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THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

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The Tacoma Dome will yet again remain vacant for this spring’s commencement ceremony.

PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

Commencement 2021: Virtual updates

This year’s virtual commencement ceremony will specifically center around students from UW Tacoma.

By GARRETT YAEN
NEWS EDITOR

Last year’s supposed one-of-a-kind tri-campus commencement ceremony was met with tempered applause from UW students — especially those from the Tacoma campus.

Last Tuesday, the Ledger had the privilege of attending one of the many community discussions regarding the changes to this year’s commencement fair. This forum involved answering a few short questions relayed from students to faculty.

The discussion was a mix of suggestions from key campus representatives. Although all of the information regarding the ceremony has not been released yet, each pitched in their two cents on making sure this year’s commencement outshines last year’s.

The Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs Mentha Hynes and Director of Events and Sponsorships BrieAnna Bales both explained how the ceremony would differ from the previous quarter’s.

First and foremost, Hynes announced that at the request of students, this year’s virtual commencement ceremony would exclusively include students at the Tacoma campus.

“We have the opportunity to plan our own program that highlights the unique identity of Tacoma,” Hynes said. “Seattle recognized that we are one system, but three different learning identities so there was absolutely no pushback or hesitancy or reservations on the part of Seattle.”

Another piece of this year’s graduation will be the inclusion of an in-person celebration on top of the commencement. Although the celebration’s exact location hasn’t been announced yet, one thing that is certain is that there will be an outdoor facility where each person will be allowed to bring one car load of guests.

The celebration won’t be without its safety checks. Hynes explained the multiple layers of safety measures that will likely take place in order to protect the participants.

“We imagine that when you get to this location, there will be four minimally, seven maximum, stations,” Hynes said. “Your first stop

will be a temperature check. We want to take your temperature and make sure you’re not exhibiting any signs of illness.”

Participants will remain in their car before moving on to the second stop with their masks to receive a souvenir from the university that’s related to commencement. The third and final stop will likely be when the graduate can leave their car and have their photo taken in front of a backdrop.

Students can expect to see the chancellor on-site, deans to rotate in and out, members of student affairs and a crew of temperature-checked volunteers to help the efforts.

In addition to the celebration, Hynes noted that the UWT campus will soon join the fight against COVID, as those interested will be eligible to receive a COVID vaccination on campus along with families, faculty and staff.

Hynes explained further regarding the COVID vaccination to note that the UW Tacoma campus, at some point, will be used as a place where people can receive shots, but the staffing will be provided by the state health department.

Because of how many resources a commencement ceremony typically takes up, this plan is unlikely to change as long as Pierce County remains in phase 2.

“Planning commencement usually takes nine months,” Hynes said. “BrieAnna has the task of planning commencement and let’s say it happens in June [and] two months later she’s looking for vendors and identifying prices and so forth so once we’re locked into a plan we will need to stick to that plan unless there is a significant rollback.”

As the chances for an indoor celebration are not possible, students will again not be inside the Tacoma Dome as a part of this year’s ceremony. To close things out, Hynes encouraged students to do what they can as individual members of the community to create a better environment for the future.

“Teach your family and friends the importance of masking up,” Hynes said. “Do what we can as a community to better ourselves.”

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Transparency: Strength in vulnerability within the DAPS

Chairperson, Oliver Webb speaks about the DAPS and their support of trans and gender diverse individuals in the Puget Sound.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVER WEBB AND OLLIE FJOR'SKERA

The Diversity Alliance of the Puget Sound logo.

BY ROSIE MENDOZA-BAUTISTA
NEWS REPORTER

Chairperson of the Diversity Alliance of the Puget Sound, Oliver Webb, spoke about the non-profit's goal to support trans and gender diverse people in Washington state.

"The board consists of me, Secretary Skyler Locke and Member-at-Large board members, Ollie Fjor'Skera and Astro Pittman," Webb said "We originally were founded in 2004 and became a non-profit in 2008. We switched names because we switched service areas."

Although previously the Gender Alliance of the Southsound, the recent name change was a result of expanding their reach to assist people further than the bounds of the Southsound and to rebrand as a whole.

The non-profit began more than a decade ago because community members outside of King County wanted accessibility to a supportive trans and gender diverse organization.

"In Washington, we only have a handful of transgender organizations. Back then, Ingersoll was the major group in Seattle. So, King County was covered, but there was nothing in Pierce County. It was inaccessible to many outside of Seattle," Webb said.

Webb spoke about what he saw needed to come from this organization. His lengthy experience within the LGBTQ+ community has motivated the work he does in leading the DAPS today.

"I have volunteered in the community for several decades. I have seen people get either passed around from organization to organization or there's falling through the cracks.

Because of this, we really wanted to be a landing pad for people," he said.

Because of what he's witnessed, Webb and the board strive to create an environment for trans and gender diverse individuals that is both welcoming and accepting of who they are.

"We wanted to be a home for people. A safe space for someone to be their authentic self. And we really take people as they are. We want to be a true safe space that has resources and understands the necessities that are needed," Webb said.

He also spoke about the ways that the DAPS fills the need to have a good support system for trans and gender diverse individuals in Washington state.

This goal to provide support and social groups to fill a hole in the community has manifested itself into groups currently held online, five times a week. They are different in each of these days and provide different types of activities for those who join.

"Monday mornings are Trans Tea, which is a social group. Tuesday nights are Plugged In, which is our activity night. Wednesday mornings are Trans-cend, which is mindfulness and yoga. Thursday nights are Trans-101. And Fridays switch between two groups," Webb said.

Fridays are eventful for DAPS in that they differ in the activities they do. Although previously centered around one activity, their popularity has caused them to adjust their schedule.

"The first and third Fridays of the month are Friday evening tea, so that's a social group. It used to be one hour but it takes about one hour to get through all the introductions. So, we have extended it to two hours, due to popular demand," he said.

foundation of wanting to support and uplift trans artists by incorporating them into their monthly calendars.

"We could have hired a graphic artist to do a one time graphic set. But we decided early on that we wanted to hire local artists to do this. So we give a stipend and each artist does a two month rotation with us," he said.

Other programs they hold have to do with aid. Whether this be monetary or supplying trans and gender diverse individuals with needed resources, the DAPS states that it works in delivering for these communities.

"We have an HRT program where we give two months of HRT supplies. One is Name-Aid, where we pay for people to change your names because we believe that financial issues should not stop you from changing your name. And we have a microgrant program," Webb said.

However, like many organizations, the DAPS has faced difficulties with the pandemic at large. Webb discussed how the pandemic really pushed them to see whether they would sink or swim.

"I think the biggest obstacle was losing an entire board because of COVID. We were all feeling that isolation. People lost jobs or moved. It was really hard. And then there's also a learning curb. We had to come back from a really hard place to get to where we are," Webb said.

Even with these obstacles, Webb, the board members and the community at large were still able to persist. They learned that the online environment was key to making groups more accessible to all.

With all the work Webb and his

board members do, there's a lot of fruit they enjoy from their labor. However, a specific accomplishment that Webb is proud of is an online venture he has worked on.

"I built an entire discord of resources of every type of resource you would ever want. We do have resources of surgeons or doctors that are trans inclusive. However, we went further than that. If you need a haircut, it's there. If you need a tattoo, it's there," he said.

With all these resources Webb and others have collected and put into discord, they have aspirations of sharing this beyond Washington state.

"We're making these resources into a searchable Wiki Page. That has been something we have been working on. But for now, it's just an in depth discord that's available to any trans, gender diverse person that would like to join," he said.

Furthermore, with prospects for the future in mind, Webb looks to the near future in excitement about events the DAPS will be taking on that all members of the community are welcomed to.

"We will be co-hosting Alki Beach Pride this year. We are doing it safely and socially distanced. That will be on the 14th and 15th of August," he said.

The DAPS has aspirations to create more groups than the ones they currently have. These groups are related to important aspects of a trans or gender diverse person's experiences.

"We have a couple of groups we would love to add on. We would love a trans-parent group. So, parents that are trans or parents of trans kids. We would love a significant other group. These are the other groups we have ideas for," Webb said.

How students, staff and faculty can help support these prospects differ, but are all equally valuable to the DAPS. Webb and the board want to continue working with the community and equally, want their support and guidance.

"Supporting us in general. Coming out to pride, following us on social media. Telling people about us. If you know people that are trans in your life or gender diverse, supporting them, helping them find resources or sending them to us," he said.

To students, staff, and faculty at UW Tacoma inquiring about being better allies to trans and gender diverse people, Webb speaks about themes of respect.

"Know that we exist and give us space to exist. We need space to exist, we need to be loved, we need to be

cared about and we need friends. Respect our pronouns, names and respect us as human beings. People are bound to mess up, but correct yourself and move on," Webb said.

Webb also stressed the importance of not outing trans and gender diverse people that one may know. To trans and gender diverse students, staff and faculty at UW Tacoma, Webb spoke about the validity of their existence and the support the DAPS has for them, as individuals.

"You're valid and you don't owe anyone anything. There is no right way to be trans. You deserve to be who you are. Transition starts the day that you speak it into the world. If you only go as far as 'I am trans,' you are trans," he said.

Webb and the DAPS board members know of its importance to Tacoma and at large, Washington state. Because of this, Webb spoke about aspiring to see the work the DAPS does, continue on.

"I hope that we are building a foundation that is solid enough to continue on long after we are gone," Webb said. "This organization is very important to those that are a part of it. We hope that it continues to grow and change. We hope that it's here for many years to come."

Seek support or provide assistance

Email for more information:
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Hong Kong Protests: Organizing for a better world

A continued battle for autonomy in Hong Kong; how protests continue despite state crackdown.

By **ANDREA NADAL**
OPINION EDITOR

***THIRD ARTICLE IN A SERIES ON PROTESTS
AROUND THE WORLD***

****TW: MENTION OF POLICE BRUTALITY,
TORTURE, ARREST****

Hong Kong is what is known as a special Administrative Region, meaning that it is controlled by the People's Republic of China. However, due to its status it retains a certain level of autonomy over its own affairs. Hong Kong has a limited democracy and their own system of government. While the President of China acts as their head of state they also have a head of government, the chief executive, who is accountable to the Central People's Government.

Yet, even with this separation of systems, the Chinese government has continued to assert itself into the politics of Hong Kong. This has led to a number of large-scale protests, including what became known as the "Umbrella Protests" back in 2014.

The Umbrella Protests pushed back against proposed reforms for electing the Chief Executive from the Chinese government, with protestors

asserting that only candidates whose views aligned with the Chinese government should be allowed to run. These protests were largely unsuccessful in their efforts to get any concessions from Beijing.

That was far from the end of the tension between China and Hong Kong, in more recent years we saw massive protests sweep the streets of Hong Kong in response to the introduction of the Fugitive Offenders amendment bill by the Hong Kong government. At the time the bill was introduced there was no established mechanism for transfers of fugitives to Taiwan, China and Macau — this bill sought to change that.

There was widespread concern about the establishment of these mechanisms and what it would mean for Hong Kong's legal system as well as its built-in safeguards. One of the most concerning powers granted to China through this bill was the ability to arrest voices of political dissent in Hong Kong.

The people of Hong Kong refused to let this stand, and in 2019 they took to the streets with a series of demands in an effort to preserve their autonomy. A wide variety of tactics

were implemented in an effort to get their demands met. Within a few weeks of protests, the bill was suspended indefinitely. But that was not enough, and demonstrations continued demanding that the bill be withdrawn completely, as well as things like amnesty for protestors, inquiries into police brutality, the implementation of universal suffrage, and more.

From that point, things only continued to escalate. Protestors targeted local police stations, the Chinese government's liaison office in the city, and the local legislature breaking in, smashing windows and even lighting fires. Protestors were not the only ones to escalate their tactics though, and as clashes with the police became more frequent, so too did the brutality the protestors faced.

Protestors were regularly met with tear gas, rubber bullets, and batons in the streets. Things that over time the protestors learned to combat. Many of the protests around the world were informed by what went down in Hong Kong, and the protestors learned from what they saw there. The protestors in Hong Kong got smart and organized. They used efficient tactics to stand against riot cops and keep up the fight.

A common chant that made its way across the globe after its use in Hong Kong was "Be like water," this was meant to inform the way that protestors move as a group. You don't stay in one place, you change as the surroundings change, and you stay together.

To be formless and ever-adapting is to be safe in the context of a protest. This is what keeps you and those around you from being arrested. It ensures that the line of cops can't catch up to pick off the people closest to them, and it ensures that you cannot get kettled, a term used to refer to a method of crowd control used by cops where they confine protestors to a small area blocking off the exits.

Hong Kong protestors also had a common uniform of sorts, which included heat-resistant gloves, earplugs, a hardhat, face coverings, a respirator, and goggles. Later this uniform would also include all black clothing. These are the basic tools necessary to ensure your safety at a time where chemical weapons, "less-than-lethal" munitions and flash-bangs are all almost guaranteed to make an appearance.

The brutality did not end in the streets though, as arbitrary arrests, beatings and

torture were all carried out by the police as well. These things were far less visible, and as such did not gain much international attention but they are just as, if not more, important to consider. The fear for one's safety does not end when they leave a protest, getting home that night doesn't mean that you are free.

And yet, in spite of this danger, 2020 saw a renewed effort for these demands to be met. And in 2021 we see the continued demand for freedom and autonomy from the people of Hong Kong as opposition figures face charges under a new national security law even amid stricter laws regarding assembly.

Challenging state powers is dangerous, and you are always at a disadvantage. But these fights continue, and people risk their freedom, their safety and their lives time and time again. Not just in Hong Kong, but all over the world in an effort to create a better and more just world than the one we live in.

We continue with the hope that one day we will stop seeing the same cycle repeat itself. But for now, we look around the world and find solidarity with those fighting. We learn from what has been done, and we keep up the fight.



Hong Kong protest against the Fugitive Offenders amendment bill: Aug. 18, 2019.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



COURTESY OF @RAWDIS

Healthcare professional and model, Rawdah Mohamed, pictured with writing on her hand saying "hands off my hijab."

France can ban the headscarf but not our beliefs

The French Senate passed an amendment that would make head scarves illegal for girls under 18, what does this mean for young women and girls wanting to practice their faith and express their autonomy?

By BENGISU INCETAS
OPINION COLUMNIST

The French Senate voted for a "separatism bill" on March 30. In her article, "In France, the age of consent for sex could soon be lower than for wearing the hijab – that really is where we are," Pragya Agarwal explains that this bill "... aims to impose republican principles, and aims to give the state the tools to fight Islamic radicalism. A large part of the bill is to fight against the inferiorisation of women, and to crack down on any practices that take away the dignity of women."

This is not the first time France has done something like this, the head veil is unfortunately only one of many things relating to Islam that has been controversial as Islamophobia continues to inform many of the policies created in the name of fighting radicalism. The Burkini Ban is another example that gained international attention sparking debate and outrage. The Burkini is a modest swimsuit for women, and some cities in France banned the burkini and even arrested women who wore it.

France became the first country to ban the face veil in 2011. In 2004, the National Assembly in France debated a ban on religious symbols in schools. This is a violation of freedom towards people who want to practice their faith.

The President of France, Emmanuel Macron, said that he was going to eliminate "Islamic extremism" in France. A reprinting of Charlie Hebdo cartoons in 2020 sparked even more controversy due to cartoon depictions of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

The cartoon was disrespectful because in Islam we have no pictures of our prophet or Allah (God). "I will never accept that someone can justify the use of physical violence because of these cartoons," said Macron in response to the protests and condemnations of the cartoons by Muslims around the world.

The lack of respect for Islam is clearly evident as the condemnations of Muslims worldwide continues to not be taken seriously. These cartoons are hurtful, as no picture could ever depict what our prophet looks like. Pictures and statues believe to be related to the worshipping of idols, and we do not believe in this in Islam, we only worship Allah.

These sorts of bans, proposed bans and Islamophobic sentiments are a violation of expression of religion, and the proposed head veil ban for girls under the age of 18 only continues this trend. This bill is not enforced yet because the National Assembly must still vote on it, women around the world are expressing their opinions on their head veil and this ban.

Tasnim Nazeer, a Journalist, TV reporter and Universal Peace Federation Ambassador for Peace, wrote a powerful article titled "As a Muslim teen my hijab was an expression of my spirituality – France's ban is Islamophobia in action" regarding why she wears the headscarf and outlining the problems with the ban.

"Muslim women should be able to make their own choices about whether they wish to observe hijab or not. I personally decided to wear the hijab when I was 19 after drawing spiritually closer to my faith. I see it as an honour and symbol of my devotion to God," Nazeer said.

Shedding light on what her Muslim friends were experiencing in France, Nazeer also explained that "One friend says that she cannot compromise her hijab and feels that she will now have to be confined to the parameters of her home. Another friend said she feels she will now be missing out on her children's school trips as she too does not want to remove her hijab."

"Women as young as 15 years old have sexual autonomy and agency in France, but they will not have the right to choose a symbol of their religious faith," said Pragya Agarwal.

These oppressive laws are an attempt to control women and girls. They are unjust and must be challenged. Just as women have fought to be able to

wear revealing clothes, the same acceptance must be given to women who would like to veil themselves.

The hate and intolerance towards Muslims and women who veil is becoming more evident, and this is alarming and upsetting. It was completely my choice when I first decided to wear the headscarf when I was a minor. The love and feeling of wanting to submit myself to Allah came from within me. It was a beautiful feeling. I felt so secure, free and loved by my headscarf.

I still feel this way and I feel even more free when I conceal my hair, because it teaches me that looks, hair and our body are all aspects of us that will change over time and eventually be no more when we pass. What matters is my character, personality, behaviour and how I treat people.

The possibility of girls under 18 being prohibited from covering their hair is controlling and oppressive to not only Muslim women, but to women's rights as a whole. These prohibitions are a poorly disguised attempt to steal women's autonomy. They claim to be doing this to prevent the "inferiorization of women," yet by passing a law taking away our choice they have done just that. Telling people of a faith that they cannot express their religion in their own country is derogatory to them as first

humans and secondly as citizens.

With Islamophobia and racism, it's already feeling unwelcoming in some parts of the world to even be a Muslim woman and wear the headscarf. But now, with the prospective ban on it, these feelings are only increasing.

Saying a religion is radicalizing and including terrorist groups as part of the argument and relating it to the way women dress is an invalid because this religion does not endorse violence. Islam is one of the top growing religions in the world, and one of the most peaceful. These types of religious bans only increase Islamophobia, because it portrays the head veil and people who look like they're from a certain part of the world as "terroristic." It ostracizes people more from the community and country, making it seem like they don't "belong."

I hope that one day girls can freely express themselves in their religion, choose when and where they want to wear the veil and live under a government that supports their decisions. When you give women the autonomy in their decisions, especially as a leader and government, you provide that safe space for women to express themselves and make choices for their own life, giving them the freedom to practice their beliefs within a country they see as home.

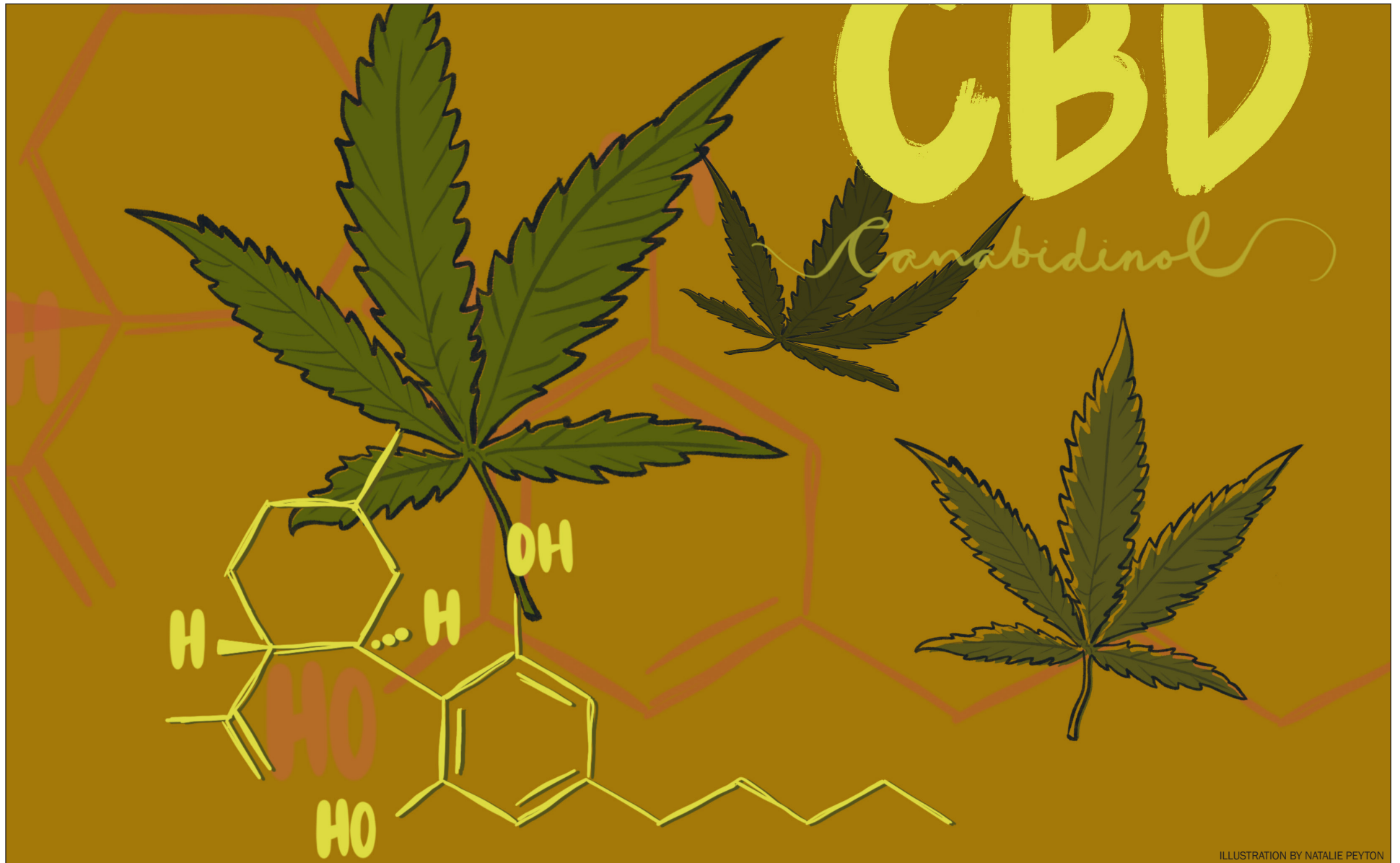


ILLUSTRATION BY NATALIE PEYTON

Can CBD help with addiction?

CBD can help individuals get off of highly addictive substances and in turn could save thousands of lives.

By MADI WILLIAMS
OPINION COLUMNIST

***TRIGGER WARNING: TALK ABOUT
HEROIN USE, IV DRUG USE,
ADDICTION, OPIOID CRISIS***

If you are unfamiliar with the differences between THC and CBD then before reading this article I would go take a look at my previous article “Hemp Hope,” found on the Tacoma Ledger website. Not only does it help to break down the stigma surrounding cannabis, but it also sheds light on the different ways the plant can and has been used, thus acting as a good introduction for this piece.

CBD can have major benefits for

CBD can have major benefits for people who are living with chronic pain from injury or as an underlying symptom of medical conditions such as cancer, arthritis, fibromyalgia or migraines.

people who are living with chronic pain from injury or as an underlying symptom of medical conditions such as cancer, arthritis, fibromyalgia or migraines. It can also be used to manage medical conditions, such as seizures.

Not only does CBD help with physical pain, but there have been studies suggesting that CBD could help those struggling with substance use disorder to potentially overcome their addiction. Currently the emphasis is on the opioid epidemic.

The CDC website states that “From 1999–2019, nearly 500,000 people died from an overdose involving any opioid, including prescription and illicit opioids,” which shows that this has been an issue for years. On the Hopkins Medicine website they state “The most commonly used opioids are: prescription opioids, such as OxyContin and Vicodin, fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50–100 times more potent than morphine, heroin, an illegal drug.”

So, how is it that cannabis can help an individual get off of a highly addictive drug? The answer to this lies in the distinction between CBD and THC. CBD doesn’t possess the psychoactive effects that THC does, rather it helps the body feel relaxed, which is why it helps with chronic pain — part of the

reason why individuals keep taking opioids is because of their chronic pain.

The WebMD article by Robert Preidt titled “Could CBD Treat Opioid Addiction?” goes into detail about a study that was conducted with known heroin users. The study included 42 men and women who were divided, unbeknownst to them, into a placebo group or one that received an oral CBD solution. Following the administration of the pills, each person was subject to videos containing neutral or drug-related cues.

By the end of the study they found that “compared to a placebo, CBD reduced drug cue-induced craving and anxiety in the participants.” Meaning that the CBD helped them better manage their response to the cues because it helped them stay calm and keep their anxiety at a low.

Yasmin Hurd, the director at the Addiction Institute at Mount Sinai in New York City, spoke to the promise of CBD in treating individuals with substance use disorders given the findings from the study.

“Successful non-opioid medication would add significantly to the existing addiction medication toolbox to help reduce the growing death toll, enormous health care costs, and treatment

limitations imposed by stringent government regulations amid this persistent opioid epidemic,” Hurd said.

“The United States is struggling with an opioid epidemic that’s claimed more than 300,000 lives since it began,” stated the WebMD article. This is a giant loss of human life due to an addiction to something that, at first, was something meant to help prevent pain.

Due to the tolerance that is built up over time and opioids’ highly addictive nature, once a prescription runs out people may have no choice but to turn to other substances in an effort to avoid withdrawal. This is, in large part, due to the overprescription of these drugs and the lack of treatment options for addiction.

CBD could not only potentially help people seeking to stop drug use and

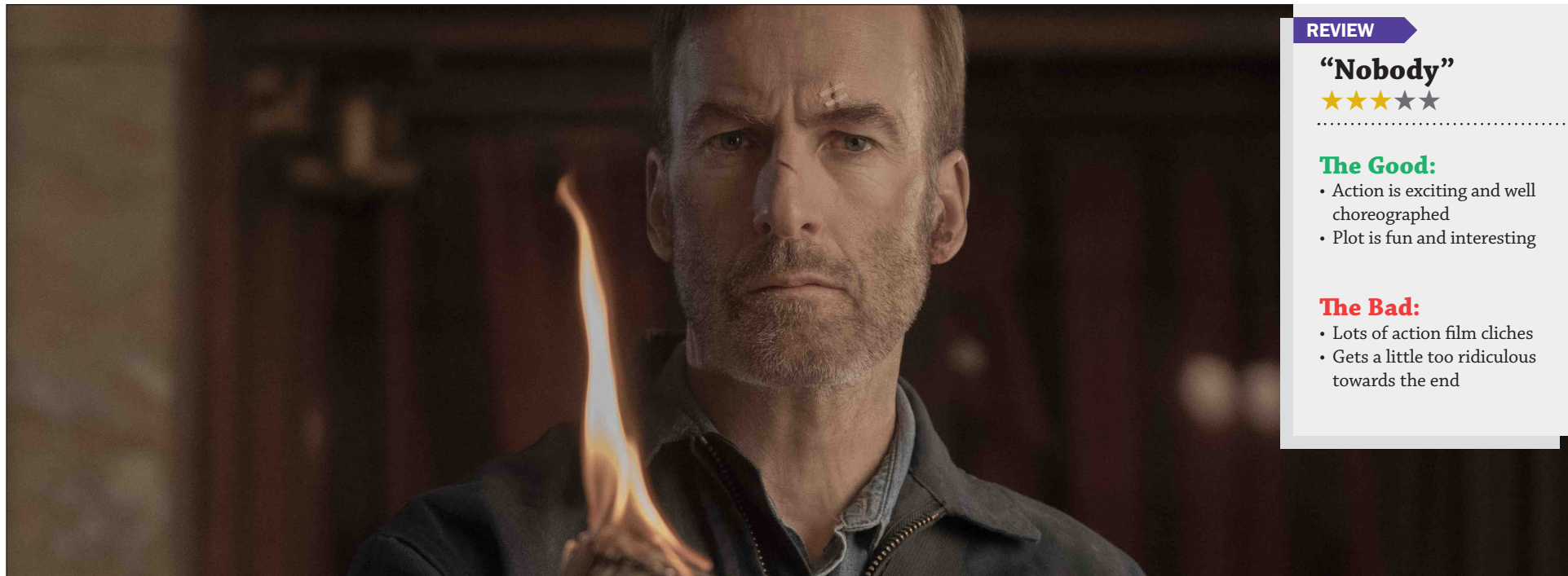
CBD could not only potentially help people seeking to stop drug use and abuse, but it could also help potentially avoid the issue altogether.

[CBD treatments] take the power away from big pharma.

abuse, but it could also help potentially avoid the issue altogether. Giving people an alternative to opioids could drastically reduce the number of people exposed to them in the first place, potentially reducing addiction rates by a significant number.

By ensuring that people have access to other treatments such as CBD, and the information to make the best decision for themselves we can begin to give people the power over their own lives and their own bodies in turn takes the power away from big pharma whose concern lies in not helping people, but rather how much they can profit off of them.

By taking power and funding away from the major opioid producers we can now invest in real solutions that focus on people and their wellbeing. We can start looking towards other options, such as cannabis. Thus giving growers an opportunity to produce more of the cannabis products that can help individuals manage their pain and break free of addiction.



Bob Odenkirk as Hutch Mansell brings fire to the screen in “Nobody.”

REVIEW

“Nobody”



The Good:

- Action is exciting and well choreographed
- Plot is fun and interesting

The Bad:

- Lots of action film clichés
- Gets a little too ridiculous towards the end

COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

An suburban revenge story in “Nobody”

A seemingly normal guy gets his revenge on a dangerous mob.

By **HENRY NGUYEN**
FILM CRITIC

Having your things stolen? Not so fun. Having your house broken into and a gun being pulled on you and all of your belongings stolen? Also not fun.

In Chris Lee’s Vulture article “How Bob Odenkirk Actually Transformed Into a Badass for the Ass-Kicking Nobody,” he talks about the inspiration behind Russian filmmaker Illya Naishuller’s action thriller “Nobody.” In the film, Bob Odenkirk details his own experiences recalling when his home was burglarized and he had a gun pulled on him.

Before we go back in time to find out how he got to where he is now, the film starts off with our main protagonist Hutch Mansell — played by Bob Odenkirk — bloodied and broken down as he’s sitting in the interrogation room in front of a couple of detectives.

Hutch Mansell lives an extremely monotonous life. He has a specific weekly routine, his marriage is suffering from it, and he even poorly saves his family from a break in. One night, he finds himself having to save a girl from a group of belligerent men and critically injures the son of a Russian mob boss. This sparks a week-long feud between Hutch and the mob,

where we begin to learn some of Hutch’s deepest secrets.

The most important thing that this film does right are the action scenes. They are as brutal and as visceral as they could possibly get. When thinking about Naishuller’s past films like “Hardcore Henry,” you can see how he has translated these finely choreographed scenes into very exciting action sequences that leave you really wanting more.

However, the film gets extremely over the top towards the end, to the point where you have to suspend your belief a little bit when it comes to where the action is heading.

The plot surrounding Hutch’s back-

story is well done, and the way that the story gave just enough to get the point of his character across in order to set up later scenes made it exciting. It provided something to look forward to as you learn more about Hutch’s backstory as the film progresses.

From the way the over the top action sequences are set up to the subtle comedic bits that are sprinkled throughout this film, it’s clear in its intention that the film itself does not take itself too seriously. However, this can sometimes cause problems, like the very cliché action tropes and jokes simply not landing as well as they should.

In a lot of ways, this film shares a lot

of its DNA with other action films like “John Wick” or the “Equalizer.” In fact, the writer for this film, Derek Kolstad, wrote all three John Wick films. These films feature “one man army” protagonists who are seemingly unstoppable. It’s a bit cliché and this film definitely doesn’t shy away from contributing to media that exclusively has it out for Russian mobsters.

“Nobody” isn’t Odenkirk’s most phenomenal performance. A few performances in the film actually fell a bit flat, but if you’re looking for an action movie that doesn’t take itself too seriously then “Nobody” definitely deserves a viewing.

Driving through the spring fair

The Washington State Fair takes a hybrid form this Spring Fair.

By **LORE ZENT**
A&E COLUMNIST

Last year, the State Fair officials canceled the Fall Fair for the first time in 80 years. This April, the Washington State Fair (previously the Puyallup Fair) was back hosting its annual two-week spring fair. Unlike their previous spring fairs, they hosted a hybrid version of the event including drive-thru and step-out activities at designated parking spaces.

For admission, they charged \$30 per carload instead of their usual admission prices at \$14 for adults and \$12 per child. However, tickets were available in limited quantities, so the tickets had to be purchased in advance.

Seattle Times feature producer Amy Wong stated that there was about a twenty-minute wait time to enter on a weekday, insinuating that despite COVID concerns, the event was quite

popular. However once inside the fairgrounds, there were routes that allowed flexibility for cars to navigate the fairgrounds avoiding excessive traffic and lines.

At the site, they offered walk-out shopping, drive-thru fair food, monster truck rides and sit-in entertainment stands. The admission also granted admission to their farm animal, reptile and daffodil festival exhibits. Bryan Tylman with World Reptiles had their exhibit accessible by drive through and allowed handlers to bring some of their reptiles to the car so guests could see them up close and personal.

In addition to these fair activities, fairgoers were able to choose from three experiences: Dock Dogs, a dog distance diving competition, Swifty Swine Racing Pigs that consisted of pigs running around a track in hopes for a special treat at the end of the race, and Car

Bingo with two cards per car.

There were also stand-alone events, not included in Carload admission, such as Drive-Ins at the Blue Lot sponsored by O’Reilly’s Auto Parts along with ride entry and game booths at SillyVille and ThrillVille event areas as an add-on to the Spring Fair Carload admission, or as a separate standalone deal.

This hybrid version of the Spring Fair received an overall positive response, many on their Facebook page “Washington State Fair” left comments about how enjoyable their experience was. Currently, there is no official announcement on whether the Fall Fair will be hosted in a similar fashion if the pandemic continues onwards. However, due to the public’s response, one can assume that it is highly probable we will have access to a hybrid fall fair in contrast to a second cancellation.



COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

The Washington State Fair looked a bit different this year due to COVID-19.



COURTESY OF SOURCE BOOK LIVE

Sam Huard is considered by most to be one of the most talented incoming freshmen to ever play at Washington after an outstanding high school career. Will this be enough to earn him the starting spot?

Husky football: 2021 Spring preview

Many talented newcomers are making their way to UW for the 2021 season with some even suiting up during spring practices. Here are some names you should know before the season starts.

By Brooks Moeller
SPORTS COLUMNIST

The Husky football team is officially beginning their preparation for a (hopefully) normal college football season this upcoming fall. This begins with four weeks of spring ball where the coaches can get a good look of what they will have in store for them next season while also allowing time for early enrollees and transfers to learn the system. With some exciting new faces and nearly every starter from 2020 returning, it is an exciting time to be a Husky fan considering there will be a lot to look forward to.

Perhaps the most hyped recruit in the history of Husky football has

Perhaps the most hyped recruit in the history of Husky football has been quarterback Sam Huard, who has finally made his way to Seattle....

been quarterback Sam Huard, who has finally made his way to Seattle and will begin spring ball with the team. With his dad Damon and his uncle Brock both having been quarterbacks for the Huskies in the mid to late 90s, Huard has purple and gold in his blood. It was almost a lock for Sam to follow in his family's footsteps and play for the Dawgs and I have not seen a freshman get fans this excited before.

However, it is not promised that Huard will begin the season since the Huskies' starting quarterback position is filled by redshirt sophomore Dylan Morris. Morris was solid in the four games last season where he threw 897 yards, four touchdowns and earned the All-Pac-12 honorable mention. After a year under new offensive coordinator John Donovan's system, he has the experience and is expected to be let loose in the passing game more.

Although it is Morris's job to lose, fans should still expect an open quarterback competition beginning in spring not only between Huard and Morris, but with graduate transfer from Colorado State Patrick O'Brien in the

mix as well. If I had to make a guess now, I would expect Morris to begin the year as the starting quarterback with Huard redshirting for the season but will be ready to go in the case of injury or struggles from Morris.

Along with O'Brien, the Huskies picked up three other transfers who are expected to make big contributions to the team right away. This includes corner Brendan "Bookie" Radley-Hiles, wide receiver Ja'Lynn Polk and defensive end Jeremiah Martin.

The Huskies were also a victim to the transfer portal after losing four different wide receivers including starter Puka Nacua, meaning the addition of Ja'Lynn Polk was a great pickup for the offense. Polk caught 28 passes for 264 yards, two TDs as a freshman at Texas Tech and will have four years of eligibility remaining. Expect him to be in the mix for reps with the top three returning pass catchers in Tyrell Bynum, Jalen McMillen and Rome Odunze.

Another exciting addition for the Dawgs is Brendan Radley-Hiles from Oklahoma. Radley-Hiles adds depth to an already elite secondary returning to the defense where he has had

three interceptions and 115 tackles over his career at Oklahoma. He will have two years of eligibility remaining and is expected to compete for the nickel cornerback spot with Trent McDuffee and Kyler Gordon on the outside spots.

Jeremiah Martin joins the Huskies defensive line that only will be losing one significant contributor. Martin was a four star recruit out of high school but never really played up to his potential at Texas A&M, recording only 11 tackles and zero sacks. The Husky coaching staff hopes they can develop Martin into what he was expected to be.

Even without the additions of Radley-Hiles and Martin, the Husky defense was expected to be one of the top groups in the nation after only losing three significant contributors to the NFL draft. The defense will be led by junior linebackers Edefuan Ulofoshio and Zion Tupuola-Fetui.

Ulofoshio racked 47 total tackles and earned All-Pac-12 Second Team as well as All-America Honorable Mention. Tupuola-Fetui was the breakout star of 2020 with seven sacks in only four games. If he is able to

Even with a recruiting class that most thought was disappointing, the Huskies are built this year to compete for a Pac-12 title.

keep up this pace for a full season then expect to see him get looks from NFL scouts.

Even with a recruiting class that most thought was disappointing, the Huskies are built this year to compete for a Pac-12 title returning every starter on offense and all but three on defense. However, it will be important that head coach Jimmy Lake can have a bounce back year in recruiting when COVID restrictions are lifted so he does not put himself in a hole that will be hard to get out of.

Overall, I like where the team sits currently, and it will be interesting to keep an eye on spring and early fall practices to see which players standout and who will be the next breakout star.