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# THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



**The Husky Task  
Force: Gathering  
members to  
vaccinate the pack**

**Page 3**



Cupcakes for Valentine’s Day.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EFFIE GURMEZA

# Sweet stops on campus: Hello, Cupcake

Store Owner, Allix Waller, speaks to the Ledger about the delicious cupcakes they serve for all Tacomans to have.

By ROSIE MENDOZA-BAUTISTA  
NEWS REPORTER

Hello, Cupcake is a bright, pastel cupcake shop located at the heart of the UW Tacoma campus. Store owner Allix Waller spoke about their dedication to providing methodically made cupcakes for all Tacomans. “We believe that cupcakes should be simple, elegant, and delicious, and it’s with this in mind that we meticulously craft every cupcake, every day,” said Waller. Although Waller didn’t start Hello, Cupcake, she spoke about the intentions both Reina Beach and her mother, Tina Miller, had when establishing the brand as a full fledged small business in downtown Tacoma.

“The concept for the shop began as a daydream long before cupcake bakeries were strip mall staples, and it blossomed over the course of countless conversations around the kitchen table that began with ‘If we had a cupcake shop,’” she said. Waller spoke about the rise in popularity of cupcake shops that she saw back when she bought the shop in 2014. She saw what Hello, Cupcake had to offer with its elaborate cupcakes that come in such small packages. “Over the years, Hello, Cupcake has become a fixture in the Tacoma community and a must-stop destination for locals and tourists alike. Our cupcakes are baked from scratch daily and topped with handmade buttercreams, using only the finest in-

gredients,” Waller said. Baking and decorating fresh cupcakes every day means that when it comes to creating the cupcake flavors, Waller and her team are tasked with having to be innovative in order to create something new and exciting. And after nearly 14 years of business, their creativity is alive and the team is always working to improve their stock. Although they don’t 100% specialize in custom designs (i.e., custom fondant or custom piping), they still have an assortment of designs available and their cupcake flavors are all their own. Hello, Cupcake has a wide variety of tantalizing tastes to choose from. Year round they carry chocolate, vanilla, red velvet, carrot, strawberry and lemon. Besides these six flavors,

they have four to five that change every season, and one to two flavors changing monthly. “Our spring menu includes chocolate macaroon, coconut, mint chocolate, pecan turtle and pink champagne. Our flavor of the month for April is Key Lime Pie, and we will also have Mexican chocolate from May 1 to May 5!” Waller said. Even with all these delicious flavors of cupcakes in mind, Waller still has her favorites. “My favorite cupcake to eat is pumpkin spice, and my favorite cupcake to make is our french toast cupcake because of how good it smells when it comes out of the oven! Both are available on our fall menu,” she said. Besides her own favorites, Waller

noted that the cupcakes that make a lot of Tacomans flock to Hello, Cupcake differ from her choices and are primarily chocolate, red velvet, strawberry cheesecake, pink champagne and cookie dough, And to the UWT students, staff and faculty, Hello, Cupcake stands ready to help any and all celebrate occasions big or small. This is the goal they set out to achieve. “Our passion is fueled by the opportunity to take part in life’s joyful moments — whether it’s passing an algebra test, getting a promotion or marrying your best friend,” she said. “Every day is a reason to celebrate, and if you ask us, every celebration is a reason to eat cupcakes!”

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# The Husky Task Force: Gathering members to vaccinate the pack

The Husky Task Force is looking for new members to help.

By **GARRETT YAEN**  
NEWS EDITOR

The Husky Vaccine Task Force, led by the Healthcare Leadership students, is on a mission to vaccinate members of the community. Though around 21% of Pierce County residents are vaccinated, the Task Force believes they can pump those numbers up by recruiting volunteers from the community. UW Tacoma Task Force Members explained how the task force plans to healthify the campus and the greater community.

“The main mission of this Task Force is to spread awareness on the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine and to help get community members to get vaccinated,” student Anatoliy Voznyarskiy said. “We also hope to bring vaccines to those who possibly don’t know about it or those who aren’t in priority in taking the vaccine, such as the BIPOC and non-English speaking communities.”

There are currently 11 people on the team. Nine of them being Healthcare Leadership students including

Spencer Tyson, Amandeep Dhillon, Emily Lopez-Allende, Anatoliy Voznyarskiy, Sarah Solano, Michael Villalpando, Miranda Stein, Aaron Dawson Becker and Ashly Norton. In addition, they have an Associate Professor, Dr. Robin Evans-Agnew, leading the project along with nurse preceptor Juana Gallegos teaching other students how to succeed in the field.

“This Task Force was officially started by professor Dr. Robin Evans-Agnew,” Voznyarskiy said. “He started it as a fieldwork project that several of us Healthcare Leadership major students have been selected to join and help.”

Lopez said that everything has been up and running since the second week of April. Since then, social media accounts have been created on platforms such as Instagram and Facebook where they post information about the vaccines. The task force is also reaching out to other organizations such as local leaders and community organizations.

Beyond this, the group’s other goal is to recruit volunteers to work at and help

organize vaccine clinics in Pierce County. Lopez indicated the benefits of joining the Task Force, such as receiving volunteer hours and making connections.

“People should join because they are going to help get us towards our goal of herd immunity, but they’re also going to help save lives,” Lopez said. “There are various benefits that students will get from participating in the Husky Task Force. This is a good way for students to get volunteer hours, and it is a great opportunity to make connections with community members.”

Although any UWT student can join if they’re looking to volunteer, they prefer students who have the most experience and thus may be best suited for the task. These students may include, but are not limited to, registered nursing, biomedical and healthcare leadership students.

Lopez said they’re not exactly sure how the vaccination sites will look on campus and are currently in discussion with UWT’s administration regarding how they’ll work. What they are sure of though are their plans

regarding what steps to take and who to prioritize first. Students may be pleasantly surprised to learn that the vaccinations will not cost anything.

“Our first step is to make sure we have enough staff, this includes staff to give the shots and staff to help out with traffic and any other things that come up,” Villalpando said. “After that, if people get their 1st shot and schedule out their second dose per recommendation of manufacturers such as Pfizer and Moderna.”

Villalpando explained further, noting that as long as supplies are available, they’ll keep going until all of Pierce County is vaccinated. Lopez then spoke of vaccinating the community in an equitable manner by focusing on the underprivileged.

“Based on the statistics there are still a huge chunk of people that have not been vaccinated, and we are here to help have all of Pierce County vaccinated,” Lopez said. “We are focusing on vaccinating marginalized populations who come from low-income families or have hardships with language barriers.”

Lopez said that they want to ensure that they are not missing out on the vaccine or delaying it just because they don’t know where to go or what to do, which is why they’re prioritizing groups who need them the most.

If people choose to be vaccinated they will receive a link to their sign up genius survey, will be able to sign up and leave their information such as name, phone number, and email address. Once the information is acquired, the Task Force will reach out to provide the necessary information surrounding the next steps they need to complete.

## Questions?

Email:  
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The Task Force is taking volunteers of all backgrounds.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY



# Nigeria Protests: Organizing for a better world

A revitalization of protests demanding an end to the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a brutal Nigerian Police Force linked to human rights violations.

By **ANDREA NADAL**  
OPINION EDITOR

**\*FIFTH ARTICLE IN A SERIES ON  
PROTESTS AROUND THE WORLD\***

**\*\*TW: POLICE BRUTALITY, EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS, DISAPPEARANCES, TORTURE, KIDNAPPING, SHOOTINGS\*\***

In the early 1990s, the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) was established by Police authorities in Lagos, Nigeria to combat armed robbery in the city and its suburbs through undercover operations.

According to Tarila Marclint Ebiede in a 2020 article for the Washington Post about the protests in Nigeria, SARS would later become a part of Nigeria's national police strategy to fight armed criminals. Soon after, the unit began operating with no real accountability and committed regular human rights violations.

Verified victims' reports showed that SARS officers regularly engaged in extreme abuses of power and severe forms of brutality, including

extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture, armed extortion and kidnapping. These complaints were largely ignored by those in power for years.

In 2018, the federal government set up a committee to investigate the reports made against SARS. However, this committee's findings were never made public and despite repeated calls for the demobilization of SARS over the years and broken promises by the government to do exactly that, no action was taken against SARS or any of the officers involved in these abuses.

"The hashtag #EndSARS began trending (again) on social media on Oct. 4. The immediate trigger was a video that showed a SARS officer shooting a young motorist in Ughelli, in Delta state, then pushing his body out of the car and driving off with the dead man's Lexus SUV. Within days, crowds of young people gathered in Nigerian cities to demand the abolition of SARS." Said Abosede George in a 2020 Washington Post article.

On Oct. 11, 2020, within a few days of renewed protests, the Nigerian Police Force announced the dissolution of SARS, effective immediately.

Muhammed Adamu, inspector general of police, also declared that all SARS officers would be redeployed to other police commands, formations and units. However, as these officers were still not being held to account or re-trained, this action did not meet the demands of the protestors, and thus demonstrations continued.

The state responded with increased levels of violence to the sustained protests. On Oct. 20, 2020, a night that would become known as Black Tuesday in Nigeria, "[i]n a darkness broken only by the blue light of cellphone screens, the sound of gunshots rang out as the army and police fired into a crowd of young people who had gathered at Lagos's Lekki toll gate to protest the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS)," said George, going on to explain that "[s]ince the protests began, estimates are

that at least 100 individuals have lost their lives; 48 of whom were killed on Black Tuesday alone."

A lot is still unclear about what unfolded that night, the article "#ENDSARS MOVEMENT: FROM TWITTER TO NIGERIAN STREETS" from Amnesty International sheds some light on the events of that night, as well as the efforts from the government to hide them.

"Testimonies of eyewitnesses and families and analysis of hours of footage and images tell the shocking truth of that day." Nigerian security forces began shooting into the air and at protestors. Later that night local hospitals reported civilians bringing in protestors with gunshot wounds and cuts.

Initially, the government denied not only the loss of life tied to that night, but also the military's role in those murders. Evidence now suggests that electricity was cut off and cameras were sabotaged minutes before the security force opened fire. Ambulances were even blocked from reaching injured

protestors in the aftermath and many people were missing after that night.

It is clear, from these events and many others around the world, that a state will use whatever means it deems necessary in order to maintain its power. The state possesses a monopoly on violence, and it has control over the mainstream narrative. These things make it incredibly difficult to generate real, lasting change, to sustain a movement and to gain broad support.

As was made painfully clear by the events of Black Tuesday, the state can murder dozens of people and injure significantly more while essentially getting away with it. For a long time, the official numbers and the official records were in no way reflective of the reality that people saw on the ground that night.

The word of the state is the default, and it is up to us to combat that. This is one way that we can disarm the state and empower the masses. When the narrative no longer serves the state it may serve the truth.



People occupy a street and one man stands on a structure waving a Nigerian flag at an "End SARS" protest in Lagos, Nigeria on Oct. 13, 2020.

COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, KAIZENIFY



# Brands to support this Ramadan

There are many Muslim owned brands around the world that you can support, especially during Ramadan.

By **BENGISU INCETAS**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

There are numerous Muslim-owned brands that sell clothing, headscarves, jewelry and more. Whether you're Muslim or not, prefer women's or men's products, these brands may be suitable for you to both support and enjoy. This article includes a list of these brands to support during Ramadan who also donate a fraction of their profits to organizations that help those in need.

## NOMINAL

You can find this brand on Instagram @nominal. Akram Abdallah, along with his wife Lena Sarsour, are the co-founders of this jewelry brand. Their high-quality and inexpensive jewelry has a lifetime warranty and does not fade, even when in water. They have expanded their brand since its inception and now also sell neon lights, headscarves, clothing and masks!

More than this, they sell religious jewelry with verses from the Holy Quran, religious sayings with creative designs and a hometown collection with numerous different outlines of countries. For the months of April and May, they are partnering with Islamic Relief to donate food boxes to Syrians for Ramadan through the "We are One for Syria" campaign.

## VELA SCARVES

You can find the two sisters who

operate this shop, Marwa and Tasneem, on Instagram @velascarves. First established in 2009 to create scarves that would elevate Muslim veiled women, they now have many beautiful scarves in many different colors produced with high-quality fabric.

This Ramadan, they are participating in the Solidarity Campaign, which donates 100% proceeds bought from it to three important causes: supporting Uyghur orphans, food baskets for Yemen and supporting domestic violence survivors. The colors for this campaign are Uyghur Blue, Yemeni Coffee and Brave Purple.

## PALIROOTS

First founded in 2016, the goal of PaliRoots is to educate others on Palestinian culture and make products inspired by the people of Palestine. They have a number of products including Palestinian keffiyehs, shirts that symbolize Palestinian culture, jewelry, soap and more! You can find this brand on Instagram @paliroots, and for every order placed, they donate a meal as part of the PaliRoots Meal Program. Additionally, they donate a meal for every \$25 spent!

"With the population of Gaza reaching close to 2 million and over 50% under the age of 18, it is our duty to help ease the living situation due to the ongoing siege in Gaza. Our work primarily focuses on children as they

are the future hope for Palestine," as stated by PaliRoots on their website. "We partnered with the Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) team to do a 3-month pilot program to research food and nutrient deficiency in four kindergartens in some of the poorest areas of the Gaza Strip."

With Israel colonizing Palestine and the 2014 war in Gaza, inhabitants in Gaza have suffered from lack of clean water and access to necessities. "We found that among the 372 children at these kindergartens, 37% were anemic, 4.1% were stunted, 23% were at risk of stunting, 3% were underweight, 20.5% were overweight, and 14.2% were obese," according to their website.

## DAR COLLECTIVE

As stated on their website, the "Dar Collective is a study of our collective cultures. We believe in the shared experience of culture & value the traditions of our fellow brothers & sisters. Our team is made up of third-culture kids with roots from all regions of the world."

Their products are inclusive of many cultures and countries around the world such as Palestine, Syria, Morocco, and Pakistan. The "third culture kids" they refer to are those who were born in the same country as one of their birth parents or if one of their parents is from another country and they now live in a different country from either.

Guided by their desire to be inclusive of a variety of cultures and celebrate each through creativity and community, their designs are vibrant and stylish for day to day outfits.

## UYGHUR COLLECTIVE

As the last brand I want to mention, you can find this collective on Instagram @uyghurcollective.

Supporting Uyghurs this Ramadan is so crucial. They are unable to observe Ramadan in East Turkistan as the Chinese Communist Party detains them and other Turkic ethnic groups in concentration camps. There are ways, however, where you can help Uyghur refugees in Turkey.

The Uyghur Collective will be donating all of their proceeds to the "Support Uyghur Refugees" campaign for the month of Ramadan. Not only can you stand in solidarity with Uyghurs with clothes that support them, but also help refugees during this blessed month.

Any action standing in solidarity, whether big or small, will be an important step towards the day that humanity is restored. We may be living far from where these human rights violations are taking place, but together we have just as much as an impact.

This Ramadan, join the campaign by the student coalition @freeuyghurnow, posted on their Instagram page, to take a 30-day boycott against brands such as Zara, FILA, Tommy

Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Apple and Nike until they take concrete action to end their use of Uyghur forced labor.

Another important initiative to support is to boycott dates — the fruit — from certain brands this Ramadan. According to American Muslims for Palestine, brands such as Jordan River, Mehadrin, Delilah, Carmel Agrexco, Hadiklaim and King Solomon Dates must be boycotted.

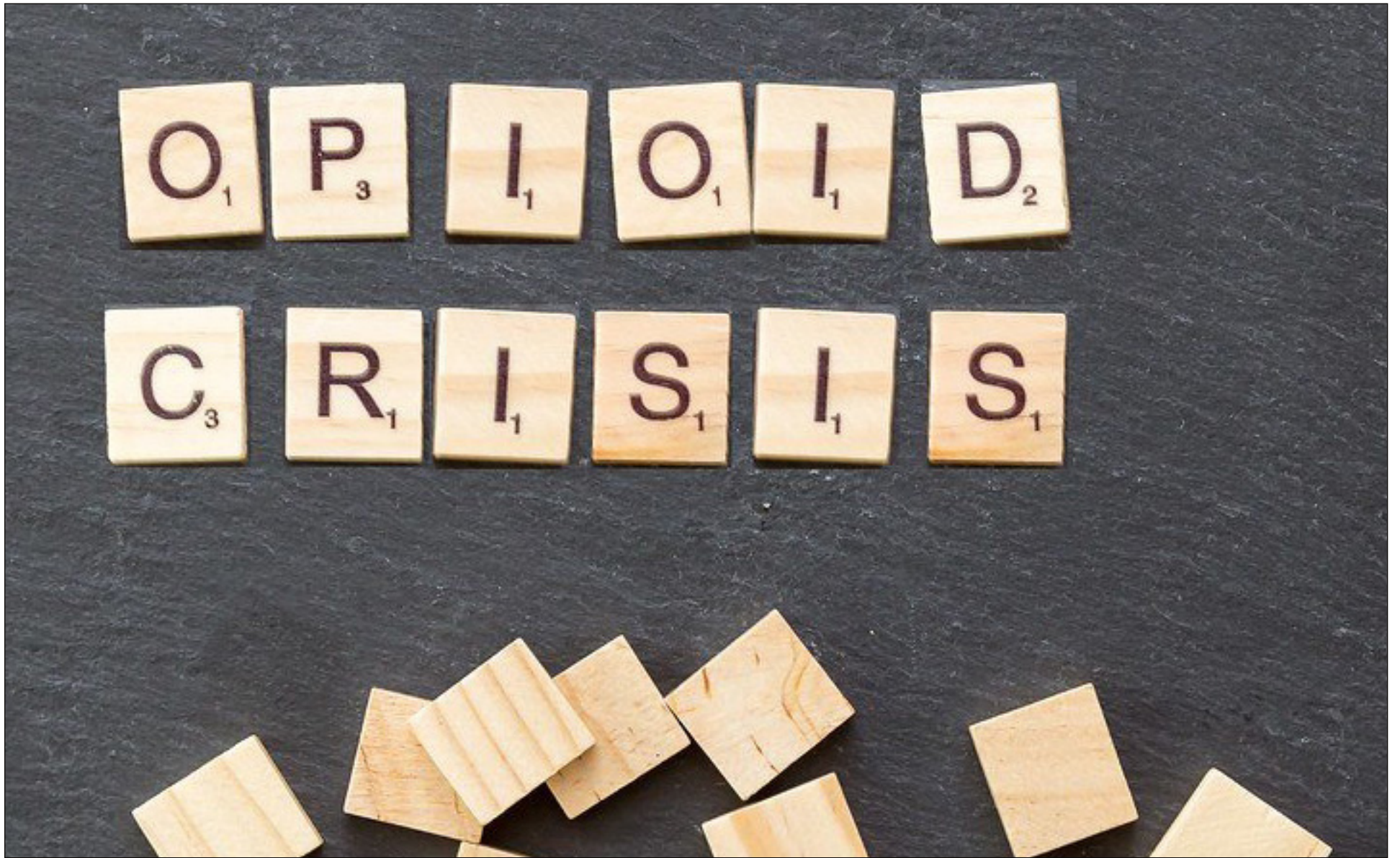
"This Ramadan and beyond, boycott Israeli dates, many of which are grown and packaged in illegal Israeli settlements in the Jordan Valley of the Palestinian West Bank. When you boycott these dates, you're taking a stand against Israel's colonization of Palestinian land and the exploitation of Palestinian land and labor," said AMP's website.

Only shopping for necessities and keeping our shopping spree minimalistic, especially from brands that are known as fast fashion, is important in order to reduce waste and show less support for brands that use forced labor. These steps are important, especially during Ramadan, because it teaches us to save money, put our funds towards other necessities or things that will keep us satisfied and also be of benefit.

Supporting brands that give to those in need and that stand for justice is important because by supporting them we are also part of that change that humanity wants to see.







COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

# Fentanyl: The new opioid epidemic

People are dying from a substance they didn't know they were ingesting, and it needs to come to an end.

By MADI WILLIAMS  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Currently, we are in the third deadly wave of the opioid epidemic. In order to better understand and combat this epidemic, we must first understand how we got to where we are today and what this third wave really means for those struggling with addiction.

According to the CDC, "The first wave began with increased prescribing of opioids in the 1990s, the second wave began in 2010, with rapid increases in overdose deaths involving heroin, the third wave began in 2013, with significant increases in overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, particularly those involving illicitly

**"[...] the third wave began in 2013, with significant increases in overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, particularly those involving illicitly manufactured fentanyl."**

manufactured fentanyl."

When people are taking fentanyl legally it is "approved for treating severe pain, typically advanced cancer pain. It is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine," according to the CDC. This is part of what makes it so dangerous. It can lead to overdose faster and in lower doses than heroin.

The CDC states that the "most recent cases of fentanyl-related harm, overdose, and death in the U.S. are linked to illegally made fentanyl. It is sold through illegal drug markets for its heroin-like effect. It is often mixed with heroin and/or cocaine as a combination product — with or without the user's knowledge — to increase its euphoric effects."

Essentially, people who sell drugs illegally are often lacing the substances they sell with fentanyl because it makes the high stronger.

According to Dr. Volkow, the director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, in a 2021 New York Times article, these drugs are being laced because the fentanyl makes it stronger for cheaper and explains "that more deaths than ever involved drug combinations, typically of fentanyl or heroin with stimulants."

Volkow points out that "... someone who's addicted to a stimulant drug like

cocaine or methamphetamine is not tolerant to opioids, which means they are going to be at high risk of overdose if they get a stimulant drug that's laced with an opioid like fentanyl."

Many people do not realize how dangerous fentanyl really is. "The lethal dose of fentanyl is generally stated to be 2 milligrams ... there are approximately 28.35 grams to an ounce," as stated on [oxfordtreatment.com](http://oxfordtreatment.com) in a 2021 article about lethal dosages on fentanyl. To give you a visual, it looks like a very small pinch of salt.

These deaths continued to happen and even rose during COVID-19. In their 2021 Commonwealth Fund article, Jesse C. Baumgartner and David C. Radley stated that deaths began hitting record levels shortly after the pandemic took its hold on the U.S.

They explained that these numbers grew monthly "by about 50 percent between February and May to more than 9,000; they were likely still around 8,000 in August. Prior to 2020, U.S. monthly overdose deaths had never risen above 6,300."

The two went on to point out that the main contributor of this increase can be attributed to opioid use "specifically synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. Opioids

accounted for around 75 percent of all overdose deaths during the early months of the pandemic; around 80 percent of those included synthetic opioids."

Not only does this show that people with substance use were greatly impacted by the stresses of COVID-19, but also that for some of these individuals the cause of their deaths were not from the original drug itself, it was the fentanyl it was laced with.

The CDC recently published an interactive visualization tool with preliminary weekly estimates of overdose deaths. This data suggest that overdose deaths remained elevated well into the fall before declining toward the pre-pandemic baseline near the beginning of 2021.

The final 2020 total in the United States could exceed 90,000 overdose deaths, compared to 70,630 in 2019. Which would not only be the highest annual number on record, but the largest single-year percentage increase in the past 20 years.

Knowing that people are dying from something they didn't even know they were using and knowing that the number is continuing to rise is heartbreaking. What is needed is more support for individuals who are using drugs and get them the help that they need, such as

**The final 2020 total in the United States could exceed 90,000 overdose deaths, compared to 70,630 in 2019.**

better access to treatment centers.

We need to provide access to testing strips that are designed to test for fentanyl, we need to conduct investigations with individuals who are trained in illegal drug cases to go into these deaths and find out where these laced drugs are coming from and to put a stop to the selling of substances that are unknowingly playing a game of Russian roulette with their lives.

*If you or someone you know needs help with substance use go to [www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline](http://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline) or call*

**1-800-662-HELP (4357)  
CONFIDENTIAL | FREE | 24/7**

*information service that provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups and community-based organizations*





## Drama at the funeral in “Shiva Baby”

A funeral transforms into a stressful ride of emotions.

COURTESY OF UTOPIA PICTURES

By HENRY NGUYEN  
FILM CRITIC

Emerging from the South by South-West 2020 indie film category comes Emma Seligman's film debut, “Shiva Baby,” a comedic drama taking place in the confines of a funeral home. While COVID has forced directors to adapt their filmmaking skills, “Shiva Baby” uses their limitations to their benefit by offering a film that is more of a claustrophobic thriller than a comedy.

The film starts with our main character, Danielle — played by Rachel Sennott — having sex with her sugar daddy,

Max, played by Danny DeFerrari. She then remembers that she has a funeral to attend but ends up missing the reception. Danielle instead makes it to the Shiva, which, in Judaism, is the period of proper mourning that begins after the funeral.

However, at the Shiva things don't get any better for Danielle. Her parents continuously embarrass her causing her to continue to lie to other family members about what she's been up to in school and her plans for the future. Even worse, Danielle runs into her ex-girlfriend Maya — played by Molly Gordon. They haven't talked in a while and some sour feelings

have developed during that time. The film really gets interesting when it turns out that Danielle's sugar daddy, Max from earlier, worked for Danielle's dad and is also attending the funeral ... with his wife ... Awkward.

The drama and the awkwardness in this film are very well built. There are multiple scenes throughout where Danielle and the viewer have moments of claustrophobic and cacophonous thought that build the tension and anxiety in each scene. The anxiety this film produces rivals that of “Uncut Gems,” which is pretty fitting given that both films feature Jewish main characters.

With tight close up shots of characters that work to achieve the goal of putting the viewer into Danielle's shoes, the framing in these claustrophobic scenes is also well done. Although, the film relies a bit too heavily on these scenes, by the third or fourth time one comes up, it's easy to feel sick of it and comes across as though the director didn't really have any other ideas.

The story itself, also done by Emma Seligman, is very well written. It is unconventional, and with the multiple ways in which it could have gone, the route that Seligman chose to go was the best. Ultimately, it fits the theme of a woman

### REVIEW

#### “Shiva Baby”

★★★★★

#### The Good:

- Themes and narrative are clear and well portrayed
- Scenes are well crafted
- Unique narrative that makes use of great cast

#### The Bad:

- Relies heavily on certain aspects of scenes
- Could have used the setting of the funeral better

who knows what she wants to do in life while everyone around her has their expectations lowered.

“Shiva Baby” is a great drama for those looking for an unconventional story, something to get a chuckle out of and perhaps even relate to. Its unique story makes it worthy of at least one watch.

## From books to browser: The growing industry of webcomics

Webcomics are a growing form of comic publication that utilizes technology to share their stories.

By LORE ZENT  
A&E COLUMNIST

Over the past few decades, there have been great strides in the visual and technological advances of comics. Since the mid-1990s, with the rising popularity of the world wide web, creators have begun to realize the potential the web holds for publishing their own works; lifted from some of the chains that traditional printed comic books held them down with.

Webcomics are a form of comics published through a website or an app. This may be through the author's own domain name or one of the wide selection of publishing portal services we have today. Usually, webcomic creators publish new content on a weekly or monthly schedule, labeled as an episode or update.

Among these services, Tapas and Webtoon are the most popular sources for reading a variety of webcomics. These services allow their audiences to read a majority of their series vertically

rather than horizontally. This allows the comics to be read seamlessly through scrolling, rather than being constrained to four or five panels and transitional shifts turning page to page. Other comics hosted individually, such as “CucumberQuest,” can feature formats that mirror traditional comic books. The medium, format and genre of webcomics varies from series to series.

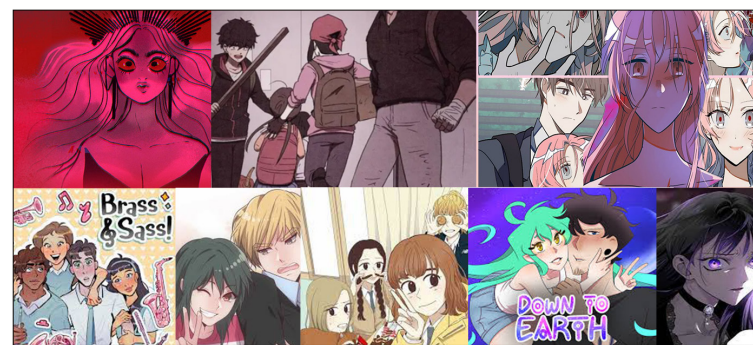
Both of these services originate from South Korea but have expanded to reach an international audience. Webcomics are a prominent form of entertainment in South Korean culture. Many of those from Webtoon have been adapted into anime or K-Dramas (Korean live-action drama television series).

English speaking webcomic authors and artists, however, also have the chance to see their series grow from webcomic to the big screen. In Oct. 2019, the Jim Henson Company announced they will be partnering with Webtoon to create an animated adaptation of the series from

New Zealand creator Rachel Symthe's “Lore Olympus.” In June 2020, it was announced that the animated series will premiere on Netflix.

Both Tapas and Webtoon are built upon a freemium model, where the service is primarily free but users can pay through micro-transactions for additional features. They offer both a platform for growing authors to host original content along with a featured selection of promoted content.

However, Tapas and Webtoons freemium models are structured a little differently. Tapas' featured content has a first few episodes free, but at a certain point asks you to pay “ink” for each following episode. Whereas Webtoon holds the option for the whole series to be free but offers a “fast pass” for episodes not yet released to the public. This fast pass allows users to buy individual episodes up to four weekly updates ahead of what is available to everyone. Each fast pass costs about five coins,



Webtoon series from top-left to bottom-right: Lore Olympus, Sweet Home, Surviving Romance, Brass & Sass, Age Matters, Odd Girl Out, Down To Earth, Your Throne.

equivalent to 50 cents.

Being the more popular of the two giants, Webtoons reports to currently have over 67 million active users. With its success, the parent company Naver was able to trademark the word “Webtoon.” Earlier this year, Naver launched Webtoon Studios, a production studio which will increase the company's presence in film and television; along with this, they also announced partnerships

and Bound Entertainment, Rooster Teeth Studios and Vertigo. Naver also acquired Wattpad for around \$600 million in efforts to expand their name as a multimedia storytelling company.

With the growing success and expansion of the webcomics into the realm of filmed entertainment, the question about the possibility for Webtoons to become a household name like DC and Marvel is being raised.





COURTESY OF @UW\_MBB ON TWITTER

A depleted Husky squad meets after practice which began this past week.

# Rebuilding the Husky men's basketball team

After one of the worst seasons in school history, the Huskies could be facing an even tougher year.  
How will Mike Hopkins and the staff be able to turn it around?

By **BROOKS MOELLER**  
SPORTS REPORTER

After some time has passed and the damage from the 2020-21 season has been assessed, the Husky basketball team is in a very dangerous position. While it looks like the program could be down for years to come, there is always room for positivity and hope that the team can be turned around to contend in the Pac-12 next year, but it will be a tough road ahead.

Overall, the conference had one of its best seasons in recent years. The three teams reached the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament where UCLA reached the final four and came within a buzzer of beating Gonzaga to advance to the national championship.

This is exactly what the conference needed after being almost completely irrelevant in past seasons. UCLA is now ranked in the top five in severely different preseason polls heading into next season which is something that the conference has

not had in a long time.

This will only make it harder for the Huskies to turn around and become a contender as UCLA along with USC, Oregon, Oregon State and Colorado are all expected to return talent and be at the top of the conference once again. But there is no reason the Huskies cannot be in the middle of the pack competing for an NCAA tournament at-large birth. So, what do they need to do in the meantime to make that a reality?

After losing five players to the transfer portal along with two contributing seniors, Mike Hopkins is faced with the challenge to fully rebuild the program. Thankfully, this is not the worst thing to happen considering it was clear that the group of players last season did not mesh well together. It looked as if the only way this team was going to improve was with a new group of players.

Hopkins has already made two additions from the transfer portal, adding former West Virginia forward

Emmitt Matthews Jr. and former Arizona guard Terrell Brown Jr.

Matthews was originally the 177th overall ranked recruit out of Wilson High School in Tacoma. He started the majority of his games at West Virginia as a sophomore and junior, but never really broke out into the player most thought he could be. The hope is that Hopkins will be able to tap into his offensive potential to go along with his 6'7" frame so he can be a major contributor in the 2-3 zone defense. Matthews will have two more years of eligibility.

Brown has made multiple stops over his college career and decided he will make his final one in his home state of Washington. He began at local Shoreline Community College, moved onto Seattle University, then eventually ended up at the University of Arizona. He only started nine games while at Arizona averaging 7.3 points and 3.5 assists per game. It was at SeattleU where Brown made a name for himself averaging just over 20 points

per game in his Junior year, giving him looks from schools like Arizona. This will be his final year of eligibility.

Both Matthews and Brown are solid additions and will most likely be in the starting lineup for game #1 if no other major players are added from the transfer portal. Jamel Bey and Nate Roberts will also be returning to the starting lineup after being there for the majority of last season as well.

The final starting spot is still up in the air but I believe the incoming freshman out of Olympia High School, Jackson Grant, will earn the spot. Grant has been committed to the Huskies since November of 2019 and stayed loyal throughout the time in between.

At 6'10, Grant is the exact type of big man Hopkins wants in his zone defense to provide massive length down below where he can improve their rebounding — which was horrendous last season. He will also be a worthy offensive weapon as he aver-

aged 17 points for Olympia during his Junior season. To top off his accolades, he earned a spot on the prestigious McDonald's All-American team, which is an honor given to the top 24 high school recruits in the country.

This starting five has the potential to be a very good one if Brown can be the scorer he was at SeattleU, Matthews finally develops into an offensive weapon and Grant gets past his freshman struggles to contribute early in the season.

However, as it is right now, the team is extremely thin off the bench with 3-4 players needing to be added. There are still names out there that could be possible additions but Hopkins will need to get on it fast before they commit elsewhere. The core is there, now the surrounding pieces need to be put in place in order for the Huskies to be in a much better position than they were at the end of last season.