

FREE EVERY MONDAY

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THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

**JOE BIDEN
WINS
PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION
AND WILL BECOME THE 46TH
POTUS**



The building of the Milgard School of Business.

PHOTO BY NATALIE PEYTON

By **OLUWASEYI FALEKE**
NEWS REPORTER

The Milgard Success Center, associated with the Milgard School of Business, works with students to determine their career paths starting early in their college experience. An event highlighting the Milgard Success Center was hosted by the Success Center’s panel on Oct. 28. This meeting also served as the first event to kick off the center’s new alumni office. Shannon Thompson, the project manager for the new upcoming Milgard building, shared some information

regarding the progress. The event was held by the Dean of the Milgard School of Business, Altaf Merchant, and the goal of the meeting was to “maintain relationships with alumni and to further nurture the connections and bonds with students.” According to their website, the Collaboration portion of their Code of Conduct states, “Milgard faculty and staff recognize that we are at our best and strongest when we perform as a team. We believe that together we can achieve far greater things than we can individually.” For the rest of this meeting, six

alumni recounted their experiences using the Success Center and how resources from the center advanced their careers following graduation. They went on to further discuss the resources available in the Success Center and how these can be utilized to further career development. The Milgard School of Business earned accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business in 2011. The school later went on to gain accreditation in 2016 following the Continuous Improvement Review conducted in 2015, as determined by the Board of Directors of

AACSB International. As stated on their website, “Only 633 schools of business, or less than 5% worldwide, have earned this distinguished hallmark of excellence in management education.” UW Tacoma plans to construct a new academic building for the School of Business. The building, Milgard Hall, originally started development as the Academic Innovation Building and is now planned to help host new programs and serve as another central area for students, faculty and staff to come together. These plans also include the implementation of more classrooms

along with a lab in the building. “We’re just finishing up project definition and are in the phases of design,” said Shannon Thompson, the project manager for the building. The new building is a design-build project. The team is currently working on defining the programming and target building size as well as the location of the building. The project definition report is currently being reviewed by the Design Build team. After the revision, the report will be sent out to the Project Executive Committee for review, then the draft review will be published before moving forward.

Japanese and Arabic language classes for students by students

Meeting the two students responsible for bringing these classes together.

By **LUCAS CASSOL**
NEWS REPORTER

For the past few years UW Tacoma’s Office of Global Affairs has offered informal language classes as an opportunity for students to learn another language. The program connects interested students with knowledgeable student teachers in order to instruct various languages. The classes that are currently being offered include Japanese and Arabic.

Cindy Schaarschmidt, the director of Student Fellowships and Study Abroad at the Office of Global Affairs, took the time to answer some questions regarding the brief history along with the future of these courses.

“The language lessons have been offered since fall 2017, initially fund-

ed by UW Tacoma’s Strategic Initiative Fund and now by SAFC,” Schaarschmidt said regarding the history of the program. “We started these informal lessons because we wanted to broaden opportunities for students to engage in global learning right here in Tacoma. We also knew that our students were interested in learning languages that weren’t offered for credit. We started with Korean and Arabic, and now offer Japanese and Arabic.”

With programs like informal language classes, it is sometimes difficult to gauge how many students actually attend. Speaking on how well these courses are received, Schaarschmidt explained that students, faculty and staff adopting these courses have had generally positive results.

“Last academic year, over 100 students, staff and faculty attended these informal lessons. Some just once, others on a regular basis. I would say they’ve been well received.” Finally, when asked about the future of the classes, and if students could expect a rotation of offered languages, Schaarschmidt had this to say: “We would love to add languages and have been approached by students with that very same question. Unfortunately, we only have funding and capacity for two languages at the moment.” Links to the drop-in Zoom sessions for these classes are available in UWTs calendar on the website. Currently, the classes being offered are beginner’s Arabic and Japanese and the next classes will be held on Friday, Nov. 13 at 3:45 p.m. and 5 p.m. respectively.

FREE LANGUAGE SEMINARS		
NOV 13	3:45 pm	Beginners Arabic
	5:00 pm	Beginners Japanese
NOV 16	1:00 pm	Beginners Arabic
NOV 20	3:45 pm	Beginners Arabic
	5:00 pm	Beginners Japanese
NOV 23	1:00 pm	Beginners Arabic
NOV 27	3:45 pm	Beginners Arabic
	5:00 pm	Beginners Japanese
NOV 30	1:00 pm	Beginners Arabic
DEC 4	5:00 pm	Beginners Japanese

INFOGRAPHIC BY NATALIE PEYTON

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Students unsure of where new tuitions costs are coming from

Several students are reporting that their tuitions have increased despite no warning, and seemingly no explanations from staff or administrators.

By **LUKE DENUELLE**
NEWS REPORTER

With several students finding that their tuition had increased anywhere from 200 to 300 dollars, these changes have left confusion in many, and even after approaching school staff and administrators they still felt confused or that their concerns had not been properly addressed. One such student, Imagine Sayasane, felt like they were given the “runaround” when they had tried to figure out the cause of their tuition cost’s increase.

“We tried to ask around the faculty to find out why they increased tuition, because I’d like to find out where my money was going,” Sayasane said. “And no one would really answer our questions, or they would deflect. A couple of us went to the school’s townhall zoom meeting, and people were asking in the chat just straight up. So you were like, ‘okay maybe they didn’t see it.’ So you would email them your questions in where they said they would get back to all of them, but then they never got to that. Just trying to dispute some of the prices is kind of difficult because it’s like talking to a brick wall.”

Sayasane had also expressed concern regarding how much extra money was being tacked on due to necessary software costs, such as ALEKS and SmartWare. Students who take multiple courses that might require programs like these might find themselves spending well over a hundred dollars.

In an interview with Andrea Coker-Anderson of the Office of the Registrar and Chief Strategy Officer for the Office of the Chancellor Joe Lawless, Coker-Anderson explained that tuition could be broken into two different categories: the State Tuition portion, which is dictated by State Legislators, and the Student Fees portion — which cover things like U-Pass and Student Technology — that are decided through student government and the UW Board of Regents. Most student fees

have a student committee involved, but ultimately all decisions regarding fees are decided upon by the Board of Regents.

“Well, there’s two, there’s two pieces of what your tuition [is],” Lawless said. “One is the tuition, the state tuition, that is set by the legislature. The other is fees, and those for the most part are set by students. They’re student fees and they’re set by student committees. So, the Student Activities fee committee, the process for that is that they vote on what the fees will be for the following year. That vote gets proposed to the Board of Regents, and the Board of Regents approves — it approves fees for and it’s campus by campus. So each [campus] is a little bit different. For the most part they’re about the same.”

The current tuition change, according to both Lawless and Coker-Anderson, was decided on by the legislator well before the COVID-19 pandemic and is only now taking effect. This increase has different regulations between graduate and undergraduate students.

During the interview, Coker-Anderson pointed out that certain course fees did see a reduction or elimination in their costs.

According to Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, Mentha Hynes-Wilson, during a virtual town hall that was held in the spring quarter, it was more expensive for them to run the university all online than having in-person classes, which seems to corroborate with current reports. However, many public universities — such as Rowan University and West Chester University of Pennsylvania — saw tuition decreases.

Either way, many students still felt unprepared and blindsided by the increase, especially during a time many would consider volatile and uncertain and where money is already very tight for some.

INFOGRAPHIC BY NATALIE PEYTON

ON THE RIGHT: Several courses for the fall actually saw decreases in their operational fees.

COURSE	ORIGINAL \$	ADJUSTED \$
T ARTS 200 A	\$35	\$0
T ARTS 367 A	\$30	\$0
T ARTS 386 A	\$35	\$0
T ARTS 391 A	\$30	\$0
T ARTS 402 A	\$31	\$0
T ARTS 405 A	\$30	\$0
T BIOL 110 A, B	\$50	\$0
T BIOL 120 A, C, E, G, H, I, J, K	\$50	\$25
T BIOL 120 L, M	\$50	\$0
T BIOL 140 A, B	\$40	\$20
T BIOL 301 A	\$50	\$10
T BIOL 303 A	\$85	\$10
T BIOL 304 M	\$100	\$100
T CHEM 105 A	\$100	\$0
T CHEM 131 A, B	\$50	\$5
T CHEM 142 A, B, C, D, E, F	\$48	\$5
T CHEM 251 A, C, D	\$100	\$10
T EDSP 556 A	\$49.99	\$0
T EDUC 587 A, B	\$244	\$200
T GEOS 117 A, B	\$50	\$25
T GEOS 241 A, B	\$50	\$10
T PHYS 121 A, B, C, D	\$52	\$5
TCOM 347 A, D	\$70	\$0
TCOM 347 B, C	\$70	\$0
TEDADM 581 A	\$81	\$0

Leaders of SIAS provide opinions based on audit response

Members of SIAS give their thoughts on the results UW Internal Audit did back in January.

By **MITCHELL FERMO**
NEWS EDITOR

On Sept. 16, the UW Internal Audit released an Internal Audit Memorandum regarding the 2019-20 School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences’ budget process. The audit was created to look into the budget process and communication breakdown which had caused class cancellations last year, sending some students, faculty and counselors scrambling to figure out what they would do for the quarter. While the report came back and said that nothing fraudulent or malicious happened, it did note that a breakdown of communication took place and offered three recommendations to solve any future problems.

The UW Internal Audit, led by Richard Cordova, offered first that a system should be in place where if a

faculty were to leave during the summer or late into the school year, then the dean of the school can request extra funds to ensure classes are not disturbed. Second, UW Internal Audit recommended that faculty not only be included in future talks, but should request to be a part of financial and budget decisions. Finally, the vice-chancellor of Finance should consider new training for important faculty and staff who help manage finances within their own department or school.

Professor Ellen Moore, who served as faculty chair of SIAS at the time, offered her thoughts on the report.

“Kudos to the report, it is very clear,” Moore said. “Richard Cordova and his office were able to find where communication broke down, and was able to understand what happened to the budget.”

Anne C. Bartlett, dean of SIAS, shared

a similar sentiment and offered praise to the report, but commented that the whole situation of the breakdown of communication felt like a movie with a series of errors and misunderstandings.

“It is a great report,” Bartlett said. “As dean, I am taking these recommendations forward. It is still surprising to me that there were no guardrails ... but the recommendations will help everyone — students, faculty, staff and the campus as a whole.”

The report, which had been requested by Moore, Chancellor Mark Pagano and an anonymous source who had called into the UW Internal Audit’s Internal Audit Hotline, provides the complete history of what happened and where the breakdown of communication occurred.

The report also sought to answer three questions posed to UW Internal Audit and provides detailed answers

for each one. The report sought to answer whether SIAS had a sound budget process, what happened during the 2019-20 budget process — as well as who knew what, where and when — and questioned if the flow of information, from chancellor to dean to faculty, made sense to the faculty.

Finally, the report listed several compounding factors which impacted the whole budget process. This includes things such as SIAS lacking a director of Finance and Operations for eight months, a lack of scheduled training sessions on the previously new budget process as well as miscommunications between all parties concerning funding for temporary lecturers.

“The crux of the matter was the way we had done budgets had shifted,” Moore said. “We were also in the midst of finding a Director of Finance and Operations.”

On final reflections, Bartlett offered an apology for the circumstances, and said she understood how terrible this was for those who were impacted by the series of events.

“I deeply apologize for this happening,” Bartlett said. “It inconvenienced many people, and caused a lot of grief and anxiety. I wish it had been resolved a lot sooner.”

Moore highly encourages everyone to take a look at the report for themselves. She again gave praise to how easy it is to understand the report and its clarification of many details.

“Anybody can read it,” Moore said. “Everyone should read the report. I think it speaks for itself.”

Read the entire report at:
<https://bit.ly/3p0whI9>

LGBTQ+ Community: There is power in breaking the mold

The fragility of our acceptance in society, a constant battle for our rights.

By **ANDREA NADAL**
OPINION EDITOR

The right to same-sex marriage has only been around since the 2015 Supreme Court case *Obergefell v. Hodges*. The case challenged the constitutionality of bans on same-sex marriage and the refusal to recognize legal same-sex marriages in Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Resulting in a 5-4 decision — with one dissenting opinion authored by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, joined by Justice Scalia and Justice Thomas — ultimately, it was decided that the constitution should protect same-sex marriages the way it protects opposite-sex marriages.

After the death of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and with a conservative nomination inevitable to come from the white house, two of the Justices who voted against these protections — Thomas and Alito — are speaking out on the topic again.

In a four-page statement denouncing the 2015 ruling in which they claim it has disparaged religious freedoms, Justice Thomas perpetuates the ridiculous notion that “Due to *Obergefell*, those with sincerely held religious beliefs concerning marriage will find it increasingly difficult to participate in society.”

As though working to progress society in such a way that LGBTQ+ indi-

viduals have the same freedoms as cis-gender and straight individuals somehow works to stigmatize those with conservative religious values. As though creating a society that is safe and inclusive for those that have been systematically disenfranchised and othered interferes with one’s ability to practice their religion as they understand it.

Whether or not the right to same-sex marriage gets reversed or is upheld is irrelevant. The fact that it is even up for debate is damaging to the LGBTQ+ community and everyone that is a part of it. It won’t end here, it isn’t just about this fight. It is about our wellbeing. Our safety. Our ability to love. And our ability to express our true selves. All of these are undermined when our place in society is constantly up for debate.

We live in a heteronormative society in which straight and cis-gender are the default. And before “coming out” you have to prepare yourself for the consequences. Will your family accept you? Will friends stop talking to you? Will people treat you differently now that they know? And if someone finds out, will you be at risk of harm?

And before we can even come out to others we must first come out to ourselves. And that can be the hardest part of it. I’m queer, and it took me a long time

to be able to identify as such. I was attracted to people across the gender spectrum but was only conscious of that attraction being genuine and romantic towards men.

Sapphic love is often belittled by society, it is invalidated and not perceived as a true love. Girls fooling around are just that, fooling around. As such, I didn’t take my attraction towards women seriously. The heteronormative and homophobic ideals embedded in our society are invasive, and they are damaging to those who do not fit the mold.

It categorizes us as the other, even within our own minds. And the dismantling of those systems of oppression from within is difficult. Finding the courage to face the truth of my emotions and push aside the narrative that surrounds bisexuality in society took time.

Love is love, and I don’t have to “pick a side.” I do not have to prove the validity of my sexuality by telling you how many girls I’ve kissed or how many boys I’ve dated. There is no ratio that validates my identity.

With the confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court there is now a solid conservative majority. Despite her lack of experience, she has been sworn in for a lifetime appointment and will hear a major case concerning LG-

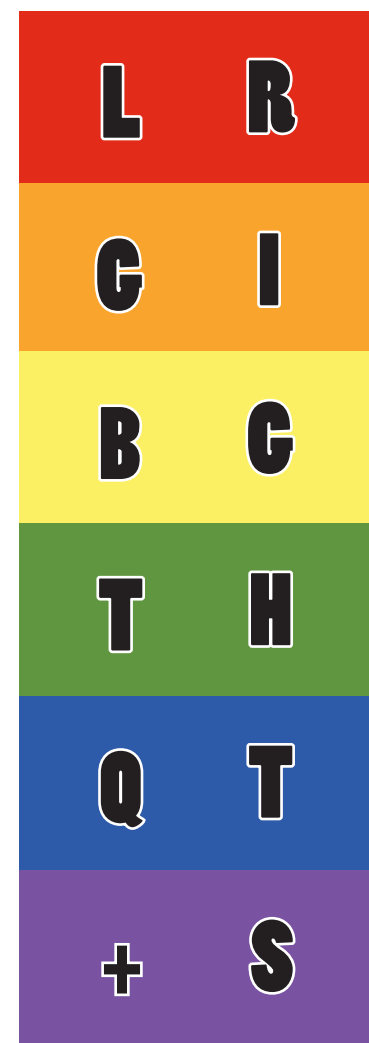
BTO+ rights the day after the election. She has spoken out against the LGBTQ+ community on multiple occasions, including during her confirmation hearings. Making it clear that she does not respect LGBTQ+ individuals and cannot be trusted to uphold our rights as a Justice, reminding us of the fragility of our acceptance in society.

We see the ways that she adheres to and upholds patriarchal, heteronormative and homophobic ideals. Endangering those that break these molds. Referring to transgender women as “physiological males,” stating that marriage should only be between a man and a woman, and speaking out against the right to choose, undermining the right to bodily autonomy.

These people finding their way into power is not new or surprising. It is expected. Those that uphold the systems of power as they exist will rise and they will do all that they can to tear away the rights of those who challenge them.

But we do not need that kind of power. It has never been where we find our strength. We find our strength in each other, in the love that we have. The Stone-wall Rebellion lives on in our community, and it brings power to our actions.

Pride began as a riot, and we will never let those in power forget that.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Submitted by
James Booth

Dear Editor,

During this time of COVID, students and their families are going through a time of unprecedented financial stress. Per NBC News, an estimated 8 million Americans are expected to slip into poverty. Millions more are enduring varying levels of food insecurity and financial instability, falling behind on loan and credit card payments and more. And as if this was not enough, an additional 30-40 million Americans face eviction from landlords who demand payment of overdue rent, many are already in the process of being evicted nationwide.

Many of these people are students and are part of our UW community. From a 2019 survey of the Tacoma, Seattle, and Bothell campuses 21% of UW students had trouble paying rent and another 25% experienced food instability, often or sometimes being unable to have enough to eat. Sufficient nutrition and a stable fiscal situation are key if we are to have any hope of students continuing their academic success during the pandemic. Study after study after study has demonstrated as much.

It is confusing, then, as to why Washington State's biggest college insists on continuing to charge massive tuition rates to its students. I am taking 10 credits this quarter, costing me just shy of \$4,000, money primarily going to buildings and facilities which I cannot access. With a massive student debt crisis to the tune of \$1.6 trillion nationally, I cannot understand why the UW chooses to add insult to injury by charging tuition rates many cannot afford.

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A picture of a Womxn's march on Jan. 24, 2017.

Protect the right to choose

"Insight into the importance of bodily autonomy, a basic and fundamental right.

By MADI WILLIAMS
OPINION COLUMNIST

****TW: ABORTION, INFANT LOSS, PREGNANCY/FERTILITY COMPLICATIONS****

Being able to decide what you do with your own body should be a personal choice, not a political one. The fact that we are still fighting for this right should show the dire importance of this issue because it can affect the rest of a person's life. The fact that the government wants to continue to control what people can do with their bodies and attack their personal autonomy is purely unacceptable. Constant attacks against the mission of Planned Parenthood — to increase the accessibility of reproductive healthcare — highlights the ongoing political and communal strife upon individual bodily rights.

The fight to defund Planned Parenthood is championed by those who believe abortion is "infanticide" and that the doctors who perform them are "baby killers," according to Reverend Katherine Hancock Ragsdale on CBS News — a notably pro-choice individual.

There has been violence against Planned Parenthood on a nationwide scale. In the Seattle Times, they reported that on June 11, 2001, there was a bombing at the Tacoma Clinic that resulted in \$6,000 in damages. In The Spokesman-Review they reported that on Sept. 4, 2015, the Pullman clinic was intentionally set on fire. Since the legalization of abortions throughout the US, "abortion providers have been the targets of more than 300 acts of extreme

violence, including arson, bombings, murders and butyric acid attacks," reported CNN in their article "A Brief History of Anti-abortion Violence."

While Planned Parenthood is known for providing abortions, they offer so much more. Family planning is a key part of the work that they do, including providing information and access to various kinds of birth control. Beyond this, they offer cancer screenings, health and wellness exams and prenatal care — which ensures the health and wellbeing of both the mother and the fetus. They also work to provide education and understanding of sexual orientation, gender identity, safe sex practices and sexually transmitted diseases.

Despite all of this, a stigma still surrounds Planned Parenthood and all of the important work they do. Even though they provide a variety of crucial services, there are still individuals ready to defund them entirely and subsequently take away everything the organization has to offer.

Oftentimes, the conversation surrounding abortion leads to questions about late-term abortions, despite these kinds of abortions rarely being performed. According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, 99% of abortions occur before 21 weeks. In a Washington Post article titled "Tough questions — and answers — on 'late-term' abortions, the law and the women who get them" by Ariana Eunjung Cha, she explains that if a "woman becomes seriously ill late in pregnancy, doctors are working to save both the woman

and the fetus. But in rare situations, it's clear the fetus will not survive, and then the patients and their loved ones must make a decision about whether to put a sick woman at further risk with a delivery." This is often the reason for a late term abortion.

An article from The Guardian titled "The agony of ending a wanted late-term pregnancy: three women speak out" highlights the experience three families went through in having a late-term abortion. One story, in particular, was about Lindsey and Matt and their soon-to-be daughter, Omara.

The couple went to a routine ultrasound appointment where they received devastating news that, "Omara had an aggressive form of lymphangioma growing out of her neck. The fast-growing, inoperable tumor had grown into her brain, heart, and lungs. It had wrapped around her neck, eyes, and deep into her chest. It was so invasive, it was pushing her tongue out of her mouth."

Her chances of living to the age of viability or birth were slim. Lindsey and Matt made the heartbreaking decision to follow through with an abortion at about 24 weeks into the pregnancy as they did not want their daughter to suffer any longer. They were just a few days away from it being an illegal termination. At the end of their story, Matt explained that these babies are never unwanted, people don't wait until halfway through to have an abortion. A very powerful statement coming from someone who has gone through this experience sharing all that goes into this heart-

breaking decision.

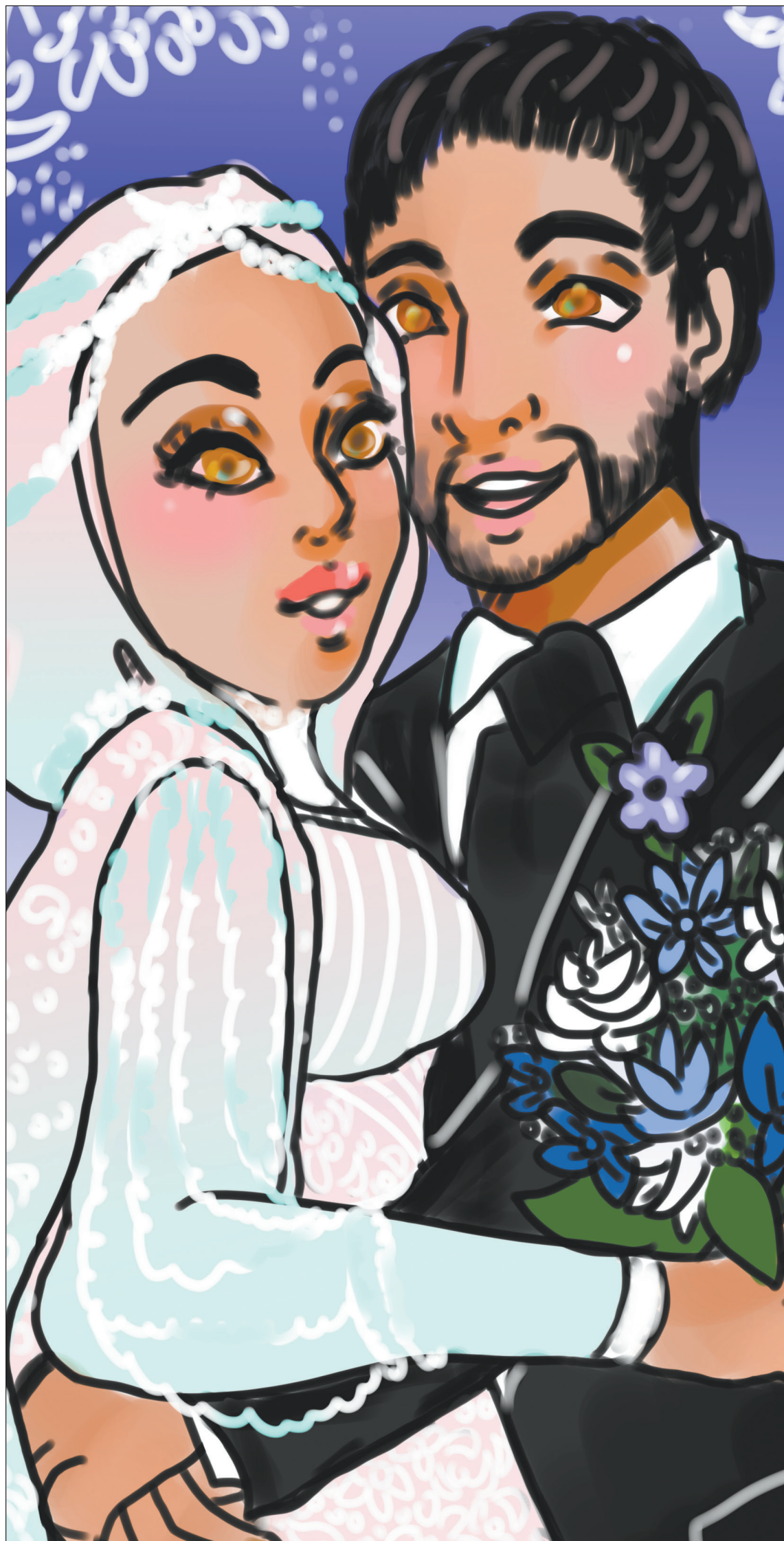
Being able to have the decision to take a child out of pain and suffering should be the family's decision. No one knows what this situation is really like until they experience it themselves, and to place judgment on those who have gone through the unthinkable is heartbreaking. Lindsey, the mother who's story is shared above, opened up saying that "Abortions are hard decisions made by real people, being open is a call for empathy." Empathy is key since many women who decide to have these abortions stay quiet in fear of being harassed after enduring such a loss.

A statement made by Dr. Jennifer Conti said in The Guardian article mentioned above that "Asking a woman to carry a fatally flawed pregnancy to term is, at the very least, heartbreaking. I've often heard women say that they chose to end such pregnancies because of unselfish reasons: they couldn't bear the thought of putting their fetus through even more pain or suffering."

This is why organizations like Planned Parenthood are fundamental, not only for those that do decide to terminate a pregnancy, but also for consultation and care in all aspects of reproductive health. These places give people the right to choose what they feel is the right thing to do for themselves but also the life that is within them. It gives people a safe and reliable place to go for one of the hardest experiences of their lives.

Loving yourself, then loving them

Marriage is a serious topic. It's around us every day, so let us explore what marriage may mean to us as individuals.



By **BENGISU CICEK**
OPINION COLUMNIST

Marriage is a very serious step in any relationship and, as noted in my previous article, there is no specific time nor place this needs to happen. So, let us go more in-depth about our choices when it comes to choosing the right partner.

A lot of us come from different cultures and communities. I'm a Muslim American, so I have lived within an Islamic culture as well as an American one. I'm going to use an Islamic and personal approach to this article, and I hope despite being from different backgrounds, you will be able to relate. In my religion, women have a lot of rights, and I emphasize this. We especially have a lot of rights within marriage and divorce.

"And one of His signs is that He created for you spouses from among yourselves so that you may find comfort in them. And He has placed between you compassion and mercy. Surely in this are signs for people who reflect," Surah Ar-Rum 30:21 from the Holy Quran.

A personal reflection from this quote is that no matter how big and scary this world can be, Allah has created for us a life partner that we can navigate through this world together, hand in hand.

A quote by our Prophet Muhammad — peace and blessings be upon him — that is very beautiful is: "O you young men! Whoever is able to marry should marry, for that will help him to lower his gaze and guard his modesty," (Al-Bukhari) Being Muslim and living within this dunya, anywhere can be very tough, as we may find hardships when it comes to marriage.

We may live in areas where there is not a big Muslim community, and may want to find someone who is aware of both American and our ethnic culture, someone who will get along with our families and who we can envision having and raising children with.

"O believers! It is not permissible for you to inherit women against their will or mistreat them to make them return some of the dowry as a ransom for divorce—unless they are found guilty of adultery. Treat them fairly. If you happen to dislike them, you may hate something which Allah turns into a great blessing," Surah An-Nisa 4:19.

We have set ideals for ourselves, whether we are from a particular religion or not, we want to live in this world with set ideals for ourselves until our death. This set may include being a pious person, or a kind person, a person who consistently indulges themselves in learning, giving to charity, helping ones in need, loving, caring and being the best person for ourselves.

We want to live by this, as we want to stay true to ourselves in a world where hate and cruelty also exists.

We want to meet someone who loves us for our ideals, and possesses similar ones. We have a set agenda for ourselves when it comes to marriage too. For instance, we envision our future partners to be kind, giving and caring. We want them to meet these expectations.

So, when the topic of marriage pops up in our lives and when we feel ready for it, we may have doubts and moments in which we are fearful of the future. As I wrote about in my last article on having little or too many expectations for a partner, this may be one of the biggest hardships we face. When we finally meet someone who seems perfect and right for us, thoughts may arise in our head such as "Are you sure you're meant to be together?" or "What if they don't really love you?" or "Are you good enough for them?"

Some of these can turn into hardships in the marriage. There may be a lack of trust, communication, affection or display of love. Our minds can wander to unexpected conclusions of their actions, with more questions arising, leading us to question their loyalty or love.

These thoughts can be toxic and harmful to us as well as the relationship. This is why self-love is important and self-trust is a huge goal to accomplish. When we truly know and trust ourselves, we can trust our partner, thus having healthier thoughts within the relationship.

"He is the One Who created you from a single soul, then from it made its spouse so he may find comfort in her," Surah Al-Araf 7:189 from the Holy Quran.

This verse is very beautiful to me. Allah created us from a single soul and made a spouse for us. Since Allah knows everything about our lives, he has created the perfect person who will align with our values and personality. I also want to emphasise finding comfort within our partners, which is so essential in marriage. No matter how hard and dreadful our day went, we can find comfort within them, as they are our best friend and life partner.

If we think about it, there are billions of people in this world. Throughout the billions of people, one will stand out and be the best one for us. There are so many people that exist and so many different scenarios regarding how we can meet them and how the relationship can play out.

Everyone deserves to be happy, to spend their life with someone who loves, values, appreciates, respects, protects and cherishes them. For me, the best thing to do is leave it in the hands of Allah. To leave it to time because while we cannot control our future, we can make the best decisions that will make us happy in the present.

Borat returns to America in “Borat: Subsequent Moviefilm”

Borat returns to take a politically charged trip through America, this time with an unlikely companion.

By **HENRY NGUYEN**
Film Critic

The only thing more dangerous than COVID-19 is a democrat ... or at least that's what a featured civilian in “Borat: Subsequent Moviefilm” would like you to believe. Back in America, and more politically charged than ever before, Sacha Baron Cohen returns as Borat to navigate multiple locations throughout America to expose Americans at their darkest moments.

It's been several years since Borat has been held captive for making the original “Borat” film and Kazakhstan is now a laughing stock because of him. Now, in order to be released and redeem the nation, he must bring Johnny the Monkey to the Vice President of America — Michael Pence.

Before he leaves he finds his long lost daughter, Tutar, played by Maria Bakalova. Tutar wants to go to America with Borat but he declines. Following his arrival in America Borat finds that Johnny the Monkey has eaten himself and Tutar snuck herself in with the now deceased monkey. The two must now find a way to redeem the legacy of Kazakhstan.

Taking the same mockumentary approach as the original “Borat” did, unscripted moments within the movie remain thrilling and thought provoking. Sacha Baron Cohen is able to reveal individuals' hypocritical beliefs that allows the audience to reflect and laugh at them. In many ways, this film resembles what you would see on reality television.

As a character, Borat himself is an exaggeration of the extremist beliefs oftentimes found in many of his encounters throughout the film. Borat participates and engages in antisemitism, sexism, racism along with other bigoted beliefs. While we don't like Borat as a person — he's offensive and crude, and his morals are extremely low — we come to enjoy Borat's antics because he is a satirical representation of someone that comes from a heavily conservative and rural background. Borat exists to serve a purpose, which is to reveal a ridiculous nature not so far from reality.

However, I would argue that the offensive nature of the jokes is meant to be ironic to reveal the sad reality of some beliefs. By taking this approach in a more lighthearted way, we are able to



COURTESY OF SACHA BARON COHEN PRODUCTION

Borat prepares to embark on his second voyage to the land of the free.

reflect on problems that dwell within our society through a means of comedy which, in turn, tend to make the subject matter easier to approach.

This movie is much more politically charged compared to the first one. In a time where our nation is more divided than it's ever been, this movie inherently favors one of these sides. And with our country in this divisive state,

the film doesn't cater to both sides, which will inevitably put some people off if they prefer to keep politics out of their movies.

The hijinks and situations that Borat gets himself into also detract from the main plot — which often comes across as an afterthought. While I prefer the thought-provoking and insane places that the film goes,

REVIEW

Borat Subsequent Moviefilm

★★★★★

The Good:

- Unscripted moments are incredibly thrilling
- Pushes the boundaries of what a comedy film can be
- Scenes are relevant and thought provoking

The Bad:

- Some of the jokes are reused from past films
- Humor might be offensive to some viewers
- The plot itself feels like an afterthought

people who watch this movie for its plot will be disappointed.

If you're looking for an introspective movie about the current state of American culture and something that pushes the boundaries of what comedy can be, then this one's for you. However, if you prefer politics excluded from your movies and want more of a safe and traditional comedy experience, then I would suggest you skip this one.



PHOTO BY NATALIE PEYTON

The Grand Cinema is still closed for in-person viewings.

Isn't it grand? Trial run for Indie Theatre opening

For three days during the Tacoma Film Festival The Grand Cinema will open its doors.

By **LORE ZENT**
A&E Columnist

During Nov. 12-14, the Grand Cinema will be hosting a 'trial run' to prepare to reopen their doors to the public. The theatre will be holding this trial run in correspondence during the 15th Annual Tacoma Film Festival with select in-person showings.

Unlike Cinemark theatres in the South Puget Sound, The Grand did not reopen mid-October because they wanted to collect more information before proceeding. In the past month they conducted a reopening input survey that garnered 1,830 responses. In a letter to The Grand Cinema's email subscribers Philip Cowan, Executive Director of the

Grand Cinema, stated that they weren't "quite ready to open our doors on a consistent basis."

Cowan went on to state that there are three important factors to consider when deciding to fully open their doors. The first concern is safety. Cowan remarked that out of all the survey responders, 28% answered that they "plan to hold out until this has passed, waiting for a vaccine."

In his letter, Cowan stated that response is valid. He then went on to illustrate his plans to socially distance films by limiting guest entry to 25% capacity if they open. The theatre will also have seating six feet apart from each other and require the moviegoers to wear masks at all times. Moreover, the cinema will not

be serving concessions in order to limit touch-interaction as well. While he hopes that these measures will stop outbreaks from occurring, he acknowledges that nothing is certain with this virus. Cowan remarked that decreasing case counts will play a large factor as to when they plan to fully reopen to the public.

As many corporate studios are pushing back their release dates for their blockbuster films, the second concern is the variety of movies that will be available when they reopen. While “Wonder Woman 1984” and “No Time To Die” have faced numerous pushbacks and “CandyMan” along with “Tomb Raider 2” now awaiting a release date, movies like “Mulan,” “Soul” and “Bill and Ted Face the Music” had to shift their re-

leases strictly to digital streaming. With a limited supply of high profile films, it would also limit the number of people attending considering 35% of the survey respondents stated they “may attend, for the right film.”

This brings us to their third concern, the financial upset of reopening. There are a substantial amount of expenses that go into reopening — such as staff, building expenses and film costs. It would be difficult for the Grand Cinema to break even at such limited seating capacity.

Most recently, Cowan explained there is a “slightly better than 50/50 chance” for the theatres to open for Thanksgiving and Christmas after they collect more information from the trial run.

While their doors are currently closed, the Grand Cinema has curated films for at-home viewings. These films are available for purchase under the ‘Virtual Screening Room’ section of their website. They also expanded their at home services by providing television rentals for \$250.

The Tacoma Film Festival is also accessible to at-home viewers. Those interested can purchase tickets at a \$1 service charge through TFF's website, allowing them to view films for up to 72 hours. Although “Since I've Been Down” is the centerpiece film, this year's festival has an expansive lineup of over 125 films, seventeen of them being feature films only accessible in Washington.

Fantasy football tips for your playoff push

As we approach the fantasy football playoffs, here are some tips I can offer to give you a better chance at winning it all.

By Brooks Moeller
SPORTS COLUMNIST

It is hard to believe that we are over halfway through the NFL season in a year with so much uncertainty. It is a huge accomplishment that the league has made it to this point and has also made it possible for all of us to satisfy our fantasy football addiction.

Most standard leagues are not just four weeks out from the beginning of playoffs and some of you may be on the verge of a spot to win your league championship. To help out, I am going to answer some of the important questions heading into the final stretch that will hopefully help you take home that trophy.

CAN JOSH ALLEN BE TRUSTED MOVING FORWARD?

Wow, what a hot start Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen had to the season averaging almost 30 points in the first four weeks. However, as he has since averaged a measly 15 points in the four weeks that followed, it seems as if teams have begun to figure out the third-year QB.

Until he shows us that those four weeks were not a fluke and he gets back to his elite play, then I would suggest benching him if you have another viable option. Rookie QBs Joe Burrow and Justin Herbert have burst onto the scene as legitimate starters and can be great replacements for players like Allen. However, with his legs as weapons and his ability to rack up points on the ground,

Allen can always be a solid play if you do not have another solid option.

WHAT HAPPENED TO EZEKIEL ELLIOT?

Well, if you were like me and drafted Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliot in five of your six leagues, then you're likely very unhappy with his performance this season. He only has two games over 20 points and has scored less than five in the last three of his four contests. Even more so, he has not rushed for over 100 yards once this season — something he did seven times in 2019.

The Cowboys are in total shambles; it is not a good environment for any player to succeed at the moment. Personally, I am attempting to trade Zeke away and I would suggest you do the same, especially if he continues to underperform. Since he is still a big name in the fantasy universe you could still get a decent return.

WHAT PLAYERS SHOULD YOU GO AFTER IN A TRADE?

A trade can make or break a fantasy football season and adding one impact player can get you over the hurdle to win your championship. One player that I love moving forward that shouldn't come at a hefty price to acquire is Washington running back Antonio Gibson.

Gibson had been quiet most of the year thus far but recently broke out in week seven versus Dallas where he ran for 128 yards and a touchdown. The rookie seems to be finding his stride. I would go after him in a



COURTESY OF CBC SPORTS TWITTER

Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce is a blessing for any fantasy owner who drafted him and will help anyone in their championship run.

trade before he becomes too valuable.

One more player to watch to try and make a deal for is Philadelphia Eagles running back Miles Sanders. Sanders has disappointed fantasy owners thus far by underperforming and having injury issues for most of the year. However, before his most recent injury, he scored a combined total of 33 points in two weeks and once he is healthy again I expect him to build off of these performances.

HOW TO HANDLE YOUR TIGHT END SITUATION:

This season has emphasized the importance of drafting an elite tight end considering it gives your team an advantage over ones who waited until later in the draft to pick one up. Kansas City tight end Travis Kelce, who currently has 20 more points than the next best, is clearly at the top of the position group.

With star 49ers tight end George Kittle now out for eight weeks, the list has become even smaller for tight ends to target in a trade. One name to keep an eye on however is Detroit Lions tight end

TJ Hockenson. Hockenson has racked up a total of 12 catches in his last two weeks and seems to be a big part of the Lions offensive attack moving forward.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I cannot place more stress on the importance of running backs nowadays. With the amount of teams throwing the ball, the number of running backs getting a high number of carries per game is at an all-time low. If someone ever offers you one of the few who are actually getting touches, I say take it.

Virtual voices in 2020

A series of concerts in the comfort of your own home — front row seats guaranteed.



ILLUSTRATION BY LORE ZENT

Artists are using music to foster encouragement and optimism during unprecedented times.

By Madeline Hiller
A&E EDITOR

Any frequent concert goes out there? Of the many things COVID-19 has taken from us, live performances, such as concerts and plays, are among those in the group most affected. Toward the beginning of the pandemic, we witnessed a surge of virtual performances as a form of communal encouragement to stick together.

One particular past highlight that comes to mind is "The Disney Family Singalong" that ABC released on April 16 this past year. This singalong included classic Disney favorites featuring Beyoncé, Kristen Chenoweth, Ariana Grande and was hosted by Ryan Seacrest. This was so popular at the time that they released a second one about a month later.

On Oct. 24, Billie Eilish held a livestream called "Where Do We Go?" Using special lighting and other effects, Eilish was able to hold a unique concert which ultimately left her audience in awe.

These concerts and streamed performances happen across various platforms. For example, ShowTix4U is a website that can stream whatever event you intend to watch. Once your ticket is purchased through a third-party website, you will use a stream code received via email to log on.

Once complete, you can log onto the site 30 minutes before the set show time and, if you're early, you will have the opportunity to explore the website to discover upcoming live streaming events. There are also options to purchase tickets to events on the site, but it's important to note this is entirely dependent upon the event organizer's preferences.

At the beginning of the pandemic artists used these concerts as a means to encourage fans to not lose hope and to remind them that we are all in this together. Back in May, a concert series called "Together at Home" — launched by John Legend, Chris Martin and Global Citizen — featured performances from Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, Shawn Mendes and more. These artists all promoted strength during this time of crisis and continue to do so through social media along with other private concerts.

While we are still lacking normalcy during our ninth month of the pandemic, artists are here to let you know that they are right there with you. They continue to reach out to foster an optimistic outlook towards the future. Even though performances are drastically different these days, it is possible to continue to support the arts and enjoy events from a socially distanced perspective.