fun events, Hansen does it all with a caring and compassionate heart.

HANSEN’S EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Hansen completed a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Maine in 2005. “I thought that I wanted to teach kindergarten, but it’s sort of like I burned out of teaching before I even started and I realized that I wouldn’t be happy in teaching,” she said. Hansen then attended the University of Maine: M.Ed in Higher Education and Leadership in 2007.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU INTO THIS LINE OF WORK?

“I was very involved with Greek Life and Student Entertainment while I was an undergrad. And for a long time, I didn’t even realize that this was a career. Even though I had been interacting with these people my entire educational career. There is no real path in Undergrad for this, so I just didn’t consider it before. But one day I sat down with an advisor and they said: ‘You can do this as a job!’ and then it sunk in for me that this was an actual career path that I could take,” Hansen said. “If I had either a really positive experience or a really negative experience with something I thought about going into it — either to give that

positive experience to that I had or to create the one that I didn’t. Really, I just wanted anything that wasn’t in the classroom. I went the student activity routes because that was the most fun.”

HANSEN’S DAY TO DAY LIFE AT UW TACOMA

“Definitely no two days are the same. One-on-one advising, giving students the support that they need to get their job done is just the beginning. I need to be an expert on campus policies. Making sure that everything we do is with a student first mindset, while also financially making the right budgeting decisions,” Hansen said. “Any other student issues, like with a roommate, that I can’t personally help with I help them get connected with resources. Some weeks I feel like I am out of my office more than I am in it — but I like that.”

WHAT ARE SOME ISSUES YOU SEE IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

“Something that I’ve been following is higher education for undocumented students. Some states offer in-state tuition for undocumented students, while others make them pay out-of-state. Some students are not eligible for DACA, as such higher education becomes less and less accessible to these students,” Hansen said. “Another issue that has been on my radar is support for formerly incarcerated students. I’ve been learning about the ‘post-prison pipeline’. This is a population that has always been on campuses but we are only starting to see it discussed in the mainstream.”

WHAT MAKES YOU GOOD AT YOUR JOB?

“I’ve learned over the years that I am a very empathetic person — for better or for worse, usually for better. I will always put students first; whatever I can do to help I will do, beyond that whatever perspective a student brings I will try and

understand,” Hansen said. “Another thing that helps is still being excited about the work helps too. Sometimes I feel as though I never left college.”

Hansen went further to talk about problem solving with students. “One of my favorite situations is when a student comes in saying ‘I don’t know if we can do this but ...’ and then finding creative solutions to do it, finding out if it is something that we can do, and how we can make it happen,” she said.

WHAT IS THE CULTURE IN HIGHER EDUCATION LIKE?

“Before I started working in higher education everyone always told me that it was really small. I never understood how that can be. There are thousands of schools, but as I work in it I realize how true it is. That can be great for things like networking and keeping connections strong,” Hansen said.

Hansen briefly discussed life in higher education regarding self-care. “Salary work can become toxic. No matter how much you work you make the same amount — but some people have to work harder and longer than others. Some jobs are very taxing as well like resident life for example. Some schools provide more support than others, but often we don’t take our own advice. We need to be kinder to ourselves,” she said. “Sometimes in student affairs, you may be the only person doing this thing, but that doesn’t mean that you don’t have the right to take time for yourself. It’s important that you do. But, if I stay home sick that means potentially canceling 5 meetings with students, but I always liked that saying ‘you can’t pour from an empty cup’ and I try to keep that in mind.”

IF YOUR CAREER PROGRESSED IN AN IDEAL WAY WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF



PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

Liz Hansen, Assistant Director of Student Engagement.

IN THE FUTURE?

“I don’t know, is that wrong? Astronaut used to be one, but maybe it’s too late for that,” Hansen said. “I like working with and supporting a team that is so different and varied. The exact same job at a different school is a totally different job. Students, regional differences, etc. I also always say that the day that I walk outside and am not in awe of the mountain then I’ll know that it’s time to leave. But I don’t see that happening.”

Hansen discussed possibilities of moving on and impacting other campuses. “I joked that my next move would be to San Diego, California. I’ve been in Maine, Georgia, Washington, and if I go to California then I’ll hit all four corners — I also really want to go to Alaska,” she said. “I like to leave the programs that I work on better than I found them — so when I feel like I’ve done what I can here then I’ll know that it’s time to move on.”

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT UWT?

“I like the campus size, that’s the first thing that drew me here. I knew that I was having an impact at my old job, but I wanted to be able to actually see it,” Hansen said.

FUN FACT ABOUT LIZ HANSEN:

“When I moved here from Maine I took a five-day cross-country road trip with my mom, sort of recreating a trip that she had done 50 years prior. We even wrote about it from our perspectives and had it published in a textbook by a family friend. At one point during the trip, I found an antique sheepherders wagon in Montana on Airbnb as a joke. I showed it to my mom laughing that we should stay there for a night and surprisingly she agreed! So we booked it, the next morning we woke up to the sound of pigs rooting around outside our wagon.”

If you’d like to read more about this trip check it out in the second edition of “An Introduction to the Geography of Tourism,” by Velvet Nelson.

IT Informative Seminars

An introduction to technology resources students have around campus.

By **MADELINE HILLER & NATALIE PEYTON**
NEWS REPORTER
LAYOUT MANAGER

The UW Tacoma IT department has begun its collection of informational seminars for the school year. From resources to “How to Grow Your YouTube presence,” the IT department, along with The Center for Data Science, has got you covered.

Jan. 14 was the kick off to a new series of information sessions, iTuesdays. iTuesdays will happen every second Tuesday of the month from 12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m. in Walsh Gardner 108. This series will feature the IT department’s answers to questions in regard to different technology resources that students, staff and faculty members have accessibility to

This month, it is on UWARE where a student can download the latest version of Microsoft Office for free instead of paying the market price — \$150 without taxes — which allows students to save money for food, rent, childcare and other domestic needs.

Nicole Dao, the IT Helpdesk Agent Lead, helps make changes happen in the UWT IT department.

“[The iTuesday seminars] are kind of like a pilot series,” Nicole Dao said.

Dao mentioned that the group receives information about students needs through the computer lab front desk. The most popular question asked by students is: how to get Microsoft office on their personal computers.

The Student Technology Fee Committee is the student-led group that makes the decision for what the funds will pay for, and students can submit

proposals for the use of these technology fees. For example, the ArcGIS proposal for the six computers in the Snoqualmie building is being considered for updates since they are not currently fast enough for ArcGIS users. The STFC is obligated to carefully consider all IT proposals, whether they are submitted by students or faculty, and ultimately decide if this is what the funds should be allocated for.

Dao was part of this committee in the 2017-2018 year and the 2018-2019 year. Students are selected by the ASU-WT Tech Director, which is a student-led position, and forms the committee where students make decisions and follow by-laws of the IT

UWARE has a plethora of software programs that can be downloaded for free or for a discounted student rate. The different software that can

be accessed on the UWARE web page are purchased through the \$40 Student Technology Fee that all students pay into when they register for classes each quarter.

Examples of software programs that can be downloaded for free can be found at itconnect.uw.edu/wares/uware. The most popular of the complementary programs is Microsoft Office for student, faculty and personal use. Sophos Anti-virus software as the next most popular.

“If it becomes popular [iTuesday], we will plan to move into a much bigger room to host more students. Right now the point [of iTuesday] is to show what services [and software] are available to students on campus.” Chris Fuentes, UWT IT Department Project Manager.

At the same time, The Computer Literacy Team started informational seminars to enhance your web presence.

There will be three seminars from this group. Jan. 15th was called “Kick Off Your YouTube Channel.” Jan. 22nd will be teaching you how to grow your YouTube presence and Jan. 29th will be teaching you how to make a good podcast. These seminars not only teach you the basics on how to establish a web presence, but also tell you what equipment you’ll need to do that.

“I have always been into computers and technology and I like seeing what campus offers for IT services. Last quarter I began [to] utilize the camera check-out that the computer lab offers in WG 108.” Joseph Huynh, student at UWT.

UWT offers many different kinds of equipment, such as cameras and tripods, that students are free to check out from WG 108. If a student doesn’t know how to use said equipment, they can go to CP 005 to learn.

Do these recent Iran bombings mean WWII?

With the threat of war becoming more tangible, so does the possibility of the draft.

By **NICOLAS LUNA**
OPINION COLUMNIST

On Jan. 3, President Trump ordered a drone strike to eliminate Iranian general Qasem Soleimani. The United States' population has become polarized by his death. A poll conducted by the Huffington Post showed an 83% approval rating among republicans in regard to the airstrike. The democrats, however, show much more disapproval. Specifically, some democratic candidates have been very vocal. Senator Bernie Sanders had said that he will do everything he can to prevent a war with Iran. US Representative Tulsi Gabbard has also argued that the airstrike on Soleimani is unconstitutional, and an obvious act of war. Despite where you find yourself on these issues, these recent developments in foreign affairs are cause for concern.

“On Jan. 3, President Trump ordered a drone strike to eliminate Iranian general Qasem Soleimani.”

Something I found extraordinarily chilling was the words of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei after Soleimani's death, “his [Soleimani] departure to God does not end his path or his mission, but a forceful revenge awaits the criminals who have his blood and the blood of the other martyrs last night on their hands.”

While some say that this is a movement towards war, and others argue that nothing else could have been done — that these words are alarming.

According to BBC, this decision was made by President Trump to stop a potential war, not start one. However, it is widely believed that a wartime president is a popular one — George H.W. Bush and George Bush saw bumps in support and popularity in the 1991 Gulf War and in the September 11 attacks, respectively. With this school of thought as a theoretical paradigm, the killing of Soleimani could potentially assist Trump's usher back into the oval office for the upcoming four years. Due to his recent impeachment, he may need this extra push to garner support.

But it may also not be that deep of a decision, for it would be unfair of me to discredit why Qasem Soleimani was killed to begin with.

In Soleimani's obituary, written by the New York Times, it is made clear that Soleimani had been deemed a terrorist by the United States Government in 2011 — nearly a decade. Additionally, tensions had been high with Iran after an attack on the United States embassy, located in Iran, just weeks ago. To make the thought of the “Third World War”

even more palpable, last week a Ukrainian airliner was shot down by Iran. While Iran first blamed this catastrophe

on human error, they have most

recently claimed it was a devastating mechanical issue. I do not have the authority to deem whether or not this was an actual accident, but it seems to be a cohesive action that is heightening the tension between the United States and Iran. All 176 passengers were killed, 57 of which were Canadians, according to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

“...his [Soleimani] departure to God does not end his path or his mission, but a forceful revenge awaits the criminals who have his blood and the blood of the other martyrs last night on their hands.”

While this is a very serious matter, with pros and cons to the measures taken, the public has begun hypothesizing what their own role will be in the war, if there will be one. Since the death of Soleimani, and the escalation

of conflict in Iran, memes have been popping up insisting that the United States is going to be involved in the Third World War and that America's

able-bodied youth will be drafted to the front lines. While some of these memes are funny, it needs to be clarified how much truth there is to them: little to none. A very popular farce was circulated text messages supposedly drafting new recruits. However, the United States Army debunked them, via Twitter, saying the messages are not official Army communications.

The changes to come in the following year will be many, and these Iran conflicts are sure to be on the agenda when considering who you may want to be the next commander-in-chief. I think that if the United States does not go to war this year, it will undoubtedly be a hot-button topic for the next few years, with heavy consideration on whether action should be taken.

Candidates specifically running for the democratic nomination have staunchly opposed another war. As I have mentioned above, Sanders and Gabbard will stop at nothing to prevent another war if given the chance. I personally think that war is somewhat of a booming industry. Not necessarily in a monetary sense, but in an emotional sense. Times of war can seem bleak and hopeless, and the American population will want a fearless leader to steer their lives and liberties to safety. The American people are going to want someone who can keep them safe, and allow them to continue their daily humdrum without fear of it being ripped away. Whichever candidate can fill that position, will have a great shot at the nomination, and perhaps the big chair itself, as well.



We stop growing when we're comfortable

Why the devil you don't know is actually probably better than the devil you do know.

By MEGHAN RAND
OPINION EDITOR

Your go-to pizza order, the kind of clothes you like to wear, what you choose to do for fun, and the amount of risk you're willing to take. Your comfort zone is the most familiar place you know.

We stick to a bubble of safety based on natural instinct. When going through day-to-day life, we choose pathways that will lead to the lowest amount of discomfort we can experience. Whether this means we don't try new foods or we avoid having difficult conversations, the comfort zone is the place that you feel comfortable and safe.

This phenomenon is both good and bad. Finding things that work for you is a great feeling, and being able to retreat to a place of comfort and safety while dealing with all of life's

turbulence is great. But what happens if you have too much? What happens if you stop challenging yourself and experiencing new things? A lot of bad things, actually.

One of the biggest benefits we don't think about from being challenged is the boost of confidence we experience from overcoming difficulty. When we advance past something we weren't sure we could handle, we become increasingly sure of ourselves and more comfortable taking on other challenges of similar size. This is what growing is all about. But when we stop doing this, we get stuck. We're no longer becoming better and leveling up, so to speak. This often leads to the feeling of being stuck in a rut. If you've been there, you know how frustrating it is and how confusing it is to try and fix it.

One of the most surefire ways to fix this problem is to switch up your routine. Force yourself to experience some discomfort. When

you get through it, your comfort zone will expand because you'll realize there are numerous possibilities for yourself — you'll stop feeling so limited.

Your comfort zone can also blind you to things that might be bad for you. Maybe it's a toxic relationship or friendship, but if you're too scared to become uncomfortable, you will stay in a harmful situation. It's the equivalent of not wanting to get out of bed to go to the bathroom because you're too comfortable — ripping off the bandaid is beneficial in the long run.

The way I like to imagine

growth in this context is thinking of it like weight lifting. In the moment, it's hard and it doesn't feel good to be tearing your muscles and building them up. At the beginning, you can't even lift that much. But over time, it becomes a little bit easier — growth doesn't come without discomfort.

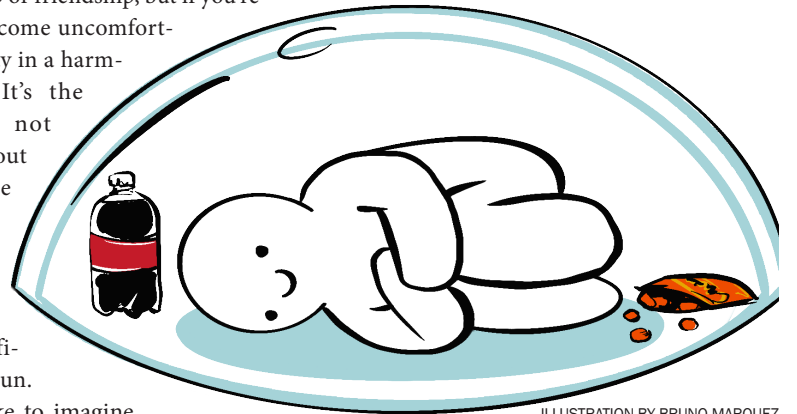


ILLUSTRATION BY BRUNO MARQUEZ

Recognize women in war stricken areas

Over the past few years, we have seen war breakage and refugees fleeing predominantly from Syria.

By BENGISU INCETAS
OPINION COLUMNIST

In years past in roughly 2015 and 2016, the number of global refugees has escalated due to wars such as the Syrian Civil War. I want to raise recognition of the reality women and children face during the duration of their stay in camps and fleeing their country.

Amnesty International published an article in 2016 specifically noting what female refugees are forced to

experience. The females are required to sleep next to other male refugees and reports were made that the men would watch as the females went to the restroom — the women say they felt safer sleeping on the beach.

Refugee women would also be sexually harassed and assaulted in the European countries they arrived at. Smugglers in Turkey would offer the refugee women inappropriate options, such as a hotel discount in exchange for sexual acts. Police brutality also

occurs in some of the European countries refugee women flee to, and the women are put in places under poor conditions with small space.

Albawaba published an article in 2015 that explains the different problems women face in refugee camps. This ranging from women becoming widows, not having access to menstrual and sanitary products, child marriage, and mental health issues.

A brave and courageous woman — mother and former civil servant

of a district governors office in Turkey named Esmâ Uludağ — fled after the military coup attempt of Turkey and accusations made of her linked to an organization. Uludağ fled with her three children, as they crossed the Evros River to be in Greece. In Greece, Uludağ passed away from a heart attack.

According to the Turkey Purge from their article from 2018, three people died and five are missing due to the capsizing of a boat travelling

the Evros River.

Mothers and women are risking their lives for theirs and their children's safety, to seek refuge and build a new life. Seeing stories such as these are horrifying for any human to go through after already being under the stress imposed on them from having to leave their homes.

Many organizations hold events such as clothing drives and fundraisers to help the refugee camps with unacceptable conditions.



ILLUSTRATION BY BRUNO MARQUEZ



PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

Fools Play Improv comes to the Tacoma Little Theater on the second Saturday of each month.

Fools Play Improv returns to the Tacoma Little Theater with new stories that generate plenty of laughter.

Fools Play Improv provides laughter for the Tacoma community

By TALIA COLLETT
A&E EDITOR

Jan. 11 kicked off the first Fools Play Improv of 2020 at the Tacoma Little Theater. The group — which was founded in 1993 — has traveled around parts of western Washington and has since settled into renting out the Tacoma Little Theater on the second Saturday of each month.

Providing 20–40 minute long-form improvised stories — versus short-form performances that are generally associated with this side of comedy — the Fools Play Tacoma group offers a twist on the traditional and most common-

ly utilized form of improv.

Long-time performer and host of the evening, Josh Hird, describes this form as “an improvised play.”

“You get much more of a payoff from these stories. We try to be funny and tell a story that has layers and depth to it with characters that have more than one side to them,” Hird said. When asked why they chose to explore the non-traditional side of improv, Hird responded, “For us, it’s way more challenging and it’s more fun. We all love short form, there’s nothing wrong with it, this is just what we’ve decided we really want to give to Tacoma.”

Each show runs for about an hour

and a half. The first half of the evening’s performance stems from a random word provided by a lucky audience member, from which the group then creates a story and will carry it out until intermission. Once the crowd returns to their seats the other half of the show begins and a second story commences, but this time not in correlation with audience participation.

What sets improv apart from other forms of live performance is its element of surprise; the fact that no two shows will ever mirror each other and new stories are guaranteed every time content is produced. “You get to see something created on the spot that you

know is brand new, you know you’re never going to see it again. That’s what makes improv so great,” Hird said.

Hird, who has been a supporter of the improv group since high school and a performer for years now, discussed the impact the Fools Play Improv group and being a part of the local arts community has had on his life.

“Something that people don’t really get is that improv is a way to connect with local people and really get to know them,” he said. “That’s what drew me to improv. Going to Fools Play weekly when I was in high school and getting to know the cast and regulars that would show up weekly.

It, in a way, became a chosen family that really worked for me.”

With this being said, Hird and his chosen family will make their next appearance at The Tacoma Little Theater on Feb. 15. The show begins at 8 p.m. and tickets cost \$10.

To anyone who’s never experienced an improv performance before, Hird recommends it to anyone who seeks to watch others’ creativity flow in motion. Fools Play Improv and their one of a kind comical stories, the chance to connect with others, and express support for your local arts community is an opportunity not to be missed.

New year; new books

Nothing is better than waiting for that new book from your favorite series or author.

By MADI WILLIAMS
A&E COLUMNIST

A new year brings several exciting things to be released — movies, TV shows, music, concerts, makeup, etc. However, one group of people who are the most excited are the book lovers. People who live inside books are some of the most ecstatic about the new year. Even though numerous books will be released this year, this is a condensed list of just a few to get excited about.

“THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES”

BY SUZANNE COLLINS

Yes, you read that right. The author of “The Hunger Games” is bring-

ing us yet another book. In this book — taking place 64 years before the first game — we will not see our beloved characters from the original series. Instead, we will finally be able to see what life was like in Panem before the Hunger Games began. Release date is May 19, 2020.

“THE SUN DOWN MOTEL”

BY SIMONE ST. JAMES

This spooky tale takes place in a small town in New York in 1982. Viv — who works the night shift at a motel — quickly realizes that this motel is different than others based off of the supernatural events that are taking place. Release date is Feb. 18, 2020.

“ALL BOYS AREN’T BLUE”

BY GEORGE M. JOHNSON

A memoir that compiles stories from Johnson’s life growing up as a queer black teen. This book tells Johnson’s story to show readers that they can fight for themselves or be an ally in the struggle for equity and equality. The publication is set for winter 2020.

“EIGHT PERFECT MURDERS”

BY PETER SWANSON

This psychological suspense is about bookseller, Mal, who finds himself in the center of an FBI investigation because a killer is using the list he created of the most ingenious murders. Mal takes things into his own hands and sees the suspect in everyone around him. With twist and

turns, he gets into a sticky situation that he might not be able to get out of. Release date is Mar. 3, 2020.

“THIS IS MY AMERICA”

BY KIM JOHNSON

17 year old Tracy sends letters to Innocent X in order to save her father, an innocent black man, from death row. After sending letters for the past seven years, her dad has only 267 days left and then the unimaginable happens. The cops come looking for her brother — who goes from a promising future to a “thug” killing a white girl. Tracy takes the investigation into her own hands and uncovers history about her home town in Texas that could rip her family apart. Release date is Jul. 28, 2020.

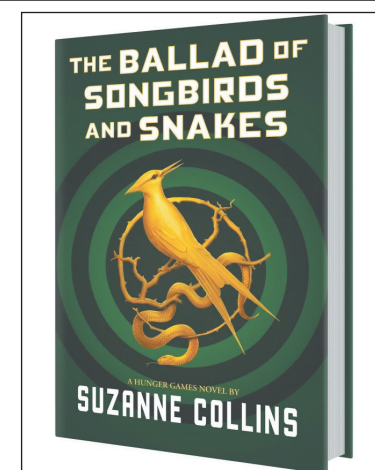


PHOTO COURTESY OF SLASHFILM

Disclaimer: the books in this list are from “Goodreads” and were compiled from public votes. This does not follow the exact rankings from the website. If you would like to see the full 599 ranked books, check out the website.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/popular_by_date/2020



War comes alive in ‘1917’

An explosion of action, emotion, and gritty filmmaking turns into one of 2019’s best movies.

By **ANDREW BROWN**
FILM CRITIC

Spectacle is a difficult thing to accomplish in moviemaking today. Computer-driven special effects have made virtually anything the imagination can conjure possible, and as a result, the ‘wow’ factor of cinema is a rare emotional response for many moviegoers. That is what makes “1917,” — the newest effort from director Sam Mendes — all the more impressive. It’s an epic vision of the first world war on the big screen in a manner that’s never been done before and is mostly accomplished without the aid of fake sets or CGI.

The film is set during World War I and is built around the simple story of two British soldiers Corporals Schofield and Blake, who attempt to de-

liver a message to a nearby battalion in order to call off a misguided attack. Should they not get there in time, 16 hundred men will be butchered, including Blake’s older brother. With a premise this basic, some viewers may be disappointed that the journey takes center stage over the development of these characters. That being said, there’s just enough detail given so that you can latch onto them and knowing one of their actual brother’s lives is at stake gives the plot urgency.

As the two young men crawl, slip, walk, run, swim, and climb their way through no man’s land, they encounter danger everywhere. They’re pushed to their absolute limits and are constantly depicted running into corpses of humans and animals scattered across the landscape. The movie is structured around Schofield and Blake escaping one pre-

dicament or obstacle after another. While some of these are admittedly bypassed with seeming ease they’re not supermen. Both men suffer injuries, including one memorably painful moment when Schofield cut his hand on barbed wire — the entire audience gasped.

The notable performances by George MacKay as Schofield and Dean-Charles Chapman as Blake successfully convey them as vulnerable and motivated to fulfill their mission. This is augmented by the environments they push through, almost all of which are shot in various outdoor locations and seamlessly stitched together as one.

Along with the inspired approach of presenting the narrative as one continuous take, it’s a very grounded movie, one where you can effortlessly project yourself into the protagonists’ shoes. If you pay close attention, you can see

the points where the cuts occurred, nonetheless, it’s a well done effect which in turn renders their adventure genuinely suspenseful, and makes it look and feel real. The soldiers’ uniforms are filthy and often covered in mud while flies buzz everywhere, and the bomb explosions keep you on your toes as much as those in the film are.

It would be easy to write off the ‘one take’ treatment as a gimmick, yet it ceases to be one since it’s meant to subject you to the soldiers’ point of view. Of course, it may not have been as effective without the extraordinary cinematography by Academy Award winner Roger Deakins, and the musical score by Academy nominee Thomas Newman, both of whom are sure to be nominated again come February.

Simultaneously a technical eye opener, visual stunner, and moving tale

of determination, "1917" reinvigorates the war movie genre with awe-inspiring sets and an inventive 'one take' shooting style. The destruction of war is on full display as it rips both people and buildings to shreds. The characters are always surrounded by death, so the suspense of them completing their mission builds effectively.

A few of their obstacles are overcome a little too easily, which unintentionally deflates some of the tension. But the movie is paced perfectly which allows moments for the script to breathe and presents picturesque landscapes for the viewers to absorb. With solid performances, as well as an accurate, dirty environment the characters are depicted in, this is a film that, to the surprise of no one who's seen it, will be a top contender this awards season.

REVIEW

“1917”



The Good:

- Gritty, realistic visuals.
- Inventive filming style.
- Gripping.
- Solid acting.
- Extraordinary music.

The Bad:

- Story is highly simplistic.
- Hindrances in the journey are dispatched somewhat conveniently.
- Characters aren’t developed much in favor of spectacle.

SPORT REPORT

Meet the new Husky football coach
By Brooks Moeller

A new era of Husky football has begun after the announcement that Chris Petersen would be stepping down as head coach and Jimmy Lake would be taking over the position. Lake will bring the majority of the same philosophies as Petersen but we will most likely see some changes. With this being said, what differences can we expect and how will this affect the future of the program?

Jimmy Lake is a 43 year old California native who attended North Central High School in Spokane where he was a three-sport varsity athlete. This led him to attend nearby Eastern Washington University, playing safety for the Eagles football team. Lake had a successful career at EWU earning a spot on the Big Sky honorable mention team — he was even voted team captain by his fellow teammates.

After his career as an athlete at EWU came to a close, he was kept on the staff as a graduate assistant for the 1999 season and was later given the position as the defensive backs coach the following sea-

son. Lake would hold six different positions around the country until settling at the University of Washington in 2014 following Chris Petersen after his acceptance of the position as head coach.

Ranking in the top four in the Pac 12 conference for the first years, it was clear that Lake deserved much of the credit attributed to the success of the Husky defense during his time as coach. This led Petersen to promote Lake to co-defensive coordinator where he would have much more control over the defensive scheme. Furthermore, this was also a possible move to try and keep Lake in Seattle after garnering interest from other schools around the country, including the University of Alabama.

Since Petersen was able to bring the program back to the national spotlight it’s now up to Lake to take it even further and bring a national championship to Seattle. Petersen has already shown his confidence in Lake and his belief that the program is in the right hands.

“I can’t think of someone better than Jimmy to take over this program. His energy and ability to relate to our players is unmatched,” said Petersen while addressing the media after announcing his plan to step down as head coach. “He is ready to take this step and I have full confidence that he will continue to

build on the foundation that has been set here and he will elevate the program to new heights.”

Lake has already made a huge impact during his first weeks as head coach. Notably, he was able to keep all 23 players in Washington’s recruiting class to stay committed to the Huskies — this came as a surprise to most because when there’s a shift in head coaches, there are generally bound to be a good number of prospects who will reopen their recruitment. This shows how much Lake was involved in the recruitment process and clearly indicates the large amounts of respect and trust he has as a new coach. Lake also made sure to mention other schools’ gestures of attempting to swing the players away from UW after Petersen left.

“We’re extremely excited about this class. Obviously with everything going on with Coach Pete and myself, being able to hold on to these 23 excellent players, we’re all totally jacked,” said Lake in his signing day press conference.

“That’s part of the business, that’s part of the deal. We all know that. That’s always going to be a part of recruiting. I wouldn’t expect anything less. That’s their job is to go out there and get really good players.”

Giving the job to Lake immediately helped keep the recruits. If there had been a prolonged coaching search it’s possible we may have seen more recruits take their talents elsewhere, however UW was able to keep them all and hold the 2nd best recruiting class in the Pac 12, as well as the a top 20 class nationally.

Overall, with the Huskies bound for success due to a large portion of the defense slated to return and a substantial amount of weapons on offense, this is the perfect hire for the Huskies. Obviously we won’t know for sure until we see results on the field, but Lake has proved himself to produce a promising future for the team. Moreover, Lake has put the offense in the hands of former NFL running back coach, John Donovan, where the two will have the tough task of finding a replacement of Jacob Eason at quarterback.



New Husky head coach Jimmy Lake.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UW_FOOTBALL