

FREE EVERY MONDAY

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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



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ILPS: Taking a stand against imperialism

Discussing community work the International League of Peoples Struggles has done in the Seattle-Tacoma area focusing on the exploited.



ILPS members march on MLK Day in Seattle, circa 2018.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ILPS FACEBOOK PAGE

By ROSIE MENDOZA-BAUTISTA
NEWS REPORTER

The Ledger had the privilege to speak to Secretary-General Katie Juhnke and Education Propaganda Officer Stuart Heslop about the International League of Peoples Struggles (ILPS) chapter based in Seattle and Tacoma.

ILPS is an organization that was formed back in 2001 and works against exploitative measures produced by imperialism as defined by Lenin's five characteristics of imperialism. Although it's an international organization, it didn't start this way.

"We're in the belly of the beast of imperialism. We see the US wage wars of aggression, extract and exploit natural resources from the global south and perpetuate serious acts of violence," said Juhnke. "This organization was formed to create a united front against imperialism."

"Jose Maria Sison started this organization and created an analysis of the Philippines that sees the country as semi-feudal and semi-colonial. And one of the root problems of this

is imperialism," said Juhnke.

Because of this analysis, more chapters began to form outside the Philippines and spread to other countries, like the United States. Here, the Seattle-Tacoma ILPS was formed in 2004, following a regional ILPS conference with the same goals and criticisms in mind.

Like many other organizations that typically hold formal meetings for more in-person events, ILPS meetings have moved to an online platform to continue to work and organize more safely during the pandemic.

"We have a general meeting every second Wednesday of the month. So, only once a month. Usually, they go from 6 to 8 p.m. The next one we're having will be on April 14th," said Heslop.

These online meetings are fluid, and those who attend can find that it won't be a difficult meeting structure to follow.

"It varies from meeting to meeting. Normally, we have a check-in and have introductions. Then, we have a check-in on what organizations are up to and what needs they have. Frequently, we'll have discus-

sions on relevant political topics," said Heslop.

Although these online meetings have been met with success, there are still some difficulties about only organizing around an online space.

"It's understandably hard to organize something collectively when people are still struggling to get by in their daily lives. It's especially difficult to engage with people online and retain the information," said Heslop.

Besides these drawbacks, there has still been strong support amongst the community members that participate in ILPS.

"For the executive committee, which is the secretariat plus organization representatives, there are about 25 people. But, if I had to guess, 150 is a safe number for how many members we have," said Juhnke.

Even with this many members, ILPS still accepts and is open to all students, staff, and faculty at UW Tacoma that are interested in becoming official members of this organization.

"We can schedule an orientation and match you with a member organization. For individuals in other

groups, there's an application form that gets centralized to our national committee and gets voted on for membership approval," said Juhnke.

However, for students, staff and faculty that don't have the availability to be full-time members or feel hesitant to join ILPS, you can still participate in events they hold.

"Even if people aren't able to join fully as members, we still really welcome and encourage people to show up to those events that we have. And for organizations, we welcome partnerships with different groups," said Juhnke.

With an expanding chapter here in the Seattle and Tacoma area, both Juhnke and Heslop look forward to the future and have aspirations to create a stronger knit community.

"I think something that feels exciting would be doing more work in Tacoma since we definitely have stronger relationships to establish with organizations there and even hearing about what workers like farmworkers in eastern Washington are doing," said Juhnke.

With these goals in mind, it's easy for both Heslop and Juhnke to be

inspired by past work. With last month being women's history month, the two reflected on women that are significant to them.

"Ida B. Wells. She was an incredible journalist, abolitionist, and outspoken woman on behalf of Black women. Ida B. Wells is very staunch and unapologetic. Her work and legacy are often overshadowed, especially around discussions of the suffrage movement," said Heslop.

Equally as significant, Juhnke brought to light a figure that is a conjunction of being a figure for women and reflective of the work ILPS aspires to do.

"I think the first person that came to mind was Gabriela Silang. She was a militant warrior in the Philippines, who worked to free her people from Spanish colonizers. She's such a strong symbol of uplifting the women's movement, specifically," said Juhnke.

The work ILPS does is not only centered around figures like these, but rather the community members that inhabit the Seattle-Tacoma area as a whole.

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Chancellor Town Hall rundown

Members of the chancellor's cabinet provided updates on construction, virtual commencement and responses to BSU's demands.

By **GARRETT YAEN**
NEWS EDITOR

Chancellor Mark Pagano and members of his cabinet provided updates to the student body and faculty regarding how UW Tacoma has been adapting to online learning despite COVID's grip on campus operations.

Pagano kicked the town hall off by recognizing how much of a toll the pandemic has taken on the UWT community and reminded everyone to make sure they take time to maintain physical and mental health.

"I encourage everyone to take a breather," Pagano said. "I encourage all of you to take some time to go outside and enjoy the beautiful Pacific Northwest weather in the spring-

I encourage all of you to take some time to go outside and enjoy the beautiful Pacific Northwest weather in the springtime. I think it can do us some well.

time. I think it can do us some well. However, stay socially distant, be masked up, be safe, and get yourself some rest."

This spring will likely be the last of total remote learning as more and more people are becoming vacci-

nated and others will soon be eligible. Students can expect to come back to campus with a bit of a makeover. Changes to the library, new laboratories and updates to the Milgard School of Business are on the way.

The library will include new help desks, an expanded reading area and a new space called the learning commons. The basement of the academic block behind Pacific Avenue will have four new engineering labs.

He then gave updates on the school budget. Pagano said that the state had surpassed its monetary expectations and that all signs are pointing toward good news.

"The revenue forecast for the state was outstanding," he said. "It essentially was 1.3 billion [dollars] higher than it was in November ... I believe reductions to our campus are not going to happen."

Two stimulus packages have directed money toward higher education. The third, which was recently signed into effect by President Joseph Biden, will be dedicated to supporting all UW campuses. The funds are on their way, but campus funding's priority will depend on which campuses faced the most budget reductions.

Before passing it off to the rest of his cabinet, Pagano gave updates regarding this year's commencement ceremony. He said that, in short, the commencement ceremony would again be online.

"There's no way we can equitably have an exercise in the Tacoma Dome

because everybody won't be vaccinated," he said. "They won't let us in there right now anyway, so we won't be having the traditional ceremony in the Tacoma Dome."

Dr. Marian Harris updated students about the search for a new chancellor and how the process has gone thus far. Recruitment began a few weeks ago with advertisements being posted around online job marketplaces. The search team is keeping their eyes out for an ethnically diverse candidate, emphasizing Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) along with gender diversity.

Thus, job postings have been placed in diverse venues such as Asians in Higher Ed., Diverse Jobs, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Outlook, Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, and Women in Higher Education.

"The response has been just great in terms of recruiting," Harris said. "The search team reached out to approximately 2,700 individuals, and many of these individuals are sitting presidents, provosts, and deans at research institutions."

So far, the search has reached 19 applications and 58 nominations. The search firm is actively working with 40 applications and having conversations with these individuals. The semi-final confidential interviews will occur on the 13 and 14 of May, and the final interviews will be held later that same month.

Students may be relieved to hear

that this quarter although mostly remote, will have looser restrictions,

...a few RSOs will be holding small-scale on-campus events granted that proper social distancing and mask procedures are put in place.

and a few RSOs will be holding small-scale on-campus events granted that proper social distancing and mask procedures are put in place.

Students may be even more relieved to hear that this fall quarter will be mostly in-person learning. However, it will be subject to change based on state health guidelines.

"We're very hopeful and look forward to seeing you back on campus again, more regularly and in a manner that is safe," said Dr. Jill Purdy, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

According to Chief Executive Officer Joe Lawless, things are looking good. Spring enrollment and Autumn applications are up. Since Inslee announced that Washington will soon be entering phase 3, a significant rule in place during this phase will be the availability of telework flexibility through Sept. 10.

In closing things out, Pagano publicly addressed their response to the

demands of the Black Student Union and explained what they've been working on behind the scenes.

"I know there's been a concern circulating that we have never really properly adequately responded to the 2015 BSU demands, and I wanted to clarify what we've been doing," he said.

He said that some of the demands such as additional Black student representation on campus, a higher number of Black faculty and a higher number of Black staff that more closely matched the ethnic ratios on campus weren't able to be accomplished overnight.

"While we could make progress on those, we couldn't immediately ever achieve the demands as they were written, we could just report on progress ... so we worked closely with that group of students that academic year and made another detailed response in 2016, a written response to their faculty advisor," Pagano said.

He said that as they moved forward, they thought about other goals in addition to the longer-term goals placed in 2016.

He said that by thinking about what they could do today at the present moment, they were able to seek and receive more permanent funding from the institution to fund events like the Martin Luther King breakfast. The Executive Budget Committee agreed to put forth \$5,000 a year to help the program.

"That would allow the students to focus mostly on the programming and not mostly on the fundraising activities, and I believe that was very well received," Pagano said.

He then said they're working to meet more of the new extended and short-range demands as well, and mentioned that they submitted a written response to their request.

"I hope that's a clarification to our campus community, and we really appreciate all of our students, our student leaders, our students that are studying here, and we do everything we can to help them be successful in their careers here at UW Tacoma," Pagano said.

Before closing things up, Pagano spoke out against Asian-American violence due to the recent violent acts against Asian-Americans. The Center for Equity and Inclusion has set up talk forums to express their feelings toward racial inequality.

"This is horrible, the xenophobic violence against Asians and Asian-Americans continues, and we as a campus leadership team including the President and all of us at UW Tacoma we stand-in solidarity with our Asian-American friends and loved ones on our campus," he said.



BSU demands left unmet

Following Chancellor Mark Pagano's latest response to their demands, the BSU has decided to move forward in pursuit of their demands themselves.



BSU

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

By TALIA COLLETT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Feb. 1, the Black Student Union brought an updated list of demands to Chancellor Pagano's attention, to which they requested a written response addressing these concerns by Spring quarter. After a little over a month went by, the BSU received the document on March 15.

The Ledger was able to speak with President Lakymbria Jones, Secretary LaKeisha Morris, Jessica Curry and their advisor, Dr. Gillian Marshall, to elaborate on their thoughts regarding said response.

"The BSU received a 'response' to our demands that merely acknowledged them, but it failed to comprehend the work we were demanding of leadership and was devoid of commitment to the fulfillment of our demands," they said. "This, coupled with the strange things Mark Pagano said at the end of the most recent chancellor's hall livestream, has prompted us to move on from trying to work with Pagano."

As one of the first demands addressed in the list, the university's improvement plans toward visibility and representation on campus — from Black student and faculty population to one-year retention rates — remains vague.

While the document addressed a 2.2% increase in the Black student population and a current standing of 5.7% for Black faculty due to recruit-

ment and outreach efforts since 2015, they don't report numbers of those who have left and failed to outline future plans.

This lack of representation extends beyond the time spent in college or on campus. Morris went on to note that instead of pointing to numbers and statistics, they had hoped to see university leadership delve deeper into the actions they're taking to progress further change and ensure this paradoxical experience comes to an end.

"When it comes to being Black in college, there's sort of a paradox going on ... When you're surrounded by a majority of white students, you may not see many of your peers in the clubs you're joining, especially in faculty or a particular major and the courses you choose," said Morris. "It can discourage students not being able to see other black faces on their campus. And when it comes to graduating and moving on, that can affect the way they engage with their community as well."

These statistics, moreover, are linked to racist attitudes and biases encountered by faculty and staff on campus. The demands highlight that complaints surrounding these issues on campus need to be addressed and taken seriously.

However, Pagano noted that they have established opportunities for faculty and encouraged the administration to attend. Still, when it comes to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training, these courses have yet to be implemented as a requirement

and are instead waiting on pending legislation at a state level.

This, coupled with the brief announcement nearing the end of the latest town hall, Pagano addressed concerns raised by faculty and students toward not meeting these demands since 2016.

"While the response has never been to highlight the amount of progress that we have at all hoped for, I want to assure you that we did respond in a detailed, comprehensive and continuing manner over time since I first arrived," said Pagano.

Noting he had worked closely with officers of the club in 2016 and beyond, he pointed out that considering the demands were not attainable over night, they " ... couldn't immediately ever achieve the demands as they were written, we could only report on progress."

Moreover, he mentioned that prior to moving operations online, they would meet frequently in-person to discuss issues they could tackle immediately and have since continued to do so virtually.

After obtaining the newly completed and comprehensive list of demands on Feb. 1, Pagano stated "We were hopeful that we could sit down with students and work on the long-range demands but also some of the short-range demands as well. They asked for a written response before the beginning of the next quarter and we've done that"

However, in response to this, Curry stated that, "It seemed like that document was more of a list of excuses rather than actual responses. I

felt like [his announcement] was a response to the article as well as to the fact that we refused to further meet with him, especially because it was within the last few minutes."

As far as their demands go, aside from what had been stated in the town hall, such as funding — apart from that allocated toward the MLK breakfast — a designated meeting space and the inclusion of African American and Black art on campus, within their documented response, Pagano swiftly ushered the club to interact with disparate committees or teams to meet those needs.

And despite attending multiple meetings in the past — as Pagano mentioned during the town hall — regarding these exact demands, Dr. Marshall stated that Pagano hadn't previously mentioned outside engagement.

"There was no discussion with the Chancellor about engaging with anyone else. He came to a meeting, he asked 'What do you want?' He specifically asked 'What [does] the BSU want?' And that's how we ended up laying out that document," said Dr. Marshall.

As Dr. Marshall pointed out, this was the ultimate factor resulting in the BSU no longer attempting to work with Pagano.

"When you continue to meet with somebody, and they continue to give you the runaround, and they continue to lie, and you're not seeing any action made towards the things that you asked for, you're less apt to want to meet with them again. And that's



COURTESY OF BSU

really the place that the students are coming from," she said.

Moving forward, the Union will continue to pursue these needs despite disappointment in the university's lack of comprehension of the demands and work that needs to be done. However, they noted they would do so on their own with other students, faculty and staff to begin drafting an action plan.

"First, we can prioritize force in our demands because this doesn't feel like something that we can wait on," said Morris. "I don't see any reason to deliberate over what is or isn't, you know, too easy or too hard. I don't think any of them need to wait. But if waiting for the next chancellor's what we have to do, then we can always bring our demands to the newest Chancellor."

Do teen drama shows enforce unrealistic standards of beauty?

We all love rewatching old TV shows we watched as teens, as adults we see messages that were going over our heads but were still being absorbed.

By MADI WILLIAMS
OPINION COLUMNIST

TRIGGER WARNING: EATING DISORDERS

During spring break this year I did what any other college student would do; I made the executive decision to binge watch a TV show that I have already seen. This year's choice, after some friendly peer pressure, was "Pretty Little Liars." After watching a couple of episodes I began to recognize the bad influences that this show, and others like it, had on girls that grew up watching it.

Like many teen drama TV shows the majority of the characters are very thin and if they did not fit the media's idea of thinness, there was a reason behind it. For example, the character Hanna in "Pretty Little Liars" was the "chubby" one of the bunch, and when she was anxious, she would binge eat. This often led to her becoming the joke of anything that had to do with food.

In fact, in one scene, Hanna reaches for a cookie and a character says "Are you really going to eat that sweetie? I'm being a friend Hanna." Later in the show, Hanna even gets liposuction because she was tired of

being made fun of at school for being the chubby girl. This is a dangerous message, as it can cause significant harm to people and even death.

Out of all the characters in the show, the actress who played Alison was 13 when she started playing a 15 year old. Meanwhile all of her co-stars were in their 20s playing 16 year olds. This shows how different bodies can look from ages 13 to 20, yet we are having 20 year olds play teens while their bodies continue to tell different stories as they get older.

Not to just put "Pretty Little Liars" on blast here, if you were to look at teen drama shows throughout the 90s, 2000s and even today, you can still see some of the same issues continuing to pop up. All of which can be seen in shows like "Gossip Girl," "Dawson's Creek," "Saved By the Bell," "Secret Life of an American Teenager," and other contemporary shows like "Riverdale" and "Euphoria."

When viewing this as a young teen, these tropes can affect young viewers psychologically without the individual even noticing. Watching shows showing the same body type every episode and making jokes about characters struggling with their body weight places a negative light on individuals whose bodies do not

match those we see on TV.

It is important to realize that this is not only an issue that girls struggle with, this is also something that boys deal with as well. It can be psychologically daunting seeing the same body type on every TV show they watch, and the second they don't fit the mold, they are central to fat jokes. Even when they aren't, they could feel that way because it's all they know from the exposure to the shows they watch.

Another important thing to understand are the different types of eating disorders being shown on TV.

The article "Eating Disorder Statistics and Research" on eatingdisorderhope.com, defines these disorders more clearly, explaining that "Anorexia Nervosa is a psychological and potentially life-threatening eating disorder. Those suffering from this eating disorder are typically suffering from an extremely low body weight relative to their height and body type," and continues to explain that "women and men who suffer from this eating disorder exemplify a fixation with a thin figure and abnormal eating patterns. Anorexia nervosa is interchangeable with the term anorexia, which refers to self-starvation and lack of appetite."

The same article goes on to explain other forms of disordered eating, such as Binge Eating Disorder (BED) "commonly known by compulsive overeating or consuming abnormal amounts of food while feeling unable to stop and a loss of control. Binge eating episodes are typically classified as occurring on average a minimum of twice per week for a duration of six months," and explains that "men and women suffering from BED struggle with emotions of disgust and guilt and often have a related comorbidity, such as depression or anxiety."

The last type of eating disorder explained in the article is Bulimia Nervosa, which is distinct from the above disorders in that it "is a psychological and severe life-threatening eating disorder described by the ingestion of an abnormally large amount of food in a short time period, followed by an attempt to avoid gaining weight by purging what was consumed."

It is important to know the difference between these three disorders along with the risks and triggers associated with them. Beyond that, it is also incredibly important to keep in mind that all of these are life threatening and need to be taken seriously.

On their website, Eating Disorder

Hope states that "9% of women will struggle with anorexia in their lifetime, 1.5% of women will struggle with bulimia in their lifetime, 3.5% of women will struggle with binge eating." While ".3% of men will struggle with anorexia, .5% of men will struggle with bulimia, 2% of men will struggle with binge eating disorder."

Many forms of disordered eating start young, "50% of teenage girls and 30% of teenage boys use unhealthy weight control behaviors such as skipping meals, fasting, smoking cigarettes, vomiting, and taking laxatives to control their weight."

While I don't believe nor am I trying to say that eating disorders are caused directly by teen drama shows, I am trying to draw the connection between big name shows that teens watch and how the characters within them deal with the weight of themselves and others.

Recognizing the sort of media that influences teens could be a productive way to begin to better understand and combat the issue of disordered eating and begin to develop healthy relationships with food and our bodies from a young age.



Image of "The Liars".

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International Criminal Court.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED NATIONS

ICC to open investigations on the situation in Palestine: Justice for Palestinians

International Criminal Court prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, announces that they will open investigations on the situation in Palestine.

BY **BENGISU INCETAS**
OPINION COLUMNIST

The International Criminal Court's Chief Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, released a statement on the ICC's website noting that they will open investigations on the Situation in Palestine:

"Today, I confirm the initiation by the Office of the Prosecutor ('Office') of the International Criminal Court ('ICC' or the 'Court') of an investigation respecting the Situation in Palestine. The investigation will cover crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court that are alleged to have been committed in the Situation since 13 June 2014, the date to which reference is made in the Referral of the Situation to my Office."

The International Criminal Court is located in The Hague, Netherlands, and operates as an independent entity that prosecutes individuals from member states. It has 15 judges elected for nine-year terms.

The International Criminal Court is located in The Hague, Netherlands, and operates as an independent entity that prosecutes individuals from member states. It has 15 judges elected for nine-year terms.

Influential countries in the world that are not part of the ICC include China, the United States, Israel and Russia. A reason why a country may not want to be part of the ICC is that they want jurisdiction over prosecuting their own states' individuals.

The ICC cannot directly prosecute individuals who committed crimes on nonmember territory. However, the ICC can prosecute individuals from non member states if they committed the crime on ICC member territory. This is important to understand when considering the situation in Palestine. Palestine became a member of the ICC in 2015, while Israel remains a nonmember of the ICC.

If a citizen of Israel commits a war crime or a crime against humanity on Palestinian territory, these acts would give the ICC jurisdiction to prosecute the Israeli citizen.

The oppression and crimes against humanity that were committed against Palestinians can be traced back over half of a century. Many people are familiar with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Sometimes, it is displayed one-sided and other times it's portrayed as a two-sided conflict between Palestine and Israel. The occupation of Palestine that results in settlers moving in and the Palestinians being forced out of their homes continues to this day.

According to Human Rights Watch in "Israel: 50 Years of Occupation Abuses," Israel revoked 130,000 Palestinians residency in the West Bank, and 14,565 in East Jerusalem. They made 237 settlements in the West Bank which have 580,000 settlers and their troops killed over 2,000 Palestinians in the three Gaza conflicts of 2008, 2012, and 2014.

An Instagram account called @eye.on.palestine, posts frequently of the human rights abuses that the Israeli state commits. The number of children affected by these violations and oppression is alarming.

The Obama Administration signed a \$38 billion military aid pact which gives Israel over \$3 billion annually starting in 2019. Palestinian women, children and civilians are harassed by the Israeli Defense Force, soldiers are in their land and their homes were stolen from them.

The 2014 war in Gaza killed many innocent civilians and over 400 Palestinian children. Checkpoints, abusive detentions, killings, beatings, and racism

are something that Palestinians living in Palestine go through under the occupation.

Israel has committed countless human rights violations, and this article only lists a few of them. Their treatment of Palestinians is degrading and inhumane. As our new president of the United States, Joe Biden needs to put a halt immediately on money being sent to Israel for the sake of justice worldwide.

Starting investigations would mean that crimes committed against Palestinians will be seen more as crimes against humanity rather than a two-sided conflict. Seeing this conflict as two-sided takes our focus away from the immense gap of Palestinians versus Israelis affected by this occupation. Yes, all lives are human lives and are important, but we must realize the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

The amount of land that Israel occupies and the amount of money it receives from the United States needs to change in order to restore human rights back to Palestinians. The United States needs to immediately stop showing support to Israel.

Since the United States has a domino effect, other countries may feel obliged to follow along on the boycott of the Israeli government. The U.S. is an influential country to other powers in

the world, so if they act upon an issue, other countries are likely to trail behind.

According to the same article by the Human Rights Watch, 70% of 1.9 million people in Gaza rely on humanitarian aid. The rights of Palestinians are the rights of humans. Awareness needs to start now on the crimes that were committed and how innocent civilians in Palestine face the consequences of the damage that Israel continues to perpetuate.

Recognizing how media influences teens is a productive way to start combatting the issue of disordered eating.



Godzilla battles Kong in Warner Bros. Pictures' highly anticipated "Godzilla vs. Kong."

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES AND LEGENDARY PICTURES

Dive into the Monsterverse in "Godzilla vs. Kong"

Godzilla and King Kong face each other in quite literally the biggest head to head matchup of the year.

By TALIA COLLETT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
& HENRY NGUYEN
FILM CRITIC

Life is rough for a radioactive dinosaur as the infamous Godzilla can't seem to catch a break. It's been 59 years since the two Kaiju monsters first butted heads against each other. Now, in one of the most anticipated fictional matches of the year, does it hold up to expectations?

Following the realization that the Skull Island biodome can no longer contain him, the film sets off with a special task force whose mission is to liberate King Kong from the unstable climate to travel to "Hollow Earth," where they believe all Titans originated from.

However, Apex technology — the leading world tech company that set the special task force in motion — has an ulterior motive to seek out middle

earth's ancient power source. Which disrupts the natural order and eventually leads to an intense showdown between the two.

But before they reach this source, on their journey to take Kong across the world to Antarctica where the entrance lies, the task force's fleet is caught in Titans' crosshairs as Godzilla and Kong first battle it out to see who will reign dominant. This sets the stage for the rest of the film packed chalk full with action, intense battles and breathtaking CGI.

Those who are expecting absolutely intense brawls between the two Titans will not be disappointed. It is clear that most of the film's budget went into meticulously crafting fight scenes to be as grand and extraordinary as possible to really pack a punch. These scenes are only heightened by the great sound design. Both Godzilla and King Kong sound as intimidating and menacing as

ever before.

With that being said, the overall production value is extraordinary. As long-time as well as new fans possess high hopes, the visual expectations for these movies are only increasing, and Wingard along with his creative and production teams did not do viewers a disservice.

With imagery stemming mainly from Hawaii and Queensland, Australia, the principal photography for "Godzilla vs. Kong" captures the breathtaking and expansive lands of the tropics and green mountains. The hollow earth scenes in the film are no exception with both settings transformed by special effects and CGI coupled with other mythical creatures roaming about, it appears like no place audiences have seen before.

However, being an action movie with long-running storylines comes a lot of action cliches that range from

outdated jokes that don't seem to land and the comic relief sidekick character to other forgettable roles that do little to advance the plot. Everything basically falls into place.

This makes the plot extremely predictable and relatively juvenile. The film runs at a very fast pace, thus focusing more on showing the audience some action in order to progress narrative rather than doing so through dialogue. While this approach primarily leaves any dialogue scenes bland and forgettable, it gives us an insanely action packed film that leaves little to nothing to be desired — that is, if you're just here to watch the two behemoths duke it out for the nearly two hour runtime.

With "Kong: Skull Island" and "Godzilla: King of the Monsters" predicated this one, the characters this time around seem quite shallow. I didn't find myself caring much about the characters

which, in turn, made it feel as if there wasn't much at stake for most of them.

The performances by some of the actors, such as Eiza González and Millie Bobby Brown, felt half baked. Whereas other characters like Jia, the young, deaf Iwi girl played by first time actress Kaylee Hottle, gave an outstanding performance that provided an extra layer of depth to the film as well as aspects of Kong's personality.

While the overarching narrative and characters are nothing special, the fight scenes and visuals are ones for the ages. With a nearly beginning to end action packed movie, if you are looking for a modern monster film that doesn't hold back on the visuals and special effects, you will not be disappointed by this year's release of "Godzilla vs. Kong." The film gives audiences and fans the cross-over of the decade and absolutely doesn't let down.

REVIEW

"Godzilla vs. Kong"



The Good:

- CGI fights are not held back
- Sound design has a lot of depth
- Very high production value

The Bad:

- Characters were shallow
- Predictable story
- Loaded with action movie cliches

Upcoming plans for all things Disney

Everything to be expected from The Walt Disney Company in 2021 in terms of theme parks, films and series.

By MADELINE HILLER
A&E EDITOR

From new park additions to phenomenal new titles on their streaming service, 2021 is a big year for The Walt Disney Company. Despite current unprecedented and confusing times, there is light at

the end of the tunnel and still a little Disney magic to help pass the time.

While most of the Disney parks are still operating in phases or in a modified fashion, construction on new additions is still happening. Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida plans to add a Ratatouille ride based on the film. It is expected to

open in October in Epcot. Along with the ride, there are restaurants that will be added throughout the park, such as La Creperie de Paris.

For Disneyland in California, there are similar additions to be expected. One of which being a new parade that was introduced about two weeks before the parks closed due to the pandemic. The parade is noteworthy due to its score, featuring newer Disney music from their big titles "Moana," "Frozen 2," "Coco" and more. Attraction wise, Galaxy's Edge opened an attraction days before closing called Rise of Resistance that can still be considered new since very few have seen it.

Avengers Campus is a new section of California Adventure that was originally supposed to open in July of last year. Obviously, things took a turn and now we are looking to 2021 at the earliest. Avengers Campus will feature rides, shops and character interactions. One ride on the Campus that has already opened is Guardians of the Galaxy: Mis-

sion Breakout. While many fans were sad to see the infamous Tower of Terror go, Mission Breakout has drawn quite a crowd.

For those of us who can't make it to parks, Disney+ has many titles coming to screens that provide just as much Disney magic.

Films coming to Disney+ include titles like "Raya and the Last Dragon." This film is about a mystical place where humans and dragons live in harmony. While it has already been released, there are still some more projected to come out later this year.

"Black Widow" is a highly anticipated Marvel favorite due to its delayed release. This film will follow Natasha Romanov — or Black Widow — as she deals with parts of her past that have come back to haunt her. While this narrative takes place pre "Endgame" somewhere between The first Avenger film and "Infinity War," Romanov will face old friends from her time as a spy from long before she became an Avenger.

There are many series coming out in 2021. From Marvel to Star Wars and everything else in between, we can look forward to many titles this year. "Falcon and the Winter Soldier" has been highly anticipated since "Avengers: Endgame." If you liked "WandaVision," then "Falcon and the Winter Soldier" is right up your alley. Similar to "WandaVision," this series is set about six months after the events of "Avengers: Endgame." It follows Sam and Buckey as they try to find their way in life as civilians.

Other series to watch out for include "The Book of Boba Fett," which follows some well known characters from "The Mandalorian." Following Boba Fett's story, many characters will be played by their original actors.

It's pretty safe to say that Disney has plenty going on while the world is still figuring out the new "normal." Everyone can enjoy some Disney magic during these times. As Walt Disney once said, "You're dead if you aim only for kids. Adults are only kids grown up, anyway."



COLLAGE BY MADELINE HILLER, PHOTOS COURTESY OF DISNEY

All things Disney that are coming in 2021.



COURTESY OF UW ATHLETICS

Juniors Jamal Bey (left) and Haley Van Dyke (right) will bring senior leadership into next season for two teams that need a desperate turn around.

Husky basketball season recap

It was a disappointing season for both the men's and women's UW basketball teams in 2021. Where do they go from here to turn the tides for next season?

By **BROOKS MOELLER**
SPORTS COLUMNIST

It was a disappointing 2020-21 season for UW men's and women's basketball teams as both failed to make the NCAA tournament once again. What makes the situation even more worrisome is that both teams were as far from it as any team could be. It is obvious there will be changes made to both programs, but what exactly can be done to make these teams competitive again?

MEN'S BASKETBALL

After winning the Pac-12 regular season title and making a run to the second round of the NCAA tournament in 2019, the Huskies have failed to make the tournament since with a losing record two seasons in a row. However, this past season was a new low point for this program that was on the rise only a couple of years prior. Now, head coach Mike Hopkins has work to do, or else he may be looking for a new job following the conclusion of next season.

The season was one of the worst in the history of Husky basketball. The team finished with an overall record of 5-21 and a conference record of 4-16, good enough for an 11th place finish in the Pac-12, only ahead of the University of California.

However, after the horrendous 1-11 start to the season, the Huskies began to

play a lot better in the second half of the season, which started with two wins over Colorado and Utah who both would finish the season with winning records. Although they would only manage two more wins, they were much more competitive than they were at the start of the year, giving glimpses of hope for improvement next season.

A big part of the Huskies' turnaround was sophomore guard Marcus Tsohonis, who finished the season with an average of 10.4 points per game. Tsohonis also hit the game winning shot with four seconds left in their Feb. 15 win over rival Washington State. The shot capped off a career-high 29 point performance.

Tsohonis, along with fellow Junior guard Erik Stevenson, were two players that Husky fans thought they could count on being back for next season to help lead the resurgence of the program with new faces brought in around them. But that quickly changed following the conclusion of the season.

On March 23, Stevenson announced that he would be entering the transfer portal and leave Washington. He was the first of what would end up being a total of five Huskies entering the portal, including Tsohonis.

These five, along with the expected departures of seniors Quade Green and Hamier Wright, make for a grand total of seven Huskies leaving the program.

As scary as it is to see this many players leave the program at once, it may end up working out for UW considering Hopkins now has a completely fresh slate to rebuild the program and bring in new players who fit his coaching philosophy better.

Already, he has made the addition of Arizona grad transfer Terrell Brown Jr, who is projected to be the new starting point guard, and small forward out of the NBA Africa Academy Samuel Ariyibi. These two will join the lone class of 2021 high school commits and McDonald's All-American forward Jackson Grant, but expect more additions to come in the following months.

The two players I hope to see stay out of the transfer portal are guard Jamal Bey and center Nate Roberts. Bey showed flashes of potential coming out of high school and finished the season averaging 10.3 points per game. Roberts may never be the star center but can be a solid rotational piece in the frontcourt next season.

The bottom line is that this team was 5-21 this past season. Even if he retained all five players who decided to move on, the possibility of a total 180-degree turnaround is unlikely. Hopkins' best bet to improve comes down to adding new players from the transfer portal and completely rebuilding the team. I am intrigued to see what players he is able to

add and what this team will look like as we get closer to the upcoming season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Finishing with an overall record of 7-14 and a conference record of 3-13, the Husky women's basketball team had a similarly disappointing season as the men did. They would miss the NCAA tournament for the fourth straight season under head coach Jody Wynn.

The result of the season would mark the end of Wynn's tenure at Washington after she was fired following the final game. She would finish with a career record of 38-75 overall and 11-58 in Pac-12 play in four years at the helm.

Coming to UW, Wynn had the tough task of replacing current WNBA star Kelsey Plum who led the Huskies to a final four appearance in 2016 and a sweet 16 appearance in 2017. Wynn was steadily improving her record in her first three seasons but the record did not continue improving in 2021, leading to her termination.

Whoever the new coach ends up being will have the tough task of keeping a very strong recruiting class together, which ranks among the top nationally and includes four ESPN top 100 recruits. It is always a risk to fire a coach with a strong recruiting class like Wynn and is almost a guarantee that most will look elsewhere for an opportunity to play under a coach they can choose.

Whoever the new coach ends up being will have the tough task of keeping a very strong recruiting class together, which ranks among the top nationally and includes four ESPN top 100 recruits.

However, it was clear that Wynn was keeping the team at a mediocre level, and a change was bound to be made sooner rather than later.

The new coach will have the opportunity to work with a solid group of returning players including the trio of Junior Haley Van Dyke, Sophomore Quay Miller and Freshman Tameiya Sadler. Van Dyke is who I am most excited to see play under a new coach. She has the skill set to be a strong senior leader and should once again be the team's top scoring threat after averaging 12 points per game this past season. Along with the expected development of Miller and Sadler, if the new head coach is the right fit, there is a lot to be excited about for the Husky women's basketball program.