

THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'The Reality of Right and Wrong'
Submitted by Michael Whalen

Dear Editor,

Right and wrong exist along with moral truth. I have taken courses at UWT that repeat arguments along the lines of, "There is no right or wrong because one person's morals can differ from another's." But, this tired line is conflating two different conversations. Humans can have different points of view, but this is different than right and wrong. Someone can justify evil like the holocaust or the re-education camps that Uyghurs are put in and bombings that kill the innocent in Yemen. But, placing blame on personal or "cultural" points of view as I have heard in classes is to defend the idea of no universal truth which is much different than a conversation about what is right or wrong. This is because material reality continues to exist in which innocent people have been murdered. These are wrong and vile acts and from whichever point of view a human can take will inevitably have the same material reality of innocent death. So is it really true universal moral truths don't exist?

THE LEDGER IS ACCEPTING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR!

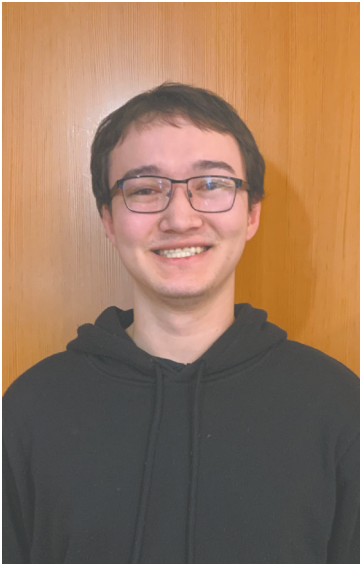
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REMEMBER TO INCLUDE:

- First and last name
- "Dear Editor," as the opening of your piece
- Word count between 300 - 450 words
- Respond to one of our articles or happenings on campus

Huskies in the hallway:
COMPILED AND PHOTOS BY ALYSSANDRA GOSS

What are your plans for Valentine's Day?



Sammy Yost
Freshman
Veterinary Science

"Probably going to spend it with my girlfriend and go out for dinner together."



Caleb Walker
Freshman
Electrical Engineering

"Working, but my girlfriend and I will be celebrating before Friday."



Natalie Cornwall
Junior
Biomedical Science

"Going to class and then going home to do homework."



Reid Allison
Senior
Business Management

"Taking my dog Barkley on a long walk."



Paul Donion
Faculty
Lecturer in the Milgard School of Business

"I have zero plans, I'm not a big fan of the holiday."

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PHOTO BY MITCHELL FERMO

Huskies on the Hill: A day to lobby for student interests

Huskies from every campus joined together for common interests.

By ANDREA NADAL
NEWS REPORTER

Huskies once again convened at the state's capital in Olympia to partake in the annual Huskies on the Hill. Around 80 students from all three University of Washington campuses came together to lobby state legislators for change and support on key issues which the student governments of UW deemed relevant in the pursuit of higher education. Each campus came prepared with their own legislative agendas and priorities for the day. The event is meant to give students a structured introduction on how to lobby in an environment with plenty of support.

For the event, students were split into teams with a mix of students from every campus, of which most were in the same legislative district or were from a neighboring district, and were given an agenda of meetings to attend throughout the day. These meetings ranged from five to 15 minutes. During this time, students proposed the initiatives that most resonated with them to the legislators and made a case for why they felt it was important that they gained the legislator's support. Students could also bring up other issues they were passionate about, and were encouraged to share personal anecdotes about how these initiatives would impact them, their loved ones and their community.

"I think the experience was beneficial not only for the school and our government but students as well," said Ruba Shahbin, a student who attended this event from UW Tacoma.

"It's a learning experience and an opportunity for students to get involved, passionate and interested in the world around them. I'm glad we put ourselves out there so our government recognizes that we pay attention and we do care."

For UWT students, there were four main focuses which students pitched to legislators. Child care services, inequity and accessibility services, mental health services for students and an expansion of resources for housing affordability and accessibility. Some of these had bills in the house or senate which students canvassed support for, while others were simply bringing awareness of the issue at hand to the representatives.

In the realm of child care and services, UWT Huskies lobbied for continued work on support for a house bill which was passed last year. HB 2158 has several parts to it, and the section which students were wanting to continue work on was the section relating to the Working Connections Child Care program, specifically providing an exemption to parents wanting to earn either a bachelor or advanced degree.

Under accessibility, students were concerned about the impact which the most recent approval of Initiative 976, also known as the \$30 car tabs, and its impact on the accessibility and expansion it would have on transportation services.

For housing, students asked legislators to look into providing a waiver for on-campus housing for students who are eligible for the College Bound Scholarship and who had previously experienced homeless-

ness. Ronan Houston, a sophomore at UWT, found this to be a good overall experience and a chance to share something which he is passionate about.

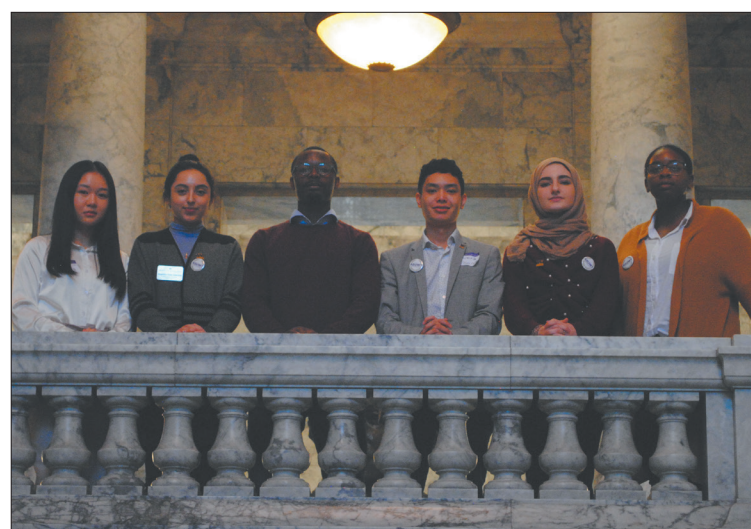
"I attended Huskies on the Hill to lobby for stronger housing rights for renters," Houston said. "I've never lobbied before but the event was worth it. Meeting with the legislators felt like an effective way to get my message across."

Other side-objectives students could have brought up to representatives included work to lower carbon and greenhouse emissions, repeal a Revised Code of Washington so that incarcerated workers would be recognized as employees and students also advocated for state-wide recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day, something which Tacoma has already done at the city level.

Beyond the personal growth that many students gained from this experience and the recognition of the wider potential for change, there was also a sense of what a powerful message that an event of this nature sends.

Sean Arent, the city liaison for UWT, provided his view as someone who is familiar to the world of lobbying.

"If there's one thing to take away from this experience, as well as any lobbying experience, it's that our state legislators are very accessible and they're by and large regular people," Arent said. "Anybody can lobby, and when our higher education system is constantly being stripped of its resources, we should. Legislators talk about policy all day, but what they don't always hear are the stories of students like you."



PHOTOS BY MITCHELL FERMO

Huskies on the Hill 2020.

University takes precautions regarding Coronavirus

Find out what the university is doing, and how you can protect yourself.

By **MADELINE HILLER**
NEWS REPORTER

In late 2019, a mysterious virus broke out in China, causing strange pneumonia cases. According to researchers at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, it is believed the virus came from a market in town where live animals such as snakes, bats and birds were traded. The market was shut down on Jan. 1 and earlier that month the disease had already made it to America. Five states currently have at least one confirmed case of the virus, including Washington.

“If the virus is not contained in the next few months, and the university determines that the program needs to be canceled, participants will be refunded the study abroad program fee.”

Two weeks ago there were no concerns regarding study abroad. There are a lot of countries affected by this virus, but none of them affected any planned trips. It seemed that even the 2020 summer trip, titled “China: Past and Present,” had not been canceled. Courtney Kroll, study abroad manager, said they were verifying that study

abroad locations are safe for students by working closely with the UW Global Travel Security Manager. Currently, there is a travel advisory for all of China placed by the US Department of State and the Centers for Disease Control.

“If the virus is not contained in

“Until further notice UW resources may not be used to travel to China unless provided with a waiver.”

the next few months, and the university determines that the program needs to be canceled, participants will be refunded the study abroad program fee,” Kroll said in regard to the current travel advisory.

However, as of Feb. 4, the UW Provost and Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs Mark Richards sent out an email notifying all students, staff and faculty that effective immediately and until further notice UW resources may not be used to travel to China unless provided with a waiver. This means all sponsored research, study abroad trips and UW-affiliated internships have been halted. Those wishing to travel to China in a non-UW capacity, such as for personal travel, are still welcomed to do so.

“UW policies on travel to China are subject to change as new advisories and policies are announced at

the federal level,” said Jeff Cohen, executive director of the Office of Global Affairs.

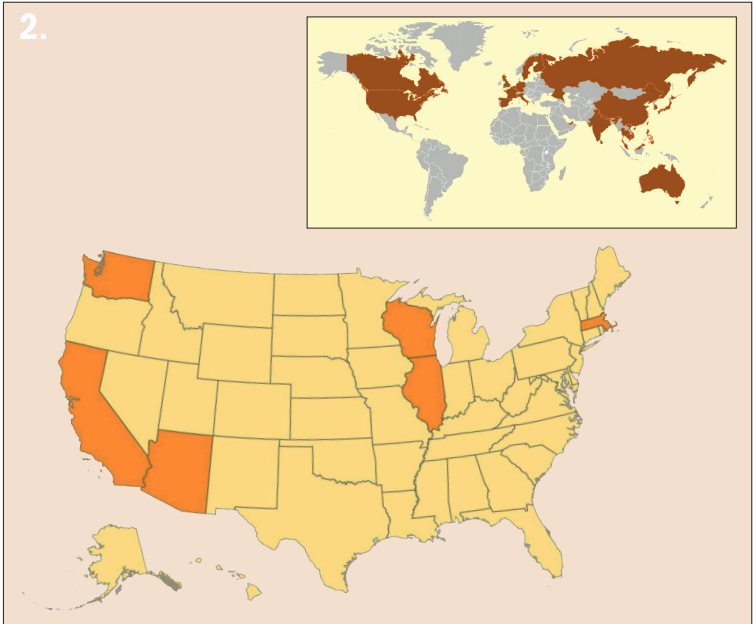
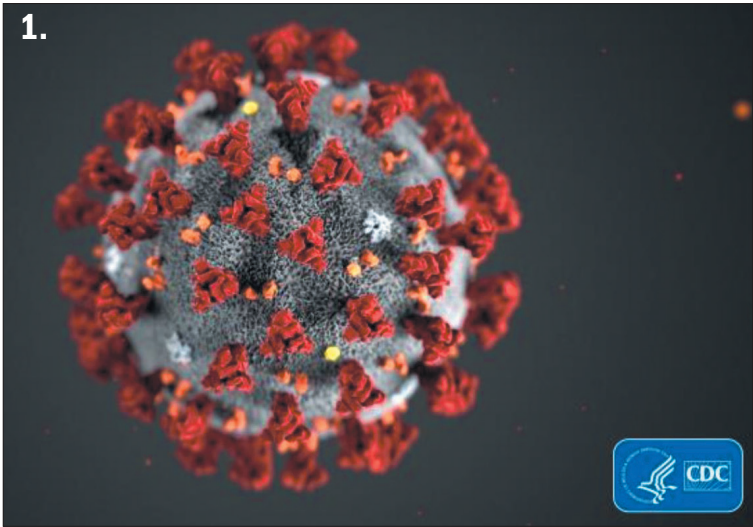
The first case of the virus in Washington came from a man from Snohomish county who took himself to a clinic knowing about the virus and was concerned about some of his symptoms. He was diagnosed with the first case of the virus in the US.

There have now been four cases of UW Seattle students who had come from the Wuhan area in China and developed some form of respiratory infection. As of now, the four have been tested and three have been confirmed to be negative, with the final student waiting in isolation for their result. Still, more Washington State residents are being tested and living in isolation in fear of carrying the virus.

This virus is transmitted the same

“There have now been 4 cases of UW Seattle students who had come from the Wuhan area in China and developed some form of respiratory infection.”

way as many viruses and does not need symptoms to be transmitted. Someone exposed and carrying the disease could spread it while being healthy, so remember to use proper hygiene techniques.



1. This is a visual depiction of the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). 2. This is the most recent distribution of the 2019-nCoV across the world and in U.S. as of Feb 7, 2020.

STFC opened up annual allocations for next fiscal year

The committee decides which applicable programs will get funds for technological purposes.

STFC VOTING MEMBERS		
NAME	MAJOR	CLASS
John Nguyen - Chair	Computer Science	Senior
April Vo	IAS	Senior
Kaylynn Nguyen	Pre-major	Freshman
Nolan Hibbard-Pelly	Mathematics	Sophomore
Vanessa Sundits	Technical Communications	Junior
Aidan Helt	Business	Junior
Islam Alsinai	Psychology	Senior
Sean Graves	Urban Studies	Freshman

By **MITCHELL FERMO**
NEWS EDITOR

The Student Technology Fee Committee has started accepting request forms for the next fiscal year’s budget. Based on last year’s budget, STFC will have around \$420,000 ready for allocations. Submissions for the annual allocations opened up at the end of January, and requests will be accepted until Feb. 28.

STFC is a committee whose voting members are all UW Tacoma students, with some administrators serving the committee in non-voting roles. The committee is comprised of eight students ranging from freshmen to seniors, and whose majors vary from computer science, psychology, business, mathematics and interdisciplinary arts and sciences. The Associated Students of the University of Washington Tacoma Director of Technology, this year John Nguyen, serves as the chairperson for the com-

mittee and serves as the direct liaison between the committee and ASUWT.

“So on the committee, I tried to be diverse,” said Nguyen, who has the responsibility of hiring committee members. “It’s not just about technology majors. Everyone thinks it’s just IT and C[omputer] S[cience] majors, but it’s not. I want people from different schools to represent their school. Whether you’re an art student or a business student, you’re going to need some sort of technology ... We all have different technology needs.”

Once all of the requests are in, the committee will look over them and decide if the request should be approved or denied. In previous years, most submitted requests were approved by the committee.

The committee’s maximum budget is based on the collection of the technology fee every student pays each quarter. Full-time students at UWT pay a technology fee of \$40 every quarter. For comparison, UW Seattle

students have a technology fee of \$38 a quarter, and UW Bothell students pay \$42 a quarter.

The technology fee is used to help pay for one-time technology purchases, such as computers, computer equipment, printers and scanners, audio-visual equipment and multimedia learning equipment, among other items.

When asked if he believed the committee was ready to take on the challenge of going through the requests and setting up next year’s budget, Nguyen explained that the students were already prepared.

“I think anyone, as a student who walks through and interacts with this school, you’re just prepared off of just that,” Nguyen said. “Because you understand what you need in order to succeed in school ... I think being prepared, in this case, it is just being a student, interacting with campus, walking and talking around, and because of that I think they’re really prepared.”

World mourns the loss of Kobe and Gianna Bryant

Saying goodbye to one of the most influential people of all time.

By **NICOLAS LUNA**
OPINION COLUMNIST

On Jan. 26, the world was jolted awake by the death of retired basketball star Kobe Bryant in a helicopter crash. While processing Bryant's death, it was revealed that the other eight passengers passed away, as well, one of which was his 13 year-old daughter, Gianna.

Of course, the basketball world has been hit the hardest by losing not only a brilliant representative of the sport but also his prodigal child, who had seen so little of the world. Loss is never easy, especially when losing one of the greats. But Bryant was so much more than a basketball star, and he was much more than just his stats and his contributions to the game. On and off the court, he was a tour de force.

As a decorated philanthropist, he gave his attention and care to the issues that mattered most to him. Until his death, he was the ambassador for After-School All Stars, a program that provided after school opportunities to over 70,000 inner-city chil-

dren. In 2018, he became an Oscar winner for the animated short he wrote, "Dear Basketball," and wrote "Mamba Mentality: How I Play." In the wake of this tragedy, however, it is important to consider Bryant for the person he was, rather than what he materialized in his lifetime.

To the core, Bryant was a seemingly passionate and caring person, and whether you wanted to be the next Bryant or not, he would have told you to never let anything hold you back and that you can achieve your dreams and aspirations. All it takes is determination and discipline. The world continues to honor him in a multitude of ways, including social media.

In the past weeks, Instagram has blown up with photos urging the public to still shout "Kobe!" when they throw a balled-up paper into a wastebasket. I urge whoever takes the time to read this to do the same. I know that I'll do my best to keep it alive, but I can't say if I'll make the shot or not.

To the basketball fans, the strict Bryant fans and the rest of the world,

we must all keep up the tradition of not only shouting 'Kobe' in the hopes of perfect accuracy, but also striving for

greatness and being the best we can be. Although Bryant has switched off the final light and made his trip to the great

gig in the sky, the light of his superlative inspiration and dedication will never go out. Rest in peace, Kobe Bryant.

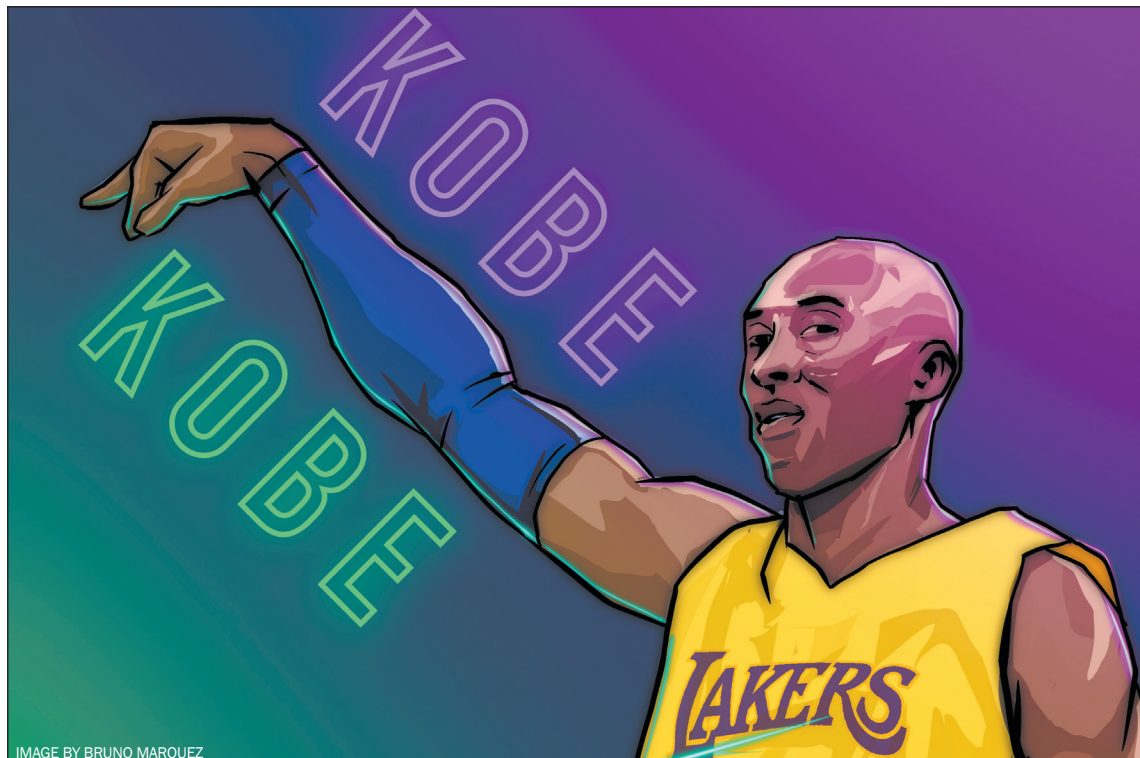


IMAGE BY BRUNO MARQUEZ

Coronavirus to hit Uyghur camps

The deadly Coronavirus has just recently spread around in China and has reached multiple countries. Unfortunately, as many people have passed, the virus has reached the Uyghur camps, where one million detainees are situated.

By **BENGISU CICEK**
OPINION COLUMNIST

The deadly Coronavirus infection is a virus caused by an outbreak of respiratory illness that was first found in Wuhan, China, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The spreading was found to originate from an animal passing the virus to a person, as seen from the first patients who were infected.

This virus is predominantly found in camels, cats, cattle and bats, and close contact with people with the virus can result in infection. The virus has now spread to a number of coun-

tries, with a death toll of 361 nationwide according to China's Health Commission.

As the coronavirus spreads, one of the most vulnerable areas currently is the Xinjiang region. The Xinjiang region, also known as East Turkestan, holds the Chinese concentration camps which detain Uyghur and Turkic ethnic groups. In these camps, detainees are compacted into small cells that hold a range from 30-40 people.

The conditions of these camps are a human rights violation, as detainees are tortured and used as test subjects. The cells are unclean and the detainees access to healthcare is prohibited and treatment is not up to a humane level. On the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists website, it has documents by Chinese officials stating how the camps are structured.

A testimony by Sayragul Sauytbay, a Kazakh woman who witnessed the camps structure, said this:

"There were almost 20 people in a room of 16 square meters. Each room had a plastic bucket for a toilet. Every prisoner was given two minutes a day to use the toilet, and the bucket was emptied only once a day. ... The food was bad, there weren't enough hours for sleep, and the hygiene was atrocious. The result of it all was that the inmates turned into bodies without a soul."

This is a serious situation that can become increasingly deadly if the conditions of the camps are not tended to. International Health Organizations must be notified as soon as possible before the spread of this worsens. The concentration camps are already an ongoing

problem that needs international attention, and now with the virus, Uyghur and Turkic detainees' lives are at risk.

"The conditions of these camps are a human rights violation, as detainees are tortured and used as test subjects. The cells are unclean and the detainees access to healthcare is prohibited and treatment is not up to a humane level."

"There are at least 465 such camps spread across the region, according to research by the East Turkistan National Awakening Movement activist group last year," said Bill Bostock from the Business Insider.

Treatment for the Coronavirus in China has filled hospitals, with multiple doctors and nurses working, covering themselves head to toe to treat patients.

"They're barely getting enough [aid] for Han Chinese citizens, let alone getting it out to Xinjiang," said Arslan Hidayat, an Australian Uyghur activist, to news.com.au. "If it does end up spreading, the Uighurs won't get the same kind of support that they're getting in Wuhan and cities on the eastern seaboard."

This is a major public health and human right issue and must gain the attention of multiple organizations that may be able to travel to China. The camps cannot be silenced.



IMAGE BY BRUNO MARQUEZ

7 'green flags' for relationships

We always hear about things to watch out for in relationships — but what should we look for?



ILLUSTRATION BY BRUNO MARQUEZ

By MEGHAN RAND
OPINION EDITOR

There are a lot of things that signal bad news when you meet somebody — whether it's someone that could become a romantic interest for you, or simply a friend. These things should be taken seriously, because any connection that we maintain with people in our lives have influence on us. This can be a great thing, because having wonderful people in our lives has the potential to make us feel empowered, stronger and loved. But unfortunately, that isn't often the case. Toxic relationships can impose a strong, lasting effect on you, and even traumatic damage.

We know of a lot of things to look out for, but what exactly should we be looking for? These green flags will help you get an idea of the things you should try to chase more, because sometimes, it can be hard to know. There is a near avalanche of advice you can draw from to make decisions when it comes to relationships and dating, and often, things conflict. You hear one minute that you and your partner should have things in common. But not too many things in common, otherwise you'll be bored. On one hand, people say that you should never, ever settle. But on another, people say it's important to not get caught up in ideals and learn to accept people with flaws. The following green flags definitely don't solve all the problems of how to take this conflicting

advice, but they do provide a pretty clear framework of what kind of people you should aim to add to your life.

YOU ARE NOT CONFUSED ABOUT THEIR FEELINGS FOR YOU

In my life, I've found that typically, mixed signals mean that someone doesn't actually care that much.

Think about how you act toward people you genuinely care about and value. You respect their feelings, you treat them with care, and you make time for them. You know their worth and don't want to lose them, so you act accordingly. But when someone seems interested one minute, and not the next, it's likely they aren't thinking of you with the same consideration. These people may choose to talk to you when they feel lonely, or they know you will always respond to them. To them, you're convenient, but not a priority. Using you and taking you for granted does not equal that they value your presence in their life. If someone cares about you, it will be obvious.

THEY CHEER FOR YOU

Jealous friends or jealous partners are bad things.

You deserve to be around people who cheer you on, especially in romantic relationships. If a partner isn't happy for you and your achievements, they aren't doing what they're supposed to be doing — loving you for who you are and adding to your growth. They're holding you back and controlling you — which is a huge red flag. The same goes with friends, too. Toxic people will

always make you feel like you have to dim your shine so they don't feel threatened. Your friends should celebrate you when you reach goals and accomplish great things, not become insecure and angry that you could possibly become "better than" them.

"CLEAN BASEBOARDS"

This was an analogy I learned a long time ago. The idea is that there are two kinds of people: one that maintains a clean home, and one that only cleans for appearances, like when they have people coming over. The person who maintains a clean home pays attention to the details and doesn't forget things like cleaning their baseboards. If you go over to someone's home and their baseboards are dirty, you can tell that they may not put as much effort into the maintenance of their home than they let on.

With people, you can tell a lot about their character in little things. Things I look for are: if they talk about friends behind their back — they will talk about you too —, if they're respectful to customer service people, how they react to you when you're upset, and if they listen to respond or listen to understand. There are a lot of others, and all of these things can be very telling. You can tell a healthy from a potentially toxic person by checking out these small indicators of their character.

THEY HAVE A CLEAR SENSE OF SELF

A healthy individual is somebody who has their own boundaries — they don't let people walk all over them. They

could struggle with self-love, but they respect themselves and have a certain level of confidence. This also means they are able to have their own beliefs that don't become influenced by people — like you, possibly — that disagree with them. They have their own lives and their own interests. All of these things help to better ensure that this person will not rely on you for happiness. This, pretty much always, creates an unhealthy dynamic, where the person is codependent and controlling.

POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE COMMUNICATION

It is a great sign when you feel comfortable opening up to somebody about your feelings, and communicate honestly about what you need from them. You should be able to bring up things that bother you without it becoming a fight. They should be able to do the same, and you should be able to work together through issues. Tension should be resolvable, and disagreements shouldn't turn into horrible fights. Arguing is normal, even occasional fights are okay. But it's mentally exhausting to be with somebody you are constantly unable to have healthy conversations with. You should look for the people who you can be open with.

YOU FEEL GOOD

A good quote from Michelle Obama is "Good relationships feel good. They feel right. They don't hurt." And it really is that simple. It's not realistic to think that every single relationship you have will always be

harmonious, perfect, and without taking work at times. But when you're done spending time with somebody, you should feel uplifted. You shouldn't feel like you have to walk on eggshells. Your relationship should absolutely not be filling you with constant anxiety. The whole purpose of having people in your life is to improve the quality and make you happy. That is it. If they are not serving that purpose, they are not good for you.

YOUR LIFE DOESN'T DRASTICALLY CHANGE BECAUSE OF THEM

This is a less obvious, but extremely important green flag.

When a new, healthy relationship comes into your life, you keep hanging out with the same people. You do not self-isolate. You continue the same hobbies and routines. You maintain your same core beliefs and values. You will still want time to be alone to do things you want to do. You do not become all-consumed with your new friend or partner.

Of course, to make time for someone important, things do have to give sometimes — you only have 24 hours in the day. It's not unheard of for somebody to spend less time with their friends once they get into a relationship. But if your life takes a complete 180, and you completely change, this is an indication that you and this person are not a natural match. You are altering the shape of yourself so that the two puzzle pieces you are can fit together.

‘Shattering’ smashed expectations at the Tacoma Little Theatre

“Shattering” brings compelling stories and raw emotion to the stage like never before at the Tacoma Little Theatre.

By MADI WILLIAMS & TALIA COLLETT
A&E COLUMNIST
& A&E EDITOR

The Tacoma Little Theatre is bringing “Shattering” to the stage for the first time ever and is one of the few theaters to show this play in the country. TLT acquired this play through the AACT NewPlayFest — a process that brings six theaters from across the country together in order to present six selective scripts out of 300 proposed. “Shattering” was one of the last scripts read from the 13 finalists that TLT chose from. What drove the script home, according to director Chris Serface, was the end of the play. The play runs for about two hours and consists of four characters. Even though the cast is small, their performances are big and complement the storyline perfectly.

“Shattering” is about 15 year old Jonah who, after enduring a contemptible upbringing and a troublesome child-

hood, ends up being part of a gang and is later committed into a juvenile detention facility due to a robbery gone wrong. Once released, Jonah is accepted into the foster home of DeeDee, the mother of the young man Sonny, who was killed during the robbery. While living with DeeDee, Jonah learns what it means to be a better person despite his past.

The opening scene begins with the murder of Sonny which, at first, was slightly difficult to comprehend since Jonah’s role was that of a lookout, not a first-hand murderer. After the death of Sonny, the audience hears a window break. This moment is followed by complete darkness except that of a visual of shattering glass projected throughout the entire theater — successively sending shivers down the audience’s spines. Subsequently, the rest of the play commences and the audience is thrown into the lives of the four characters to follow their experiences throughout the next few months. The play ends the same way that

the show begins: with the sound of shattering glass and acts as an appealing connection between the beginning and end of the story.

“Shattering” explores a variety of difficult topics within the larger storyline, including teen pregnancy, self-harm, sexual assault, gang life and religious polarity. Given the nature of these topics, the writer inserts moments of humor to provide comic relief for the audience in order to break up an otherwise extremely dark narrative.

This powerful narrative discusses topics oftentimes not talked about or diminished within the media sphere and conventional theater productions.. The actors — Robin McGee, who plays DeeDee, Donovan Mahannah as the Jonah, Joshua Hector as Sonny, and Cynthia Kinyanjui as LaBelle — produce compelling performances and successfully craft dynamic relationships that remain consistent throughout the play.

Not only are the actor’s performanc-

es persistent throughout the production, but the set doesn’t change during its entirety. Considering the story takes place singularly within DeeDee’s home, master carpenter Blake York and lead carpenter Frank Roberts managed to impressively craft three separate spaces onto one stage — the bedroom, living room and dining room.

Bearing in mind that the story chronicles varied experiences and tackles diverse topics, the fragmented plot and fixed set can leave the audience a bit disoriented and unsure of what to focus on. Switching quickly between flashbacks, storylines, and even months in between scenes, it seems as if the writer, Pat Montley, attempted to fit too many issues and leitmotifs into one. In turn, this leaves certain aspects of the play feeling rushed or underdeveloped and takes away from crucial features that would have benefitted if more focus had been applied in certain areas.

Despite these setbacks, “Shattering”

provides Tacoma with a play unlike any other. Riddled with raw and evocative dialogue, as well as rich performances, “Shattering” tells a tale of reconciliation and forgiveness that is sure to leave a lasting impression on all of its viewers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TACOMA LITTLE THEATER
Donovan Mahannah as Jonah & Joshua Hector as Sonny.

‘Gretel and Hansel’ follows the breadcrumbs in the road to a solid film

Slow, atmospheric, and unnerving, the newest horror release from United Artists is a triumph.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED ARTIST

By ANDREW BROWN
FILM CRITIC

The old Grimm Brothers’ tale “Hansel and Gretel” that has terrified children for generations is being revamped and brought to the big screen once again. But this go around, director Osgood Perkins and co-writer Rob Hayes only use the original story as an inspiration to present a new film that’s slower, thematically deeper, and relies on atmospheric merit rather than tangible scares.

The plot follows the traditional framework involving two young siblings, Gretel — played by Sophia Lillis — and Sam Leakey as Hansel, who are ousted from their home by their mother after she can no longer provide for them. While wandering the woods in an attempt to find a place to stay, they stumble across a simple cottage inhabited by a seemingly kind

old woman named Holda — played by Alice Krige. The longer they stay, Holda’s intentions become increasingly sinister.

The story has reconfigured the ages of the children, Gretel is now a teenager while Hansel is still a young boy. This serves two functions: one, changing the dynamic between the two and establishing Gretel as the older sister, and two, bringing Gretel’s looming evolution into a woman to the forefront.

The traditional title of “Hansel and Gretel” has been reversed, and it’s not a coincidence. Gretel is the protagonist now. She makes an astonishing discovery partway through that I dare not reveal, but is metaphorically related to her growth without the presence of parental figures. The plot revelations may leave audience members scoffing, and the magical abilities of the witch aren’t entirely defined, but viewed through the

lens of Gretel’s quest, it’s all part of her character progression.

Hollywood has tried remaking classic fairy tales into big-budget action spectacles before, with predictably poor results. “Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters” from 2013 was successful at the box office, but bombed with critics, and never saw any sequels. Therefore, while this incarnation of the story is far removed from any prior version, it’s safe to say that it’s all the better for it.

From the get-go, director Oz Perkins signals that this is a movie about visuals and atmosphere. As a result, the film is paced exceedingly slow. While this pace could potentially turn viewers off, the imagery is appealing and each progressive scene builds tension effectively.

Startling symmetry and sharp piercing architecture are sure to elicit hair-raising responses and memorable scenes.

Both the interior and exterior of the witch’s house are subtly malevolent in their appearance, a testament to Jeremy Reed’s production design and Christine McDonagh’s art direction.

The cinematography created by Galo Olivares properly generates the feeling of an evil presence lurking in the environment. Even at the beginning of the film when Gretel and Hansel’s home is largely dark and only lit with a somber blue light gleaming through the one window, it’s clear the technical elements have been executed masterfully.

As for the acting — which is equally notable — emerging star Sophia Lillis gives audiences a familiar face. Being someone who already impressed in the new “IT” movie franchise and was quite good in her Sundance film “Uncle Frank,” she cemented her place as one of the most promising young actresses working to-

day. Her costar, Sam Leakey, provides great support too, and shines in his first film role. Furthermore, with a superficially sweet and poisonous core, Krige is stupendous as well.

“Gretel and Hansel” is a tense horror film that properly reimagines a tale as old and familiar as “Hansel and Gretel,” but Director Oz Perkins gives his own very dark stamp. This version opts for a slower, creepier take on the material and successfully rises to the occasion.

It’s a film that general audiences, unfortunately, will likely be bored by, and this realization explains the January release date. This is a shame due to its implementation of taut and deeply thematic elements rather than relying on cheap jump scares. The first half is superior to the second, but throughout its runtime it’s a visually arresting atmospheric pleasure.

REVIEW

“Gretel and Hansel”

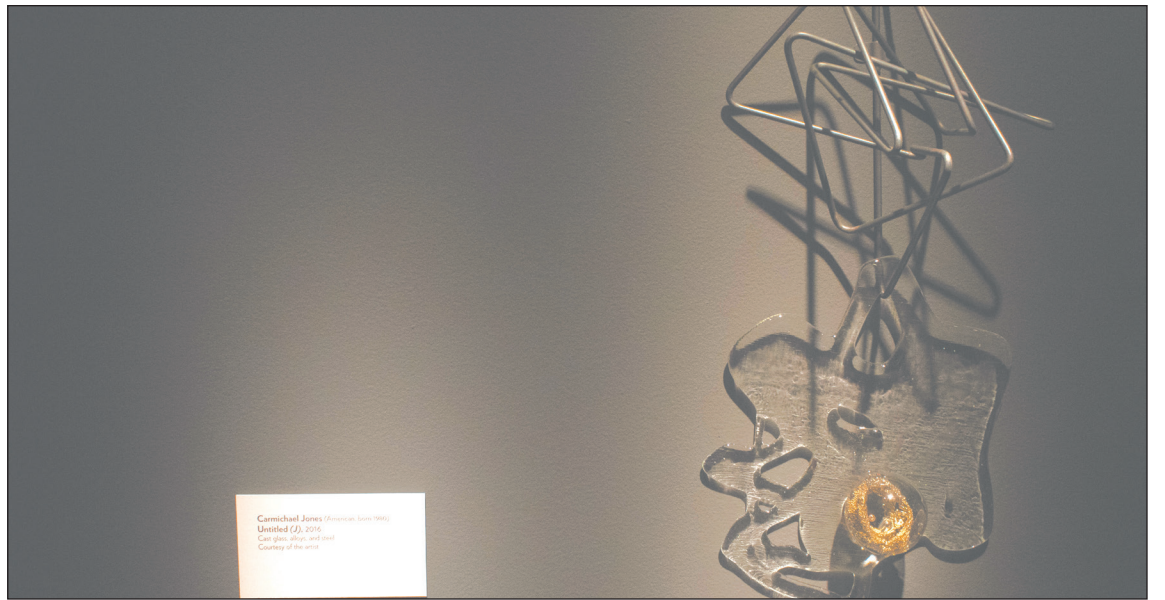
★★★★☆

The Good:

- Solid atmosphere.
- Memorable visuals.
- Great performances.

The Bad:

- Slow pacing.
- Some plot elements aren’t completely explained.
- Feels more appropriate for Halloween season.



Left pictured Sarah Gilbert "Signs and Signifiers". Right pictured Carmichael Jones "Untitled".

PHOTOS BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

“Transparency: An LGBTQ+ Art Exhibit” brings an account of queer visibility to Tacoma

Now until Oct. 18, the Museum of Glass will be housing a collection comprised solely of LGBTQ+ community artists.

By TALIA COLLETT
A&E EDITOR

“Transparency: An LGBTQ+ Art Exhibit” is the nation’s first exhibit to employ a full team of artists that lie within the LGBTQ+ community. The collection first debuted during Pride Month in 2017, was organized by the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia and is comprised of 32 pieces from 22 artists.

Ranging from sculptures of blown glass to mixed media pieces that implement videos, acrylic paints, varying forms of glass and other mediums the exhibit provides a wide variety of artwork utilized in order to depict the artists’ experiences in their lives both

past and present.

Each piece of artwork in the exhibit was chosen by the artists themselves in an effort to follow the exhibit’s desire to emphasize self-expression and creative freedom. The ages of the artists are strung across the board and explore topics that span from living through the height of the AIDS epidemic to struggling with identity in the age of social media and lack of privacy.

“Transparency” creates ground for discussions regarding self-advocacy, freedom and visibility through the pieces it provides.

In a statement from artist Tim Tate, he comments on the exhibition. “This is the perfect time to have this labeled show. Visibility is more important now

than ever before. We won’t go silently in the night,” Tate said.

The exhibition heightens awareness and brings light to issues within the queer community. Notably the AIDS epidemic — particularly throughout the 80s and 90s — to highlight the fear and discomfort associated with the disease due to its severe disenfranchisement during the time period. It provides insight and details by looking back and mourning all of those lost to AIDS. This detail stresses the importance of visibility and understanding while also generating a call for the refusal of ignorance.

Not only this, but the installation also explores topics and questions surrounding feminism and matters of

gender non-conforming individuals. This implementation questions social norms in order to urge viewers to consider and think about how we can transition into a promising and more progressive future.

By portraying these experiences and passing on their stories, these artists are breaking through boundaries and defying those who sought to hold them back. This installation’s message is a call to embrace individuality even in the face of adversity and fear. It is a remembrance of those who came before in order to create a more promising future.

In another artist statement, Sabrina Knowles and Jenny Pohlman discussed what their pieces added to

the exhibit., “With the use of continually challenging material, our intent has been to create works that embody our common humanity and invite viewers to reflect,” Knowles and Pohlman wrote on their statement.

“Transparency” calls its viewers to reflect, not only on the past but on themselves as well. The exhibit introduces a poignant blend of compassion and sadness with bravery and hope to elicit contemplation that will have viewers leaving the exhibit with a new outlook.

Available until October 2020, all students who bring their Husky ID to the Museum of Glass save three dollars on admission fees or can attend the museum for free from 5–8 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

SPORT REPORT

Remembering Kobe Bryant

By Brooks Moeller

Although it has been weeks since the tragic passing of NBA legend Kobe Bryant, the sports world is still mourning over the death of their beloved superstar. In a quote that reads “Heroes get remembered but legends never die,” it’s apparent that Bryant’s legacy will live on forever throughout the careers of current athletes and fans everywhere.

Bryant was a top high school prospect from Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Philadelphia. His outstanding performance grabbed the attention of recruiters from top college basketball programs such as Duke, Michigan, and North Carolina. During his senior year, Bryant received great recognition for his achievements on the court. He was named Naismith High School Player of the Year, Gatorade Men’s National Basketball Player of the Year, as well as a McDonald’s All-American. This led him to make the decision to enter the NBA

draft straight out of high school at only 17 years old — only the 20th player to do so.

Before the 1996 NBA draft, the Los Angeles Lakers were attempting to free up salary cap space to eventually sign all-star center Shaquille O’Neal. This possibility was made a reality when the Charlotte Hornets agreed to trade their draft rights for the 13th overall pick for Lakers center Vlade Divac. Minutes before the selection, Los Angeles would tell Charlotte who their pick would be — Bryant. As the first ever guard to be drafted straight out of high school, this caused some critics to question the decision.

These criticisms were quickly shut down. By his third year in the league, Bryant solidified himself as one of the top guards, starting all 50 games in a shortened season due to the prior player lockout. Recognizing they had acquired a remarkable player, the Lakers signed Bryant to a six-year, \$70 million contract extension that would keep him in Los Angeles through the 2003–04 season.

Entering the 1999 NBA season, Bryant was now accompanied by O’Neal which pushed the Lakers to become a

legitimate contender for a championship. Legendary coach Phil Jackson was also brought on board to help take the Lakers to the next level — the trio would go on to win three consecutive NBA championships, only the fifth team ever to do so.

Bryant and Jackson would once again reach the NBA Finals from 2008 to 2010 and would proceed to win the final two appearances. In 2008, Bryant was named the league’s Most Valuable Player after averaging 28.3 points per game, leading the Lakers to the best overall record in the Western Conference. In these two championship runs, Bryant was again named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player due to averaging over 30 points per game both seasons.

After a long and successful career, Bryant decided that the 2015–16 season would be his last, starting a farewell tour throughout the league’s locations. Bryant’s final game would come against the Utah Jazz in front of a sold out crowd in Los Angeles. He would end up leading the Lakers to a comeback victory, scoring 60 points — the sixth time in his career he did so.

When Bryant’s career finally came to a close, he was viewed as one of the greatest and most influential players to step foot on the court. He was sure to be a first ballot hall of famer when the time came and may now be appointed early after the tragic incident.

Many NBA players and celebrities took to social media to express how much Bryant meant to and influenced them throughout their lives. Many stated how they never met him yet felt severely impacted after his passing.

As a fan of basketball, though I never followed Bryant closely, I felt as if I lost my own player when I heard the news. As one of the best players to enter the NBA, it’s clear that Bryant has and will continue to have a heavy influence on generations of athletes throughout the country.

However, even after his passing, Bryant’s legacy will live on forever through the future generations of athletes everywhere, continuing his long time saying of having “Mamba Mentality.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBA.COM

Kobe celebrates after clinching his 5th NBA title.