

# THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

**VETERANS DAY:**  
**HONORING ALL STUDENTS AND**  
**FACULTY WHO HAVE SERVED**



# Journalist advocates for Americans to protect Rojavan democratic system

Former New York Times author continues father’s legacy while raising awareness of Kurdish democracy.

By **MADELINE HILLER**  
NEWS REPORTER

Rojava is a small, Kurdish area in northeastern Syria and is also known as The Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria. Rojava is known for their Kurdish democratic system. Debbie Bookchin, former writer for The New York Times, spent six months in Rojava, and is now focused on how Americans can learn from them. Her lecture “What Will Happen to Rojava?” that was presented Nov. 1 also elaborated on how to defend what Rojava stands for.

“What I’m hoping you take away from this is a sense that all of these issues — climate change, feminism, racism, et cetera — are directly relevant to what’s going on in the middle east,” Bookchin said.

Bookchin explained that a lot of

what Rojava believes in is empowering women. While Rojava has a senate, they also have a separate senate that is comprised of only females. Rojava is not the only Kurdish city with this. Most, if not all, Kurdish cities make sure all locals feel empowered by having a female only council along with regular councils.

Kurdistan, a region that spans across Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria, contains a population of around 38 million people. Thirty million Kurds live in Turkey, about six million in Iran and Iraq and about 2.5 million in Syria.

Bookchin’s father, Murray Bookchin, was an author and philosopher based in New York who founded the theory of social ecology. He wrote many books relating to ecology, urbanization and anarchy, and later was very involved with The Kurdish Project.

The Kurdish Project was made for people to connect and learn about Kurdistan. Their mission is to serve as a gateway for non-Kurdish people to discover, learn, and connect with Kurdish people and culture. They accomplish this by sharing stories and providing news about the Kurdish region, according to their mission statement.

Bookchin mentioned that Rojava’s political style is different than ours and shared a video of her late father making the same point.

“We need an economy that supports cooperation, not competition,” Murray Bookchin said in the recording.

Both Bookchins are advocating for a need to develop a new kind of politics, and that the Kurdish and Rojavan model is where American can find a solution.

“Rojava is a place that I hope we can find solidarity,” Bookchin said.



## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ROJAVA?

A guest lecture by Debbie Bookchin

JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR DEBBIE BOOKCHIN, WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE AUTONOMOUS KURDISH-LED REGION KNOWN AS ROJAVA, WILL TALK ABOUT WHY IT IS CRITICAL TO DEFEND THIS FEMINIST, ECOLOGICAL, DEMOCRATIC PROJECT FROM THE ONGOING TURKISH INVASION AND HOW IDEAS OF SOCIAL ECOLOGY HAVE INFLUENCED THE KURDISH FREEDOM MOVEMENT. DEBBIE IS ALSO ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ROJAVA. SHE HAS REPORTED FOR A VARIETY OF HIGH-PROFILE PUBLICATIONS, AND HER INITIAL REPORT FROM ROJAVA APPEARED IN THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS IN APRIL THIS YEAR.



COURTESY OF POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## Huskies in the hallway:

COMPILED AND PHOTOS BY MITCHELL FERMO

## Is grad school necessary, and why?



Duku Wani  
Sophomore  
Undeclared

“It really depends. If you want to further your education, sure. If you’re fine with where you are at now, then it isn’t necessary.”



Ruba Shahbin  
Junior  
Politics, Philosophy and Economics

“Depends on the field you go into. Some fields are more competitive than others. Some require more knowledge, too. But, if you can find a way to get experience without going to grad school, then go for it.”



Theresa Walters  
Junior  
Politics, Philosophy and Economics

“I would say that it’s only necessary depending on to do in the long term. If you want to go into medical, law, politics, et cetera, then it is definitely necessary.”



Efren Lopez  
Junior  
Healthcare Leadership

“I feel like it depends on the type of person you are. If you want to, go do it. But, it’s not always necessary.”



Jegan Selvaraj  
Graduate Student  
Business Analytics

“It is to specialize in any field you’re interested in rather than just a general education. If you’re really focused on one study, then you might as well get your masters in it.”

### The Ledger

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Friday: 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

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# ASUWT mid-quarter update

ASUWT is moving forward with several student-focused programs and plans for the 2019-2020 academic year. Plans include a health education program for flu season, a more visible crosswalk at 21st and C street, and a food truckpilot program for introducing more food options on campus.

By MITCHELL FERMO  
News Editor

Starting next quarter, UW Tacoma will have food trucks on campus. Food trucks have been one of the main focuses of this year's student government, and ASUWT President Vincent Da stated that he is excited that all of the paperwork for bringing food trucks onto campus is done.

"Last spring, one of the things that people wanted was to have better expansion of the Pantry and also other additional food sources here," Da said. "So, one way I thought about it was food trucks. If you look at other campuses like UW Bothell and UW Seattle, they both have it. And what's one thing that brings community together? It's food."

Food trucks have been brought on campus in the past, but not within

recent years. Da, who ran part of his presidential campaign on bringing more food options to campus, said that the final part to incorporating food trucks onto campus is getting student feedback as to what they would like to see around campus. ASUWT's plan is to send out a survey to the student body that will be open for the next month to gather feedback and decide what preliminary trucks can be brought onto campus.

"It's fairly straightforward," Da said. "The only thing is, we need student voice. We want to do as much student outreach as we can narrow down the food trucks."

Da noted that neither student government nor the administration want to bring food trucks of cuisines which can already be found on Pacific Avenue. Rather, their hope is to increase the diversity of food options for students.

In addition to bringing food trucks

on campus, members of ASUWT have several other plans in the works to help improve campus life. One such program is the Husky Closet project. Headed by Milgard School of Business Senator Drew Dunston, Husky Closet looks to provide business clothing to students who might not otherwise have them or be able to afford them.

"The main thing that pushed me to pursue it was some data that Mine [Her] showed me," Dunston said. "The data highlights how lack of accessibility to clothes directly impacts students' ability to get jobs. The data shows that students will even avoid interviews because they cannot afford the proper attire."

Currently, the Milgard School of Business does not have the room to store such items. However, there have been talks with other campus organizations offering their spaces in the meantime, such as the VIBE center

located within the Veteran's Resource Office in TLB 307. The program is expected to open some time next quarter, and has already received their first donation.

Another initiative is enhancing and supporting the sophomore student experience. Da stated that freshmen and seniors are often the center of a lot of support programs, but support for sophomores often drops off during the transition months.

"Our undeclared senators, Seonhwa [Pak] and Sydney [Horen], are working on the sophomore experience," Da said. "What they plan to do is have focus groups so they can actually address what problems they specifically have. They're working with the Pack Advisors on that because the Pack Advisors do have direct communications with first year students, transfer students and the student's from the year before last on their com-

munication list."

Nursing and Healthcare Senator Tran Dang's current project is expanding the accessibility of hand sanitizer dispensaries around high volume areas of campus.

Chancellor Mark Pagano and ASUWT will also be working together to host a town hall on Nov. 25 specifically for students to attend. The town hall will focus on the cutbacks current academic departments are facing and why certain classes — which some students need to graduate on time — suddenly became unavailable.

"One of the issues in [Chancellor Pagano] was budget transparency," Da stated. "Students spoke about how some of their classes were being canceled and they needed that class to actually graduate on time. And the reason these classes were being re-scheduled was because of budget issues, but the students weren't notified until the day of or a week before."

FALL INITIATIVES	REMARKS	OTHER INITIATIVES	STATUS LEGEND
ASUWT Committee Week	93 Students signed up to serve on various committees on campus	Sophomore experience	<div>COMPLETED</div>
KOZ Micro Affordable Housing	2nd Unit is opening Jan. 2, 75 units are allocated for UWT	Husky Closet	<div></div>
Food Truck Pilot Program	Gather student feedback on types of food trucks	"Give Me A Pizza Your Mind"	<div>IN PROGRESS; ON TRACK FOR COMPLETETION</div>
21st & C Street Crosswalk	Follow-up meeting scheduled with City of Tacoma; October 24	Expansion of female hygiene products to more bathrooms	<div></div>
Health Education Campaign	Planning health educational campaign for flu season and also mobile health kits	Graduate Representation on ASUWT	<div>PLANNING &amp; DRAFT PHASE</div>
		Student retention - Husky Hangout	<div>FUTURE PLAN</div>



# Center of Service and Leadership suffers budget cuts

Reduced funding to Student Resources results in less opportunities on campus.

By LAUREN ZENT  
News Reporter

Last year, departments around the university were tasked with reevaluating their budgets and to offer cuts. The Center for Service and Leadership was one program that was a recipient of the cuts. This resulted in their LEADership Challenge program being completely cut, as well as halving the salary and time of Paul Prociv, the CSL's now-former Civic Engagement Specialist and staff advisor.

"Personally I've been crazy stressed," stated Prociv. "Even though I worked half time, I worked more than that to make sure that the students were supported adequately. It's frustrating to not

be able to support the amount students need for development, professional development. Frustrating that student activities can't get the attention they need — as well about 40% less attendance than the previous year, due to half time and securing community partners."

Students within the CSL expressed their sadness and disappointment at the changes happening within the program. Nicholas Roberts, CSL Student Lead and sophomore in Computer Science and Systems, talked about how they are struggling as students are taking on more work.

"There is more work," Roberts said. "The question was raised in our meeting if we can handle 19.5 hours, up from the 15 hours we are doing now.

The more we do, the more [it seems] the budget gets cut."

The CSL focuses on community outreach and allows students to engage with their communities through volunteering. They work to develop a positive community and believe that, through the work between students and community members, students will have the chance to learn and better themselves with unique opportunities, according to their mission statement.

"We had so many new ideas how to build onto these programs," Nicole Nichols, CSL Student Leader Senior in Social Welfare stated. "I thought of so many since spring, but how are we able to do that if we don't have the resources to. If this CSL is gone,

it will be a huge loss to UWT," Nichols explained that the CSL helps to support student activities on campus, and that this cut is severely limiting their ability to keep that student retention.

"If students make connections with others, it helps encourage them to keep coming and creating relationships," Nichols said. "It's even proven to help [a student's] GPA in some cases."

The cuts also affected their summer training and development for the five student leader positions in the CSL, as well.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services Menthia Hynes-Wilson, who was tasked with offering department cuts at 1.5%, 3.5%, and 4.5%, discussed the impact Prociv had

within the department.

"We're sorry to see him go," Hynes-Wilson said. "Paul's been a part of this team for quite some years. The CSL has been his — he nurtured it. You know, it was his idea. He brought it forward, he got funding and has put in place some really well-attended programs."

Prociv argued that by cutting and limiting the resources of the CSL, then the campus is not sufficiently preparing its student leaders for the working world.

"Education is not preparation for life, but life itself," Prociv said, quoting one of his favorite educators John Dewey. "I fear that if we are not embodying that, [then] we are setting up our students for failure and the exploitation of life."

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT	ACTUAL 2018- 2019	PROPOSED 2020 REDUCTIONS	PROPOSED REQUESTS	PROPOSED 2019-20 BUDGET	% REDUCTION
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE	\$949,904	\$(283,874)	\$58,000	\$734,029	-24.0%
EQUITY AND INCL.	\$461,070		\$27,503	\$488,572	6.0%
STRATEGY & ASSESS.	\$542,604	\$(58,733)		\$483,871	-10.8%
COM. PARTNERSHIPS	\$242,190		\$75,544	\$317,734	31.2%
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION	\$7,913,771	\$(857,900)	\$334,42	\$7,390,299	-6.6%
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (ADMIN)	\$5,688,303	\$(375,248)	\$321,865	\$5,634,920	-0.9%
STUDENT AFFAIRS	\$5,350,087	\$(269,945)	\$123,470	\$5,203,612	-2.7%
ADVANCEMENT	\$2,373,919	\$(79,489)	\$17,824	\$2,312,154	-2.6%
INFORMATION TECH	\$2,834,306	\$(120,812)	\$133,717	\$2,847,212	0.5%
TOTAL ALL	\$26,345,153	\$(2,045,011)	\$1,092,251	\$25,392,403	-3.6%

INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE CHANCELOR'S OFFICE

## Something ‘Click’ed: A tale of two ISP’s



By Sean Arent

The Tacoma City Council meeting of November 5, 2019 was filled with passionate testimony, including the surplussing of Click network.

While public comment is open to anything on the agenda, everyone was talking about Click. There were two items pertaining to the network on the agenda: the first being the surplus of the systems excess capacity and related equipment, and the other being the execution of the business agreement with Rainier Connect. Advocates of public broadband spoke about how important they felt it was, helping ratepayers, controlling prices, and preserving net neutrality. Click customers spoke about the great service they've received, the affordability, and sense of ownership. Mitchell Shook, owner of Advanced Streams and rival of Rainier Connect spoke about his disdain for the entire process, claimed that they were gifting taxpayer money, and that Click

had never been audited. The president of Rainier Connect, Brian Haynes, was the only person to speak in favor of the deal in a procession of 20–30 people.

The thing being lost here is the operation of the network, Click cable. As it turns out, the internet portion of the network is already being leased by two companies, Rainier Connect and Advanced Streams. The cable television was owned by the network. A majority of the network is unused. Thinking of the network as a highway that the city owns, a few lanes are rented to Rainier, a few to Advanced Streams, and one was operated by Click. The new deal rents out the full network to Rainier Connect.

So what led the city to pursue this deal? More people are ditching cable entirely for streaming services. Large competitors are able to bundle services. The network hasn't upgraded at all since its construction, so the

costs of deferred maintenance amounted to around 50 million dollars the city didn't have. This led the city to explore two options, "all-in" which means assuming full operation as well as ownership, or the public-private partnership that they ultimately settled on. The all-in option, which several other councilmembers preferred required large amounts of capital to upgrade the network as well as build out the capacity. All-in meant kicking out the private companies leasing the network and assuming all the profits and risk. The city hired a consultant and explored two options, getting the funds from Tacoma Public Utilities, or the city's general fund. State law prohibited the city to fund it through TPU, and the city feared the cuts they would have to make if they used the general fund.

The city council and board members of Tacoma Public Utilities set 12 policy goals for an agreement with a

private company. These included subsidized rates for low income customers, the preservation of net neutrality, and consistent financial investment in the upgrading of the network. The lease is set for 40 years, to be renewed every decade. If the terms of the agreement are violated, the city can retake operation of the network. The city approached 12 different service providers about the proposed partnership, and eventually narrowed it down to two, Rainier Connect and Advanced Streams.

The city made a move today that was a compromise to preserve a system. Many Click employees lost their jobs, and consumers will have to be wary of predatory contracts and potentially increased rates, but there is a binding agreement and an upgraded system coming to Tacoma. Public internet is not dead in Tacoma, only delayed, and this is not the end for Click.



# 3 reasons to consider a gap year before grad school

Learn why grad school is an option not a necessity for success.

By **CHRISTIAN BELL**  
OPINION EDITOR

**S**ocial Media: It's okay to wait for grad school.

There comes a time in every college student's life when we must consider our "what's next." As the last quarter of my senior year comes to a close, I find myself questioned about my "what's next" more frequently. Though the possibilities for life after college are endless, I can't help but notice the pressure for students to immediately apply for grad school.

Don't get me wrong — graduate school does have benefits. For many, it is an opportunity to further delve into their field of study, develop skills and possibly make more money. For example, The National Association of Colleges and Employers found graduate students with a computer science major had a starting salary \$14,000 higher than students with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

However, these salary increases do not apply for every field, nor should they be the sole reason one pursues a masters degree. As I will further explain, grad school is a huge investment of time and money. It is not a decision that should be taken lightly nor should students feel pressured to attend right away. Here are a few reasons why one

might want to take a gap year before entering grad school.

## GET FINANCIALLY SECURE

A study from the College Board found in 2017, the average cumulative student debt balance for graduates of public four-year universities was \$26,900. Though it is possible to defer ones loans, debt doesn't just magically disappear. It will be waiting for you when you complete grad school and if you have to take out more loans during that time it might be bigger. Please, don't bury yourself in a hole of debt. Grad school should not be used to escape your financial responsibilities. Consider using a gap year to work on decreasing some of your debt. Find a side hustle like selling baked goods or dog walking to supplement your main job. Try finding a job that offers tuition assistance. If your job doesn't do this, you might be able to convince them if you can present a well-constructed argument.

## GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE

My mother attended grad school right after college and often recounts how intimidating it was being the youngest and least experienced of her cohort in grad school. If you take some time to work — even if only for a year — in your field you may feel more confident in what you have to bring to the table in grad school. Many employers seek employees who

have educational background. In fact, one study from Georgetown University, found 65% of jobs in our economy will require both post secondary education and training after high-school. However, work experience is just as important. For example, In 2012, a survey conducted by the Chronicle of Higher Education and American Public Media's Market-Place questioned 50,000 employers. Participants placed more weight on experience via internships and employment vs. academic credentials when evaluating a recent graduate for employment. The survey also found thirty-one percent of employers believed applicants were unprepared or very unprepared for their job search. Don't be unprepared — gain the experience now.

## TAKE TIME TO FIND YOURSELF

Grad school is not the place you want to experiment with your interests. A huge shift in your major at this point of your college career, can cost you more money and time. You can save yourself a lot of stress if you take a gap year to find what your goals and interests are. Working a job — even if it's not your dream job — can help you discover your

interests and possibly alter your graduate plans. Perhaps use this time to take a trip and expand your

horizons. Maybe you'll find a grad school you'd rather attend out of state or out of the country. Use this time to find what your goals are, what you are interested in and if it's even worth it to attend grad school. Remember, grad school is an option, not a necessity for success and the choice is ultimately yours — not anyone else's.

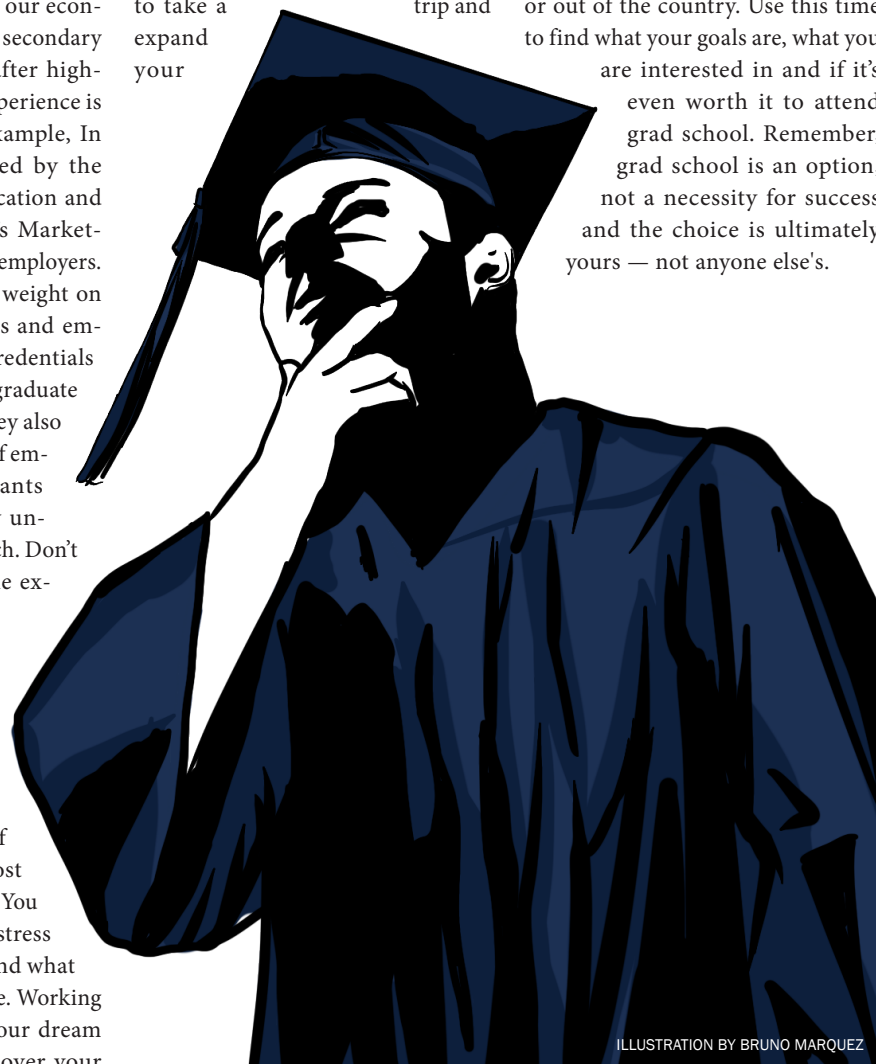


ILLUSTRATION BY BRUNO MARQUEZ

# The ocean is acidifying — what you need to know

The declining pH of Earth's water sources is a menacing reality.

By **ALYSSANDRA GOSS**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Discussions about rising carbon dioxide levels typically evolve into conversations concerning global temperatures and melting polar ice caps. While these are causes of concern, there is another niche to anthropogenic climate change that is rarely considered.

Ocean acidification — the perpetual decrease in the pH of Earth's oceans — is an unfortunate externality to excess CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

There is a complex scientific jargon that explains how OA occurs, but — for the sake of simplicity — it can be described as a chemical reaction between seawater and CO<sub>2</sub>. As a result of this reaction, carbonic acid forms which then reduces the overall water source pH.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, the ocean absorbs 26 percent of CO<sub>2</sub> added to the atmosphere as a result of human activity. UNESCO further explained how this annual increase will — unfortunate-

ly — negatively impact coral reefs, plankton, and shelled organisms.

For instance, the shells of certain marine organisms disintegrate from a lower pH, and calcium carbonate — a necessary shell-building component — becomes unsaturated amongst the carbonic acid. Without these materials, shelled organisms are prone to failure and premature death.

The failure for shellfish to develop

may seem like an "ocean-only" problem, but the reality is that these organisms heavily impact us land-dwellers, as well.

Specifically, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association produced the findings of a nationwide study regarding the impact of OA on the U.S. shellfish industry. The results displayed a series of OA hotspots — including the Pacific Northwest.

NOAA further explained how more

than a billion individuals rely on fish and shellfish — including fishermen in Puget Sound. Approximately 10 years ago, local Tacoma fisheries struggled with declining oyster populations — since young oysters are unable to thrive against OA, the shellfish industry nearly collapsed.

Whether it be a career choice, for food supply, or both, a large portion of the earth's population relies on a healthy

oceanic ecosystem. Not only are marine animals suffering, but we are, as well.

Fortunately, the Washington State Department of Ecology is conducting research on OA effects in local waters. This research includes the Salish Sea Model — a computer tool that simulates the water quality of the Salish Sea — which has been beneficial in assessing possible OA solutions. While data is still being collected, it is a crucial step toward proper water quality managing techniques.

It is crucial to understand that as CO<sub>2</sub> levels rise, so does the incidence of dangerous climate change situations. One of several potential externalities of human activity is OA, and it is crucial we remain vigilant of how it develops over the years — especially as UNESCO warns that ocean acidity could rise 150 percent by 2100.

As land creatures, it can be difficult to assess the damage an acidic ocean poses on ecosystems and — inevitably — ourselves. However, in an effort to support our global and local fisheries, as well as protect marine life, we need to become aware of OA impacts.



ILLUSTRATION BY BRUNO MARQUEZ



# Rojava: a wakeup call to years of terror

The truth behind the Rojava conflict.

By **BENGISU INCETAS**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

The Kurdish people are an ethnic group situated primarily in different regions of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and surrounding countries. They have a long and unique history of hardships faced in different lands and their culture is something held dear to them. Kurds who live in these different countries all have a variety of cultures built off of their surroundings, all distinctive from one another.

The practiced religion most popular amongst Kurds is Islam — most of which is from the Sunni sector. The Kurdish language is broken up into three main dialects, which are Sorani, Kurmanji and Kellhurri. For Kurds living in the different Kurdish populated regions, they have also attained the languages Arabic, Turkish, Persian and other dialects and branches.

**"...innocent civilians are being killed, and clashes with the Turkish government and PKK result in the deaths of innocent Kurdish and Turkish civilians..."**

The history of the Kurds is very important to be aware of, as there are many Kurdish historical figures who've had a big impact in the world, and within the establishment of different states. As we look into the early Ottoman Empire times, long before its collapse and leaders, it is known that the Kurds, Turks, Arabs, Laz, Chechens, Armenians, Greeks, Jews, Christians, Muslims and people from various backgrounds lived together on the same land in peace. Everyone respected each other's beliefs and saw treated each other as family.

According to Aaron Howard from the Jewish Herald-Voice regarding a book by Karen Barkey, he states, "The Ottomans ruled more by integration and incorporation of 'the best available' of their minorities. Most nation-states, she [Barkey] said, are more interested in separating and restricting their minorities."

Speaking on the perspective of Turkish Kurds, they reside in multiple Kurdish villages in cities such as Diyarbakir, Mardin, Van, Sirnak and many others around the country. Unfortunately, Kurdish culture and language was not able to be spoken and practiced publically in Turkey, as the Turkish Constitution recognizes solely Turkish to be the country's official language. Many were persecuted and rejected for even speaking Kurdish or being affiliated with anything to do with it.

The president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has imposed strict regulations within Turkey since the 2016 military coup attempt. Many acknowledge his regime as authoritarian

and dictatorial. "Based on a string of emergency decrees passed since July 2015, scores of Kurdish media organizations, associations, language schools, and cultural institutions have been shut down," said Constanze Letsch on The Nation.

The Turkish government has been dealing with conflicts and clashes with PKK, the Kurdistan Workers Party, recognized as a terrorist group by the US, EU, NATO and Turkey. This group's supposed intent is to create an autonomous and independent Kurdish state. As PKK has inflicted many terror attacks in Turkey, the consequences were faced by innocent Kurdish, Turkish and many other innocent civilians.

Abdullah Ocalan, is the founder of PKK, and his ideology is built from Marxist-Leninism including Murray Bookchin's communalism. He is currently detained in Imrali island prison since 1999.

30,000 Turkish soldiers and civilians have died in PKK's clashes since 1984 according to Daniel DeFraia on PRI.

"The PKK soon became known for its ruthless killings, though it was in 1984, when they began staging attacks from Iraq, that their military action really began," said DeFraia.

According to The Guardian and BBC News, about 40,000 innocent civilians have been killed from PKK's inflicted terror.

For example, a while back I was in Kizilay,

**"This conflict is absolutely not something we should take sides on, the only side that should exist is human."**

walking down the street with my aunt shopping for her wedding. Policemen rushed past me with tear gas immediately filling the air and citizens rushing into nearby stores. My aunt covered my face so it would not have an effect on me. Mostly each time I was in Kizilay during my stay, police would be spread all over the area, news would flash on the t.v. showing tanks going to the Syrian border, and we would have to avoid travel due to the ongoing bomb threats.

According to The Guardian, on their article "Turkey terror attack: mourning after scores killed in Ankara blasts," the following year in 2016, a peace rally against clashes with the Turkish government and the PKK was targeted, and 95 people

were killed with 250 wounded.

What is happening now in Rojava is that innocent civilians are being killed, and clashes with the Turkish government and PKK result in the deaths of innocent Kurdish and Turkish civilians, including many other ethnic groups living within those areas.

This conflict is absolutely not something we should take sides on, the only side that should exist is human. There are villages that both Turks and Kurds live within peace together that are the target of this eruption of violence.

When spreading awareness on the matter, it is essential that it must be acknowledged that

humans of all ethnic backgrounds are paying the consequence of these corrupted politics. It's not the fighting, groups, organizations, governments and leaders that people should be on the sides of, but the villages and towns families reside in.

People affiliate their culture and identity with this conflict, but the reality is that this separates people more when they mix it with politics. It does not matter if you're a Turk, Kurd, Arab, Persian — what matters is that you're hand in hand with your brother, showing the corrupted mindsets that want to separate us that we are stronger than ever, together.



ILLUSTRATION BY BRUNO MARQUEZ

**30,000 TURKISH SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS HAVE DIED IN PKK'S CLASHES SINCE 1984**



# Luke Combs headlines the Tacoma Dome

In his debut arena tour, Luke Combs brought a house party feel to the Tacoma Dome.

By MEGHAN RAND & MAYA THOMAS  
A&E EDITOR & WEB MANAGER/PAGE DESIGNER

How often have you been to a concert where the performer kicked things off by shotgunning a beer in two seconds flat? For Luke Combs fans, this is the norm.

On November 2, Combs headlined the Tacoma Dome in his 'Beer Never Broke My Heart' tour. This tour is the multi-platinum artist's first time headlining an arena tour. His crowd at the Tacoma Dome was the largest so far of the tour, with over 20,000 excited fans.

To open the concert, Combs performed his smash hit "When It Rains It Pours." Following were songs such as the tour's namesake "Beer Never Broke My Heart," the love song "Beautiful Crazy," and the newly released single, "What You See is What You Get".

Combs' career already boasts several impressive feats and broken records. His debut album 'This One's For You' has spent 37 consecutive weeks at the No. 1 spot of the Bill-

board Country Albums chart, 16 of those being in 2018, and the most of any album in a calendar year. The lead single "Beer Never Broke My Heart" debuted at No. 2 of the Billboard Country Streaming songs chart, setting a record for the best first week of streaming ever for a country song. There are countless others, including a record for all five songs on his newly released EP "The Prequel" being on Billboard's Hot Country Songs Top 25 — a feat that has not been accomplished since the legend Johnny Cash in 1959.

Between paying a nod to the early 2000s country era of storytelling and love ballads, shotgunning beers, and sharing drinks with audience members, Combs made sure to take time to explain the sentiment behind each song that he performed. With a whiplash inducing rise to fame, Combs expressed ample gratitude.

The concert had a house party vibe, truly reflecting Combs' country roots and down-to-earth personality. He faked his exit by heading off stage towards the end of the concert. When fans began to file out of the arena, he returned to keep playing, closing the

show with the song "Hurricane". Then, at the very end, he signed fans' items on stage.

Combs stormed onto the country music scene and immediately took it by storm. His music is enjoyed by young fans, and older ones that appreciate his nod towards country's classic roots, without being overly pop-based.

Combs' brand new album, 'What You See is What You Get' came out on November 8, and features famous group Brooks & Dunn.



COURTESY OF SEATGEEK.COM

Luke Combs' new album 'What You See is What You Get' released on November 8.



PHOTO BY MAYA THOMAS

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COURTESY OF TACOMA LITTLE THEATER

## TLT's 'Evil Dead the Musical' and what to expect during this next season

The Tacoma Little Theater does a wide range of shows that cater to many different audiences interests.

By MADI WILLIAMS  
A&E COLUMNIST

The horror flick "Evil Dead" originally came out in the 1980s. Now, many find it laughable due to the cheesy acting, lowkey jump scares, and the concept of what 'horror' was in the 80s compared to the standard now. The film was remade in 2013 — this version really giving audiences the true horror feel. Then, along came "Evil Dead the Musical," which pondered some questions about what the musical was really going to be about — notably, if it was going to follow the 80s theme, or the 2013 theme. After walking out of the show, audiences and fans alike were pleased that it followed the original storyline. The plot of the show is four teenagers go to a cabin that is possessed long with the woods surrounding the cabin. Slowly everyone turns into a demon except for Ash who turned into the demon slayer saving the world from the Kandarian demons.

Since the performance was a musical, that meant it was going to be full of songs, and the songs in this show brought on the 80s cringe worthy feel that made the musical just as

funny. The lovesong between Ash and Linda about meeting each other at the S-Mart, the songs the demons would sing, even some characters had catchy tunes just to introduce themselves. Not only was the music helping give a feel for the 80s, but the character tropes really helped as well. They had the main character being the hero, the nerd, the provocative woman, the corny stud, and the stereotypical party pooper. All of these characters play off of each other in good and bad ways, and with the 80s feel they were going for, it made the musical funny. As the show went on, part of the audience was in the 'Splash Zone' meaning that when someone died in the show, part of the audience got sprayed with fake blood. This should have brought gore to the experience, but it just made the whole auditorium laugh even more.

The second act of the show became more cheesy as the show went on, with characters talking about themselves in the "spotlight" and having more of an interaction with the audience, which was comical, but the switch between the two acts was kind of a shock, but all in all it was a fun experience.

The Tacoma Little Theater has many other shows for their up and coming season:

### HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Dec. 6–Dec. 29 Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays 2:00 p.m. Added performances on Dec. 29 at 7:30 p.m. and pay what you can on Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

### TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Dec. 14–Dec. 28. Saturday Dec. 14, 21, 28 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 18 at 7:00 p.m. Sunday Dec. 22 at 6:00 p.m.

### SHATTERING

Jan. 24–Feb. 9. Friday and Saturdays 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Pay what you can Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

### A CHORUS LINE

March 6–March 29. Friday and Saturdays 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Pay what you can March 19 at 7:30 p.m.

### TERMS OF ENDEARMENT

April 24–May 10. Friday and Saturdays 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Pay what you can May 7 at 7:30 p.m.

### THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

June 5–June 21. Friday and Saturdays 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Pay what you can June 18 at 7:30 p.m.



# 'Doctor Sleep' unfortunately lives up to its name

'The Shining' sequel opens a bunch of boxes filled with copycats and confusion.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHER STUDIOS

Ewan McGregor stars as Danny Torrence, who is a sleep inducing janitor in a sleep inducing movie.

By **ANDREW BROWN**  
FILM CRITIC

Stanley Kubrick is rolling in his grave. Fans of the Stephen King novel "The Shining," can fairly bash Kubrick's adaptation for not being entirely faithful. However, Kubrick knew how to adapt a book into a film, throwing out what didn't work and adjusting for the new medium. The faults of the long anticipated cinematic follow-up "Doctor Sleep" — and there are many — are largely the faults of its source material, and King's own inability to grasp why the original story worked in the first place.

Soon after the events of "The Shining," young Danny Torrence is still haunted by evil spirits from the Overlook Hotel. A visit from good spirit Dick Hallorann shows him how to lock those demons away in his mind, yet in adulthood — a role played by Ewan McGregor — he resorts to booze to keep his psychic shine ability away. But his life is thrown out of balance when found by the teenage girl Abra — played by Kyliegh Curran — who can also shine, and is hunted by a cult led by Rosie — played by Rebecca Ferguson. The cult kills people like them to feed their own immortality.

Bad decisions are all over this movie, and the easiest to one point out is that it expands upon the lore in the earlier film poorly. A group of creeps roam America finding children who 'shine' and kills them — absorbing their dying essence like a hookah pipe. This allows them to extend their lifespans. Apparently, nobody noticed that the numerous cases of disappearing children around the country were

always accompanied by the immediate arrival and departure of a gigantic train of mobile homes.

Kubrick rightfully kept a mystery who might also have this weird psychic ability. Here the movie — presumably — follows King's novel, and expands upon that idea in an explicitly supernatural direction. This removes any mystery to the shine power, and cheapens the atmosphere established in Kubrick's version.

But don't think director Mike Flanagan hasn't seen "The Shining." The film on multiple occasions goes out of its way to redundantly reference it, often to the point of distraction. Maybe he should have used more of that screen time making the villains threatening. They could have gone after people who put up a fight instead of defenseless children.

Even when you get past the leisurely paced first 90 minutes of the movie, the action set pieces sag just as much. This is further handicapped by the laughable special effects. When the villains get killed, they turn into bad CGI skeletons, which look nothing short of embarrassing. It's actually reminiscent of those cheesy Stephen King adaptations like "Creepshow," "Children of the Corn," or those low-budget tv adaptations like "The Langoliers" or "The Tommyknockers."

The closest the movie comes to any competency is when director Flanagan goes trippy, as displayed in a cosmically themed scene where Rosie jumps into Abra's mind from thousands of miles away. There's also the inevitable return to the Overlook Hotel in the final act, which is lovingly recreated in decayed form.

But these moments are few and

far in between, the latter being another exercise in shameless mining for the audience's nostalgia. I wouldn't be surprised if the film was greenlit based on that last section alone, because it only exists to exploit all the recognizable imagery from the original movie. The cast does their best — with the notable exception of an overacting Emily Alyn Lind — but the script is just so tepid.

Meaningless, creaky, limp, and artless, "Doctor Sleep" ends the 2019 Halloween movie season with a whimper rather than a bang. When it's not shamelessly rehashing its predecessor, it's trying desperately to create its own identity, and coming up short. Maybe a weird story about vampire-like people roaming the country killing children to live forever could work, but certainly not in a sequel to one of the greatest horror films of all time. This is a sequel that comes not 39 years too late, but too early.

## REVIEW

### "Doctor Sleep"

★★★★★

#### The Good:

- Some good performances.
- Some good horror atmosphere.
- Fantastic set recreations of the Overlook Hotel.

#### The Bad:

- Way too derivative.
- Bad effects.
- Strange expansion to the lore.

# SPORT REPORT

By Brooks Moeller



The 2019 NBA season is here, and this will mark the 11th season without our beloved Seattle SuperSonics basketball team. For those who may not know — or have forgotten — the team relocated to Oklahoma City in 2008. It has been a painful and heart-breaking 11 years as we see stars such as Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook lead OKC to playoff runs and NBA Finals appearances. We can all agree it has been too long since we saw the Sonics take the court, but how much longer should we expect to suffer?

The main issue that has kept an NBA team from coming back home was the venue. The main reason the Sonics left was because of the aging Seattle Center Arena — formerly known as KeyArena — and the city's refusal to approve any upgrades. However, on December 4, 2017, the Seattle City Council agreed to a deal with investment company Oak View Group to complete a full rebuild of the arena by 2020.

The new arena deal led to the NHL to choose the city of Seattle and the location of their next expansion franchise starting in the year 2021. The city has already shown large support after the team sold out of season tickets in the first hour of being on sale. Seattle NBA advocates hope that this will show NBA executives what they are missing out on and what another team in the market can bring to the table.

Although the Seattle Center Arena deal is a step in the right direction, it may not be enough to draw the attention of NBA executives to bring a team back. Even with the upgrades it still may not match the standards of a new home for an NBA team and draw them to another city. Transportation issues to Seattle Center is one as well as capacity issues where the arena is only set to hold 18,600 fans, which places in the bottom half compared to other NBA venues.

These issues are the reason why there is still push from a local investment group to build a brand new state of the art arena from the ground up in the Sodo district next to T-Mobile and CenturyLink Fields. The investment group is led by Chris Hansen, who has been part of the efforts to relocate a team to Seattle since 2013. He is now head of the group attempting to convince Seattle government to approve their privately funded plan to build the arena in Sodo, while also making use of the newly built Seattle Center Arena as well. Hansen has also brought local Seattle celebrities such as Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson to help support the cause.

"Having both Seattle Center and SoDo as viable options for potential NBA owners would send a powerful message to the NBA, that not only is Seattle the best available market, but we also understand what an NBA team requires to be successful," Hansen wrote in a letter to Seattle government officials.

With Seattle City Council elections right around the corner, many candidates have been endorsed by the Sodo arena investment group in hopes that it will sway Sonic fans to vote in their favor. Since the arena will be privately financed, and will also not be built until an NBA franchise is confirmed to come back to Seattle, there is zero risk to residents of the city. The Sodo arena is the best bet to bring a team back to the Emerald City, and should be supported by all basketball fans in the area. You can read more at [www.sonicsarena.com](http://www.sonicsarena.com) and learn about the project.