

THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



STUDENT GOVERNMENT: ASUWT GOALS OF 2019

FIND OUT WHO OUR STUDENT LEADERS ARE, WHAT THEY ARE PLANNING FOR THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR, AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED ON CAMPUS! P3

Happenings around campus

This week on the UW Tacoma campus, there will be a number of activities for students to partake in. All listed events are free of charge to students.

**Monday
10/14**

Arabic lessons will be taught by Maryam Al Darraji. They will be teaching students in BB 107 during lunch hour – 12:30–1:20 p.m. Classes have been taught on Mondays and Tuesdays since the second week of school, and will go until the eighth week of fall quarter. Each Monday/Tuesday class will be on the same content.

**Tuesday
10/15**

UWTea Time will be hosted by the International Student and Scholar Services on Tuesday in BB 107. “The purpose of the event is for international students to socialize and connect with others, meet local American students, as well as provide an opportunity for students to ask questions regarding immigration and academic[s],” stated UWT Senior Wenyan Li, who is also a Global Affairs Fellow.

**Wednesday
10/16**

There will be Japanese lessons taught in BHS 107 from 12–1 p.m. Beginner lessons will be taught on Oct. 16, Oct. 30 and Nov. 13. Advanced lessons will be taught on Oct. 23, as well as Nov. 6 and Nov. 20. Lessons will be taught by Japanese student Kuniya Yoshikawa

There will also be a discussion on how to get funding for study abroad. This event is centered around what forms of financial aid and scholarships are available for study abroad opportunities and how to acquire them. It will be held in MDS 312 during lunch hour.

**Thursday
10/17**

A Career and Internship Fair will be held at the University Y. At this fair, students will be able to find numerous job opportunities. This is being held by the Career Development and Education department from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in rooms UWY 307, UWY 303 and the student assembly room. “The career fairs are important for a myriad of reasons – but the foundation of that importance is preparedness. Career fairs help students prepare for the ‘what next?’ aspect of being a college student,” stated Katherine Felts, a Career Development Specialist.

**Friday
10/18**

Google Mock Interviews will be held at the UWY in room 304 during the lunch hour. If you are interested in internships or full time jobs, this workshop will provide tips and tricks to acing professional interviews.

Huskies in the hallway:

COMPILED AND PHOTOS BY MEGHAN RAND

How are you sustainable in your daily life?



Rebecca Pirkle
Freshman
Computer Science and Systems

“I recycle a lot more than I used to because I’ve become much more conscious about it. I also use reusable cups.”



Jasmin Randhawa
Sophomore
Politics, Philosophy and Economics

“I use a reusable water bottle, I turn off the water when I brush my teeth, and I carpool to campus. I also donate my unwanted clothing instead of just throwing it away.”



Ruba Shahbin
Junior
Politics, Philosophy and Economics major

“I do a lot because I really care about the environment. I don’t eat out because takeout can be very wasteful. I use reusable water bottles and try to eat locally. I also unplug my chargers at night to try and not waste electricity.”



Abby Toomoth
Senior
Law and Policy

“I use a hydroflask to drink water and I don’t use plastic straws.”



Paul Procriv
Faculty
Civic Engagement Specialist

“I think about the gas mileage my car uses, and try to be mindful to purchase environmentally responsible products.”

The Ledger

UWT’s weekly student publication
Oct. 14, 2019 | Vol. 24, Issue 2



There were errors found in Issue 1 article “WSHM showcases brand new exhibits”; and Issue 2 articles “FAFSA application opens for 2020-2021 academic year Oct. 1” and “Climate and Change: UW search for inclusion”. Corrections can be found on thetacomaledger.com

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Office Hours:
Monday: 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 11:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Thursday: 11:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Friday: 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

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ASUWT members lay out goals for the year

Executive board members talk about what they want to do for school year.

By MITCHELL FERMO & LORE ZENT
News Editor & News Reporter

Executive board members of the Associated Students of the University of Washington Tacoma — UW Tacoma's student government — have laid out their plans and goals for the 2019–2020 school year. Among these goals include an expansion of food options on the UWT campus, increase of resources for students and more ways to create and retain student interactivity on campus.

ASUWT President Vincent Da — who leads the executive board — discussed some of his biggest goals for the year. One of Da's current initiatives include bringing food trucks onto campus as an additional option for students to buy food. The hope is that these food trucks will provide more food choices for students to purchase and to diversify the types of food which can be found around campus.

"As ASUWT President, you can influence a lot of positive change on campus than the jobs you are currently holding," said Da, who previously worked for the Center for Equity and Inclusion's Student Pantry, as a Pack Advisor and as the senator for undeclared students. "I was passionate about working on food insecurity and accessibility while in the Pantry, and that was my main platform for campaigning."

Some of Da's other current initiatives include creating a bimonthly meeting of Registered Student Organizations to help promote campus interactivity, a plan to increase safety around campus crosswalks and more follow-up and support for students who are sophomores. Additionally, Da is continuing cooperation with Koz Apartments and the Tacoma Housing Authority to combat housing insecurity, something which former ASUWT president, Armen Papyan, helped to facilitate.

Other members of the board also have plans they wish to see completed by the end of the year. One goal for Lau-

rel Hicks, ASUWT's director of university affairs, wants to see an increase in graduate student participation, especially within student government.

"I will also seek to increase graduate student representation in student government and, ultimately, their voice in university conversations," Hicks said.

Another plan which Hicks discussed was the need to implement "multiple levels of bathroom equality" around UWT. She stated that this would entail the implementation of sanitary napkin wall disposals, an increase of free sanitation products in all restrooms, the addition of running water for lactation rooms and adding changing tables in men's restrooms.

"Part of the appeal of ASUWT is to work with the campus to make it a place where people will want to spend time outside of class and expand their voices just like I did for mine," said Hicks.

For Director of Outreach Margarita Daisy Gonzalez, increasing student involvement with campus activities is one of her biggest goals. Gonzalez is responsible for promoting student government, organizing event materials and relaying students' voices back to the board.

"This quarter ASUWT is doing Project Husky, which is an event that will be focused on getting students to register to vote in Washington state."

"One of my responsibilities is to voice student concerns to the team and this is done by Town Halls," Gonzalez said. "This quarter ASUWT is doing Project Husky, which is an event that will be focused on getting students to register to vote in Washington state. This will also serve as an opportunity for students to meet the ASUWT board and senate rep-

resentatives; we will be there to talk to them as well as hear them out with concerns [that] they may have about UWT."

Gonzalez also talked about how both ASUWT and UWT could improve on communicating with the student body.

"Communication is a key factor that we need to address," Gonzalez said. "Finding ways to better reach our broad population of students. Social media is a great platform, but not everyone uses it or has access to it. I will work on ways to get information across to more students. This is something I will be working on planning with the multimedia specialist, which is soon to be hired."

ASUWT meets on a weekly basis on Fridays from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in TPS 110. The Executive Board meets for the first half of the time, with the senate meeting during the other half. These meetings are open to the public. They highly encourage students to attend and voice their opinions and concerns on how UWT, and the surrounding campus, can be improved.

These goals outlined by the Executive Board reflect a common theme of continuing to increase interactivity on campus, as well as define what it means to be a UWT Husky.

"What it means to be a Tacoma Husky is being able to connect with students, faculty and staff on a more personal level, while being integrated in downtown Tacoma, where there are many opportunities to explore your interests," Da said.

Gonzalez reiterated Da's thoughts and expanded further on the subject.

"Being a Husky means a community of eager learners," Gonzalez said. "Although we may all be different we share a common goal and purpose that brings us together: we all came to learn and graduate. Being a Husky means that we are not alone in our efforts; Huskies work in packs and help each other on their journeys and keep strong ties to their packs."

PICTURES COURTESY OF ZAVON CASANOVA



VINCENT DA
ASUWT PRESIDENT



JOHN NGUYEN
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT TECHNOLOGY



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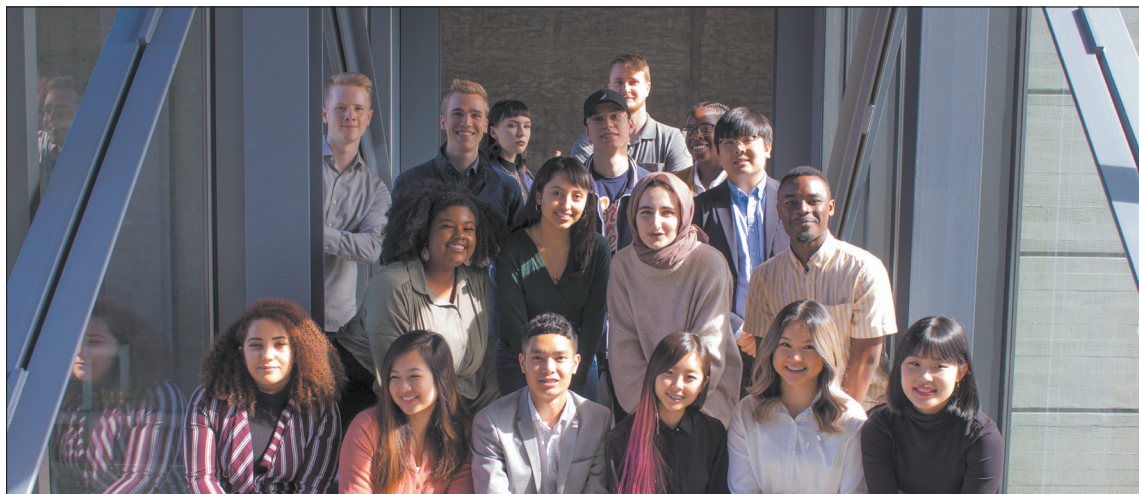
EUNICE YANG
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE



MARGARITA DAISY GONZALEZ
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH



SHELTON WRIGHT
DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



The 2019-2020 ASUWT team.

PHOTO BY ZAVON CASANOVA

Club Spotlight: UWT ACLU Chapter

Fighting for rights with a team of powerful voices.

By **MADELINE HILLER**
NEWS REPORTER

Over the summer, a couple of students from UW Tacoma started its own chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. The American Civil Liberties Union — or ACLU — is one of the largest nonprofit organizations in the United States. They advocate for the defense of human rights, the empowerment of communities across the United States and they influence public policy. Current national issues they are taking on include mass incarceration, immigration and religious discrimination.

The UWT ACLU chapter is especially focused on social justice issues, such as environmental justice, LGBTQ+ issues, the Chinese concentration camps, free speech panels and Women's rights. UWT ACLU Chapter meets on campus every Monday from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. in CP 303.

There are 29 ethnically, politically,

and culturally diverse members in the club, including Adriana Vega, one of the club's secretaries. Vega, a biomed student, joined the club in hopes of making change within the community and outside her major.

"When you're so passionate about something, it's hard to see people who don't really care...I would love to see this club makes a difference on campus," said Vega.

Vega hopes future events on campus will be noticed by people passing by and even hopes to get the UWT ACLU Chapter to go to the next Women's march in Seattle, as well as advocating for an on-campus conference to be hosted to spread awareness for women's rights.

With 10 officers and 19 committee members, the UWT ACLU Chapter holds many different voices with many different reasons why they joined. Rebecca Pirkle, a committee member and a computer science and technology major, shared why she initially

joined ACLU.

"You see the positive impact and I wanted to help in any big or small impact I could," said Pirkle.

The campus chapter has worked with other campus organizations, such as the Center for Equity and Inclusion, Center for Service and Leadership and ASUWT City Liaison Sean Arent. Eventually, the club wants to work with Legal Pathways, a new initiative on campus to connect with students interested in pursuing a law degree. At the same time, state and city legislation has expressed interest in working with the UWT ACLU Chapter.

The Chapter will host many events this academic year, and has already produced some smaller ones. They hosted the National Coming Out Day celebration in CP 108 on Friday, October 11 from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. At this event, they held a lunch for everyone — LG-BTQ+ community members, allies and friends — to come and celebrate the

community. The event allowed students to share their stories and celebrate gender, identity and expression with pride.

Committee member Robyn Levin founded the idea of the event, and worked hard with the officers to create a safe zone for all identities and sexualities outside of the Registered Student Organization as well.

"(I) really want a safe place for students who are questioning sexuality and genders where they can ask questions and get answers," said Levin.

In November, the UWT ACLU Chapter is teaming up with the CEI and the Gender Alliance of the South Sound to host Trans Day of Remembrance, which will be held for the second time at UWT. Numerous outside organizations — such as Planned Parenthood, Rebuilding Hope Sexual Assault Center and Community Health — will come and table at the resource fair, providing resources to share to the Trans community. After the tabling event, there will be a vigil to remember

those killed due to transphobia.

Keynote speakers for the event include Executive Director of the Rainbow Center, J. Manny Santiago, Councilman Ryan Mello on behalf of Mayor Woodards, and Dr. Jimmy McCarthy, Director for the CEI. TDOR happens Nov. 20 — the resource fair from 4–5:30 p.m. in the Cherry Parks lobby, and the vigil from 6–8 p.m. in Jane Russel Commons.

The national ACLU website features an area for people to send thoughts and comments on various topics, such as refugees being welcomed into America and reparations for slavery. Each topic has a comment bar that sends your thoughts directly to a coordinator who reads it, such as a U.S. senator. Other topics simply have petitions that you can add your name to by following a link. On the site, they provide a place to learn what rights individuals have, how to use them and what to do when those rights are violated.



UWT ACLU Chapter empowers the community.

PHOTO BY TAYLOR KELLY

Opinion: 3 steps towards sustainable living

Small, sustainable changes are feasible and simple to incorporate into daily life.

By **ALYSSANDRA GOSS**
OPINION COLUMNIST

The media thrives on fear mongering statements in order to insight guilt into its consumers — especially regarding the current state of our planet. Images and headlines are everywhere about microplastics in the ocean, rising carbon dioxide levels, and depleted water sources. These depictions — as informative as they may be — do nothing to combat such issues.

I know firsthand the guilt that ensues from these visuals, and the dreaded feeling of “I am to blame for this.” This feeling is destructive and, at the end of the day, solves nothing. Personally, I know I fall-short of sustainable living — I am human after all. However, there are some things we can all do to live more sustainably. Here are three ways to live a more sustainable life:

DEVELOP A PERSONALIZED GARDEN

Maintaining and caring for your own garden is the best — and most rewarding — step towards sustainable living. While large garden space may not be available here in the city, it is entirely possible to look after a few plants in your

own home. For instance, start an herb garden in small pots along a windowsill — full of thyme, parsley, mint, and oregano. What’s not to like about a homegrown “spice” cabinet?

If you’re feeling adventurous with your green-space, consider growing both tomato and zucchini plants. They grow beautifully in Washington weather and are a lovely addition to almost any recipe. For instance, spaghetti noodles with diced zucchini and tomato — atop with fresh thyme — is always a delicious hit in any household.

UTILIZE REUSABLE PRODUCTS

Hydro-Flasks and reusable grocery bags are seemingly everywhere as it is a new trend amongst this generation. The presence of these sustainable products serves as both an advertisement and an example of simple, sustainable practice. Not only are they convenient, but they cutdown on destructive single use plastics.

Unlike traditional water bottles, Hydro-Flasks are also free of Bisphenol A (BPAs) — an organic synthetic compound that poses several health risks such as reproductive disorders and heart disease. Not only do these containers

limit the use of plastic — thereby reducing environmental plastic incidence — is also healthier for the consumer.

PURCHASE SECOND HAND

Stores such as Goodwill and The Salvation Army provide second hand clothes and products. These thrift style stores are a perfect example of community reuse — instead of throwing away clothes, they can simply be repurposed to someone else.

Rather than purchasing new clothes — thus perpetuating the cycle of environmental degradation — you can utilize clothes already in the system. In other words, one secondhand purchase is one less new product produced — essentially, thrift stores stall the system and limit excessive energy usage.

Transitioning into sustainable practices does not have to be time consuming or restrictive. Instead of feeling guilty about anthropogenic climate change, use your knowledge and resources to create change within your lifestyle. While it is impossible to change others around you, it is possible to change personal habits — remember, sustainable communities begin with individual action.



COURTESY OF FLICKR

Opinion: 6 reasons to join the Global Honors Program

Learn how you can boost your college experience by joining an Honors Program.

By **CHRISTIAN BELL**
OPINION EDITOR

Life is full of decisions. Some of the decisions we make in life are small, like ripples. But other choices we make are like waves, completely life-changing. Two years ago, I made the decision to join the Global Honors Program at UWT. What I originally thought would make a ripple effect in my college experience turned out to be a life-altering wave. Here are 6 reasons why you should join an honors program in college.

AMAZING FRIENDSHIPS

If you join a program like Global Honors at UWT, you’ll spend a lot of time with your peers. You’ll study together, attend events together, vent together and so much more. Perhaps one of my favorite memories in the Global Honors program was going with a group of friends I made from the program to see the premiere of “Crazy Rich Asians”. I’ll never forget how we all cried at the touching wedding scene and dissected the film afterwards. This program introduced me to many like-minded individuals and I’m glad to say I’m still friends with many of those from my cohort.

RECEIVE THE BEST

PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS

The goal of any honors program is to see students succeed both inside and outside the classroom. This is why class



COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

The stuff you learn will carry with you through your future

visits from community leaders or professionals — as well as field trips — are common. Program leaders will also send honors student’s internship, volunteer and job opportunities via email consistently. One email, I received in particular, set me on a path of doing communications work for two public officials. This not only boosted my resume but also helped me gain wonderful letters of recommendation.

EXPAND AND DEVELOP SKILLS

Joining an honor’s program is a great way to learn and expound upon skills that are useful at school and in the work-

force. For example, Global honors students are expected to present their capstone project projects to the campus and community members before completing the program. This experience teaches students how to become better public speakers. In fact, public speaking became a breeze for me afterwards.

GREAT EXPERIENCES/TRIPS

As mentioned earlier, the Global Honors program will provide many great experiences. For example, the field trip to the health department I took with the honors program was inspiring. It’s part of what made me

choose to intern in the future. There are also scholarship opportunities for those who would like to attend conferences or study abroad.

EXCELLENT STUDY ROOM

Paraphrasing from Kanye West, The Global Honors room has the greatest study room of all time. No, but in all seriousness, their study room is pretty great. Last year, I had night classes, so the study room became like a second home for me. The comfy sofas and blankets, printers, portable study desks and fresh coffee all make the study room a great place to work

or take a cat nap if you wish.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF

I’ll admit, the first day of my honors class was absolutely terrifying. My classmates were brilliant and the content we covered was unfamiliar and incredibly complex. My imposter syndrome led me to second guess not only myself, but also my purpose in the program. But I am so glad I stuck it out. I was able to overcome my imposter syndrome, grow as a person and learn a great deal about the world around me.

Opinion: Chinese Concentration camps of 2019

Uyghurs being detained and kept in horrendous conditions in Chinese concentration camps — social media and international activists are trying their best to spread its awareness.

By **BENGISU INCETAS**
OPINION COLUMNIST

The Uyghurs are a Turkic ethnic group situated in the Xinjiang province of China. They are one of the oldest dated Turkic language speaking in Asia. In Xinjiang, their capital is Urumqi and the majority of the Uyghurs are Sunni Muslim.

One article from the Diplomat found China has put over a million Uyghurs in concentration camps. No, not “re-education” camps as they are trying to be wrongfully labelled, but actual concentration camps where they commit unspeakable acts upon individuals who are detained there.

This first started in 2016 with the Communist Party’s new leader, Chen Quanguo. It continued with the banning of the Uyghur language in schools, the shutting down of Mosques, additionally with cameras being put into them so they are able to track who comes in and out.

On USA Today, Rushan Abbas, an Opinion contributor, spoke about the tortuous and oppressive state that the Chinese officials make the Uyghurs go through. This being: Mosques being bulldozed, parents unable to give their children Muslim names, Muslim men being forced to shave

their beards and being banned from practicing Islam.

Inside the camps, the violent and authoritarian state is shown more visibly. “Inside, prisoners are indoctrinated with Communist Part propaganda, forced to renounce Islam, and have been forced to eat pork and drink alcohol in violation to their religious beliefs” said Abbas.

There are different ways this torture is passed onto the children as well, as children are separated from their families and sent to orphanages where they force them to attend schools that teach them the ideal lifestyle of the Communist Party. Many video evidences of these broke out on YouTube, as well as of Uyghur Muslim women being forced to marry Chinese men.

Mihrigul Tursun, a 29 year old Uyghur woman, gave her testimony on what she endured in China. “My hands bled from their beatings...Each time I was electrocuted, my whole body would shake violently and I could feel the pain in my veins...I thought I would rather die than go through this

torture and begged them to kill me,” Tursun said.

On YouTube, a channel by the name Uyghur Aid, gave a total of 360 Uyghur testimonies by people who speak on behalf of a family member, relative, friend or acquaintance that have disappeared in China.

The rise of these testimonies have escalated over the past few months of this year, as before speaking as an Uyghur about the concentration camps could result in the detainment of a close one

still in Xinjiang.

These concentration camps in China that innocent Uyghurs and others from different Turkic backgrounds and more are held in is exactly like the Nazi concentration camps — the only thing differing is being that it’s the year 2019.

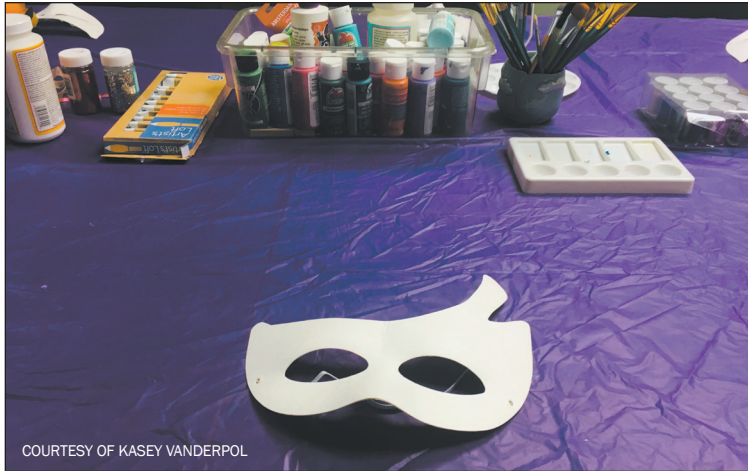
China is a humongous country in terms of international affairs and one of our strongest and largest manufacturers. However, this does not excuse the fact that they have actual concentration camps in their country. China being halfway across the world is not an excuse to dismiss the existence of this tormenting authority.

The Uyghurs do

“My hands bled from their beatings... Each time I was electrocuted, my whole body would shake violently and I could feel the pain in my veins...”

“...I thought I would rather die than go through this torture and begged them to kill me.”





COURTESY OF KASEY VANDERPOL



PHOTO BY JAKE SHAW

VanderPol and her journey to creating safe spaces for survivors.

One woman's quest to use art as a form of healing

Kasey VanderPol began a program where she uses art to help survivors of abuse connect and strengthen one another.

By **MEGHAN RAND**
A&E EDITOR

After only two months, Kasey VanderPol's program, aimed at creating therapeutic art for survivors of sexual or domestic violence, already has a waiting list till January of 2020.

VanderPol — an advocate stationed at the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center — located a few blocks from the UW Tacoma campus, began the Survivor Wellness Art Circle as a way to reach out to victims of sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, and domestic violence. Small groups of six to eight people, typically women, join together to create art as a form of processing and expressing the impact they experience from the abuse they faced.

"As someone who experienced abuse in the past, I've found art to be

a cathartic way to process trauma and I wanted to share this with the individuals I serve," said VanderPol.

VanderPol provides the group with a prompt or a project to create. For instance, during the October session, artists painted two sides of one mask as a way of expressing how their experiences made them feel, and what they showed to the world. These sessions are funded by the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center, and all the supplies for the art projects are provided for participants.

"No previous art experience is necessary to join as there is no right or wrong way to create art," explained VanderPol. "During Art Circle, I provide ideas to help get creativity flowing, but it's completely up to each person how they choose to approach the project."

With increased success with the program, VanderPol is hoping to be

able to expand to having more sessions. It is important to her to maintain the small groups, as she feels it allows all of the members to have a space to share and support each other. However, she hopes to be able to grow the program into meeting twice a month or more. This will allow her to reach more survivors, while still maintaining the integrity and closeness that the small-group format provides.

When asked about how art therapy may differ from more common or traditional forms of therapy, VanderPol explained the benefits.

"I definitely think that traditional talk therapy is still super important and a lot of people can get a lot of benefits out of that," said VanderPol. "But there's actually more and more research that's coming to light that doing creative work especially actually activates dif-

ferent parts of your brain that traditional group therapy wouldn't. And so it's a way that people can actually explore and express really traumatic emotions but not in a way that's going to re-traumatize them. It's a way that you can visually represent things that might otherwise be hard to talk about or put in words."

VanderPol also emphasized the importance of creating a support system as a survivor of abuse.

"[A]nother part of going through an abusive relationship [or] an assault is that you feel really isolated and you don't really have that social support piece, so I think that's another really big benefit," she explained.

The art project also serves as a way of empowering these survivors, by giving them a way to accomplish something. VanderPol hopes also that creat-

ing the art gives survivors a sense of self and purpose they may have lost.

"You're actually creating something, [and] with a lot of victims of violence, they've felt like they've had their boundaries taken away from them," said VanderPol. "They've been told over and over that they're helpless, they're not worth anything, that they can't do anything. So by creating something that they can actually look at and actually have and take with them, I think that just helps to really instill a better sense of self back into them."

Though the demand for the class is high, and the waiting list is growing, VanderPol encourages those interested in participating to call the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center help line at 253-789-4166. The art circle is held on the first Wednesday of every month from 1-3:00 p.m..

The Addams Family — In a way you wouldn't expect!

If you enjoy musicals, check out the Tacoma Musical Playhouse 2019-2020 season.

By **MADI WILLIAMS**
A&E COLUMNIST

When people think of the Addams Family the first thought to mind is not a musical, but the unexpected twist was surprisingly good. The Tacoma Musical Playhouse brought back almost the entire original cast from the 2016 season, except for the actor for Pugsley and seven of the ancestors, and during that year, that cast won many awards. For the national awards, they won: Best Production, Best Male Lead Role, Best Featured Role, Best Female Supporting Actress, Best Ensemble, Best Costumes, Best Set, Best Sound Design. That is eight awards, when at the national level, there are only 13 awards in total. On the international scale, they won Best Technical Show Overall and Best Male Lead Actor Role. Knowing this information right before the musical even begins, audiences are prepared for a great show.

Like any musical, there's some sort of main climax evolving and in the Addams Family Musical, it's that Wednesday Addams has found love

and is no longer the little Wednesday Addams she used to be — and everyone in the family has something to say about it. Some family members want her embrace this feeling of love, some don't like it one bit, and some have no idea that she is feeling this way.

The original Addams Family is not a musical, however, the songs that were featured in the play really show viewers who the characters are — if you haven't seen the classic show — and if you did watch the originals, the actors portrayed them almost as if they were the original cast. With the songs and the acting, there was so much humor going on. The audience was always laughing, which was a surprise at first, not thinking this musical was going to be a comedy. By the end of the show, viewers were left craving more. It was very enjoyable all around, however the best part was the actors in the play who really got into the characters — almost like they weren't even acting at all. Hopefully the Playhouse continues to bring back this musical annually, with as much of the original cast as possible, because it is worth the ticket.

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Tiramisu



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS STUDIO

No jokin' around: 'Joker' is a hit

Dark, twisted, and even a little sympathetic, Joaquin Phoenix's performance is one for the ages.

By **ANDREW BROWN**
FILM CRITIC

Casual moviegoers are probably unaware of the bitter rivalry between fans of the Marvel films — Featuring Avengers like Iron Man, Captain America, The Hulk, etc. — and the DC movies — Starring the Justice League of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, etc. But one fact is clear: between the two, Marvel films are better received by critics, and make more money at the box office.

Since the seminal Batman film “The Dark Knight,” DC and its parent company, Warner Brothers, have tried time and time again to recapture that magic of a unique blend of comic book inspiration with gritty, dark characters and storylines, and time and again they’ve come up short — until now.

“Joker” is the best DC movie since “The Dark Knight,” and quite possibly one of the five best films released this year. The hype has been at a fever pitch, especially after the film won the top prize at this year's Venice Film Festival.

Joaquin Phoenix stars as Arthur Fleck, a clown and amateur comedian who lives with his mother in a crummy apartment in Gotham City. As his mental health deteriorates and his fortunes decline, he resorts to murder in self defense of an attack on the subway, and

finds relief, even enjoyment, in the act.

The performances delivered by the cast are all top of the line, but this movie belongs to Phoenix. He is phenomenal, and under a lesser actor, the material wouldn't have worked as well. He is an uncomfortable presence as the protagonist, and you're never sure when he's going to snap. Therefore, in spite of his steady descent into madness, you are with him the whole way, and his journey into becoming a psychopath is almost justified.

In tandem with the script, the film makes the right decision in making Arthur extremely sympathetic: by showing a lack of a father figure in his life, having to care for his disabled mother, and being the victim of several awful beatings in public. There's even a severely creepy notebook he writes his feelings and ideas for jokes in. His handwriting is so rudimentary it gets your skin to crawl, and it looks exactly how a serial killer's notebook would. Incidentally, this notebook is scarier than anything from “It: Chapter Two.”

Fans of the comic books may be disappointed in the departures from the famous mysterious origin of the character. He doesn't have a pregnant wife who is murdered by gangsters, or get involved in a botched robbery causing him to fall in a vat of chemi-

cals turning his face white, and he never wears a purple suit. But this is a different Joker — one who was already unstable and is pushed further by a cruel environment and an indifferent power structure.

There's a lot to like in the movie, from the surprisingly great direction from comedy veteran Todd Phillips, to the stupendous string dominated musical score by Hildur Guðnadóttir, to even the ingenious addition to the character by giving him a laughing disease, which is based on a real disorder. Ultimately, Arthur is also an unreliable narrator, and it allows for twists in the story that most won't expect.

I dare say this movie revitalizes the DC cinematic universe, something Warner Brothers desperately needed after the quadruple misfire of “Man of Steel,” “Batman V Superman,” “Suicide Squad,” and “Justice League.” DC tried to go the dark route once again, and for the first time they got it right.

A film based on a comic that isn't constantly trying to remind you of that, or filled with superheroes, is a rarity in this era of big budget movies. If you're looking for an Avengers style light-hearted adventure, steer clear. But if you're interested in something ripe for the Halloween season to truly get under your skin, this is one of the most bold, risk taking movies of the year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHER STUDIO

The Clown Prince of Crime.

SPORT REPORT

By *Brooks Moeller*



The 2019 Seattle Mariners season has come and gone, so what can we takeaway from this season that will give fans hope for next year? Another year has been added to the total of the longest playoff drought currently in American professional sports, standing now at eighteen years without qualifying. Eighteen years of constant “rebuilding,” “retooling,” “reimagining,” and everything else in between.

But what makes this year feel different than the rest? They have a plan.

The team finished with 89 wins in 2018 — their best finish since 2002 — but still failed to reach the playoffs. The team was stuck in a tough spot. They had solid veteran pieces on their team such as Robinson Cano and Nelson Cruz, however both were leaving their prime years and would require a hefty pay day to keep on the team. They also had one of the worst minor league systems in baseball, so there was no immediate help coming their way. With how dominant their division rival — the Houston Astros — have been, there really was no other option but to completely rebuild the team and look towards the future rather than face the present.

At first, the team looked like it may exceed expectations and be ahead two years in the plan than originally thought. They had a historic start of 13–2 in the first fifteen games of the season — only the 17th team since 1900 to do so. Now six months later, and the Mariners finished with the sixth worst record in the MLB. So what happened?

The simplest way of describing the downfall of the 2019 Mariners is that they were who we thought they were. A team that lacked pitching, experience at the plate, and overall depth to keep up with the top tier teams in the American League.

But this is what we expected and there were a lot of positive takeaways where a lot of players who are expected to play key roles in the future of the ballclub performed well and may be on a faster track to the majors than originally anticipated. This has caused general manager Jerry Dipoto to become vocal about not making too many moves in the offseason and to let the kids play.

“By and large, the players that we have are the players that we want to grow forward with,” Dipoto said in an interview with 710 ESPN Seattle. “We’re growing a young core and I guess by virtue of what that requires, we have to give them the opportunity to play.”

Some key names to become familiar with are JP Crawford and Kyle Lewis. Crawford began the year in AAA Tacoma but eventually became the everyday shortstop where he showed significant strides at the plate and played elite defense. He will be entering his age 25 season and it is obvious we have yet to see his best form.

Kyle Lewis' path to the majors took a little longer than most. Originally a 1st round pick by the Mariners in 2016, injuries have plagued his professional baseball career so far, stunting his path to the majors. But on September 10, he received the call that he was finally summoned to the big leagues, and to make his major league debut versus Cincinnati. That night, he recorded his first hit and home run in the same at bat — something most players can only dream about.

Lewis did not slow down after his debut — he ended up becoming only the fourth player in MLB history to hit six home runs in his first ten games. He will have the opportunity to be an Opening Day starter in the outfield.

Lewis and Crawford are only the beginning of the young core beginning to make their way to the big league club. The 2020 motto for the Seattle Mariners will be “Let the kids play,” and these kids will show that they can eventually make the team a contender — sooner rather than later.

REVIEW

“Joker”



The Good:

- Atmospheric, highly tense.
- Stupendous performances, especially from Phoenix.
- Great musical accompaniment.
- Unpredictable.

The Bad:

- Derivative of “Taxi Driver,” so if you're familiar with that it may bore you.
- Not a date night movie.
- Can be uncomfortable to watch at points.