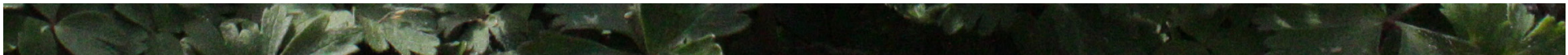




**Botanical beauties:
Greenery to visit this Spring**

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UW Recreation: Virtual guided meditation

Even if it’s just for 10 minutes a day, students looking for temporary relief from the stresses of daily student life can connect with the Guided Self-Compassion meditation session.

By **GARRETT YAEN**
News Editor

Among the COVID pandemic and another remote academic quarter coupled with ongoing political and economic strife, the UW Recreation’s virtual guided self-compassion meditation session offered many of the UW Tacoma students a much needed mental breather. Students wishing to learn to control their anxiety may consider sitting in on a session to try it out.

On April 2, around 25 students zoomed-in to guide each other toward self-compassion and a zen state of mind. In this group meditation session, participants follow the instructions of the zoomed-in guru.

The zoom sessions are typically centered around breath control and the teaching of new yoga techniques. If one properly follows the guidelines, they may accumulate feelings of self compassion and release tension from the mind and body.

Mindfulness Manager Danny Ar-

guetty gave the scoop on what usually goes on during the meetings. He then explained the purpose of the group meditation sessions is to help students increase their attention span and feel better about themselves as well as their mental states.

Although the zoom sessions have been locked down due to COVID, the UW Recreation’s guided meditation sessions still offer a virtual room to guide participants along to increased attention and tranquility.

“The mission is to provide a space

for students to move their bodies briefly and then spend some time to focus on techniques to cultivate more attention,” Arguetty said. “Students move their bodies to warm up, then they sit and explore two different techniques for meditation about 10 minutes each.”

In trying to help participants increase their attention span, the sessions typically consist of the guru guiding the students to control their breathing, bodies and their inner thoughts.

During this past week’s session, one of the first things participants were asked to do was to keep their body completely still and bring awareness to their breathing.

The process first began with standard meditative practices. The participants were directed towards controlling their breathing and being more aware of their bodily functions, such as fidgeting. The guru then shifted the group to their thoughts, telling them to focus and calm down whatever thoughts invaded their headspace.

Then, the guided meditation slowly transitioned from a focus on the body to a focus on the mind, more specifically, strengthening the mindset by co-existing with thoughts participants would label as good or bad. They were also directed to the details of how one should exactly take a breath and the ideal length to hold it, which supposedly helps relieve the

body of stress.

Upon explaining the need for the program, Arguetty shared a bit of history regarding the origins of the program. According to Arguetty, this mindfulness program was initially a grain in the sand among many other similar programs; many of which shared the mission of helping students improve their mental health.

However, when ideas started rolling around to help them run more efficiently, the programs were then reeled in and for the most part centralized by a single entity: UW Recreation.

“Our mindfulness programs were started way back by students but were taken over by recreation to manage them a bit more effectively,” Arguetty said. “The recognition was that students needed more support for their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.”

The guided meditation isn’t the only way students can get their spiritual fix. They may also take classes about yoga and mindfulness. Some are 15 minutes long, others are 30 minutes, and some go up to an hour.

They will also introduce in-person classes that allow up to five participants, and full classes are projected to begin in the fall quarter.

You can join UW Recreation every Monday and Friday morning at 10 a.m. for a 10 minute guided meditation via Zoom to focus on self-compassion and mindfulness. The series is free to all students and will continue each week virtually throughout the quarter until June 18.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Distance needn’t hinder spiritual development.

“Our mindfulness programs were started way back by students but were taken over by recreation to manage them a bit more effectively,”

Anyone who feels they missed out can check out the recordings at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvBfB3l6jGmxvRi_u61mrXQ/playlists

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Office: MAT 151
Phone: 253-692-4428
Email: ledger@uw.edu

Staff Writers

News Reporter...Rosie Mendoza-Bautista
Opinion ColumnistBengisu Incetas
Opinion ColumnistMadi Williams
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Photographer....Nickolus Patraszewski

Design

Page Designer.....Morgan Morgans
Page Designer.....Phong Ngyuen

Cover Art

by Nickolus Patraszewski

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Mak Fai Washington Kung Fu Club lion dancers roaming through the park. (Tacoma Moon Festival circa 2016)

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHINESE RECONCILIATION PROJECT FOUNDATION

Celebrating culture: Remembering the past, forging the future

What the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation brings to the city of Tacoma.

ROSIE MENDOZA-BAUTISTA
NEWS REPORTER

TW: Conversations about violence and hate crimes.

President of the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation, Theresa Pan Hosley, spoke to the Ledger about what the non-profit organization does for the Tacoma community.

Since its inception in 1993, the CRPF was founded in response to the expulsion of hundreds of Chinese citizens and the arson of their businesses in the city of Tacoma. This became infamously known as the “Tacoma Method.”

“To kick people out? It’s something that you can’t even imagine. I couldn’t imagine it. That the history of Chinese expulsion was a fact,” Pan Hosley said. “The foundation was formed to address anti-Asian violence of the late 19th century. I feel it’s very important to teach our next generation about racial issues.”

“The Tacoma Method” and other acts of hate were committed due to sinophobic sentiments and actions, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. This is the root of what the CRPF seeks to reconcile.

“Based on the tragic events that happened 185 years ago, we reconcile this in a more positive and peaceful way. We want to find a positive resolution for all the issues we have had,” Pan Hosley said.

Because of this tumultuous history that took place in Tacoma, the CRPF aims to reflect on this period but unlike this history, it aims to cel-

ebate all the differences that Tacomans bring in.

“This foundation really emphasizes how we can strengthen understanding of our diverse community. How we can create a positive dialogue among all of us,” she said.

There are many qualities she believes make the CRPF stand out. The longevity of this foundation and its commitment to provide Tacomans with community are some of these qualities.

“This is a completely volunteer-run organization that has been running since 1993. That’s quite a while. And we’re still working with this foundation,” Pan Hosley said. “The foundation was formed to amend and represent civic and cultural harmony. That’s our major goal.”

Aside from their aim towards harmony, the CRPF also seeks to educate the community on Tacoma’s past to cultivate a vibrant future.

“We go out into the community to give presentations to different organizations and schools. We bring people through the park and talk about its history. We also do a lot of field trips for school students. We are a hub to share and learn from each other,” she said.

The CRPF has achieved much success. However, there is one unanimous accomplishment that many take pride in and that’s the construction of the Chinese Reconciliation Park on the Ruston waterfront.

“We all agree that the opening of the Chinese Reconciliation Park was our most favorite accomplishment. It’s a welcoming place for all people

from all over the place to come visit and feel safe,” Pan Hosley said.

With a past that’s hard to look back on, this park gives new life to a location previously shrouded in tragedy. Now, Tacomans from all walks of life can enjoy the beauty of old wounds healing and educate themselves by reading the historical panels.

Besides the accomplishments they have made thus far, the CRPF looks to the future and continues to have big goals in mind.

“Our immediate goal is to start a construction of a multicultural pavilion. The main purpose of the building would be to serve as a community and education center. Also, to be a field trip destination and a welcoming place for our community to use,” she said.

Another immediate and important goal that they are currently working on is expanding their endeavors to the youth by providing more educational materials to local schools.

“This year we are working on printing two books with local authors. We plan to donate them for schools to use as educational material. It will be teaching resources for teachers to share with their students,” Pan Hosley said.

With these goals in mind, they also have aspirations for upcoming events this year. An event they hold annually is the Tacoma Moon Festival, which looked different this past year due to COVID, but said they are hopeful of hosting it in their open space if it is safe enough to do so come September.

The CRPF expressed their gratitude towards those who have helped their non-profit. Specifically, Pan Hosley wanted to lend a heartfelt thank you to the Asian Pacific Islander Student Union at UW Tacoma.

“The APISU provided us with a video for our 2020 Moon Festival. Please check it out. It was beautifully made. I want to thank them for giving us an opportunity to showcase their beautiful performances. I hope they stay in contact with this foundation,” said Pan Hosley.

The CRPF also wants to reassure AAPI communities of its readily available assistance to lend support for those who are struggling during these times, or any other.

“If you have had any issues or problems you’ve encountered, we are here to support you. Not everyone has smooth sailing in their journey. Do not be afraid to ask for help,” she said.

Pan Hosley had a lot of thoughts in regard to the hostilities AAPI communities have faced across the country, and even in our own community.

“All human beings have a right to equity. Every individual must be treated with dignity and respect. Our foundation wants to lend our voice and support against Anti-AAPI community hate. They’re our neighbors and they’re our friends,” Pan Hosley said.

To AAPI students, staff, and faculty at UW Tacoma, Pan Hosley and the CRPF wanted to lend words of affirmation and resources to any in need of help.

“I want us not to be deterred. Know that you have support from a

lot of people from different communities. Continue to rise up and continue to educate yourself. Education is one way you can defeat discrimination,” she said.

And to all students, staff, and faculty at UW Tacoma, the CRPF encourages an understanding of our diversity and still welcomes anyone that wishes to help.

“Use empathy. Recognize that we all have our differences, but that’s what makes our communities so beautiful. Differences are what unites us as one country,” Pan Hosley said. “To the students and faculty, we are here. We welcome everybody with open arms.”

For more information and donations

CRPF website:
<http://crpfatacoma.org/>

Tacoma Chinese Reconciliation Park website:
<https://www.tacomachinese-park.org/>

Donations:
<http://crpfatacoma.org/get-involved/#donate>
Contact CRPF: <http://crpfatacoma.org/contact-crpf/>

Tacoma Moon Festival:
<http://tacomamoonfestival.org/about-tmf/>

APISU Video:
<http://tacomamoonfestival.org/performances/>

Kadına Siddet Hayir: No to violence against women

Under a presidential decree, Turkey withdrew from the Istanbul Convention. Will this be a threat to women's rights?



COURTESY OF OZGE SEBZECI

Standing for women's rights.

By BENGİSU CİCEK
OPINION COLUMNIST

The Istanbul Convention, also known as the European Convention, is a human rights treaty drafted by the Council of Europe. Its purpose is for the protection from domestic violence and violence against women. It has been signed by 45 countries and ratified by over 30. Turkey was the first country to ratify the convention, but on March 20, 2021, Turkey withdrew from the convention on the basis of a presidential decree.

This sparked protests in opposition to the action, as femicides and violence against women and children is an issue in Turkey that is not tended to properly. Anit Sayac — a data website — has shared the number of women killed in Turkey since 2008, as well as their names. In 2020, 409 women were killed in total. In 2021, the number has already reached 90.

We Will Stop Femicide is an online platform that advocates for women's rights in Turkey. As stated on their website, they note "We Will Stop Femicide Platform has the status of legal person. We continue our efforts for the association to gain the status of 'public benefit association'. The founders of the Platform are the families of our sisters who were murdered, women from various political parties, bar associations, business associations, trade unions and other organizations, as well as independent women."

On their website, they have a 2020 data report showing the relationship victims had to their attackers. 32% stemmed from their husband, 18% were

their partner and 13% were acquaintances. The 2020 report also helps us to better understand the victims. The ages of 40% of women killed ranged between 36 to 65 years, 24% were 25-35, 11% were 19-24, 4% were 66 and over, 3% were 15-18 and 3% were 0-11. 60% of women were killed in their homes while 16% were in the streets.

Hacettepe University released a report that revealed 36% of married or previously married women have at least once in their lifetime been subjected to physical violence.

The percentage of the perpetrators being prominently the women's husbands and partners are upsetting. A partner or spouse is someone you should be able to trust and love, someone you can feel safe with. When that safety is taken away and becomes replaced with violence, the love diminishes.

Women in Turkey wanting to divorce their husbands and leave a relationship needs to be normalized. Society can be judgmental when it comes to women leaving men and their "honor" oftentimes suffers due to these actions. Women should not be subjected to consequences when making the best decision for their happiness, health and wellbeing.

There are so many stories and incidents of femicide and violence against women. Violence against women is not being taken seriously in Turkey, so feminists and activists are taking it to the streets in there and around the world to emphasize each individual whose innocent human life was taken in Turkey.

Vahit Tuna, an artist from Turkey, placed 440 heels on the walls of a build-

ing in a busy street in Istanbul. "We are standing in a street now and maybe people are faced with a work of art for the first time, an open and bleeding wound for the very first time. I believe this has an impact," said Tuna to Reuters. The number of heels represents 2018's reported number of women killed due to domestic or sexual violence.

Justice needs to be served to these women, and women who are currently being abused. Legislation needs to be passed so the safety of women is ensured in Turkey. The current structure that addresses the violence against women is lacking, which is why women have to think of their own safety and protection.

Onedio, which is a social content platform, has a Youtube video in Turkish titled "8 Methods Women Develop to Protect Themselves From Harassment." In the video, the female character who lives alone is shown taking many safety precautions, such as placing mens shoes outside her door, writing a male name on paper and placing it on her door, pretending her father is home when the food delivery man comes and pretending to talk to her father on the phone when a man is walking behind her.

We are taught methods like these in order to protect ourselves, especially out in public. We are taught to protect ourselves in a way that centers males, and places the responsibility to be vigilant on our shoulders. If these issues become prioritized to begin thinking of long term solutions, the feeling of constant fear will diminish so utilizing the methods from the video in real life will no longer be necessary.

Emine Bulut's story is an example of the violence and murders women

face in Turkey. Bulut was a mother who lived in Turkey with her 10-year-old daughter. In 2019, Emine was having lunch with her daughter in Kirikkale, when her ex husband of four years came and started an argument regarding the custody of their child. Things quickly escalated and he stabbed her in the neck before he fled, and as Emine held onto her neck saying "I don't want to die," her daughter pleaded for her mother not to. Unfortunately, Emine later died in the hospital at the age of 38.

"Since then more people have been joining the movement for women's rights. Our fight has been spread across borders and throughout society. Women's demands to not be killed or subjected to violence has become a widespread social request," said Gulsum Kav, a representative of We Will Stop Femicide — a women's rights platform — to BBC in their article "Emine Bulut: Anger in Turkey over mother's murder."

Children are also heavily affected by these femicides, as their mothers are killed and they see women being abused in their homes or on the streets, this impacts their psychology and socialization. And more often than not, when they grow older they possess this childhood trauma that has roots in what happened to their mothers and the abuse they witnessed.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, Turkish-British novelist and women's rights activist, Elif Şafak discusses the issue of femicides, specifically she emphasizes that the numbers are actually much higher than what is reported. "This is an emergency for us."

She states, "The fact that the government is not supporting this and is doing the exact opposite, to me is just unthinkable."

She is right, this is an emergency. If the law does not recognize the perpetrators and the crimes being committed against women and children, this abuse will continue to be kept a secret.

One of the reasons why the Istanbul Convention was withdrawn was because of claims that it promoted homosexuality. "Conservatives in Erdogan's Justice and Development Party have said the convention, which stresses gender equality and forbids discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, undermines family structures and encourages violence," said Al Jazeera in their article "Thousands protest Turkey's exit from domestic violence treaty"

Despite these claims, the convention itself does not mention the definition of family. Beyond that, 67% of the society supports the Istanbul Convention, while 17% are against it despite claims otherwise.

Information regarding the misconceptions of the Istanbul Convention, such as this one about public support, can be found on @kiz_basina, a social responsibility online platform on Instagram advocating for the reduction of violence on gender inequality in Turkey.

Women's rights need to be prioritized in Turkey. This is a serious topic that needs a long term solution for the protection of women and children. Holding perpetrators accountable, helping women heal from their trauma and teaching children the difference between healthy and toxic behavior is something that needs to be focused on.

Myanmar Protests: Organizing for a better world

As protests continue in Myanmar a brutal crackdown by security forces has led to a heavy death toll, but the people continue to find strength.

By **ANDREA NADAL**
OPINION EDITOR

SECOND ARTICLE IN A SERIES ON PROTESTS AROUND THE WORLD

****TW: POLICE VOILENCE, MENTION OF MURDER, TORTURE AND ARRTTEST****

“Everything will be okay,” read the tee-shirt of a young woman on the frontlines of the protests. A symbol of strength and hope for the future, a bold statement of the reason that she was there, a challenge to anyone that would stand in the way of that hope. Kyal Sin, also known as Angel, was 19 years old, newly graduated and determined to make a change. She had taken to the streets to join anti-coup protesters on March 3 in spite of the risks.

Angel “was killed by a shot to the head on the streets of Mandalay as

she fought for a tentative democracy in which she had proudly voted for the first time last year, an election overturned by the Feb. 1 coup.” Explained by the Reuters Staff in “‘Everything will be OK’: slain Myanmar teen’s T-shirt slogan spurs defiance.” At least 18 people were killed that day as security forces shot live ammunition at protestors.

As another protestor recalled to Reuters staff, hundreds of people “... had gathered peacefully in Myanmar’s second city to denounce the coup and call for the release of detained leader Aung San Suu Kyi.”

The article goes on to explain that “before the police assault, Angel can be heard on video shouting, ‘We won’t run’ and ‘blood must not be shed.’” A cry for justice amid state violence and repression, a cry that will not be

snuffed out by her murder.

The baseless claims of election fraud in the general election laid the groundwork for the military coup. Now in charge, the military has declared a year-long state of emergency in an attempt to legitimize their power, this seizure of power by the military results in military rule referred to as a junta.

Over 500 people have been murdered since the junta’s crackdown on protestors, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. As security forces raid homes and carry out arbitrary beatings and arrests, it’s apparent that the terror is not confined to protests.

With people disappearing, being tortured and killed by the junta, the flame of dissent continues to be fanned. “The soldiers rounded up the entire group of about 70 protestors and took

them to a nearby air force base and beat them with sticks, plastic pipes, chains and belts, said a teacher, U Nay Lin, 30, who was among those arrested.” Richard C. Paddock explains in the article “Beaten, Cuffed, Hauled Away: When Myanmar’s Military Comes Knocking”

“They tried to threaten us by arresting and torturing us like this, but we aren’t afraid to die,” said Thae Ei Phyu, who was released without charges. “It’s better to die than living under the junta.” After her release, “she was taken to a hospital, where she received stitches for the deep holes in her neck caused by the rubber bullets.”

Despite the continued efforts and unwavering dedication of the protestors, violence and death take a collective toll on people, and as such an important part of these movements is found in the quieter moments. Vigils and acts of remem-

brance for those lost during the fight for liberation are fundamental to movements. Creating a space for healing and reflection allows people the opportunity to work through their trauma and emotions in a healthy way.

There is not often space to do this sort of work, and continuing to repress these things only puts yourself and others at risk when you reach a breaking point. Vigils, prayers, funerals and what is known as the three-fingered salute are all ways that protestors in Myanmar have found to make space for this sort of work to be done.

As the protests continue in Myanmar with the looming threat of state violence, it is important that we continue to center the voices of the people and their demands over all else. The autonomy and power of the people need to be recognized or liberation will never be achieved.



Protest against military coup in front of Kayin State Hluttaw (the legislature of Kayin State) on Feb. 9, 2021.

COURTESY OF NINJASTRIKERS



PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

The Point Defiance Rhododendron Garden is one of the few themed gardens that Point Defiance Park has.

Botanical beauties: Greenery to visit this Spring

In western Washington there are plenty of places to appreciate nature blooming in the spring.

By LORE ZENT
A&E COLUMNIST

With Earth Day right around the corner and spring approaching with warmer weather, now is the perfect time to venture out to admire the blooming flowers and plant life. Listed below are some of the few botanical garden and flower sighting locations in Washington state, separated into sections by counties then alphabetized.

PIERCE COUNTRY **LAKEWOOD GARDENS** **(LAKEWOOD, WA)**

Open Wednesday through Sunday and nestled in Lakewood, Lakewold Gardens features six different themed gardens spread across their 10 acres of land. They have over 800 Rhododendrons as the staple of their plant collections as well as a collection of Japanese maples and Washington Champion trees.

Although the history of the garden being traded and bought between families dates back to 1910, it was first opened to the public as part of a non-profit organization in 1989. Their mission, as stated on their website, is to

provide “intentional encounters with the life-changing power of nature, fostering peace, creativity and healing in our communities.”

POINT DEFIANCE PARK GARDENS **(TACOMA, WA)**

The Point Defiance Park hosts a wide variety of gardens, many of which are dedicated to different themes and flowers, such as: Japanese, northwest native, herb, dahlia, iris, rose, fuschia and rhododendron. It is located near the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Point Defiance Park and Owen's Beach, making it a great day trip location for both spring and summer.

W.W. SEYMOUR **BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY** **(TACOMA, WA)**

Located a few blocks from our own University of Washington Tacoma campus is the W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory. Built in 1908 and located in Wright Park, visitors can find a 27 acre arboretum featuring about 700 native and exotic species of plants. They also have a rotating floral exhibit. W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory is one of only three victorian-style conservatories on the West Coast.

KING COUNTY **BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN** **(BELLEVUE, WA)**

Bellevue Botanical Gardens is made up of 53 acres of land that encompass cultivated gardens, restored woodlands and natural wetlands. It is maintained in a partnership between the City of Bellevue Parks and Community Services and the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society.

The location is open daily from dawn to dusk, free of charge. They also hold classes, lectures and special events with a participation fee. They have a gift shop on site — the Trillium Store — currently open at reduced hours. Their cafe, Copper Kettle Coffee, is currently offering takeout. This location is a great getaway from the urban lifestyle.

CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE **(SEATTLE, WA)**

Opened in 1984, the Center for Urban Horticulture is a part of the University of Washington Botanical Gardens. It is composed of 16 acres of landscaped gardens. The Union Bay Natural Area is also located at this site and a 74 acre wildlife habitat home to over 200 species of birds. There is also

an outdoor laboratory for UW Research. While the buildings are currently closed, the garden grounds are free to roam.

KUBOTA GARDEN **(SEATTLE, WA)**

The Kubota Garden was started by Japanese emigrant Fujitaro Kubota in 1927 and has been open to the public since 1987. This Japanese garden is spread across 27 acres of land. There, you can find nine ponds, two red bridges, 140 maple varieties, and 30 hydrangea varieties among other exotic plant life. This season, they are hosting a “Pollination Power” themed exploration kit for children 4-12 and their caregivers. This includes a learning story, investigation, self guided tour and scavenger hunt.

RHODODENDRON SPECIES **BOTANICAL GARDEN** **(FEDERAL WAY, WA)**

Founded by the American Rhododendron Society in 1964 and open to the public in 1980, this site holds 10,000 planted rhododendrons across 22 acres of woodland gardens. Known worldwide for its contributions to scholarship and research, it is also home to the world's largest public stumpery with a half acre

path of 140 stumps and a variety of ferns. It also houses many companion plants such as Himalayan blue poppies, camellias, magnolias and Japanese maples.

KITSAP COUNTY **ELANDAN GARDENS LTD** **(BREMERTON, WA)**

This site is located on the waterfront of Sinclair Inlet in Bremerton. It features the landscape artistry of Dan Robinson and sculpture artistry of Will Robinson. These gardens feature an array of Asian, European and North American greenery. Amongst this greenery, they hold a notable bonsai collection as well.

SKAGIT VALLEY **SKAGIT VALLEY TULIP FESTIVAL** **(MT. VERNON & LA CONNER, WA)**

Skagit Valley welcomes spring and the blossoming tulips in this month-long celebration filled with many events and festivities. Travelers come in by the thousands to view the vibrant tulip fields. With no permanent location, the festival is instead designed as a driving tour. Featured tulip fields include RoozenGaarde, Washington Bulb Co. Inc. and Tulip Town. Due to the pandemic, RoozenGaarde and Tulip Town require you to pay for an admission ticket.



Steven Yeun Stars in this emotional drama about what it means to be a family.

COURTESY OF A24

Chasing the impossible in “Minari”

A family immigrating to America faces financial difficulties, as well as a myriad of complications including marital strife and a visiting family member.

By **HENRY NGUYEN**
FILM CRITIC

As “Parasite” swept the Oscars last year and caught many by surprise, it placed Korean films in a long awaited spotlight in the American mainstream film landscape. This year’s “Minari,” directed by Lee Isaac Chung, takes center stage for many mainstream film awards as well.

“Minari” is a Korean film about a family who immigrated to America where they take up menial jobs, such as chick mating. These jobs are barely enough to support their family of two kids, let alone themselves. So, they pack everything up and move from California to Arkansas to buy some land and start a farm.

Things don’t get much better here either as the father, Jacob — played by Steven Yeun — struggles to grow sufficient crops due to the high price of water. The mother Monica, played by Han Ye-ri, increasingly grows impatient and stressed as their son, David, played by Alan S. Kim, suffers from a heart condition.

As a piece that tells a story about a family that deals with issues extending beyond the monetary confinements they’re stuck in, the story written by Chung will hit home for many viewers no matter the background they come from. At the core of “Minari” is a story about the frailty of a family on the brink of splitting apart and the chase for something so futile.

There are many nuanced issues that make the audience guess where the family is going to end up. After moving to Arkansas with hopes of no longer staring at chicken butts all day to achieve something, this dream quickly proves to be near impossible. With debts to pay and mouths to feed, these burdens prove to keep them from achieving their goal and the drama gets tenser as each scene progresses.

This film is very well shot and features wide handheld nature shots. Whenever the characters are outside, the landscape fills the screen with pleasing imagery. The many different angles that allow the viewer to peer down onto the characters add a unique touch and an interesting point of view.

However, at some parts, the film features a lot of shots meant to be introspective to let the viewer reflect on the events that are currently happening, but they tend to drag on longer than necessary.

The supporting characters in the film are very well depicted. Grandma Soonja — played by Yoon Yuh-Joon — plays a very eccentric grandma who David describes as “not a real grandma.” However, Soonja is as real as a grandma can possibly get. She is a surprisingly subversive with her own personality.

Will Patton’s performance as Paul was surprisingly entertaining to watch as well. Paul is an odd evangelical who prays at any given moment. At first, he doesn’t really seem like an important character but as the plot progresses, his role be-

REVIEW

“Minari”

★★★★★

The Good:

- Drama is very well done and tense
- Beautiful Cinematography
- Characters are intricately depicted
- Nuanced conflicts that leave you guessing

The Bad:

- Slower burn than it needs to be

comes more purposeful.

“Minari” is a film about chasing the American dream and for some, if not most, that dream is becoming more and more than just a dream every day. “Minari” is a great piece of Korean film that deserves at least a viewing.

Beverly Cleary; in memoriam

Beloved childhood author of “Ramona and Beezus” passes away at 104.

By **MADELINE HILLER**
A&E EDITOR

“I don’t think children themselves have changed that much. It’s the world that has changed.” -Beverly Cleary

Everyone has characters from their childhood that they read about in books and connect with on some level. Those characters we read about when we were younger are the ones we carry throughout our lives. Ramona and Beezus Quimby may be those characters for some, and for others they may just be some familiar names.

The Quimby sisters were first introduced in 1955 by the beloved childhood author Beverly Cleary. On March 25, Beverly Cleary passed away at the age of 104. Her stories, including “Ramona and Beezus,” will carry on Cleary’s legacy for years to come.

Cleary wrote her first book in 1950 titled “Henry Huggins” and it immediately became a new standard for children’s fiction. Cleary was a librarian at the time and wanted to take children’s fiction to

a new, realistic degree. She wanted her characters to be relatable to any middle class young reader.

Cleary was born up here in the Pacific Northwest in McMinnville, Oregon. She then married Clarence Cleary in 1940, against her parent’s wishes. After uniting, the two moved to Carmel-by-the-Sea, California where they lived with their two children, Malcolm and Marianne. Beverly was married to Clarence for 64 years until he passed away in 2004.

Cleary graduated from our very own University of Washington in 1939 before becoming a librarian. With her love of books, Cleary began to write for children. She went on to write numerous children’s novels from 1950 until 1999, when she published her final book, “Ramona’s World.”

Her character, Ramona, was actually created by accident. Ramona Quimby, along with her sister Beezus, started as friendly neighbors in the “Henry Huggins” stories. Before Cleary knew it, people seemed to love Ramona, so she decided to create her own world and

stories, which quickly became a hit.

Apart from her most well known works like “Ramona and Beezus” and “Henry Huggins,” Cleary also wrote other titles such as “The Mouse and the Motorcycle” in 1965. This was the start of a series about a talking mouse and his everyday life. In these books, you can expect a similar formula to Cleary’s other titles — Ralph the mouse faces problems in his life that he learns to solve. Cleary’s goal was to keep writing about realistic problems but this time through the perspective of a mouse, hoping that younger readers would connect better.

Losing authors is never easy, especially when we were able to get a glimpse into their minds during their lifetime. Losing an author from your childhood is a completely different story because the characters and stories those authors created are often the ones we hold dearly. The stories Beverly Cleary gave us have lived on for many years, and will continue to do so for years to come.



COURTESY OF HARPER COLLINS

The works of Beverly Cleary will continue to connect with children for years to come.



2021 MLB SEASON PREVIEW

After a shortened 2020 season, Major League Baseball is back in full force with a 162 game season scheduled to take place through October. Which teams have the best shot to take home a World Series title?

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT THOMAS/SAN DIEGO PADRES

After making significant moves in the offseason, star shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr and his San Diego Padres have their eyes on a World Series title.

By Brooks Moeller SPORTS COLUMNIST

After a shortened 2020 season that featured a mere 48 game schedule along with a postseason with six more teams than usual, the 2021 season will appear to be much more normal. This year, baseball fans will be happy to hear we are now able to return to a full 162 game season. To add to the excitement, all 30 MLB teams are allowing some sort of limited capacity to their games and are welcoming fans back for the first time since 2019, all of which has the makings to be a special year.

BATTLE IN THE NL WEST

If there was an award to be won in the offseason, it would have been awarded to the San Diego Padres. The Padres finished with a record of 37-23 in 2020 but were eliminated in the second round of the playoffs. However, the success they were able to have was not expected to be this great. Now heading into 2021, the Padres are looking to become a World Series contender.

The resurgence of the Padres begins with shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. In 2020, Tatis hit with an average of .277 to go along with 17 home runs and 45 RBIs, putting himself in the MVP conversation the entire season. Tatis will also be entering his youthful age 22 season and has already signed a 14-year \$340 million contract with the Padres, keeping him in San Diego for the foreseeable future.

To build around Tatis and the rest of the Padres offensive attack, the team also added two star starting pitchers to their rotation — Yu Darvish and Blake Snell — via trade. Darvish has been an all-around solid starting pitcher since coming into the league in 2016 including posting a 2.01 ERA with the Cubs last season. Snell is a former Cy Young

award winner in the middle of his prime at only 28 years old.

But even with the moves the Padres made, they still have a significant hurdle to get over if they want a World Series championship. That hurdle is defending champs and division rivals, the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Dodgers are coming back fully loaded with almost the exact same team as last season with the addition of one of, if not the best, pitchers in baseball and 2020 NL Cy Young recipient Trevor Bauer.

This has the makings to be one of the most exciting division races we have seen in recent years and if I had to predict, the winner between the two will represent the National League in the World Series.

FRANCISCO LINDOR MAKES THE MOVE TO NEW YORK

The New York Mets also made a big splash this offseason by acquiring shortstop Francisco Lindor from the Cleveland Indians. Lindor was a four time all-star with the Indians and is easily one of the biggest stars in baseball who will instantly make the Mets a contender for a World Series.

The Mets have been known as an underperforming team over the last few seasons as they always seem to make one or two big moves that they believe will take them over the top but have always come up short. It doesn't help that they are in the NL East, which is one of the most talented divisions in baseball.

The two teams that will do their best to try to keep Lindor and the Mets at ease in the division will be the Atlanta Braves and Philadelphia Phillies. The Braves were one game away from winning the NL pennant and had a 3-1 series lead over the Dodgers before falling apart and eventually being eliminated by the future champs. However, they will return most of their 2020 squad including young star Ronald Acuna who

is a popular MVP pick.

The Phillies made the big free agent signing splash in 2019 by acquiring Bryce Harper, but they have yet to see it pay off on the field. Despite having the talent to make the postseason since acquiring Harper, they still haven't been able to quite reach it. The bullpen was a big issue for the Phillies in 2020 but was addressed heading into 2021 with the signings of Jose Alvarado, Archie Bradley and Brandon Kintzler. They should not be thrown to the side when discussing legitimate contenders in the NL.

WILL THE YANKEES FINALLY BREAK THROUGH IN THE AL?

Moving over to the American League, the Yankees are yet again coined the favorite to win the pennant and make their way to the World Series. They have been a popular pick to win it all over the past few years but have always come up short in the playoffs. They are the popular pick once again, but will this finally be the year they break through?

Last season, the Yankees were hit hard with injuries which resulted in losing two of their stars, Giancarlo Stanton and Aaron Judge, for the majority of the season. Both are back fully healthy to lead a Yankees lineup that has the potential to be one of the strongest in the league once again. In the offseason, they were able to re-sign MVP contender DJ LeMahieu to a long term contract as well as sign veteran power hitter Jay Bruce to a one year deal. The pitching rotation is led by former Cy Young award winner Gerrit Cole with veterans Corey Kluber and Jameson Tallion being signed to help bolster the pitching staff.

The Yankees have all the right pieces to make a run at a title once again, but another team that I am very excited about, and one that should be

watched in the AL, is the Chicago White Sox. The White Sox are in a very similar position as the Padres were last season, so I also expect a similar breakout in Chicago as well.

They have a young and powerful

lineup that is led by AL batting champ Tim Anderson, rookie of the year runner up Luis Robert, and 2020 AL MVP Jose Abreu. The team may be one or two pitching arms away from making a deep run in the postseason.

AMERICAN LEAGUE PLAYOFF PICKS:

WILD CARD: BLUE JAYS OVER TWINS

ALDS: YANKEES OVER BLUE JAYS
ALDS: WHITE SOX OVER ASTROS

ALCS: WHITE SOX OVER YANKEES

NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYOFF PICKS:

WILD CARD: PADRES OVER METS

NLDS: PADRES OVER DODGERS
NLDS: BRAVES OVER CARDINALS

NLCS: PADRES OVER BRAVES

WORLD SERIES PICK:

PADRES OVER WHITE SOX