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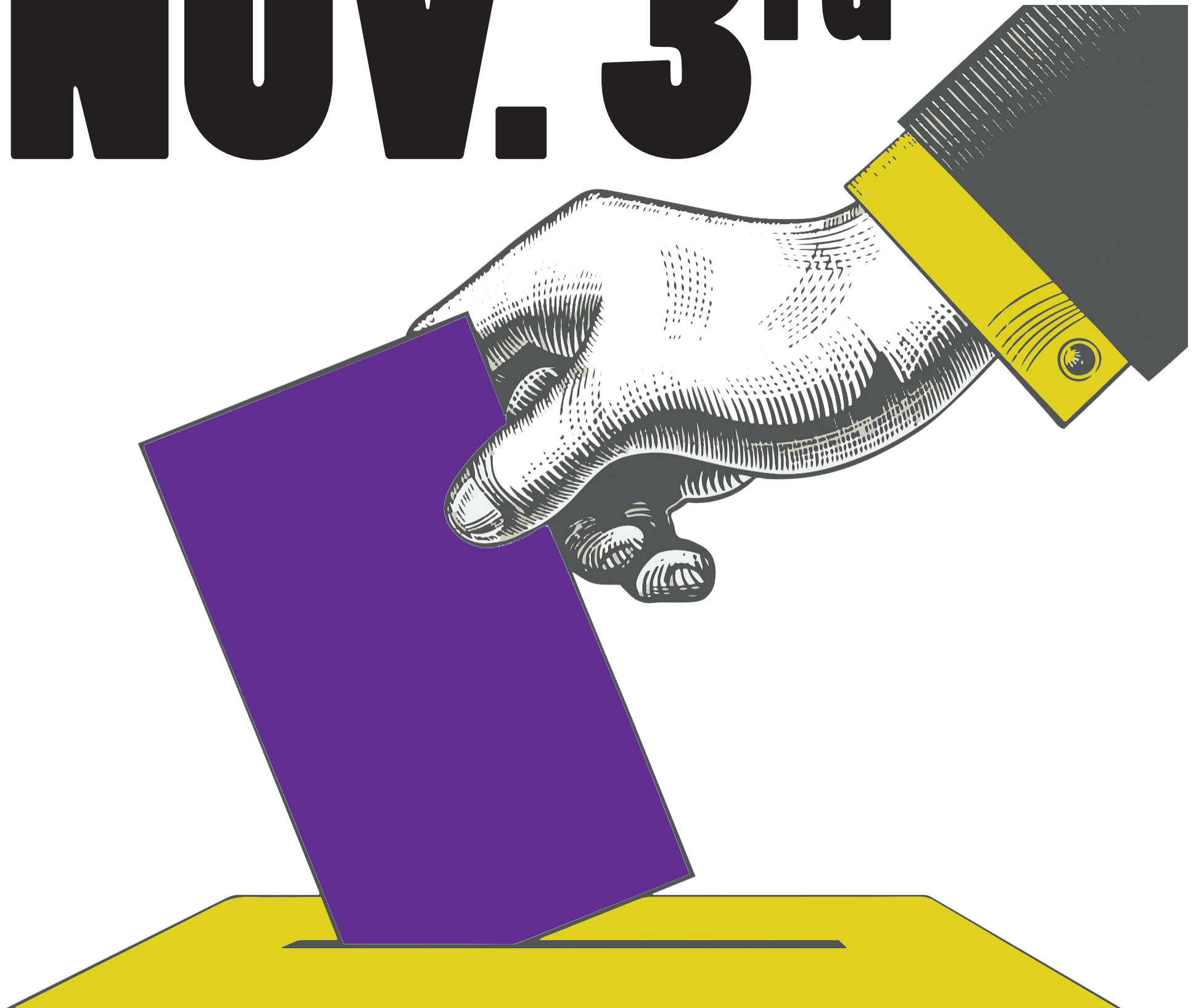
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THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

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Thoughts from UWT students

Freshmen share their thoughts on how their campus experience has been.

By **OLUWASEYI FALEKE**
NEWS REPORTER

With only five classes on campus this quarter, UW Tacoma students have not been able to experience the traditional campus life that UWT normally has to offer. A couple of first-year students, along with a senior, offered their thoughts regarding their campus experience so far and their feelings towards virtual quarter. Ezekiel Aruwah, a freshman, had a few words to speak on the issue.

“My experience has been kind of underwhelming,” Aruwah said. “I was expecting to be able to make friends in the area by going into classes, but due to everything being virtual it’s been kind of difficult.”

While Avery Rivers, another first-year student, shared a similar sentiment with Aruwah about not being on campus for classes, Rivers, on the other hand, found that they were able to connect with peers in at least one of her classes.

“I love my theater class and profes-

sor, so it’s mixed feelings about this quarter,” Rivers said. “I expected a life changing new chapter, but it feels like highschool with older people. I’m a social person and I like meeting new people. I have three classes this quarter, with two of them being asynchronous, so I get to see my classmates in one of my classes.”

Without physical classes on campus, some students are finding it hard to create and stick to a schedule, especially for college first-timers. Students are also lacking social interactions with other people who are their age, and who might be just as unfamiliar or share the same anxieties about being in college. Aruwah went on to explain another of the difficulties she believes students are feeling.

“Also, the motivation to do coursework is not really there due to all the distractions that come with not being in a formal classroom setting,” Aruwah said.

Aruwah’s sentiment was similarly felt by Brandon Rosario, a last-year student, who commented about the online

nature of classes and the difficulties that come with them. Rosario stated that the classes being taught online were a bit slower and more awkward in terms of communication. He said he also thinks that professors are having just as hard of a time adapting to their courses as students are participating in them.

“Teachers are having a hard time adjusting to this new format,” Rosario said. “I have seen quite a bit of reorganization from faculty that usually don’t conduct a majority of their courses online. It doesn’t seem like anything that they can’t handle, but I can definitely feel some transition issues from being in certain classes.”

Rosario however, also mentioned that there were some positives about classes being online.

“I do enjoy being able to eat healthy food at my leisure,” Rosario said. “Even during a lecture. I also like being able to do chores during a lecture — I have wireless headphones — so there is a silver lining to all of this distance learning.”



Student reading notes from notebook.

PHOTO BY OLADIMEJI AJEGBILE FROM PEXELS.COM

Public Election Forum

ASUWT election forum recap

A quick roundup of Maggo and Dennerlein statements and speaking with election chair Santiago.

By **LUCAS CASSOL**
NEWS REPORTER

On Oct. 15, ASUWT hosted an open forum for hopeful senators. The participants included candidates Jasmine Maggo for the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences and Teresa Dennerlein for the Milgard School of Business, and was moderated by Election Administration Chair Valeria Santiago and The Ledger’s Mitchell Fermo. Following the conclusion of the forum, Santiago offered a summary regarding the structure, as well as a recap and her overall thoughts of the event.

“The Public Election Forum is an event where candidates have the opportunity to answer questions and explain some of their goals for their position, but

also get an understanding of what kind of person they are,” Santiago said.

During the forum, the candidates presented their thoughts in one minute blocks, excluding opening and closing statements. Candidates touched on several aspects of campus life, what they would like to accomplish if elected and how they could ensure that the students they represent will have their voices heard.

“I think it’s really important for students’ voices to be heard and I think it’s important for students to know their voices are heard,” said Dennerlein during her opening statement. “I think those are different things. I think it’s really important to have transparency and accountability in any form of public or private governance because I feel it instills a sense

of trust.”

During the discussion, a question was raised to the hopeful senators about what one big issue they would want to focus on during their term. Maggo used this to touch on the campus’ closure along with the resources that students are currently unable to access.

“Because everything is online due to COVID, students aren’t getting the resources that they could at the campus like having someone to talk to,” Maggo said. “Going to a counsellor, going and having a one-on-one conversation with somebody apart from school.”

Another question posed during the forum was in relation to the ways in which the candidates would use their position to amplify student voices, especially those who are not being heard.

“My way of uplifting students’ voices is to make sure that I am listening to them and that I am actively creating an opportunity for people to come talk to me about their concerns,” said Dennerlein.

Maggo answered a question regarding ASUWT and how it can become more well known while also working to involve more students in the future.

“It starts with you. Tell your friends that they can run. Get to know why they don’t know about it, Maggo said. “Most students don’t realize they are ASUWT,”

While the candidate forum was only for students who successfully completed their candidate filing form, students who are still interested in running for a senate seat can still do so as a write-in candidate.

“In the closing of the forum our ASUWT advisor highlighted that al-

though ASUWT’s Candidate Filing Form closed, there is still a chance to participate in the election as a write-in candidate,” said Santiago

With 15 Senate positions up for election, ASUWT is highly encouraging interested students in running for a position.

“Noting that we must fill in the positions of the Senators, because the more students that are involved with ASUWT, the more it reflects the student body at UWT and can help address the current concerns on campus,” Santiago said.

Voting opens on Oct. 19 and closes the 25 at midnight. If there are any questions regarding voting or the writing in, go to the ASUWT elections page on the UWT website. If you would like to reach out directly, email asuwtac@uw.edu.

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What you need to know about the Learning Commons

A new cooperative endeavor between the Library, TLC and the CEI creates a new learning environment.

By LUKE DENUELLE
NEWS REPORTER

A new multi-department coalition has led to the creation of the Learning Commons: a collaborative endeavor between the Teaching and Learning Center, the UW Tacoma Library and the Center for Equity and Inclusion in attempts to merge all three under one large roof. Why? Well, according to Tim Bostelle, Dwayne Chambers, Justin Wadland and Hannah Wilson, there are a lot of reasons.

The Learning Commons envisions something that brings together three major areas of student engagement, hoping that by merging them together intersecting issues that may not be addressable by one department can be addressed by the whole. The effective goal can be understood as an attempt to delineate academic and social space, giving students the opportunity to engage with both other students and their teachers in a less formalised and rigorous environment, fostering a better relationship and thus a more personalised learning experience.

“Not all academic issues are academic,” said Chambers, the associate director of the Quantitative Center for the TLC. “For a student, it has to do with more than just their ability to perform in the classroom but also their ability to

belong. The CEI wanted to start a tutoring program ... why would they need to start a separate tutoring program where there is a TLC? Some of our underrepresented students were looking for mentoring and tutoring, which they had coming out of High School.”

This would have been otherwise unobtainable with the CEI or TLC on its own, but together they could create something that transcended either’s individual functions.

“Social support is not [the TLCs] area, it’s not what we’ve been designed to do,” Chambers continued, “It’s something that serves to happen when people gather together, but having the CEI right next to us blurs those lines in a wonderful way ... We’ve already seen this with the library, where ‘oh, I have no idea how to do this citation, well right up stairs is a bunch of citation experts. Having the CEI right there makes a library more than just a library.”

Chambers went on to say that the TLC has offered professors unique opportunities to learn about their students when hosting their office hours in this space. “They’ve gotten to find out about things about students such as ‘oh this is why it’s hard for me to tackle this subject because my high school experience was this’ or ‘this is my end goal, I wanna do this why i’m taking this math class even though i’m not interested in math.”



A view of campus and the Snoqualmie building, home of the TLC.

COURTESY OF TACOMA.UW.EDU

The library, too, hopes to see growth from the partnership, and Wadland is excited to both develop its space and function. Wadland, the interim director for the UWT Library, hopes to finally expand access, opening up its fourth floor to students — which previously had been storage space or gone unused.

“It has the best view on campus,” Wadland said. “So it makes sense to turn it over to students.”

By expanding its floor space, the library hopes to expand the role it plays on campus, where it can serve multiple functions.

“Libraries [are] not warehouses for books,” Wadland said.

The Learning Commons is excited to

explore the idea of a builder’s space, but the details have yet to be fully fleshed out. Many students were fond of the 3Dprinter which is accessible, but Bostelle, who is the head of Library Information Technology, envisions something with much more scope to be coupled with accredited course work, calling it a “non traditional builder’s space.”

Wilson, the access services manager for the library, pointed out that some students are commuting all the way from Oregon, which meant they would be unable to just visit the TLC if they needed assistance. However, with the advent of virtual tutoring, they can schedule a session at their discretion. This same flexibility extends to students

who may work long hours and not get off until after the TLC normally closed.

The COVID-19 pandemic has done a lot to expand the scope of the Learning Commons in a surprising turn of events to many who work there. Services that would have otherwise never been offered are potentially becoming a permanent installment of the TLC or Library, such as online tutoring. Online tutoring offers students and tutors much more flexibility in their ability to both provide and receive tutoring.

To set up an appointment visit the Learning Commons online hub at:
<https://bit.ly/355W1th>

DawgDen roles out a new rewards program

Students can earn Dawg Bones by participating in UWT-related events.

By MITCHELL FERMO
NEWS EDITOR

With the lack of events happening on the physical campus, Student Involvement and the DawgDen has rolled out a new program aimed at promoting virtual events and distanced involvement with the UW Tacoma campus. The program, called Dawg Bones, is officially out now and students who earn Dawg Bones garner chances to win prizes.

Assistant Director of Student Involvement Conor Leary has supervised the rollout of the new program. In doing so he has stated that he hopes that DawgDen can be a centralized source of involvement for students to see and engage with, and DawgBones is one answer that they are putting forth.

“We want students to know that we want them involved, even with a lot of our programs being virtual this quarter,” Leary said. “The big thing for me has been trying to push the idea of gathering all event information and involvement information on DawgDen a great deal more in order to give students that one-stop-shop for all things involvement ... Dawg Bones is an attentive-based pro-

gram that rewards you for going to programs, being a part of organization or experiences on DawgDen.”

Students can earn Dawg Bones through several means; they can enroll in a program, participate in a lecture-style event hosted by a UWT organization or even by dropping off food for The Pantry. Each way in which students earn Dawg Bones is different: some events might require simply signing in and attending the event while others might require students to fill out a reflection sheet of the event. Students can also earn Dawg Bones for every hour of civic engagement and service that they participate in. Events such as lectures or workshops will have students sign in, and the event organizer will report to DawgDen who was in attendance and thus who earns Dawg Bones.

Once students earn Dawg Bones, they will automatically be eligible to earn certain prizes based on how much they have collected. For instance, at 3,000 Dawg Bones students can earn a special Dawg Bones travel-size hand sanitizer. For every 100 Dawg Bones students will automatically be entered into a raffle for a travel mug and for every 500 bones stu-

dents are entered into a raffle for a chance to win a t-shirt.

“When students do reach those [prize] levels, our staff will work on coordinating with them if they can drop by the Student Center they can pick it up,” Leary said. “Or if they are at a great distance, we can mail it off to them.”

Another way in which students can participate to both earn Dawg Bones and be involved with the UWT community is by “experiences.” Experiences differ from online events that students can attend and instead focus on continual aspects of the campus, or aspects of the campus that happen throughout the year. Right now, for instance, students can participate in an experience where they submit a photo of themselves for a collage which will be put together to represent the normal “W” photo that is taken every year.

Leary hopes that with the inclusion of the Dawg Bones points and reward system, more students will look at DawgDen to become engaged with the campus as well as weave events into students’ busy schedules, even if it is at a distance.

“A part of the Dawg Bones’ mission [is] to make sure that UW Tacoma stu-



ILLUSTRATION BY LORE ZENT

Dawg Bones can be earned in many ways, from community leadership to attending virtual events, to even donating food for the Pantry.

dents are logging onto Dawgden and exploring the involvement opportunities that Registered Student Organizations — but also UW Tacoma resources and departments — add to the calendar of events,” Leary said. “We want to make DawgDen more of that informational

center where students turn to when they are looking for an event to attend or opportunity to take part in.”

Learn more on the DawgDen:
<https://bit.ly/31fp4cl>



ILLUSTRATION BY LORE ZENT

Everyone should feel safe at work

The issue of workplace sexual harassment was being swept under the rug until a recent case brought it back into the spotlight.

By MADI WILLIAMS
OPINION COLUMNIST

On Sept. 11, 2020 the TV show “20/20” aired the episode “I am Vanessa.” The episode spends two hours highlighting the story of an army soldier, Vanessa Guillen, who was stationed at Fort Hood when she went missing on April 22, 2020. Her body was later found on June 30. Even before Guillen’s disappearance, her family noticed a change in her behavior shortly after her arrival at Fort Hood; they knew something was off. Her family recalled the change in her eating habits — she was consuming less and rapidly losing weight — they also noted she was not her usual self and seemed sad all the time.

"The military has exceptionally high levels of workplace sexual harassment and is often used as a way to open conversation surrounding the issue."

Guillen’s mom recounted the time that Vanessa told her she was not enjoying her time on base later disclosing that she had been repeatedly sexually assaulted by a sergeant. Guillen explained that she had not reported the incident in fear of retribution or retaliation at work.

In the army you have to report up the chain of command and despite evidence of the assault, the unit commander is the one who ultimately decides if any action will be taken. There are a number of reasons why this incident could not have made it up the chain of command even if reported. For starters, if the assailant had been friends with others who are a part of the chain of command then there is most likely a slim chance that the report would even make it up to the unit commander. Or, something that happens far too often, the victim statements are ignored. So, nothing is done and the unit commander never hears about the report.

Guillen’s disappearance gained national attention after the hashtag #IAMVanessaGuillen went viral with the initial goal to help spread awareness of her disappearance. After her body was discovered there was a shift, the emphasis was now on the circum-

stances that lead to her murder.

Soon after, other survivors started coming out with their own stories of workplace sexual harassment. This not only showed the world how often this happens, but also that many members of the military report these incidents with no follow up nor an investigation. The military has exceptionally high levels of workplace sexual harassment and is often used as a way to open conversation surrounding the issue. Given this example, it is also important to realize this isn’t exclusive to military branches, it happens across all workplaces.

"1% of Americans have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace and 81% of sexual harassment victims are women."

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission defines sexual harassment as “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature . . . when this conduct explic-

itly or implicitly affects an individual’s employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual’s work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.”

If you are, or have been, in a situation where you feel uncomfortable by anyone in your workplace then it is important to recognize this as a form of workplace sexual harassment. These types of incidents are regularly overlooked because of its normalization in our society. Women in particular have to decide if they want to bring up a situation that happened or just forget it happened because they don’t want to be seen as being “dramatic.”

In an article from Health Careers, “22 Intriguing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Statistics,” a few of the statistics stood out to me: 21% of Americans have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace, 81% of sexual harassment victims are women, there was a 13.6% increase in sexual harassment complaints between 2017 and 2018 and 28% of victims don’t report the harassment to human resources or management, usually out of fear that nothing will be accomplished in doing so.

In order for things to change peo-

ple need to speak out, we need to create an environment where people are more comfortable reporting these incidents. All workplaces need to make it clear that they do not tolerate sexual harassment of any kind. There needs to be a system in place that makes it easy to not only report the assault, but also to make people feel as comfortable and safe as possible while recounting the experience.

"28% of victims don’t report the harassment to human resources or management."

Things are slowly changing and the way these situations are handled is improving. But there needs to be a push for this to happen quicker. Vanessa Guillen was a 20-year-old woman who wanted to serve her country, she had her entire life ahead of her but that was stolen from her. Instead of being here with her family she was assaulted and murdered. In order to make sure cases like Guillen’s do not continue to happen changes need to be made.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STATE GOVERNORS' NEGATIVE COLLECTION, 1949-1975, WASHINGTON STATE ARCHIVES

The Seattle Black Panther Party's armed demonstration outside of the capitol building in Olympia, Washington on February 28, 1969 to protest a gun-control bill.

Mutual aid: The importance of community defense

How the US government has systematically kept weapons out of the hands of minorities, and why the second amendment is especially important for marginalized communities.

By **ANDREA NADAL**
OPINION EDITOR

With a long history in marginalized communities, mutual aid can be understood as well as practiced in a variety of ways. When the system that was built off of your labor and exploitation leaves you behind, the community finds a way to survive; it is this need for survival, and a unique knowledge of the struggles within one's own community which informs mutual aid work. One of the most famous examples of a group that practiced this concept was The Black Panthers.

Incidentally, The Black Panther Party is not often thought of in this context. Oftentimes the discussion is centered around their armed demonstrations. This is by no means something I want to minimize, but rather I want to shift the context in which people consider these demonstrations. The Black Panther Party was revolutionary, militant, anti-fascist, anti-racist and anti-imperialist among other things.

These are the values that led them to create many of the community social programs they are known for. Building

off of the first program initiated which provided free breakfast for families in Oakland, eventually the party expanded to offer clothing distribution, classes on politics and economics, free medical clinics, lessons in self-defense and first aid, transportation to upstate prisons for family members of inmates, an emergency-response ambulance program, drug and alcohol rehabilitation along with testing for sickle-cell disease and HIV/AIDS.

Some of these models were even co-opted by the government and implemented nationwide — albeit less successfully and with more of a concern around profit than people. Nonetheless, to give credit where credit is due while recognizing what is before us, what we see today in schools with free breakfast and free or reduced lunch is thanks to the BPP. And without the model they created, we wouldn't have the dedicated ambulances we do today.

With the understanding created here, we return to the importance of firearms to the mission of The Black Panther Party. Community Defense is Mutual Aid.

The Black Panther Party's core practice at its founding was its open carry

armed citizens' patrols — which would later become known as copwatching. The goal of this practice was to monitor officers of the Oakland Police Department as they carried out their duties. This practice was effective in challenging the police brutality experienced by the community and ultimately worked as a means for the masses to hold officers accountable where the city had failed to do so.

These demonstrations did not go unnoticed. In 1967 the Mulford Act was proposed to undermine the power of the BPP; this bill would make the public carrying of loaded firearms illegal. In one of their most famous and powerful demonstrations, the BPP executed an armed protest of the bill, disrupting the assembly in progress. Following the demonstration, six would be arrested and would later plead guilty to misdemeanor charges of disrupting a legislative session.

The attempts by the government to undermine the power of the BPP and other radical groups went far deeper than a few misdemeanor arrests. COINTELPRO, short for Counterintelligence Program, was a series of covert projects conducted by the United States

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) aimed at surveilling, infiltrating, discrediting, and disrupting American political organizations.

This operation was bred from corruption and illegality. In 1969, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover described the Black Panther Party as "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country." It is clear what this meant, the BPP believed in radical change and they were willing to do whatever it took to make that change. That does not come easy, and those that are comfortable with the status quo will resist efforts such as these at every step.

Before the operation was finally terminated COINTELPRO had infiltrated a number of radical organizations and undermined their efforts.

The Black Panther Party was not alone in their radical thoughts and actions. There have been a number of powerful groups dedicated to mutual aid and community defense over the years with similar histories, tactics and goals for the liberation of their communities. Black Liberation Party and Afrikan New Resistance are two other Black-led groups while The

Brown Berets, Latin Kings, and Young Lords are Latinx-led organizations, and the American Indian Movement was an Indigenous-led group. Just to name a few.

Communities are stronger together, and this is the key to mutual aid. All of these groups were founded on that understanding. With what we are facing today, between the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing brutalization of communities of color by Police, we need this kind of radical action more than ever.

As the Black Lives Matter movement continues in many places around the country radical actions have been taken as protestors challenge our corrupt policing system. We have seen autonomous zones rise and fall, and people have learned to combat the terror tactics used by their local PD and Federal agents. The momentum that was felt during the initial weeks of this movement needs to continue. Organizing is a critical part of this. Find your strengths and reach out to local groups to see where you can lend yourself. Everyone has a part to play and every hand is integral to the dismantling of the system which oppresses us.

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Life is short, believe in yourself

Life is unexpectedly too short for waiting to do things we have been pondering on for a while, let's take the chance.

By **BENGISU CICEK**
OPINION COLUMNIST

Life is too short. We don't know when we could die nor in what situations, as each one could be our last. That being said, we should not live every second in fear.

Oftentimes we have a list of plans for the future, a bucket list of places we want to visit and experiences we want to have before it's all over. Sometimes we put these things off or wait until a certain event happens in our lives to do them. "I'll wait until I graduate and am one year into my job," "I will wait until I am accepted into this position," "I

want to earn this much until I travel" and many more of these thoughts that swirl in our heads.

These thoughts, while sometimes good for prioritizing the present, they also hold the capacity to overtake us; we doubt ourselves, think that we can't travel or try a new experience because we've not yet reached that stage of our lives.

We sometimes limit ourselves ... "When I graduate I will become this," "I will have this job by the end of this year," "I will earn this much at this age." We put a timestamp on life events that are supposed to come organically. These thoughts are normal but, sometimes, they

can be toxic. Life doesn't always work out the way we want to and that's okay because it turns us into a stronger version of ourselves.

In the age of this pandemic, we may be stressing or accepting more of the situation and how it may have put a constraint on our life plans. This pandemic has affected us and millions of people in unprecedented ways. People are learning day by day on how to safely work around this pandemic to still live a healthy and happy life. And we can too.

Only you know what's best for you. If you know what's important to prioritize right now without worrying about the future or stressing about the past, then

you know what's the best plan for your own life. This next year may be filled with unexpected events. We don't know what tomorrow nor the next hour, minute or second holds.

This pandemic may have made a lot of us realize the amount of time we have spent living in fear of taking chances due to the uncertainty of the outcome. Maybe we used to have a lot of distrust in ourselves in making the best decision or maybe we had too much trust in what we know the future might hold. Maybe that's why we turn down the many things that could have been opportunities.

But it's not too late. Yes, we don't

know what the future holds or what will take place in our lives in the next year. But what we do know is that we are living now in the present. We can make decisions based on our current situation and understand what we need to prioritize.

Take initiative. Start your new hornet in life by making a list of priorities that are most significant whether it be school, work, mental health, relationships or something else. This way you can know what the most important thing is to focus on rather than dwelling on an unpredictable future. Live and love your life to the fullest in the safest, most caring way possible.

Books for a horrifying Halloween

Chilling stories that are sure to keep your mind and heart racing.

By **MADELINE HILLER**
A&E EDITOR

We all know fall offers the best weather for bookworms. The rain, the clouds and the gloom create the perfect atmosphere to curl up with a cup of tea, a soft blanket and your favorite book. With Halloween right around the corner, here are some recommendations that will keep the spooky and gloomy vibe going.

"DRACULA" (1897): BRAM STOKER

Starting with some classic horror novels, you can never go wrong with "Dracula" by Bram Stoker. This 1897 book introduces the vampire Dracula who is trying to move to England from Transylvania to create new vampires. "Dracula" has been a Halloween classic for several years and is sure to give off spooky vibes.

"THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE" (1959): SHIRLEY JACKSON

Psychological horror novels have the ability to mess with your mind, causing them to be scarier. These stories often

involve an enemy that is never seen but only implied. One of the more popular ones is "The Haunting of Hill House" by Shirley Jackson. This is a story of four people — Dr. Montague, Theodora, Luke and Eleanor — who stay in Hill House to prove the existence of the paranormal. All of the unexplained events and noises go unseen and leave readers with questions of what is going on.

"PET SEMATARY" (1983): STEPHEN KING

If you're looking for thrilling horror books, or you really just don't feel like sleeping tonight, there are plenty of options available to fill your desire. "Pet Sematary" by Stephen King will definitely leave you with some uneasiness. This is a story about exactly what it sounds like: a cemetery full of pets. However, this cemetery is not all as it seems.

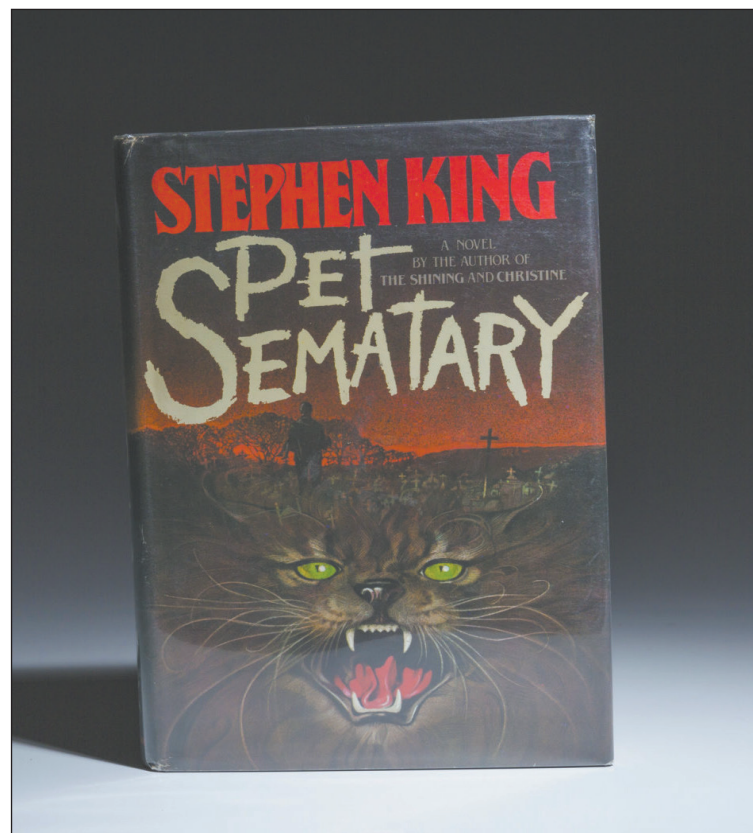
"SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK" (1981-1991): ALVIN SCHWARTZ

Another horror option perfect for Halloween night is "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark" by Alvin Schwartz. This is

a trilogy of books filled with short, horrifying stories that are great to tell your friends or traumatize your younger siblings. The stories in these books range from about two and a half to eight pages long and consist of a wide variety of topics and characters.

Many of these books have also been made into film adaptations. If you've had a long day riddled with homework and zoom classes, sometimes your brain just doesn't want to read words on a page. This is where the horror films come in handy. "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark" was released last year and is available to stream on Hulu, "The Haunting of Hill House" was turned into a series on Netflix, and "Pet Sematary" is available through Amazon Prime.

Horror books are definitely not in any shortage. There are so many sub-genres stemming from horror that provide something for everyone. From sheer horror to suspenseful thrillers, all of these stories are sure to keep the spooky spirts high.

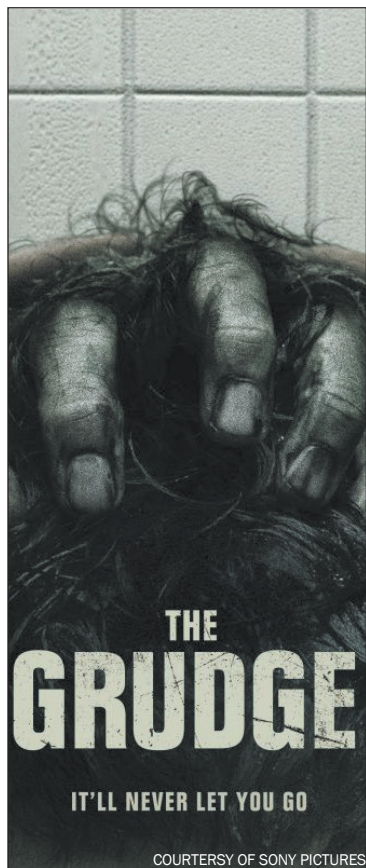


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Holding onto a grudge in this remake of “The Grudge”

The Grudge got another American remake, will this rendition be able to compare to the original franchise?

By HENRY NGUYEN
FILM CRITIC



The “Grudge” is a curse that is born when someone dies from immense grief. It then lingers and attaches to those who come in contact with it. It seems as though the curse has broken the fourth wall as it now has two remakes and three sequel movies since the original “Ju-On: The Grudge.”

This time set in a haunted house in small town America, this remake of “The Grudge” centers around a handful of people that fall victim to the house and its curse. The movie aims to give the franchise a thriller-based comeback.

This interpretation takes a more traditional storytelling approach with a few switch ups here and there. The main plot stars Andrea Riseborough as Detective Muldoon. She is in the middle of investigating a murder scene that has a connection to the haunted house. The house holds a deadly curse that passes it on to anyone who comes into contact with the house or its curse.

The film will go back in time at various points to show what took place in the haunted house that explains the events leading up to the

main storyline.

There are other side characters with their own short storylines sprinkled throughout the movie as well, including a realtor couple, played by John Cho and Betty Gilpin, that are in the process of preparing the house to be sold.

Before reviewing this movie, I took it upon myself to rewatch the original. The original is unbearably suspenseful and slow. This creates a great deal of dread behind every scene. The sound elements include eerie scratching and, of course, the infamous ‘death rattling’ noise iconic to the franchise.

Fans of the original will recognize that there is some semblance between the two that make it great. However, the film doesn’t build off of those existing elements to stand out on its own. While the iconic ‘death rattle’ sound effect that the characters hear is creepy, it’s not quite enough when moments later the scene gets interrupted by a cheap jump scare accompanied by a minor string chord. It comes off as cliché.

Although the jump scares are

cheap, the encounters with the ‘ghouls’ are pretty terrifying. The costumes and the makeup stay faithful to the original vision. Ghouls are disgustingly terrifying, which creates an enjoyable horror movie experience.

The chemistry between the on-screen actors is almost non-existent and feels as if characters have only known each other for a week. This is especially notable between the realtor couple as well as Detective Muldoon and her partner.

While the dialogue and scripting of this film is painstakingly weak and stale, the plot itself is rather straightforward, though it differs from the original’s vignette storytelling style.

When it comes down to surprising the audience while providing a compelling story, the film disappointingly misses the mark on both. Most “surprises” and plot reveals weren’t really surprises. Instead, scenes were predictable and dragged on longer than they should have.

All in all, there is nothing that stands out about this movie to prove it to be deserved of this full-fledged remake — to the point that it’s re-

markably boring and the only moments that really wake you up are the jump scares clumsily scattered throughout the movie.

If you are already a fan of the original movies, then I would recommend this because it provides a modern take and updated look to the franchise. However, I would definitely recommend watching the original 2002 or even the 2004 remake over this one.

The Grudge (2020) is now streaming on Hulu with a subscription.

REVIEW

The Grudge

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Good:

- The costumes and makeup are disgustingly horrifying and creepy
- Various callbacks to the original

The Bad:

- Dialogue is stale and is boring to watch
- Cheap Jumpscars
- Plot is too straightforward and fails to surprise

Seattle Storm win second WNBA championship in the last three years

Led by Sue Bird and Brianna Steward, the Seattle Storm clinched their fourth championship in dominating fashion over Las Vegas.

By BROOKS MOELLER
SPORTS COLUMNIST

The Seattle Storm capped off one of the most dominant postseason runs ever seen with a 92-59 win over the Las Vegas Aces to win their fourth championship overall and their second in the last three years.

The Storm was able to gain a nine-point lead heading into halftime but it wasn’t until the third quarter as they outscored their opponent 32-14 in the single quarter that their separation from Las Vegas became apparent.

Brianna Stewert led the scoring attack by the Storm by putting up 25 points on 10-14 shooting to go along with four rebounds. She was named the WNBA finals MVP following the game after averaging 28 points per game, including a dominant 37 point performance in game one of the series.

Going back to their last finals appearance in 2018, Stewart set a record by scoring 20 or more points in six straight finals games. This was her second time receiving the honor of finals MVP.

“I wanted to win a ring, that was the priority. Whatever else comes, comes,” Stewart said in her postgame interview.

Storm head coach Gary Kloppenburg had high praise of Stewart as well, especially following 2019 where she was sidelined for the entirety of the season after tearing her Achilles.

“She’s just one of those generational players that comes through once in a while that can face adversity and even get stronger because of it and

that’s what we saw of her,” Seattle coach Gary Kloppenburg said. “She missed a whole year and came back as a better player in every category on both sides of the ball. Testament to her work ethic and desire to be such a great player.”

Seattle sports great Sue Bird was able to finish her 19th season with her third championship. She has spent her entire career in Seattle and this past season cements her as a sports legend in the city.

Bird is still contributing in a very effective way, as well after averaging 11 assists per game in the finals.

“It doesn’t feel real we just won and that I was able to contribute the way I did,” said Bird. “Something when it’s all said and done that I’m incredibly proud of.”

Sue Bird did not give a concrete answer on whether she would be back next year for her 20th season.

“Interestingly enough, it’s never a day of decision. I just kind of start working out and see how I feel,” she said. “I wish I could give you more. If the way I feel right now, if I go through my offseason and continue to build on that in a good way I don’t see why I won’t be playing next summer.”

Besides the possibility of losing Bird, the Storm will return their core group of players who have now won a WNBA record 11 straight finals games. I do not want to jinx it, but this very well could be just the start of a dynasty in Seattle after showing that they are the top dogs of the league.



COURTESY OF SEATTLE STORM TWITTER

Led by Sue Bird and Brianna Steward, the Seattle Storm clinched their fourth championship in dominating fashion over Las Vegas.