

FREE EVERY MONDAY

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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



TLC resources for finals week

P3



Food is Free seeks to provide free, fresh produce or anyone who needs it. Food is Free Washington President, David Thompson awith his wife and garden coordinator, Ursula Thompson.

Building community with food: Food is Free Washington

President of Food is Free Washington, David Thompson, speaks about the fresh produce and food he and his team provide for all Tacomans.

By ROSIE MENDOZA-BAUTISTA
NEWS REPORTER

The Ledger had the privilege to speak to the president of Food is Free Washington, David Thompson. He provided some context and details about the non-profit organization that provides free fresh produce and food to residents all over Washington — the majority of this information stems from the branch based in Tacoma.

This organization began because Thompson had a surplus of food. “I had way too much produce. I was trying to give it to the neighbors. I was trying to get my kids and family to get it,” he said. “But I had too much stuff; I couldn’t get rid of all of it, and it was too much fun to grow. So, I found Food is Free on Facebook, and we started from there.”

Thus, this venture with Food is Free turned into Food is Free Washington that started in 2015 and prospered from then. Now, his wife and fellow volunteers work to secure free produce for all Tacomans.

This concern for accessibility of free produce and food came from

Tacoma’s food deserts — parts of Tacoma where individuals lack access to affordable and nourishing food items. Thompson says these large food deserts are evident in East and South Tacoma.

“On the Eastside, there’s an estimate that 60,000 people don’t have a grocery store. Then, if you go to South Tacoma, there’s only one grocery store on the other side of I-5. South Tacoma is the other unsaid food desert,” he said.

Because of this issue, Food is Free aims to accomplish many tasks to provide food security. They have different divisions to meet these goals. They have Food Rescue, which consists of grocery stores giving away food that close to expiration, but not expired, to Free Food Washington.

“We’re going to do FIG share days. They will begin on July 11. These are events that will happen every Sunday and all summer and into fall. We will be giving food away at local parks. We have a rotating schedule of four parks,” Thompson said.

They also focus on gardening and building up new gardens. Street gardens are something they’ve created.

Currently, Thompson and his team are preparing for this upcoming summer and the goals they have in mind to continue their work.

In this upcoming year, Free Food Washington is pushing to build 30 more gardens around Tacoma. Thompsons sees the need for gardens in Central and South Tacoma along with the need for garden support.

Another large goal they’re working on is the 20% initiative. This initiative would make it so that 20% of fresh fruits and vegetables that are consumed in Tacoma would be grown locally whether it be through community supported agriculture, urban farms or home gardeners.

“At the beginning of the pandemic, we saw store shelves empty. This was a result of our supply chain breaking. What we can do by bringing just 20% of our fresh fruits and vegetables back to Tacoma, [is that] we could help stabilize that food chain system,” Thompson said.

Because of all the plans they are tasked with both currently and in the future, they find themselves very busy with the amount they do and are actively seeking new members. In par-

ticular, they are looking for a food rescue coordinator and garden crew to assist them in their goals.

However, even with his team how it is, they have already seen the fruits of their labor. Especially throughout this pandemic, Food is Free Washington has been able to help give food directly to the people.

“There’s no means of testing. We just give food to everybody. The little tables in neighborhoods have helped a lot of people and have become a lifeline for some. For our unhoused population, it has become a real lifeline for them,” he said.

Overall, Free Food in Washington has one mission. And this mission includes not only providing food security for Tacomans, but Thompson also hopes that Food is Free helps build community amongst community members in Tacoma.

“Food is Free is all about building communities and using food as the tool to do so,” Thompson said. “The whole idea is to get to know your neighbors and have your neighbors come up and talk about the garden. Gardening is a universal thing that can draw all kinds of people together.”

If you are in need of food assistance, you may go up to a Food is Free sign or reach out via facebook for more information and assistance. You can also sign up with the app called Fresh Food Connect that works to get food delivered directly to those in need.

For more information on receiving or donating food:

- Facebook:**
<https://www.facebook.com/emeraldstatefood/>
- Website:**
<https://foodisfreewashington.org/volunteer/>
- Other website:**
foodisfree253.com
- Instagram:**
[@tacomaurbanfarmer](https://www.instagram.com/tacomaurbanfarmer)
- Volunteer:**
<https://foodisfreewashington.org/volunteer/>

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TLC resources for finals week

UW Tacoma tutors, tutees and teachers offer resources and advice for finals week.

By GARRETT YAEN
NEWS EDITOR

As final exams loom students need not brave the storm alone. The Teaching & Learning Center is here to give its virtual shelter to those needing a push through finals.

According to TLC Writing Consultant Renee Anne Marie Guzman, in addition to improving their learning skills, the TLC also helps students prepare for exams and/or final papers on nearly any subject they choose. More than this, the TLC also works to provide students with resources to help them learn outside of the classroom to make tutoring sessions more effective.

Students looking to use the TLC can start by surfing its website, where they create an account, start a 1-on-1 session with a tutor and have someone look over how they work.

Guzman explained that one of the differences between students who make average progress with Zoom consulting sessions compared to those who end up with great Zoom consulting sessions are those who make proper and consistent usage of the TLC resources outside of the traditional 1-on-1 sessions.

“One of the biggest things to note is that although we are more than welcome to help on the TLC website for 1-on-1 Zoom sessions, we also have other services that can give quicker help or knowledge without

“...we are more than welcome to help on the TLC website for 1-on-1 Zoom sessions, we also have other services that can give quicker help or knowledge without having to file a session,”

having to file a session,” Guzman said.

These other resources include a 24-hour live chat where students can rely on a staff member to answer any questions they may have while waiting for a tutor. Guzman also pointed to other web pages, such as a resource center for students confused with their writing.

On their own, students can read handouts and guides on writing subjects, like grammar and citations. In turn, these sources allow for better time management of the following tutoring and consulting sessions. These guides and handouts are not limited to writing, the same sources can be found in quantitative subjects, such as formula sheets for math students.

Essentially, if students want to save some time and more efficiently learn the subjects that are taught, they can look and read the resources online versus set-

ting up an appointment immediately.

“We’re pretty quick in giving responses and we have to be strategic about what feedback we give, given that we don’t have unlimited time,” Guzman said. “So, if they come in with a 15-page paper wanting to correct all the grammar mistakes with 30 minutes on the clock, we’re not going to be able to help them as much as we like. And they’re not going to get as much out of the session compared to if they read our resources about grammar, and come in with the parts they’re most confused about.”

“It can be kind of overwhelming for both the tutee and sometimes the tutor,” she said. “These are final things that we have to go through in detail, so it becomes repetitive.”

To help the tutors help the tutees, coming in with a specific issue or question you have surrounding the work you’re doing helps maximize the 30 minutes you have.

“Really use the resources,” Guzman said. “We have a lot of helpful things on the TLC website that are always prepared when you come into the Zoom. People think 30 minutes is a long time but always come in with a goal but we don’t want the students to feel overwhelmed.”

Student Paris Markley, a repeat visitor of the TLC, noted the benefits it provides during last minute studying. For her, simply being with others is a great way to focus on studying.

She explained that even if tutoring sessions have gone virtual, it hasn’t affected her love for the TLC because it still helps her focus.

“Before the library shut down, I would always study at the library whether I was with friends or not because just by being in that environment where there are people around studying, you can’t help but want to study too,” Markley said. “Even though the in-person feeling is gone, I would still think tutoring sessions to be helpful for anyone who has ADD or can’t study by themselves.”

Accounting Professor Dr. Zhiyan Cao is no stranger to final exams. Dr. Cao noted that throughout her time

“Don’t be afraid to reach out when you need help,”

at UWT, she said she’s come to notice that students who do well on their final exams make the most of learning resources offered by their professors, peers, and the campus.

“Don’t be afraid to reach out when you need help,” Cao said. “Students who do well on their final exams tend to pay close attention to expectations and resources shared by the professor during the last few weeks’ instruction.”

This makes it so that the process of

studying for an exam becomes a more fluid and less stressful process. Cao said that those who pay attention to the resources shared by the professors also tend to focus on conceptual understanding of the material, instead of cramming their brains at the last minute which doesn’t encourage deeper learning or long-term memory.

She noted that this helps them reflect on previous mistakes made on homework and previous tests. Thus, they are more resourceful when seeking help from their instructors and classmates.

With some final last words of advice, Cao encouraged students to be more meticulous in their planning to encourage further success and gave students different ways in which they can study.

“Make a plan before starting your review,” Cao said. “Join a study group to push each other to understand better. Note cards could be helpful as the mere act of preparing them helps to solidify and visualize your understanding of a subject. Review workshops offered by the TLC could also be helpful.”

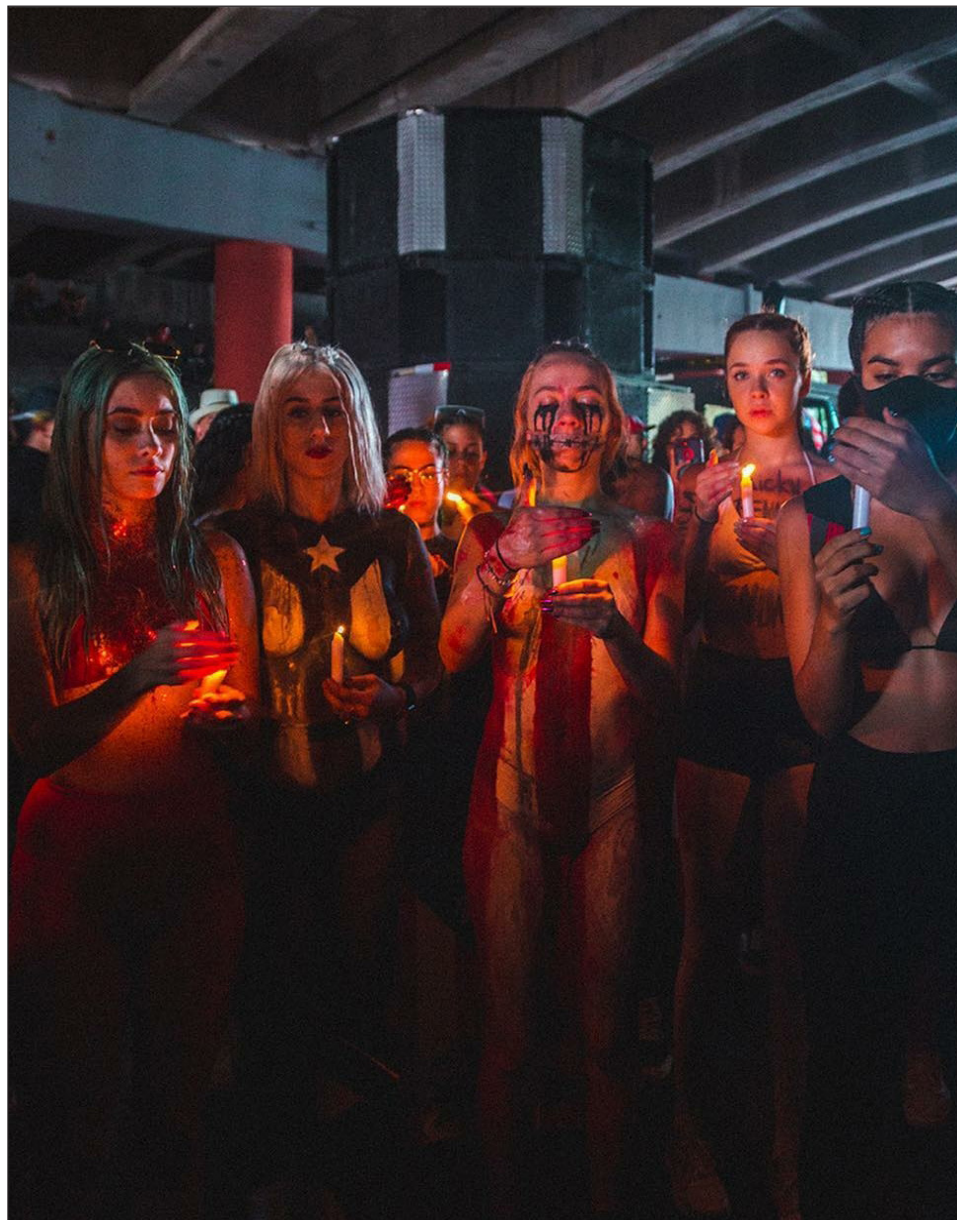
Students looking to learn get their journey started can surf to

<https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/teaching-learning-center/teaching-learning-center>



State of Emergency: The people of Puerto Rico demand justice

Months after a state of emergency was officially declared, money has finally been approved to combat gender-based violence.



Protests for Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló to resign for discriminatory remarks. Bodypaint by Melanie M. Rodríguez Rosado.

COURTESY OF MELANIE M. RODRÍGUEZ ROSADO

By **ANDREA NADAL**
OPINION EDITOR

The movement around gender-based violence has been building in Puerto Rico for years now, "This year alone there have been at least 21 femicides, per the Puerto Rico Gender Equality Observatory; since 2010, more than 150 women have been killed by their intimate partners; and last year, six transgender women were murdered," said Andrea González-Ramírez said in her 2021 article for The Cut.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence directed at an individual based on their biological sex or gender identity, it may also be directed at an individual based on their sexuality. Women for Women International explains that "It includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse, threats, coercion, and economic or educational deprivation, whether occurring in public or private life."

A state of emergency around gender-based violence was declared on Jan. 24, yet for months the government failed to use the state of emergency to implement meaningful solutions. In Cristina Corujo's 2021 article for ABC News regarding

this governmental interference, Zoán Dávila-Roldán, a co-founder of Colectiva Feminista en Construcción told Corujo that "A state of emergency only seen in paper are dead words."

Finally, money has been allocated to solving this issue "The \$7 million, now approved, will help reinforce the work of the specialized committee called PARE, an acronym in Spanish that means Prevention, Support, Rescue and Education of Gender Violence. It was created after the state of emergency was declared and consists of organizations that work closely with experts and representatives from gubernatorial agencies," explained Corujo.

Colectiva Feminista en Construcción is a "Political project of the tradition of black feminism, articulating the fight against heteropatriarchy, anti-black violence and capitalism." If we are to create a truly equitable society where this and other sorts of targeted violence are no longer an issue, these are the exact powers that we must fight against.

It is important to recognize that gender-based violence can manifest in many forms and be experienced by people of various marginalized identities

in regards to gender and sexuality. With that in mind, there is a push for LGBTQ+ individuals to be included in the gender-based violence emergency declaration.

In her article for NBC discussing this push, Carmen Sesin explains that the executive order 2021-013 "directs more resources to combating the wave of killings and other violence directed at women and girls."

"Political project of the tradition of black feminism, articulating the fight against heteropatriarchy, anti-black violence and capitalism"

She goes on to explain that "[w]hile the governor's executive order includes violence against trans women, two human rights groups on the island urged that the executive order include violence against all LGBT people." Further, Sesin notes that "... a transgender man was found shot to death. He was the seventh known transgender person to be killed

in Puerto Rico since last February, according to the Transgender Law Center."

This makes it painfully clear that we must expand the ways in which we understand gender-based violence. It is an issue that is deeply rooted in the norms of heteropatriarchy. These norms have created a hostile environment for not only women, but also for those that deviate from heteropatriarchal norms in such a way as to challenge their relevance and value in society.

These norms were created as a way to not only empower cisgender straight males, but also to enforce the nuclear family ideals of heterosexuality. Thus creating a society that is dependent on the power of cisgender heterosexual males within it.

The issue of gender-based violence is not unique to the context of Puerto Rico, rather, it must be understood that colonial-capitalism is the foundation for this and many other forms of targeted violence. The heteropatriarchy that is enforced by the form of colonial-capitalism we see across the globe is the root cause of gender-based violence around the world.

The term femicide has become synonymous with so-called "third-world"

countries of the global south, many in the global north consider it to be an issue of "lesser developed" countries and ignore the realities of gender-based violence within their own borders along with the connection of this issue to the colonialism perpetrated by their country.

Examples of gender-based violence exist all over the globe and often impact marginalized populations at higher rates. This violence, like many other forms of violence, is exacerbated by inequality and disenfranchisement. As the distribution of wealth and resources becomes wider, the likelihood of this kind of violence increases.

Not only has colonialism exported the heteropatriarchy that makes this form of violence inevitable, colonial powers have created a capitalist world economy that allows the distribution of wealth to continue to become more inequitable. As wealth is consolidated in the hands of the few, the masses are made to carry that burden.

The issue of gender-based violence and all other forms of targeted violence cannot truly be solved until we dismantle the colonial-capitalist powers that thrive off of heteropatriarchy, anti-blackness and all other forms of inequality.

Reflecting on our thoughts

Over the course of a few weeks and throughout the pandemic we have seen and witnessed hate crimes, human rights violations, racism and more. Let's take a moment to reflect on our mental health.

By **BENGISU CICEK**
OPINION COLUMNIST

Since the pandemic, we have received so much news concerning events happening within the United States and around the world. From the Black Lives Matter protests to the Uyghur Turks detained in East Turkistan in China's concentration camps and now with Palestinians being killed and colonized by the state of Israel.

We have seen so much social media activism, protests, leaders preaching in the name of justice and people lobbying in Congress and state governments for legislation that will serve minority and oppressed groups.

"The enduring life is the one that begins once we awaken from this world. And it is in that awakening that we realize... It was only a dream"

We may have taken our own stance in this advocacy, whether it's reposting on social media, calling our representatives, attending protests or listening to people's stories. When we are supporting one cause, other causes may gain attention as well and it can feel overwhelming to support so many movements at once. Unfortunately, there are a lot of human rights violations that are going on around the world, some of which are not even on the news yet.

When watching the news, looking at the many events going on, trying to educate ourselves and support the right side can be overwhelming if we are not simultaneously taking care of ourselves.

If we lay in bed and look at our phones first thing in the morning when we wake up and see updates from around the world, it can impact our mood and ability to function throughout the day. If we get out of bed right after waking up, open the window, get a glass of water, breathe in the fresh air and ignore our phones for a while, we would likely have a better start to our days.

You need to take care of yourself before you can be there for other people. This means creating boundaries around the amount of news you consume and time you spend scrolling through the many social media posts regarding what's going on in the world. Creating these boundaries will not make you selfish or any less of an ally or good human being.

Boundaries create a healthier version of you which will enable you to perform and express your allyship even better because you will know when and where

you need to give your time and energy. A spiritual and enlightening book on this topic is "Reclaim your Heart" by Yasmin Mogahed, a specialist in spirituality, psychology and personal development.

While the intended audience is Muslims, this book is open for everyone and can be a good perspective for people from other religions and backgrounds to reflect on their mental wellbeing. Enlightening ourselves about other religions and their perspective of life is a good way to understand one another more and recognize how the world functions!

"The enduring life is the one that begins once we awaken from this world. And it is in that awakening that we realize... It was only a dream," said Mogahed on page 91.

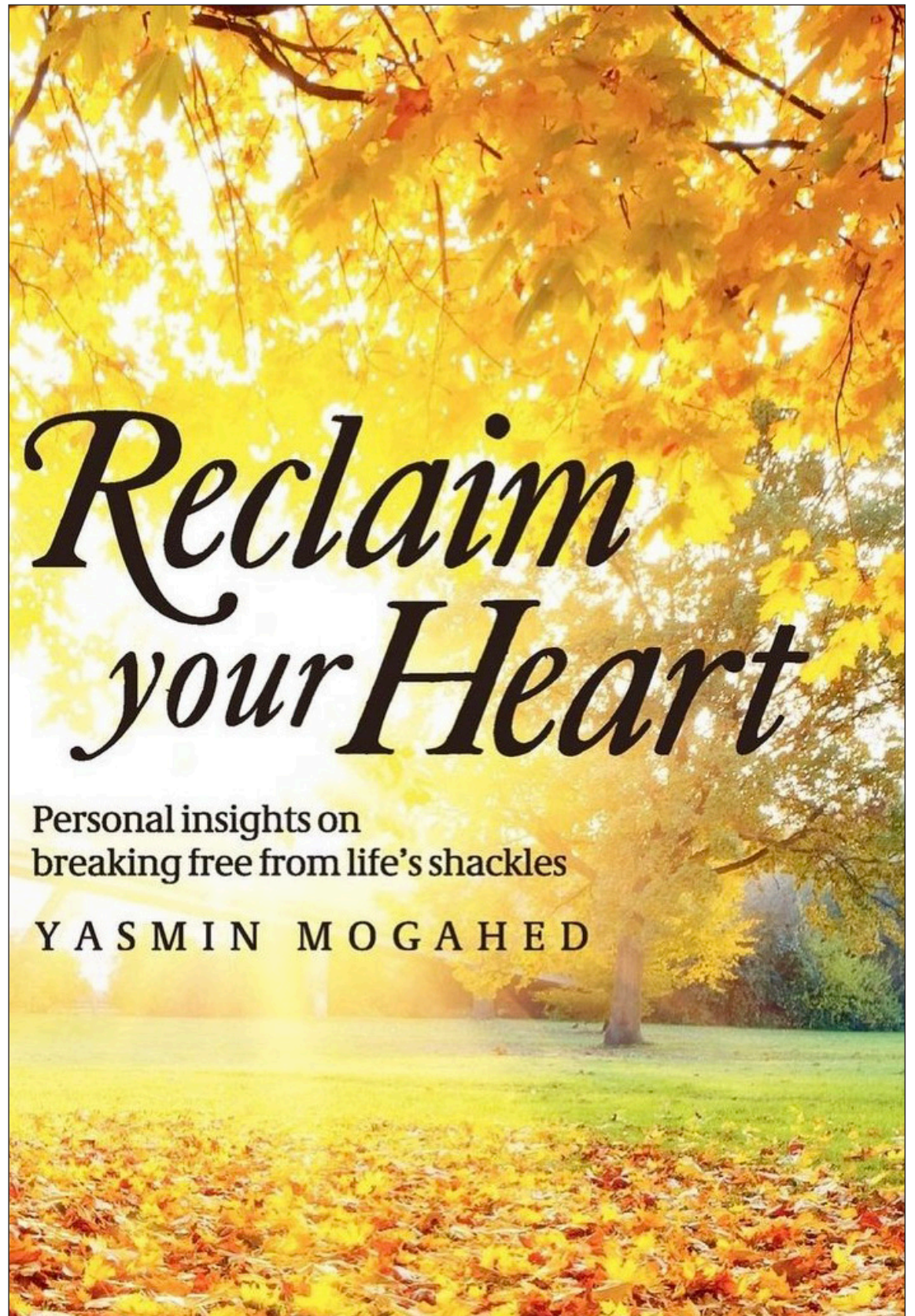
We are oftentimes caught up with this world so much. We fantasize about the many blessings of this earth but we get overly attached to them too. We live, we make mistakes and we do good deeds, but what matters is that we learn from them.

Sometimes we take life so seriously that we get too caught up in trying to impress and prove ourselves to others, making sure we appear perfect, achieve the best and constantly think about pleasing everyone. What about ourselves? Mogahed brings up a good point that life can be but a dream and it's what we prep our lives for is reality.

On page 42, a tradition of the beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), was mentioned, where he said "Whoever makes the Hereafter his preoccupation, then Allah places freedom from want in his heart, gathers his affairs, and Dunya (worldly life) comes to him despite being reluctant to do so. And whoever makes Dunya his preoccupation, then Allah places his poverty in front of his eyes, makes his affairs scattered, and nothing of the Dunya comes to him except that which has been decreed for him." [Ar-Tirmidhi]

I believe this is beautiful because it shows us an important aspect of life: it's temporary. No matter how much we chase after things in this life and world, it will never satisfy us because we will want more or something better than that. If we focus our intentions toward healing, growing, becoming a better person and doing what is right, then that will have a permanent impact on us and on our future.

"If there is anything--or anyone--that losing would absolutely break us, we have a false attachment. False attachments are things that we fear losing almost to a pathological extent. It is something that if we even sense is drifting away, we will desperately pursue. We chase it because losing an object of attachment causes complete devastation, and the severity of that devastation



COURTESY OF @YASMINMOGAHED

Reclaim your Heart by Yasmin Mogahed.

tion is proportional to the degree of attachment," said Mogahed on page 36.

I believe that we can truly gain freedom, peace and happiness if we detach ourselves from the world. Meaning, by not spending too much time focusing our energy on people, places, things that will detract from the relationship we have with ourselves in a negative way.

By detaching ourselves from the world and not allowing it to control us, we are able to focus solely on ourselves so that we may help others. We start to understand and see the true meaning of life and are able to read ourselves and other people.

Mogahed brings up many different topics and sections in her book, such as attachments, love, hardships, relationship with the creator, women's status, ummah and poetry. To conclude, I want to share a meaningful poem called "The Stab" by Yasmin Mogahed, included in her book, and I wish I could include more text of her beautiful words.

"Don't grieve at the stab. It's only meant to free you. From the chains that bind you to the earth and shackle you to the shadows of people. The mirage of water cannot quench. But is so beautiful to the thirsty. I'm afraid. Of never knowing another life. Dif-

ferent. So different. If I let go, will you take me higher? Above grief, want, loss. Above all that I've ever known. Take me higher. Unbind me from the earth. Like a vaccine, it sickens, to make you stronger. The stab is temporary. The freedom, eternal."

This poem is meaningful to me because it expresses that no matter how hurtful life's tests and hardships can be, it is only meant to make us stronger. What is important is that Allah is able to take us out from these hardships and grant us tranquility and happiness, so it's important to have Tawakkul (trusting in Allah's plan).

Hazard pay update

Pierce County is showing their true colors and how they feel about giving hazard pay to grocery workers.

By Maddi Williams
Opinion Columnist

The United Food and Commercial Workers labor union 367 has been working tirelessly trying to get the workers within their county boundaries to get the hazard pay that they so deserve. They have been pushing to get grocery workers to listen in on their city council and county meetings to tell them about their experiences of working in a grocery store during the pandemic.

In King 5's 2021 article discussing the Pierce County Executive, Bruce

In 2019, Albertsons — which also includes Safeway — made \$399 in profits. Kroger made \$1,659 million in profits in 2019. In 2020, Albertsons made \$994 million in profit through Sept. As for Kroger, they made \$2,585 million in profit up to Sept. in 2020.

Dammeier's, intent to veto the ordinance, they go into detail about the contents of said ordinance. "Under the ordinance, stores over 10,000 square feet in size primarily selling groceries, or stores with 10,000 square feet of space dedicated to selling groceries would be required to pay workers an additional \$4 an hour," they said.

UFCW 367 President Angel Gonzalez provided me with some information about how much these companies have been making since the beginning of the pandemic. In 2019, Albertsons — which also includes Safeway — made \$399 million in profits. Kroger made \$1,659 million in profits in 2019.

In 2020, Albertsons made \$994 million in profit through Sept. As for Kroger, they made \$2,585 million in profit up to Sept. in 2020. These companies are saying that they don't have the money to give workers hazard pay, but with the skyrocketing profits made in 2020 it's clear that they have the funds they just don't want to.

"Hazard pay has been implemented throughout cities and counties in western Washington, including Seattle and King County," giving UFCW 367 a solid foundation for their demand for hazard pay in Pierce County.

On May 4, there was a vote in the Pierce County council for all grocery store workers to receive hazard pay. With a vote of four yays and three nays

in support of the ordinance, it went up to Dammeier who, within ten minutes of getting the ordinance, sent out an email explaining why he was going to veto it.

On May 5, UFCW 367 went down to the county building in Tacoma where President Angel Gonzalez and two members plus the media walked up to Bruce Dammeier's office to have a conversation with him. A few minutes later he came into the conference room and listened to what they had to say, along with the number of signatures from grocery workers and the public of those who support the hazard pay getting passed.

Those who work at the grocery stores have been on the front lines throughout this pandemic, putting themselves and their families at risk since the beginning.

Those who work at the grocery stores have been on the front lines throughout this pandemic, putting themselves and their families at risk since the beginning. Now that we are

a year into this, some of the public is done wearing masks and go into the stores without them. This is something that grocery workers see every day, and it is something that I have witnessed as well.

But the grocery workers are told not to ask customers to put on masks because if customers get mad and stop shopping there because they have to wear a mask, then the stores will lose money, which is something the CEOs don't want. So, they put their workers at risk because money is more important than keeping people safe.

Dammeier's response to everything was "... if grocery stores are unsafe, then make them safer, not more expensive," as stated in the King 5 article. He also noted that "the best way to reduce COVID-19 risk is for more people to get vaccinated," and then pushed grocery workers to get vaccinated at the Tacoma Dome.

In a Facebook live, Dammeier went on to say that UFCW 367 that it is not the county's responsibility to get into big business issues and that UFCW 367 needs to do more bargaining with the companies — despite their efforts to do so since the start of the pandemic.

If the county voted yes on the ordinance it was not going to put the county into big business issues, it would have instead shown these big corporations that a whole county is in support

of hazard pay for the people within their county.

Since Dammeier declined supporting hazard pay, UFCW 367 has shifted their efforts to the cities, pushing them to support the local grocery workers. But the cities have not done anything to help the workers.

Since Dammeier declined supporting hazard pay, UFCW 367 has shifted their efforts to the cities, pushing them to support the local grocery workers. But the cities have not done anything to help the workers, many are keeping the hazard pay issue at the committee level, meaning if the committee has not passed it then it does not go up to the city officials who will actually vote on it.

The cities have said that they did not want the county to tell them what to do when it comes to this situation and they got their wish, yet the cities are just sitting on their hands not doing anything about the issue still.



Grocery store workers are in need of a pay increase since they are on the front lines of a public health crisis and are at a great risk of contracting COVID-19.

COURTESY OF PIXABAY

5 Japanese horror mangas to read

As anime and manga grows in popularity in the West, so does its horror genre.

By LORE ZENT
A&E COLUMNIST

Japanese horror manga is seemingly thriving in American culture, being attracted to its unconventional approaches to psychological and supernatural elements. Junji Ito is one of the most well-known Japanese horror mangakas in America, with merchandise associated with the artists offered at various retail locations such as Hot Topic. However, there are still plenty of artists left untouched by this growing trend. This article recommends some of Ito's works along with other artists for fans to broaden their knowledge of the genre.

"TOMIE"

BY JUNJI ITO

Junji Ito is probably one of the most notable mangakas in the world of horror manga, "Tomie" is one of his most popular works. The titular character is a hedonistic, beautiful girl who possesses succubus-like characteristics. Not only does she have the power to have people driven to insanity and commit brutal acts of violence in a jealous rage, she also has the ability to regenerate a clone of herself from even the smallest parts of her body such as hair, making

her effectively immortal unless every part of her is burned.

More than this, she can also biologically take over someone's body if her organs are transplanted into them, even if removed from the host later. "Tomie" is one of Junji Ito's most recurring characters, appearing in three series: "Tomie," "Tomie: Part Two" and "Tomie: Again."

"UZUMAKI"

BY JUNJI ITO

In the fictional city of Kurouzu-Cho there is a supernatural curse that centers around spirals, and this story follows the citizens of Kurouzu-Cho as they become either paranoid or obsessed with them. Spirals are everywhere in nature, but with the town's fixation, it manifests them more so. Like a plague, it begins to distort people's minds psychologically while simultaneously physically contorting their bodies, eventually causing a series of natural disasters. Beautifully, Ito starts the story off small and builds it bigger and bigger.

"FRANKEN FRAN"

BY KATSUHISA KIGITSU

The story follows the titular character on her misadventures, finding a perfect balance between dread, horror and comedy. Franken Fran is a girl cre-



COLLAGE BY LORE ZENT

Comic panels appear in order they are listed in the article, from top left to bottom right.

ated by a top surgeon, Dr. Naomitsu Madaraki, to be his assistant. In his stead while he is away, she takes over his work. All of the stories within the series center around monsters and mutated people created via scientific experimentation. There is a bit of dark humor as Franken Fran turns her patients into gruesome mutations or brings misfortune upon them, as Fran has a genuine but warped sense of life-preservation.

"I AM A HERO"

BY KENGO HANAZAWA

At age 35 being overworked with

unfulfilled dreams, Hideo Suzuki is a young manga artist assistant who suffers from low self-esteem. One day the world around him begins to change as a disease known as ZQN begins to turn people into homicidal maniacs with zombie-like behaviors. Armed with only a shotgun, Suzuki must find a way to survive while he and his companions question their moral choices along the way.

"THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM"

BY KAZUO UMEZU

Kazuo Umezu is another name maker of the horror manga genre, pub-

lishing multiple horror works from the 1960s to 1970s. In one of his prominent works, "The Drifting Classroom," a group of students are trapped on a moving train that transported them through time to a post-post-apocalyptic future struck by environmental disasters. The students must challenge their claustrophobia, food and water shortages along with the slow creeping insanity. They will also be faced with nightmarish monsters and megafauna creatures.

More than meets the eye in "Invincible"

The cult comic series gets an animated adaptation that aims to make a bold statement on animated superhero shows.

By HENRY NGUYEN
FILM CRITIC

It's been a while since someone has made an exciting superhero cartoon that was equally worthwhile. It seems as though the cartoon style that existed in so many animated television shows such as "Justice League," "Legend of Korra" and many more, have fallen a bit out of trend — especially when most of them are meant for a younger audience.

Amazon's new adaption of the comic book series "Invincible" is a fresh take on the genre that definitely packs more of a punch than it looks. Initially, I had thought that this show was going to be somewhat similar to "Young Justice" mixed with sexual innuendos and the casual curse word here and there, but what we got was a humorous, and most importantly, mature story told through lots and lots of violence and difficult concepts.

The show stars Mark Grayson, played by Steven Yeun, who's just like any other 17 year old except his father is Omni-Man, also known as Noland Grayson — voiced by J.K. Simmons. As Mark comes to grasp the powers of his own, he begins to learn that his father's heroic upbringing might not be as heroic as it seems.

It's a sort of coming of age story where

the main character comes to find himself while having to deal with and take on huge responsibilities at such a young age. The characters tend to find themselves in positions that they would otherwise not want to be in, and these themes run throughout the entire season.

It's important to know that this show and its comic books parody classic superhero narratives, like those in the DC universe. This is evident through the blatancy of the characters in comparison — in both look and powers — such as Omni-Man resembling Superman but is dissimilarly deeply disturbed and complex, more so than the show would lead you to first believe.

This show takes common comic and film tropes to then subvert them by showing the real hardships that heroes have to go through when they can't save everyone from harm. It creates a very compelling story.

However, the art style itself comes off as bland as it's a little too reminiscent of the shows that it parodies and doesn't make an effort to really do anything to be unique, other than the huge amounts of blood and gore that can be found in certain scenes. Otherwise, the animation itself seems a bit empty and the settings, like the city skylines and the occasional field here and there, become repetitive.

While this could be interpreted as the



COURTESY OF AMAZON

Mark Grayson is a not-so-average teenager caught in a mix having to juggle his normal life with his super hero one.

show parodying classic superhero cartoons, I would argue that it can't excuse how bland and forgettable the settings are. The show's lack of distinctive style almost turned me off the show to start.

It seemed like most of the budget went into the fights, which definitely don't hold back. It's interesting to see cartoon art mixed with intense gore. In the first episode, they waited until an important after-credit scene to throw the viewer into what was going to be one of the most gruesome scenes portrayed in a superhero cartoon, which I thought was a very surprising and refreshing introduction to the series. The mystery and pure shock of that scene alone made me want to

binge the rest of the season.

Watching the rest of the season definitely paid off, the story never ceases to surprise and subvert the expectations that you would have in a show such as this one. The stakes are incredibly high and characters will die unexpectedly. Even the important ones.

Upon first glance, "Invincible" is a bleak look at a superhero universe, but what emerges is a very well told story through the eyes of a teenager who possesses otherworldly powers. If you can handle scenes that deal with lots of blood and gore, then "Invincible" is worth a watch. Personally, I'm waiting for the next two seasons to come out.

REVIEW

"Invincible"

★★★★★

The Good:

- Very well told story that does the original comic books justice
- Does not hold back on violence
- Subverts all expectations

The Bad:

- Bland artstyle
- Uninspiring and repetitive settings

Pac-12 announces their new commissioner

After a long search process, the Pac-12 has finally decided who will be the conference's new commissioner. Did they make the right choice?



COURTESY OF ASU ATHLETICS

New Pac-12 commissioner Getorge Kliavkoff (middle) stands with Arizona State athletic director Ray Anderson (right).

By Brooks Moeller
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Following the departure of former Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott, who had been the head of the conference since 2009, the hiring of his replacement was the most important decision the Pac-12 will ever have to make. The conference has been irrelevant in competition and financially at the bottom compared to the other conferences in the nation. New leadership was needed with a new perspective on approaches to improve the state of its 12 member schools.

On May 13, it was announced that George Kliavkoff will be the next Pac-12 Commissioner.

On May 13, it was announced that George Kliavkoff will be the next Pac-12 Commissioner. You might be wondering who George Kliavkoff is. Trust me, all of us were wondering the same thing considering his name was never brought up in the rumor mill.

Kliavkoff has been the president of entertainment and sports for MGM Resorts International since 2018 and was previously a member of the WNBA's Board of Governors, BetMGM and Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group. His previous work experience also includes serving as executive vice president of business with MLB Advanced Media from 2003-06, the chief digital officer at NBCUniversal from 2006-08 and a board member and interim CEO at Hulu from 2007-08.

The concerning factor here is that Kliavkoff has no experience with college athletics, which was the case with Larry Scott, and we all saw how that went. But with the current media

rights deal expiring in the next few years, this hire may work out to set the conference up for future success.

The look of intercollegiate athletics may be changing drastically soon. As players are beginning to speak up more and want more power including the right to use their likeness for sponsors and other financial gains, Kliavkoff is up for the challenge.

"I am thrilled to be the Pac-12 Commissioner. This is a challenging time for intercollegiate athletics, but I believe these challenges also create significant opportunities," Kliavkoff said in a statement. "I loved being a student-athlete, and I'm passionate about the doors that college sports and higher education open for young women and men. My job at the Pac-12 will be to help manage the balance between continued academic excellence, student-athlete well-being and an even higher level of athletic achievement."

The official announcement came

right after an NCAA basketball tournament where the Pac-12 had great success sending three teams to the elite eight and UCLA all the way to the final four. And while this was the momentum the conference needed, there is still lots of work to be done, especially with football.

First, Kliavkoff should be pushing heavily for a college football playoff expansion. The current format has only four teams — the smallest of any division one sport. There is no reason why the Pac-12 champion should not get a shot at the title. The new commissioner already made note about the topic in his introductory press conference.

"I want to go on the record: The Pac-12 is in favor of expansion of the College Football Playoff," Kliavkoff said.

Considering they have lacked a massive amount of media exposure, being a part of the college football playoff would leave a huge impact on not only bringing in big-name recruits

but also in building fan bases.

The next move I hope Kliavkoff makes is to move the conference headquarters out of San Francisco. This was just one of the horrendous moves made by Larry Scott. Due to Kliavkoff's ties with the city, I expect that the headquarters will be moved to Las Vegas once their current lease is over. Making Las Vegas the home of the conference could be huge, as it would open many opportunities to partner with casinos as sports gambling becomes more popular and legal in many states.

Although I questioned the move at first, after doing more research on Kliavkoff and hearing from him during the introductory press conference, I can see this being a good move for the conference. My one remaining concern is his lack of experience in college athletics, but he seems well rounded enough that this hopefully will not be an issue.