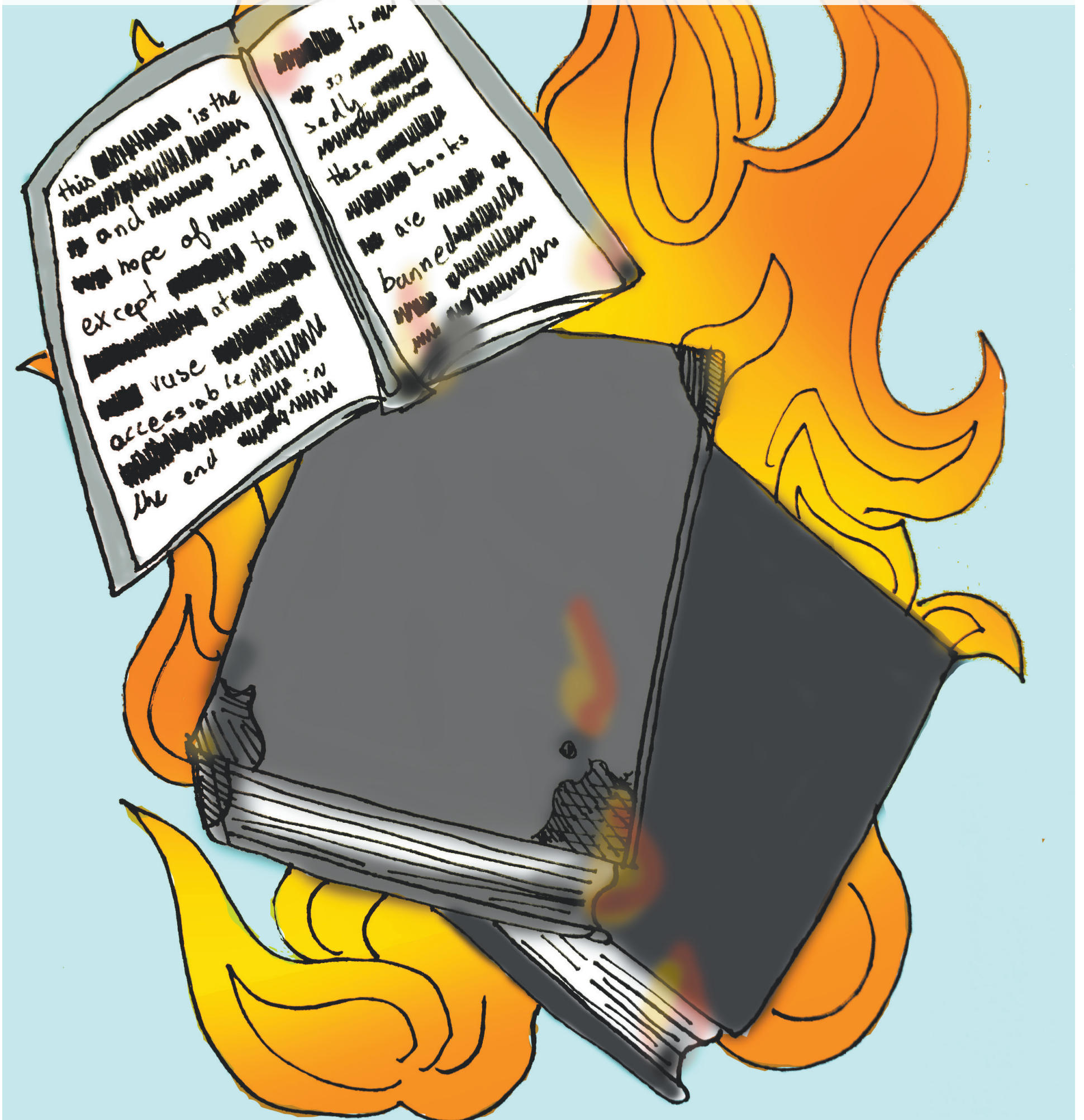


THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



READ ABOUT THE PERILS OF BOOK BANNING P.6

Chancellor Pagano to step down at end of the school year

UWT Chancellor Mark Pagano has cited family and meeting goals as reasons for stepping down.

By MITCHELL FERMO
NEWS EDITOR

Mark Pagano has officially announced his resignation from his role as chancellor of UW Tacoma. Planning to serve as chancellor until the start of fall 2021 — which is the expected date that UW will have selected a successor to the chancellorship — Pagano cited a few reasons as to why he is stepping down from his role, including both professional and personal reasons.

"I've had ... a positive career experience building UW Tacoma for the future ... I carried the baton forward. We made a lot of good steps forward. Things were hard, though. So, maybe it was time to hand the baton to somebody else."

For professional reasons, Pagano stated that he felt the founder's celebration back in August of this year was a high note to finish on. He further explained that after having reached their fundraiser's original goal of \$45 million, as well as the stretch goal total of \$55 million, he felt that it was a good time to step down.

"I'm a builder, I am an engineer," said Pagano, who has a doctorate in engineering science from the Southern University Illinois Carbondale. "I've had ... a positive career experience building UW Tacoma for the future ... I carried the baton forward. We made a lot of good steps forward. Things were hard, though. So, maybe it was time to hand the baton to somebody else."

Pagano also cited personal reasons for stepping down. He discussed his desire to spend more time with his family, especially his new grandchildren, as well as support his wife in her

career endeavors.

"I've had two grandkids since I became chancellor, and I haven't seen them nearly enough," Pagano said. "My wife is starting an EdD program. She has supported me as provost in Montana and as chancellor here, so I need to support her."

Finally, Pagano had one more reason for wanting to step down: as part of his resignation, he plans to join the faculty of the new UWT engineering programs. Pagano, who was a professor at Purdue University for 19 years, explained that he wanted to end his career the same way he started.

"I [would] kind of like to end my career as a professor," Pagano said. "Since I have got such a deep respect for our campus and our community, I can't think of anything better than ending that professorship here on our faculty at UWT."

Pagano explained that he had placed his resignation on Sept. 15 and decided now is the time for the formal release of the news. UW President Ana Marie Cauce fully disclosed Pagano's resignation on Oct. 19 in a newsletter, praising Pagano and his administration's efforts in improving UWT's local, national and global outreach and recognition.

"Mark guided the campus to carefully articulate its strategic vision," said

"I've had two grandkids since I became chancellor, and I haven't seen them nearly enough," Pagano said. "My wife is starting an EdD program. She has supported me as provost in Montana and as chancellor here, so I need to support her."

Cauce in her newsletter. "He advanced the campus' ties to the community, engaging with the leadership of the region through organizations such as South



Mark Pagano has served as chancellor of UW Tacoma since the start of March 2015. In his most recent town hall on Oct. 22, Pagano discussed his resignation.

Sound Together and the Executive Council for a Greater Tacoma. He strengthened relationships with partners at the city, county and state levels, and led the campus to the successful conclusion of a historic fundraising campaign."

Pagano will continue to serve the rest of the year as chancellor while a committee to find his replacement is underway. Pagano has expressed that he will be here to help the transition of the new chancellor if they so choose.

For now, however, Pagano has stated that he and his team have several goals

that they are still working on, and are acting quickly to complete those tasks. This includes hiring a new vice chancellor for Finance Administration, moving the campus through the budget reduction as asked by the state of Washington, continuing the work on the climate survey's response implementation and planning ways to help the campus rebound from COVID-19 once it is safe to open the campus back for all students, staff, faculty and classes.

When asked if he has had an overall positive experience with being the chan-

cellor of UWT, Pagano had this to say:

"Yes ... I have absolutely loved this experience ... I loved my previous job, and when you leave a job you love, you're always worried about coming to the next job. When I came to [this] job, [Me and my wife] fell in love with the town, the University of Washington, our campus. We were walking a foot off the ground ... with the experience. The work was difficult ... but it was a very positive experience for me. The most rewarding experience I've ever had in my career."

The Ledger

UWT's weekly student publication
Nov 2, 2020 | Vol. 25, Issue 7



thetacomaledger.com



facebook.com/uwtledger



@uwtledger



@uwtledger



ZOOM Office Hours:

Monday 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
and 12:00 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 11 a.m.
and 2:00 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
and 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday 9:00-10:30 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/93163233281>

Office: MAT 151

Phone: 253-692-4428

Email: ledger@uw.edu

Staff Writers

News ReporterOluwaseyi Faleke

News Reporter.....Lucas Cassol

News Reporter.....Luke Denuelle

Opinion ColumnistBengisu Incetas

Opinion ColumnistMadi Williams

A&E ColumnistLore Zent

Film Critic.....Henry Nguyen

Sports Columnist..... Brooks Moeller

Editors

Editor-in-Chief Talia Collett

Managing EditorAlyssandra Goss

News Editor Mitchell Fermo

Opinion Editor Andrea Nadal

A&E Editor..... Madeline Hiller

Copy Editor..... Elijah Freeman

Managers

Web Manager Morgan Morgans

Layout Manager..... Natalie Peyton

Distribution Manager..... Mitchell Fermo

Advertising Manager..... Elijah Freeman

Social Media Manager...Morgan Morgans

Art

Illustrator Lore Zent

Photographer..... Nickolus Patraszewski

Design

Page Designer.....Morgan Morgans

Page Designer.....Phong Ngyuen

Cover Art

by Lore Zent

Advisor

Publications Manager ... Daniel Nash

Lunch with Dean Bartlett gives students a chance to use their voice

Dean Anne Bartlett will sit down on Zoom every week to give students a chance to speak on any issues.

By **LUCAS CASSOL**
NEWS REPORTER

Thursday, Oct. 29 marked the first lunch with the Dean — the first of hopefully several upcoming weekly meetings where students can sit down with Dean Anne Bartlett to speak on anything. The Ledger tuned in and conversed with the dean over email. Our conversations ranged from getting to know each other to questions regarding the future of education.

“I am a super nerd, and I particularly love to look at historical artifacts and things that are typically considered ephemeral and weird that people haven’t paid much attention to...”

The Ledger asked the dean about her academic history and how she fell in love with her English major; studying the middle ages and women during that time.

“I am a super nerd, and I particularly love to look at historical artifacts and things that are typically considered ephemeral and weird that people haven’t paid much attention to,” Bartlett said. “As for my interest in the Middle Ages, I realized when I took a Chaucer class ... and then a medieval lit survey, that all of the representations of women that we were getting were either satirical ... or reverential,” she continued.

As her studies continued and this type of representation became apparent, Bartlett wanted to question why women were conveyed in this manner.

“When I started to ask about this I was told that medieval women were illiterate and didn’t read or write ... So I started to investigate along with a brilliant cohort of medieval feminist scholars in the late twentieth century,” she said.

Following the discussion of her personal education, we then spoke briefly over Zoom about online education. So, when we followed up over email about the opportunities it presents students today, Dean Bartlett had this to say;

“I’d like to make a couple of points here: the first is that what we’re doing now on campus is still largely ‘emergency remote instruction’ rather than true online education. This distinction is not in any way meant to critique

what the faculty are doing ... just to point out that true online learning takes a lot of preparation, effort, design expertise, and tech support to provide the kind of exciting and engaging learning experiences that rival the classroom experience,” she said.

She continued to touch on the potential additions online education could bring.

“That said, I am really excited about the ways that we can weave in what we’ve learned about online instruction into our face-to-face classes in the future. This could take several forms and meet several goals ... once we get out of pandemic mode,” she said. “There is lots of potential to be creative and to experiment. We can be virtual 24 hours a day — not that this is necessary or even healthy — but online education can give us more flexibility and accessibility as well as technological options.”

Finally, when asked about how lunch with the dean meetings might replace those lost interactions and moments of important yet candid conversations that are missed, Bartlett explained that the aim of these meetings was exactly that.

“There is lots of potential to be creative and to experiment. We can be virtual 24 hours a day — not that this is necessary or even healthy — but online education can give us more flexibility and accessibility as well as technological options.”

“In a way, I think you gave a wonderful answer to this question within the question itself — when we don’t have the opportunity to pass one another in the hallways and say ‘hey, what’s up,’ we risk feeling and getting isolated and losing our sense of community. And now, with all the fragmentation that’s going on in the world, we need to talk with and try to understand one another. There is more in the human community that draws us together than separates us.”

Lunch with the Dean will be held Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. and for the time being, will be hosted by Dean Anne Bartlett. While there aren’t any concrete plans, they are open to having other deans as guests in the future as well.



UWT Dean Anne Bartlett.

COURTESY OF SIAS DEPARTMENT AT UWTACOMA.EDU

Real life with RealLit

How RealLit is using fictional books to grapple with the very real experiences and emotions of students on campus.

By **LUKE DENUELLE**
NEWS REPORTER

As the Autumn quarter progresses, RealLit[erature]'s own Alaina Bull, Johanna Jacobson Kicciman and Nedralani Mailo discussed how their program is doing. Building on research that indicates reading fiction improves both social connectivity and empathy, the Real Lit[erature] Book Club aims to tackle sociopolitical discussions in a rare space where vulnerability is a choice.

The team spoke about the role this club plays on campus and how it can help campus members discuss important concepts. Here, one can speak fearing neither the pressure of being graded for what they say, nor any obligation to overexpose their own adverse experiences. That said, discussions have naturally taken a more personal and enriching turn during many sessions.

"People are willing to have those conversations when we create a space where it is no longer about you exposing yourself," says Bull. "It's about engaging with a narrative."

Material is largely chosen through a voting process. While the club is mainly focused around the student voice, staff and faculty members are also welcome. Many attend, allowing a less formal and more open dialogue with students to take place. The group

has also linked its programming with high school book clubs for certain sessions, and on occasion, even authors and mental health professionals have come to engage with dialogue.

Discussions are rich and often challenging, allowing for an uncommon exchange of information from many different perspectives. Members have the opportunity to listen deeply to the experiences of individuals from all different demographics while also being free to pitch in and add their own at any time. This, combined with the diversity of the turnout, has created a strong foundation for empathy and equality in the group.

Current events are a centerpiece of many discussions and are traversed according to community guidelines voted for by the group.

"What makes the space work is that it is intentional and fluid at the same time. We adapt to the needs of the current membership," Jacobson Kicciman recounts.

This has provided an environment for some uniquely emotional dialogues.

"They're some of the most powerful experiences I've had in higher ed," Kicciman continued. "I've been in higher ed for a really long time."

While in-person meetings have been postponed during this time, the club continues its streak through Zoom. In this way, it is more accessible

than ever. As an extension of its free and abstract approach to discussion, the group has agreed that participants do not need to activate their cameras during the meetings.

Dialogue begins centered around the book at hand, but always branches out into discussion of "realer" topics, hence the namesake. Bull believes that being able to divert some of the discussion onto a fictional soundboard helps people delve into topics they would ordinarily find difficult. This emotional deniability may be the secret to the group's openness and empathy.

"I think that's the beauty of fiction as a genre. When you're reading it, you have agreed to suspend disbelief," Bull said.

The blending with fictional works appears to go a long way when discovering narratives in the real world, familiar or otherwise.

Although Real Lit[erature] is a book club, it is sensitive to the fact that not everyone is fully comfortable with all of the material being explored. In other cases, they may be too busy to. Even those who were unable to read the book, or those who are new members, are welcome to involve themselves in the dialogue.

"We still invite them to come in and join in the conversations," Jacobson Kicciman said. "We try to provide a lot of entry points."

Individuals of RealLit can share



COURTESY OF REALIT

"The Hate you Give" by Angie Thomas, was a book RealLit[erature] read in the fall of 2018 and is one example of the types of books the group likes to read in teaching lessons on life.

their interpretations without being defined by them. Discussions highlight important differences in experience. At the same time, they cultivate a deeper understanding of the simi-

larities between readers. All things considered, Real Lit[erature] appears to be hard at work to create a context in which everyone can learn a thing or two.

Career Development and Education services at UWT

Information you need to know regarding the NUWC Division and UWT Career Development.



COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

Professional tips from the Career Development and Education department are coming soon.

By **OLUWASEYI FALEKE**
NEWS REPORTER

UW Tacoma's Career Development department continues to offer several events and job opportunities for students to take advantage of. In a recent event, Career Development along with The Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport, hosted a virtual all industries career fair on Oct. 14 and 15. The virtual event was created in order for the students at UWT to meet with recruiters as well as learn about various opportunities and openings available.

According to their website, the NUWC Division notes that they are "focused on developing and applying advanced technical capabilities to test, evaluate, field, and maintain undersea warfare systems and related defense assets. Our workforce of civilian federal government employees directly support the full spectrum of Navy undersea programs."

Their main goal, as stated on their Facebook page, is to attract and recruit diverse, top-talent at all levels.

Although the Ledger was unable to contact the NUWC Division to gain more information about the career fair, the UWT Career Development service is still open to all students.

Due to the classes at UWT being almost exclusively virtual, the Career Development and Education departments now provide virtual career resources to all students. The staff is available to answer questions by email during normal business hours.

"We've been working remotely since March, providing career fairs, coaching, workshops, discussion groups, and resources virtually," said Career Development. "Handshake has become even more useful and relevant now — students can find jobs, internships, volunteer opportunities, remote work, workshops and more — all on Handshake."

Students should know that appointments take place via Zoom and they can schedule for any career related questions Monday through Friday.

The Career Development and Education departments offer information on both career and volunteer opportu-

nities, tips for financial support and application reviews. They also provide resume and cover letter tips, mock interviews and information about the benefits of internships.

As stated on their website, "Career Development assists undergraduate, graduate students and alumni with developing, evaluating, and implementing career and educational decisions."

They equip employers that are interested in becoming involved with the UWT with resources to further engage students. They also supply services and resources for alumni and undocumented students. Individuals have the option to virtually meet with a Career Development Counselor if they choose.

Their goal is to support student endeavors toward a rewarding college experience and successful professional growth beyond UW Tacoma.

.....
If you are interested in meeting with a counselor or if you're curious about what the department has to offer, visit <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/career>
.....

What should we begin to look for in a life partner?

Marriage is the union of two people wishing to progress their relationship — but what does this mean in varying contexts?



ILLUSTRATION BY LORE ZENT

By BENGISU CICEK
OPINION COLUMNIST

Marriage has a different meaning for a lot of us. Around the world it has different meanings. This meaning is influenced by any number of things. Marriage could be defined by trust, commitment, teamwork, friendship, open mindedness, love and understanding. But is there a specific time for marriage? A place? An age? A reason? These are all questions that pop up when considering this special life-long occasion.

There are many facets to discuss given the nuanced topic of marriage, how it is perceived by others and what should be done before marriage. Many young children grow up hearing fairytales with a prince and princess getting married and living happily ever after — an idea that transcends childhood and influences marriage decisions later in life. But, marriage is no fairytale unless both sides put in the effort and time to ensure a successful union.

“There isn’t necessarily a best age to get married, but there definitely is a best time to get married. The best time to get married is when you feel com-

fortable and confident in your job and personal life. If you were to give yourself an exact age, you might find that you settle for whomever you’re with at that age,” said April Davis, the founder of LUMA Luxury Matchmaking.

Whether they be physical or personality traits, there are also numerous expectations that relate to the notion of a perfect partner. We build the concept of a perfect spouse in our minds. When people who enter and pass through our lives do not meet these expectations, we may lose hope. We ponder who our husband/wife/life partner will be and question when they will come. Some of us restrict ourselves by doing this, or we are too open.

When I say restrict, I mean that often we have an overwhelming amount of expectations, sometimes to the point that finding someone we deem perfect seems impossible. Through each person that enters and exits our lives we either think “Will I find someone like that again?” or “I hope I never meet someone like that again.” We add new rules in hopes of protecting ourselves and we put up more barriers to avoid heartbreak. This can be beneficial if the person was toxic and manipulative, but

sometimes too much protection can block ourselves from amazing people meant for us.

What I mean when I say we are too open is this: we get too tired of looking for the perfect one and instead we settle with what we already have. We may also think that the specific person we are infatuated by is the one and no one else could take their place. But this is dangerous — it can make us be accepting of red flags that they give off. We may start accepting their toxic behavior, thinking that we or a relationship could save it.

Oftentimes we face many constraints in our search for a life partner as well, and some of these constraints commonly stem from the communities we inhabit. For instance, people interjecting themselves or poking around in our business regarding who we should marry. Restrictions are placed on us. The person we are marrying is expected to be from the same culture, be a specific ethnicity, religion, age, hold a specific job or career and so many more. When we already have expectations of who we want to marry, this places an added layer of stress on something that should be

entirely up to us.

In my religion, Islam, marrying someone is as if you’ve completed half of your deen, or religion. I take the topic of marriage very seriously due to my religion, as I want to find someone who will bring me closer to Allah and Jannah while also being a good husband and best friend alongside me on this Dunya. It is important for me to have a husband who has a close and positive relationship with our religion while also possessing empathy, love, kindness, sincerity, loyalty and self-love.

We should always have and practice self-love first before seeking that love from someone else.

“People with low self-esteem tend to underestimate their partner’s love and view their partners in more negative terms, perhaps because they don’t believe that ‘a good person’ could love them. As a result, they tend to also report less satisfaction with their relationship and less optimism about its future,” said Dr. Juliana Breines, a social and health psychologist.

When you love yourself you’re less likely to doubt yourself, you’re able to make the right decision evaluating who will be the best spouse to spend your life

with. You’re able to attract people with the same positive energy you give off. All of which will lead to a healthy marriage.

Oftentimes, we might judge someone by first glance and pay too much attention to detail. We might want someone who has a specific body shape, facial features, height, hair, ethnicity, etc. while not paying attention to the person themselves. In the end, aren’t we all just souls living inside of a meat shell?

It’s okay to be attracted to specific physical features such as height, beards and hair, but we need to keep in mind that physical beauty is temporary. What’s most important is inner beauty, personality, positive energy and the love a person radiates and sends your way. What matters is how much you laugh with them, the intimacy you share and how much you care for each other. You both need to understand each other and be ready to make sacrifices.

We need a life partner that will help us grow and help ourselves become a better us every day. This world is big, and to be able to be with the one we love, travel with them, practice self-love, grow, cry, love, laugh and live is one of the best feelings in the world.

Why banning books is problematic

Forbidding something like books only raises curiosity and in turn makes those books more sought after.

By **MADDI WILLIAMS**
OPINION COLUMNIST

TRIGGER WARNING: story includes rape.

Hearing the words “banned books” makes me think there is something about a book that is making people think alternatively about what is going on in the world, or it can make people realize something about themselves. A few of these tales that come to mind are “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury, “1984” and “Animal Farm” by George Orwell, “Lord of the Flies” by William Golding, “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” by Mark Twain and “The Scarlet Letter” by Nathaniel Hawthorn.

When considering the plot and subject matter of many of these books, the reasons they made the list may become easy to distinguish. The characters in these either challenge an oppressive government and shed light on race issues or the books contains sexual content and bring up topics such as abortion and adultery — which many religious institutions take issue with.

Many people argue that banning these books doesn’t make any sense, but this is because they are looking at these thematic elements in today’s world. If you historically place yourself when the books were published the

reasoning behind the first banning is illuminated by the societal norms of the time period. Yet, several of these works show up on the banned book list time and time again.

Today some people still have issues with some of these books. For example, “The Scarlet Letter,” which was published in 1852, was banned soon after publication because it contains sinful situations and conflicts with communities that feel it does not align with their values — the biggest one being adultery. This argument for banning still stands in particular communities today that hold their beliefs close to their hearts.

A list of books that were banned in 2019 included “The Handmaid’s Tale” by Margeret Atwood, “The Harry Potter Series” by JK Rowling, “I Am Jazz” by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, “Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teen Speaks Out” by Susan Kukin and a few others. Sharing common themes, these books deal with issues surrounding the LGBTQIA+ community, bodily autonomy and reproductive rights.

The continued trend I see with these books is the urge to question what society has instilled in us from a young age. Many of these make people feel uncomfortable because of the ways in which the

narratives oppose certain religious beliefs. For example, considering witchcraft is a main aspect of the series, the well known series “Harry Potter” has been banned. Other themes that make people feel uncomfortable largely due to religious beliefs is content containing elements of sexuality, suicide and rape.

Banning books is problematic. Taking away works of literature robs children of the ability to learn and fails to allow them to take what they learn into the real world. It is important to teach young kids about diversity and different life experiences. Literature that veers from what we know helps us to learn about, understand and discuss difficult topics that are seen as taboo.

The fact that banning books is still happening now is absurd to me. That people are still trying to control what can and cannot be read because the theme makes them uncomfortable. These books have so much to offer and the necessary ideas that can be learned from these books are being ripped away. Banning these narratives fails to open the important conversations the authors aimed to highlight. The themes in these books deserve to be explored, they call attention to issues that are timeless and the experiences found within them are valuable.

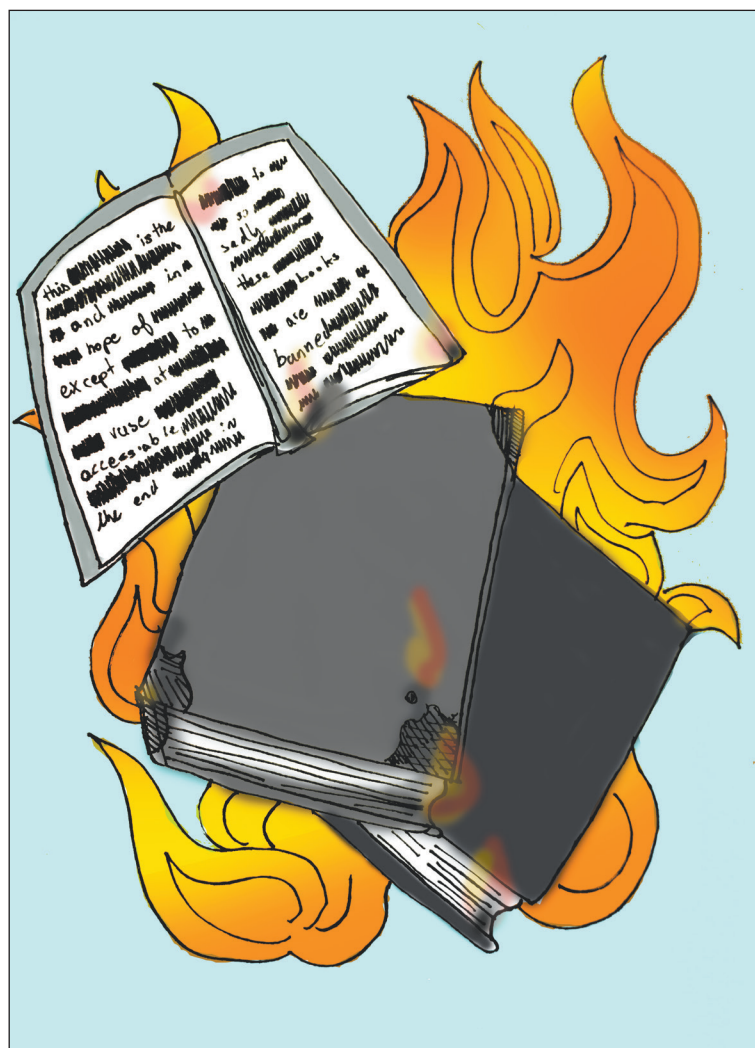


ILLUSTRATION BY LORE ZENT

We find our voice in collective power, not at the ballot box

Why not voting is a valid political decision.

By **ANDREA NADAL**
OPINION EDITOR

I’m tired of hearing the recycled narrative surrounding the importance of certain voices when election time rolls back around. How much Black, Latinx, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, women, or young peoples’ votes matter, and how underrepresented we are in the voting block.

I am tired of hearing how we are so important to swing the votes in favor of the democrats, as though a blue vote will save those of us with marginalized identities. Because rather than considering why we are underrepresented and looking to better serve our various communities, they simply demand we turn out in fear of the alternative. They wave the atrocities of the other side in our faces and act like they aren’t offering a diet version of that same suffering.

In a Zine entitled “Voting is Not Harm Reduction, An Indigenous Perspective” from Indigenous Action, they explain “We don’t dismiss the reality that, on the scale of U.S. settler-colonial violence, even the slightest degree of harm can mean life or death for those most vulnerable. What we assert here is that the entire notion of ‘voting as harm reduction’ obscures and perpetu-

ates settler-colonial violence, there is nothing ‘less harmful’ about it, and there are more effective ways to intervene in its violences.”

Often the narrative of “harm reduction” is used to enforce the belief that our votes are where our power stems from. That by not voting you are somehow at fault for all of the suffering that is to come, that you have laid down your weapons in the fight against oppression. Voting is not the drastic political move you think it is. Voting is not radical and it does not generate change in any significant way. There is bound to be mass suffering under both parties.

Voting doesn’t do anything for our communities. It merely helps uphold the system. This is why it receives so much attention, so much praise and so many fundraisers and educational campaigns. And whenever democrats win, they celebrate us for helping them maintain the system that oppresses us.

As Indigenous Action states, it is important to recognize that “under colonial occupation, all power operates through violence. There is absolutely nothing ‘less harmful’ about participating in and perpetuating the political power of occupying forces. Voting won’t undue settler colonialism, white supremacy, hetero-

patriarchy, or capitalism. Voting is not a strategy for decolonization.” Both sides uphold these violent systems of power, it doesn’t matter if they are red or blue.

They will still build the pipelines through sacred Indigenous land and pollute the rivers. They will still drop bombs on the middle east and murder innocent people for oil. They will still lock undocumented peoples in cages for seeking a better life. They will still be complicit in the murder of Black and brown peoples at the hands of the police. And they will still use that very same militarized police force to terrorize those that oppose the system, beating, gassing and shooting them in the streets.

Radical change will never come from a system designed to maintain your oppression nor from a system that thrives off of your suffering. Indigenous Action elaborates that “while the harm reduction sentiment may be sincere, even hard-won marginal reforms gained through popular support can be just as easily reversed by the stroke of a politician’s pen. If vot-



ARTWORK BY ANDREA NADAL

ing is the democratic participation in our own oppression, voting as harm reduction is a politics that keeps us at the mercy of our oppressors.”

If you decide to vote, that’s fine. But any ballot cast must be done so with the recognition that it is a passive act. Voting is not radical and there will be no change to the system through an act that is sanctioned by that system. A vote for anyone or for no one is meaningless if you do not take action to further your cause.

Direct action and mass organizing

are the most powerful and effective ways we can create change. We must be subversive and deny the system the control it thinks it has on us. Our voice is not granted to us through voting. We already have it. The system does not need to give it to us, nor will it ever. Recognize the power we have for change and break out of the system that does not serve us.

They want you to be comfortable in your oppression. Don’t be. Now is not the time for passive anything, this era demands action.

The police officer who cried wolf in “The Wolf of Snow Hollow”

A police officer struggles to solve a string of murders in a small mountain town.



COURTESY OF UNITED ARTISTS RELEASING

Officers discuss plans before *The Wolf* makes his next move.

By **HENRY NGUYEN**
Film Critic

Writing, directing and starring in your own movie is no easy task. However, Jim Cummings seems to be onto something here because his newest movie, “The Wolf of Snow Hollow,” is a brilliantly crafted murder mystery that puts a new twist on the ‘cops solving murders’ narrative.

How often do cops actually solve murder cases? Does toxic masculinity get in the way of doing what you’re

supposed to be? This and many other controversial questions are the focal point of “The Wolf in Snow Hollow.” With a timely release to streaming services, this film brings comedy as well as thriller and horror to your home screens.

The movie begins with a couple on a romantic getaway. After a brief altercation in a bar, the couple heads back to their cabin. When the boyfriend goes into the bathroom to clean up, he hears a shrieking noise and finds his girlfriend laying on the snowy ground,

ripped apart.

Meanwhile, officer John Marshall is attending an AA meeting. He finds out about the murder not too long after and takes the lead on the investigation. After a couple of days go by with a murderer yet to be apprehended, civil unrest stirs the town and people start fearing for their lives. This puts extra pressure on John to solve the case while he struggles with alcoholism, his failing marriage and a rebellious daughter.

Comedy and horror are two genres that usually don’t mix. Ordinarily, the

comedy gets in the way of the chilling atmosphere. The comedy in this film is essentially dark humor. Most of the time, you’re laughing at the main character’s misery while sympathizing with him at the same time. It is through this dark humor that the audience is able to learn more about the main character and recognize his flaws as our main protagonist. This approach can be found in similar movies like “*Fargo*” and “*Office Space*,” where the humor is driven by cause and effect and the subsequent pain of characters.

The tense moments are never lost in this movie either. As the film progresses, officer John Marshall’s blight begins to worsen as the town grows increasingly restless with a murderer on the loose. This generates tension and leaves the audience questioning who is going to be murdered next.

Stacked on top of this tension are beautiful shots by cinematographer Natalie Kingston. Kingston makes great use of setting and composition to show off the best parts of the town with each surrounding.

While the humorous elements did not muddle the simultaneous elements of horror, the movie stressed me out more than it scared me — which tends to put off certain viewers

who are looking for a more traditional horror experience.

The acting itself leaves a bit to be desired as well. Officer Marshall’s disposition is emotional and stressed out. However, there are moments where Cummings is clearly overreacting and it comes off as awkward. Moments like these left me unconvinced and confused as to whether I should be laughing or not. While it’s possible these moments are intended to be a style of dark humor, the clumsy acting makes it difficult to properly identify.

The themes in the movie itself are unclear. It clearly takes a stance that calls on cops needing to do better, however, this theme quickly moves onto something — which for the sake of spoilers I won’t say — conflicts with this overall theme. So, the thematic elements are sometimes left up to the audience to interpret.

If you’re looking for a more traditional horror movie experience that takes itself seriously, then perhaps you should look elsewhere. If you’re looking for a movie that is beautifully filmed and you’re open to something new, then I would suggest checking this one out.

“The Wolf of Snow Hollow” is now available to purchase on multiple streaming platforms.

REVIEW

The Wolf of Snow Hollow

★★★★★

The Good:

- Comedy elements don’t get in the way of the horror elements
- Has very tense and thrilling moments
- Gorgeous shots utilize the setting very well

The Bad:

- Parts of the plot falls into several clichés
- Acting is awkward at times
- Themes are unclear

Not just a game: VR as a tool for health

Although Virtual Reality is largely known for its contributions to gaming, it has proven to be a powerful tool for the mental health sector as well.

By **LORE ZENT**
Opinion Columnist

TRIGGER WARNING: story includes rape.

Virtual Reality, widely known as a gamer’s toy, is proving a beneficial, therapeutic tool in the healthcare sector. Virtual Reality Therapy uses visual immersion techniques to create an artificial experience to diagnose and treat psychological conditions.

The University of Bradley states, “VR can help to modify behaviors, thoughts and emotions through virtual experiences designed for and adapted to the person’s needs in order to facilitate and enhance the process of change.”

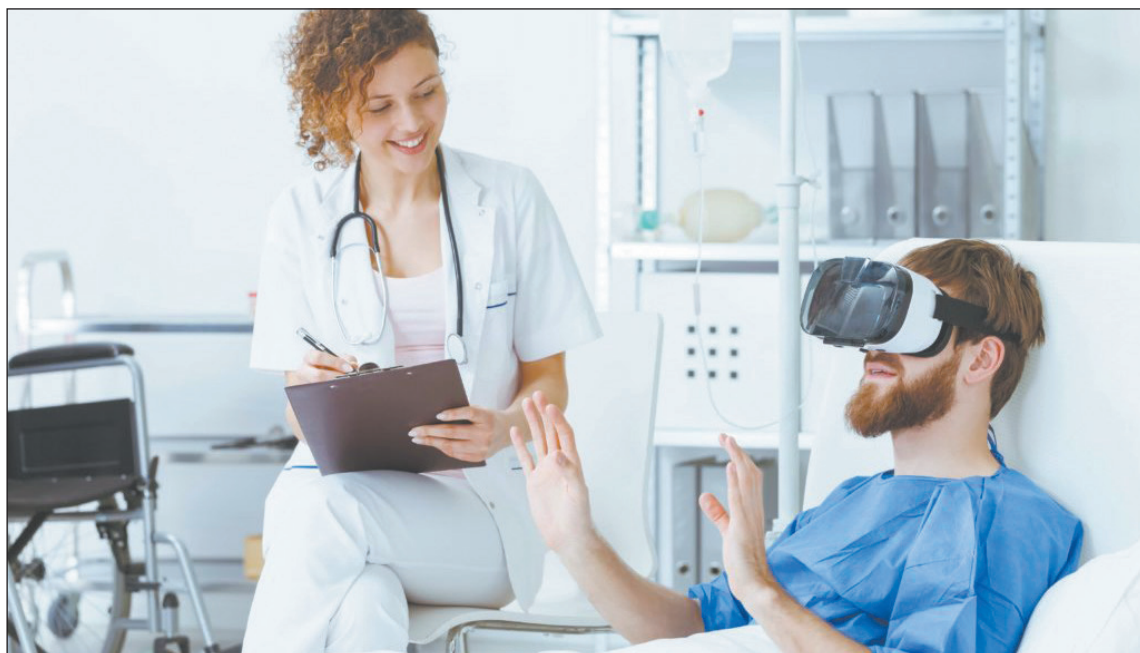
Computer-generated environments can be programmed to be highly specific in order to help people directly confront feared situations or locations that in real life may not be safe to approach. Some examples of phobias that have been aided through VRET include fear of flying, heights, driving, claustrophobia, spiders, rape and social anxiety.

At this time, VRET studies have mostly examined PTSD Vietnam veterans. The Journal of Traumatic Stress by Rohbaum et. Al reports

through VR, soldiers are immersed in a virtual environment that replicates similar imagery — such as jungles or helicopters — that they have come into contact with during combat. These studies found that VRET soldiers experienced a reduction of PTSD symptoms.

VR has also been proven to be of assistance via remote health appointments to patients who suffer from body image disorders. According to studies conducted at the University of Kent, England, traditionally in face-to-face treatments called “Mirror Exposure” body image patients have to confront their reflections. However, through a VR environment, participants instead are confronted with a virtual avatar they have customized to match their body. Participants are asked to examine each part of the avatar’s body and perform virtual adjustments to provide a rendering of their perceptions of self and their emotions associated with those images which enables a visually-based discussion with their therapist.

VR can also prove advantageous by manipulating the visual image of the care provider. This is due to the



COURTESY OF AIIXR.ORG

Mental Health patients find that VR-based exposure therapy helps alleviate their symptoms.

fact that the appearance of the therapist can affect the patient’s willingness to communicate. In a study for Computers in Human Behavior Volume 105, it was demonstrated that a therapist using a cartoonish avatar to present themselves created more openness between the patient and

caretaker. Whereas a caretaker avatar in realistic human form inflicted a sense of judgment from the perspective of the patient. By removing this sense of judgment, it allows patients to engage and embrace medical advice more readily.

VR is proving to be a new tool with-

in the healthcare community that reaches far beyond the imagination of the gamers who originally saw the benefits of this immersive device. Given the current pandemic, VR and healthcare may cultivate a valuable partnership providing safe and effective means to assist patients without the risks of real life exposure.

UW football season preview

The Huskies field one of their most talented teams but will be extremely inexperienced in 2020.
How will they fare over the course of the season?

By **BROOKS MOELLER**
SPORT COLUMNIST

If you told me that the Husky football season would be starting in the fall a few months ago, I would have called you crazy. But here we are and the Huskies will begin their season in just five days where they will open on the road versus the California Golden Bears.

The Huskies bring an inexperienced team to the field, including fielding a new quarterback, but based on recruiting ratings of players, is also one of its most talented teams we have seen in recent years. Each game will be a battle. I want to give my insight on each and provide my final record prediction for the year.

WEEK 1: CALIFORNIA

As they've continuously been a team that gives our offense fits, the Huskies are currently on a two-game losing streak against California. California brings back a stacked defense as well as one of the best quarterbacks in the

conference, Chase Garbers — who is also the older brother of Husky freshman quarterback, Ethan Garbers.

This game worries me considering the Huskies will be fielding an inexperienced starting quarterback versus what might be the best defense in the conference. As much as it hurts me to say this, especially with the game being in Berkley, I see them dropping the week one matchup.

CAL 23
UW 13

WEEK 2: OREGON STATE

After a tough week one draw, the Huskies received a more favorable matchup at home versus a rising Oregon State team coached by former UW offensive coordinator Johnathan Smith. Coming off a five win season, which was their best since 2014, the Beavers will be led by their defense as well as their new quarterback. I see the Huskies taking care of business in their first game back in Husky Stadium.

UW 27
OSU 7

WEEK 3: ARIZONA

Arizona is predicted by most experts to finish last in the conference. They will still field a few talented players, but I see no issue in this home game for the Huskies and hope this will be the game that the offense finds their stride.

UW 42

ZONA 17

WEEK 4: WASHINGTON STATE

Usually the Apple Cup would conclude the regular season, but this year it will be the week four matchup. Since the Mike Leach era has come to an end in Pullman, this sadly won't be a guaranteed win. This will be more of a rebuilding year for the Cougs. They will face struggles so the Apple Cup will stay in Seattle.

UW 31

WSU 21

WEEK 5: STANFORD

The Huskies have won two straight games versus Stanford at home. Stanford, who was once one of the premier programs in the conference, has fallen

off a bit but this is most likely their best team in three years. UW will be rolling and will take care of business on senior night.

UW 24

STANFORD 16

WEEK 6: OREGON

Destiny has revealed itself as it just so happens that the most important and impactful game of the year will take place in the final week of the regular season. After winning two straight games the Huskies have now lost two straight versus their hated rival. Despite losing their star quarterback, Justin Herbert, and being in the process of almost completely rebuilding their offensive line, the Ducks will return most of their dominant defense.

The odds will be in favor of Oregon, and this game will most likely determine the Pac-12 North champion with a game to the championship on the line. This might be a biased pick, but I can never pick Oregon over UW, and if the Huskies find a consis-

tent offense, I see no reason why they shouldn't be able to win this game.

UW 27

OREGON 24

With a regular season record of 5-1, and as long as California loses at least two games, this will be good enough for the Huskies to earn a spot in the Pac-12 championship with a New Year's six-game berth on the line.

If it isn't obvious already, the Huskies strength will be their defense and the majority of their wins will be dependent on holding their opponents to under 20 points. But, if one of the quarterbacks can step up and play at an elite level, the talent on this offense has never been better and can easily be a team that can score upwards of 30 points per game.

With success this season, UW will be in a prime position to take a step to the next level in 2021 and compete for a spot in the college football playoff. However, don't look directly ahead yet considering there is a lot to be excited for in 2020 with this Husky squad.



Senior running back Sean McGrew carries the ball in the Huskies' intersquad scrimmage on Oct. 24. McGrew is expected to be a big contributor to the Husky offense.

COURTESY OF UW TWITTER