

THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

Hanukkah and Christmas are not equal

For years people
have compared
Hanukkah to
Christmas.
It's time to
stop.

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The Apple Cup

How did the Huskies do this year?

By **KAYTLYN RUFF**
News Reporter

For anyone who may not know, The Apple Cup is an American college football rivalry game between the University of Washington Huskies and the Washington State University Cougars, both of which happen to be the largest universities in Washington. Both teams are members of the North Division of the Pac-12 Conference.

The Apple Cup is back after last year's game being canceled due to the ongoing pandemic. University of Washington (4-7 overall, and 3-5 Pac-12) went against Washington State University (6-5

overall, 5-3 Pac-12). The game kicked off on Nov. 26 at 5:00 p.m.

This was the 113th edition of The Apple Cup. Fans came from far and wide to support their teams. This was a home game for the University of Washington.

This year, the Cougars dominated the Huskies with a 40-13 win in Seattle. WSU quarterback Jayden de Laura played close to perfect in his first game this year. De Laura was 27 of 32 for 245 yards and added three carries for 31 yards. Meanwhile, UW quarterback Sam Huard also joined the rivalry for his first career start, going 17 of 31 for 190 yards and four costly interceptions.

Unfortunately this year, the Huskies

did not win. This rivalry game is not about who won or lost, but it is about keeping the more-than-a-century-old tradition alive that brings together two corners of the State of Washington.

The Huskies previously had a seven-year winning streak before this year's Apple Cup. Last year was the first break since 1942 and 1943. WSU did not field a team due to World War II.

As the Cougars won this year, they snapped the seven-game losing



streak to their rivals with their first win since 2012.

What's next for the Huskies and the Cougars? The Cougars will wait to see if they are playing in the PAC-12 title game

or if a bowl game is their next stop. The Huskies are scheduled to open next season at home vs Kent State University.

Huskies in the hallway:

COMPILED AND PHOTOS BY REMI FREDERICK

What's the worst gift you've ever received?



Andrea Moreno-Morales

She/Her
Freshman
Criminal Justice

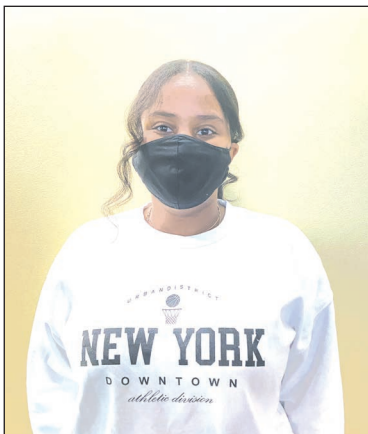
"A can of some type of soup. I think it was clam chowder... from my aunt. I don't even like clam chowder."



Arman Singh

He/Him
Junior
Electrical Engineering

"Worst gift I've ever gotten? Bad grades."



Asia Yasmine Mackey

She/Her
Junior
Art

"I had to choose between a bike and a Barbie and in my five-year-old brain, I chose the Barbie and it was the wrong choice."



Katelynn Oleson

She/Her
Senior
Computer Science

"Bright neon tie-dye leggings with like massive amounts of cutouts from my grandma. Your underwear shows through..."



Danica Sterud Miller

She/Her
Professor of American Indian Studies (Puyallup)

"My husband, who is a professor here, Alex Miller, bought me a book on how to raise chickens... I didn't want chickens. Usually, he's an excellent gift buyer."

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How are International Students Impacted During the Holidays?

An interview from the Office of Global Affairs about how international students are impacted by the coming holidays.

By Abi McCarthy
News Reporter

This school year, campus will be closed for Christmas on Dec. 24, and for the New Year on Dec. 31. It was also closed on Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving and Nov. 26 for Native American Heritage Day. I sent in questions for the Office of Global Affairs to ask about how some of these closures affect international students. Here are their responses:

What sorts of essential services do students lose access to over the holiday breaks?

The University is open for services during holidays except Thanksgiving Day, Native American Heritage Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day this year. We have not received feedback that students are experiencing a loss of access to services during these breaks.

Are international students impacted particularly hard by these closures? If so, why?

Since the university closures are relatively few and short, we believe the impact is minimal. Students will be served within normal processing time. We ask for five business days to have their requests met.

What services or resources do students have access to over these holiday closures?

Pre-COVID, we had many ways for students to experience Thanksgiving (a unique American holiday which is new to many of our international students!). A couple of generous faculty members (Doctor Jeff Cohen and Menaka Abraham, Thank you!) have hosted a group of UWT international students at their homes for dinner on Thanksgiving in the past. We have also hosted a Thanksgiving potluck and someone from our staff brought a big turkey she baked at home! The Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS) have local families who host students for dinner on Thanksgiving and our students have participated in that program. All these events are not taking place again this year due to the pandemic. Over this Thanksgiving holiday, our OGA Fellows planned an event in collaboration with SAB to take part in Black Friday festivities. Participants visited Southcenter Mall together to do some shopping. They also reserved a private theatre room at the mall to view Marvel's new film, "Eternals." During winter break, our

office is open but we typically do not host events due to low attendance and staffing.

What more do you think the University can do to alleviate some of the troubles faced by

students over holiday breaks?

When the pandemic situation gets under control, we hope to resume events in which we can gather in a group setting, share food, and continue to build a supportive community for international students.

Is there anything the University is working on currently to help students over the break?

The Center for Service and Leadership (CSI) is offering the annual Adopt-A-Family Campaign. The Office of Global Affairs staff typically participate in this wonderful program. The CSI and the Center for Equity and Inclusion (CEI) are hosting the annual RSO Food Drive Competition.

For all students in need this holiday season, here is a website with a list of resources from UWT:

<https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/chancellor/resources-students-during-coronavirus-pandemic>



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS

The holidays for international students.

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Do you want to voice your issues of concern related to news, politics, campus issues and more?
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Letters submitted to the Ledger may be published through both TheTacomaLedger.com and our print edition.



End U.S. support for Israel, demand justice for Palestine

Democrats show their true colors as U.S. imperialists when they fund Israeli war crimes.

By ALEX BUCKINGHAM
OPINION COLUMNIST

The liberal media were up in arms a few years ago when Trump recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The move was widely condemned.

Unfortunately, there has been no such outcry as Biden continues this recognition by purposely maintaining the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem. The bipartisan support for Israel's apartheid project continues regardless of which party is in power.

The Zionist project is a settler-colonial project based on ethnically cleansing the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea of the non-Jewish and indigenous population.

Ethnic cleansing is a fundamental aspect of creating a Jewish democracy, a contradiction in terms not unlike the Jim Crow "democracy" in this country's past or the apartheid "democracy" of South Africa.

The expansion of settlements and annexations of land today are a continuation of the 1948 Nakba, translated to The Catastrophe. This was when Zionist paramilitary groups razed towns and villages, brutalizing the Palestinian population and displacing hundreds of thousands of the local inhabitants.

This settler terror was similar to the horrors the U.S. military and settler militias perpetuated during Western Expansion. Zionist settler violence continues today as settlements are expanded.

This violence includes settler violence like the seizing of Palestinian homes and brutal beatings of Palestinians but also formal state violence.

Israel's use of an apartheid wall separating Palestinian communities, the use of checkpoints to control Palestinian movement, the lockdown of the Gaza Strip's borders preventing the importing of food and medical supplies, and the regular military excursions into the Gaza Strip are all examples of state violence.

Israel should be understood as an apartheid regime with separate legal systems in the West Bank, unequal access to land ownership, unequal access to public roadways, and other systemic inequities.

These tools of settler violence and systemic violence are used to make life miserable for Palestinians and encourage emigration.

The U.S. supports this project because such support is tied to strategic military hold in the region by proxy. Israel's advanced air force is more significant than any base the U.S. could maintain in the region.

What's more, Israel is able to act when the U.S. is not.

For instance, as public opinion shifted to support the Egyptian revolution



ILLUSTRATION BY JAIDA NOBLE

Man's silhouette with slingshot in front of the Palestinian flag.

in 2011 against the U.S.-backed dictator, the U.S. government could no longer supply Egypt with crowd dispersal weapons like tear gas and rubber bullets while saving face. Instead, Israel was able to step in and fill this role of arming the notorious dictatorship.

It is important to discuss Israel, specifically, because of the central role U.S. support and funding play in allowing Israel's crimes to persist. It is also important because of the central role Israel plays in the U.S.'s imperial plans and adventures.

That is to say, if you're an American caring about social justice, you should care about Palestine.

Or as the Marxist journalist Hadas Thier wrote for Jacobin Magazine, "Sorry, you can't be 'progressive except Palestine.'"

And yet, our progressive representatives regularly fall short of expectations when it comes to this question, voting for budgets that include billions of dollars of military aid to Israel.

New York Congressman, Jamaal Bowman, is one such politician.

With progressive credentials includ-

ing membership in and endorsement by the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), he still voted for general military aid as well as an extra billion dollars for Israel's Iron Dome program before recently attending a propaganda tour of Israel which involved visiting Israel's right-wing head of state.

This voting record and formal visit are in direct opposition to the calls to Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) Israel for its crimes against humanity. BDS is a campaign based on the international solidarity campaign that helped bring down South Africa's apartheid regime.

BDS has been endorsed by every aspect of Palestinian civil society; it is the international support that the Palestinian people are calling for. The call for BDS involves three demands on Israel: end the occupation and the apartheid wall, provide full equality for Palestinians living in Israel, and allow Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and lands.

People are often discouraged from supporting the Palestinian cause be-

cause they feel they do not know enough about it. Professor Eve L. Ewing addressed this exact issue in a recent interview about solidarity between the U.S.'s Black freedom struggle and the Palestinian freedom struggle.

Ewing said, "This idea of, 'You don't know enough,' is actually a strategic deployment that is intended to silence people and to move them away from what they know in their heart."

Anyone who watched the bombing of Gaza and the killing of civilians and children this past spring knows enough to be opposed to Israel's crimes. And it's not difficult to learn more, pick up a book like Haymarket Books' "Palestine: A Socialist Introduction" or attend a Palestine solidarity event to both support and to learn more.

Another major deterrent to supporting Palestine is the fallacy equating criticism of Israel with antisemitism pushed by groups like the Anti-Defamation League.

Antisemitism has no place in our struggles for liberation. It should be called out and pushed out every time

we see it. But apartheid and Judaism are two different things.

Seattle teacher and activist, Emma Klein, helped pass a recent resolution in the Seattle Education Association in support of Palestinian liberation.

In an interview with Tempest Magazine regarding that campaign, Klein explains, "Claiming that resistance is antisemitic is a tool that's used to silence people, to frighten people, to make people feel like they can't speak up. In fact, what Israel is doing has nothing to do with the Jewish faith, but the Israeli government is using Jewish identity to propel itself forward."

Indeed, the resolution passed by the Seattle teacher's union is a great example of how we can build support for the Palestinian cause. Building boycott or divestment campaigns in our universities or communities is another important part of the work. A final, daunting but crucial task is breaking the bipartisan consensus to support the apartheid state.

Hanukkah and Christmas are not equal

For years people have compared Hanukkah to Christmas. It's time to stop.

By **REMI FREDERICK**
OPINION EDITOR

Christmas and Hanukkah are not equal. Now, before you start to be upset, hear me out.

Hanukkah is different from Christmas and is not Jewish Christmas as I've heard people say.

Hanukkah which means dedication in Hebrew is also known as the festival of lights because it is celebrated by lighting a candle on the menorah for eight days.

The short story of the history of Hanukkah is that the Jews thought there was only enough oil to last for one night in the menorah.

Then a miracle happened, the oil lasted a total of eight nights, giving the Jews enough time to find more. This is the reason that Hanukkah is celebrated for eight nights. Whereas Christmas is celebrated for one night only.

Many Christians go to special Christmas church services but Hanukkah is barely mentioned during Friday or Saturday synagogue services.

Rabbi Noah Fabricant said in an interview with NorthJersey.com that Hanukkah isn't as important as other holidays because "Hanukkah is post-Biblical." What Fabricant meant by this is that the holiday is not included in the Old Testament; it was created after the Bible was written.

Hanukkah doesn't always happen around Christmas time. Hanukkah always starts on day 25 of Kislev which doesn't line up with the Gregorian calendar which means that Hanukkah moves around within November and December.

Hanukkah isn't necessarily a gift-giving holiday. It certainly didn't start that way.

According to a Time magazine article published in 2019 called "The Real Reason American Jews Give Gifts for Hanukkah," the Jews started giving gifts to their kids because they didn't want them to feel left out among their friends that didn't celebrate Hanukkah and were getting Christmas gifts.

While Hanukkah is a great holiday with amazing food and fun games, latkes and dreidel, it is not Jewish Christmas. There is no official Christmas game (maybe with the exception of football) or food. However, Hanukkah has both.

Hanukkah is not Jewish Christmas. As you can see, they are completely different holidays from two different religious backgrounds but both are important to many people around the world, including me.



ILLUSTRATION BY JAIDA NOBLE

As demonstrated by the illustration many people seem to think that Hanukkah and Christmas are equal in the holiday season. This is not the case.

NOVEMBER HAIKU CONTEST IS OVER CELEBRATE YOUR VICTORS!

GABRIELLE MILLER

CIRCLING ROUND THE SUN
WIND BREATHES A SIGH OF RELIEF
BIRDSONG WARMS THE EARTH

SAGE AHRENS-NICHOLS

THE AIR IN MY LUNGS
FEELS LIKE A KNIFE IN MY CHEST
BUT I KEEP BREATHING

ELIZABETH REITE

SEARCH: HOW TO WRITE A HAIKU?
WAIT. THIS ISN'T RIGHT.
I THINK I HAVE IT BACKWARDS.

PASSIONATE? ARTISTIC? SHARE YOUR CREATIONS! TAHOMA WEST IS ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS AT TAHOMAW@UW.EDU

*FROM FICTION TO NONFICTION, POETRY TO DIGITAL ART: WE DO IT ALL
THERE IS NO LIMIT TO YOUR CREATIVITY. SO SHOW US YOUR BEST!*

COVER CONTEST

CHECK YOUR STUDENT EMAIL FOR
DETAILS AND SUBMIT COVER
PROPOSALS BY JANUARY 31st!



Local Tacoma stores to shop at this holiday season (instead of Amazon)

Vote with your dollar and buy from sustainable makers and local businesses.

By JOSEPHINE TRUEBLOOD
A&E EDITOR

According to Stanford University, as the season of gift-giving approaches, 25 percent more waste is produced during the holidays due in part to shipping, excess packaging material and gift presentation. Shopping locally can help minimize waste while giving back to your community and sourcing unique goods.

LITTLE SISTER: \$-\$\$\$
1744 PACIFIC AVE, TACOMA

A personal favorite located in the UWT neighborhood, Little Sister is a great combination of clean beauty, home goods, zero-waste products and personal care. Carrying popular beauty brands like RMS and Ilia, the store also curates lesser-known brands with gorgeous products. With a wide range of prices, Little Sister is a great place to shop for everyone, as they also carry unique gifts like paper leaf incense and blue bamboo kitchenware.

CRESCENT MOON: \$-\$\$\$
6901 6TH AVE, TACOMA

All your witchy needs will be met at Crescent Moon with its fantastic selection of crystals, candles, incense, pendulums, jewelry and other magical items. From niche items like elf or fairy ears to astrology candles, the store is the best kind of visual chaos, exploding with colorful novelties and

figurines. Crescent Moon is the best place to go not only for your tarot-obsessed cousin but also for little gifts like essential oils and teas.

FERNSEED SOUTH TACOMA: \$-\$\$\$
5243 SOUTH TACOMA WAY, TACOMA

The ultimate plant parent store, Fernseed fulfills all your plant-care needs. With beautiful pots, a stem bar and every plant and succulent you can think of, both of Fernseed's locations on Proctor and on South Tacoma Way are must-visits this holiday season. Perfect for anything from a casual office gift to a nice bouquet, both stores' exciting selections will leave you with armfuls of succulents and too many pictures of their colorful wall murals.

ETC TACOMA: \$\$
116 S 19TH ST, TACOMA

A now-staple Tacoma streetwear brand, Etcetera makes comfortable and well-designed casualwear. Recent drops include fall beanies, pink and blue namesake sweat sets and rain gear. Etcetera is a great place to grab proudly-Tacoma items without the kitsch.

LAPIS: \$\$\$
3823 N 26TH ST, TACOMA

A sparkly, perfectly-curated wonderland, Lapis is the go-to Tacoma spot for stunning fine jewelry and quality home goods. Featuring styles like Gigi Clozeau's fun and nostalgic

necklaces along with more earthy brands like Ananda Khasla and Jamie Joseph, Lapis' range of styles makes it a great place to get luxury goods.

COCOBOLO: \$\$-\$\$\$
628 ST HELENS AVE, TACOMA

Carrying new and sustainable brands, their house line and curated vintage, Cocobolo specializes in high quality womenswear. From adorable Le Bon Shoppe socks to Paloma Wool, the shop is picture perfect, focusing on neutrals with the occasional pop of matcha green boots or rust orange coats. Cocobolo is an ideal place to shop for a gift for your sister or cool aunt from LA but everything is so beautiful and well-made that you'll want to keep it for yourself.

ALL STAR VINTAGE TACOMA: \$-\$\$
766 S 38TH ST, TACOMA

Amazing graphic tees, jerseys, reworked vintage and unique luxury brand finds, All Star Vintage always has on-point clothing and accessories. A newer addition to Tacoma's historic Lincoln District, the store is known as a hotspot for great music, fashion and events. The owners also host the Tacoma Sunday Market and the nearby Lincoln District Vintage Walk. Stop by their stunning storefront and pick up a "Tales from the T" cassette, vintage UW merch, perfect '90s denim and Seattle Supersonics gear.



Presents near the christmas tree.

PHOTO BY MARKUS SPISKE VIA RAWPIXEL



Wooden decorative letters used as a sign saying "buy local".

PHOTO COURTESY OF BETEXION VIA PIXABAY



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Jingle bells are a staple of winter-time holiday music.

What to listen to this holiday season

Music is a big part of the holiday mood

By **ANGELO ALEGRE**
A&E COLUMNIST

During the holidays, everyone's music taste changes for the occasion. There are songs for those who celebrate Christmas and for those who don't but still want to be in the holiday spirit. Which songs should you listen to this year?

For those who want Christmas music, you cannot go wrong with "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas." This song has been covered by many people throughout the years and rightfully so, as it is a perfect song to get you in the Christmas mood. To highlight a few, Michael Bublé's version as well as Perry Como's version will both get you into the Christmas spirit.

Another Christmas song to listen to is "It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year" by Andy Williams. It is great to listen to right after Thanksgiving as

it will make you think of the upcoming holidays, which makes this song perfect for the start of the season.

When "All I Want For Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey is trending once again, you will know it's the Christmas season. There is a reason for its yearly trend, and that is because the song fits the genre of holiday and love so well. Even if you aren't looking for love this upcoming Christmas, this song has become a tradition for many when it comes to Christmas music and is a must-play for everyone who celebrates.

For those who don't celebrate Christmas but still want to listen to festive music, "Let It Snow!" is a great listen as it is a song that was made just for the wintertime. It makes everyone think about the possible snowfall for the upcoming season. It has many covers, some of which stand out from the rest include Frank Sinatra's version and Michael Bublé's version.

Another great song to listen to is "Home For The Holidays" by Perry Como. Although it is in a Christmas album by Como, this song has no ties to Christmas and can be enjoyed by anyone. This song is great for those who travel back home to their families for the wintertime.

Surprisingly, "Winter Wonderland" is another song that seems like it would be for Christmas but there are no ties to the actual holiday. Rather, the song is about the wintertime and it does a great job expressing it as well. While there are many covers of the song, some that are too good to not listen to would include Dean Martin's version and Bing Crosby's version.

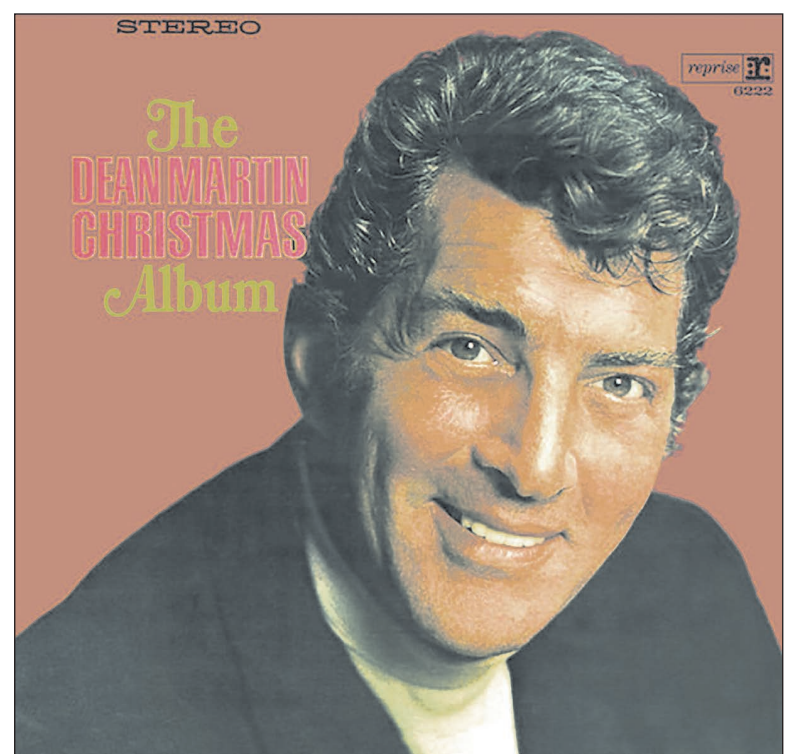


PHOTO COURTESY OF REPRISE RECORDS

Dean Martin's christmas album with the winter wonderland track.



The first installment of the hugely successful LOTR trilogy was released in December of 2001.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WING LINE CINEMA

The Fellowship turns 20: a “The Lord of the Rings” retrospective

The LOTR films continue to show the quality of those who created them two decades later.

By ANTHONY KREJCI
OPINION COLUMNIST

Twenty years ago, when I was a seven-year-old boy, I went to the theater to see some Disney movie. That was when I first saw the trailer for “The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring”. For three staggering minutes my seven-year-old eyes popped out my head, my ears danced and my heart recoiled in gleeful terror and awe.

Nothing had ignited my burgeoning creativity the same way. At the time I didn’t know why. All I knew was that there was something about what I had seen that was unique from average big budget blockbusters I had seen before.

Twenty years later as a grown man, these films have the exact same effect on me. Not a shred of quality has been lost to the years. On the contrary, compared to the endless slop of formulaic, regurgitated, cinematic bile Hollywood has subjected us to in recent years, “The Lord Of The Rings” trilogy continues to shine brighter.

The difference really boils down to a quality which is lacking in modern blockbusters: artistic integrity. Director Peter Jackson sums it up best himself during an interview in the bonus features when he said, “As filmmakers we had no interest whatsoever in put-

ting our junk, our baggage into these movies...this should ultimately be Tolkien’s movie not ours.”

For nearly a decade, Peter Jackson and just under 3,500 people committed to this goal. Not simply to make a good movie, or a profitable movie, but a movie which respected a literary masterpiece enough to go the extra mile.

This dedication is most evident in the Weta Workshop prop department. For five years, hundreds of local craftsmen, art students, and construction workers often committed seven-day weeks and twelve-hour days to what has to be the greatest arts and crafts session in human history.

In this time, they produced 45,000 props for the film, including 19,000 costumes, 1,800 latex body suits, 100 fully functional steel weapons, 10,000 arrows, and over 12 million links of plastic chainmail. Richard Taylor, head of Weta Workshop, expressed the commitment expected during this work when he said, “If you couldn’t rise to the highest level of enthusiasm, passion and professionalism and grasp this task as if it was the most important thing you have ever taken on in your life, you were not worthy of the task.”

Often entire sets were built twice; one for normal size and one for hobbit size. At certain points, even the New

Zealand Army Corps of Engineers were enlisted to help. For a time, a group of people large enough to fill a small town poured all their energy and skill into a story they loved.

The results of this enormous effort proved they were worth every bead of sweat, and I believe they shine brightest in “The Fellowship Of The Ring”. No other movie makes me feel so many emotions while shifting from one to the other so successfully. The transition from the whimsical joy of Bilbo’s birthday party to the terror of Gandalf as he warns Frodo of the threat of Mordor. The ethereal beauty of the Elven realms and the imposing, obsidian shimmer of the tower of Orthanc. The wonder of the journey through Moria, and Gandalf’s stand against the swirling flame of the Balrog. All culminating in my favorite action sequence of any film, Boromir’s refusal to die as he defends his friends, his body riddled with arrows.

This imagery would be but a shadow of their beauty without the superb sound editing and masterful score of Howard Shore. The Urukhai, surging through the forest like a horde of mechanical boars is blended perfectly with the pounding industrial cacophony of the drums of Isengard. The immortal malice within the faceless black robes of the

Ringwraiths personified by the malevolent screech which declares their dreaded coming. When the heroes rise to face these horrors, a triumphant song embodying heroism and brotherhood, rises with them.

For that is the most enduring theme of these films, the love of friendship and loyalty in brotherhood. It is certainly a male-centric story, and this is a common critique of the films. However, I believe this is more than made up for when one considers the quality of the men in the story.

Many of the characters fulfill typical male action hero roles. They fight, they sleep in the dirt and show courage in the face of danger, but there is also a tenderness and compassion to them as well. They cry together, they hold each other in their sorrows, they consistently share their weaknesses and their doubts and often when they speak to one another they say things like “My dear Frodo...” These films provide a positive example of manliness which is a refreshing alternative to the toxic masculinity common in action films.

This is not to say that these films are perfect. The films are uncomfortably long at times. Pacing can be a real problem when the action dies down and after multiple viewings the excessive fake-out deaths get really

old. While there are certainly times when Jackson’s skills as a director shine, there are just as many moments that prove Jackson’s greatest contribution was his skill as an organizer of talent rather than a director.

Flaws aside, Jackson proved a point that modern blockbusters could learn from. Culturally significant art is not confined solely to the nuanced realms of abstraction and subtle commentary. An exciting, action packed movie can also have artistic significance.

There is something enduringly heartwarming about these films. Not just within the story itself but in the story of their creation. Jackson and his team could have slapped together something half as good with half the work and these films still would have made an enormous amount of money.

Instead, they chose to have integrity. They chose to respect the creative significance of what they were undertaking. These films are a testament to the creativity, passion and hard work of thousands of people. For twenty years these films have reminded me that no matter how bleak this world can seem, it’s full of people that can do really cool things, and that is an encouraging thought.