FREE EVERY WEEK

VOL. 26 ISS. 14 • JANUARY 10 2022

THETACOMALEDGER.COM

GERELE GEREN OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

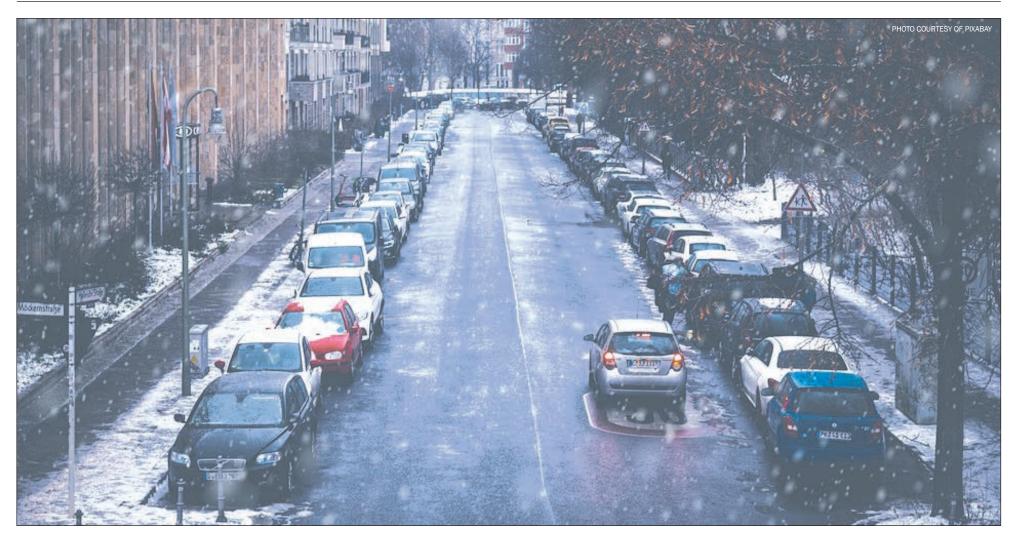
Betty White 1922 - 2021



Tribute to Betty White

She put her foot in the doors of entertainment and never left

January 10, 2022 THE LEDGER **NEWS**



Cold weather sweeps campus and Tacoma is more than prepared

Afraid all of the incoming snow days will put you behind your classwork? UW Tacoma is ready with an abundance of information to help students keep learning during even the worst blizzard.

By Andrew Anderson **News Editor**

Santa's laughter has faded from the sky, New Year's fireworks have finally stopped ringing through the air, and according to the official City of Tacoma website, the inclement weather and snowstorms from the last couple of weeks are here to stay. Tacoma, however, is fully prepared to handle the worst that Mother Nature can

The official website for the city of Tacoma, listed at cityoftacoma.org, has a page titled "Inclement Weather" that keeps a running tally on streets closed due to snow and ice. The page details responses the city is taking against the rough winter weather, and gives detailed guidelines of how they're keeping the city running as the storm continues. The website, under their section on snow response, reads, "Pierce Transit and the Public Works Department have worked together to make sure transit routes are ready for winter weather, and residents are encouraged to leave their personal vehicles at home and use public transportation during storms."

Whether it be Pierce County buses switching to snow routes and shuttle services or the Link Light Rail continuing operations through the heart of downtown through even the worst of the slush, Tacoma is working hard to help transport people safely to wherever their lives take them.

The people of Tacoma aren't the only ones taking a stand against the weather either, as the Tacoma campus of the University of Washington is also working hard to keep their students safe as they continue their education. The University of Washington has always worked hard to keep students safe, and protecting them from the weather is no different.

UW Tacoma's official website, a wealth of information for all enrolled students, has a page specifically on "Suspended Operations" under the Campus Safety and Security section of their website. On this page, you can find updates on all current campus conditions, inclement weather procedures for when storms do hit, and the general timeframe of when warnings will go out and when students can expect to hear more information. Students can even find information on what to say to their teachers or who else they can talk to and find help from if they can't make it to class if weather is worse in their area than campus itself. The site also aids students in signing up for UW Alert, an online system that is helpful to all students and one that can immediately send a student emails and texts on emergencies such as weather alerts, campus emergencies, and more.

While the first week of class for the Winter 2022 quarter at UW Tacoma is being held online with the help of official class websites such as Canvas, as seen in an email sent to all students by UW Tacoma President Ana Mari Cauce just before Christmas, classes are due to return in person Jan. 10. With that thought in mind, it is important for off-campus students to have alternate ways to reach their

classes if they find themselves surrounded by harsher winter weather than first expected.

While we're not certain for how long online classes will continue for this quarter, with UW Tacoma's website page on "Suspended Operations" having a list of various detailed resources located on their sidebar for handling rough weather, the students both on and off campus should be well prepared for any winter storm that hits as they attend in-person classes. In conjunction with the City of Tacoma keeping public transportation continuously running, students have more than a few options for making it to class on time.

The Ledger

UWT's weekly student publication Jan 10 2022 | Vol. 26, Issue 14



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Zoom Link:

https://washington.zoom us/j/91636229141

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OPINION THE LEDGER January 10, 2022

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Title IX Resources at UW Tacoma

Submitted by Madie Brown, UW Tacoma Health Promotion Specialist and Campus-Based Confidential Advocate

Dear Editor.

Sexual violence is a college health concern that impacts not only academic success but student well-being and sense of community belonging on campus. The concerns of students who are survivors of sexual violence are taken seriously by the UW Tacoma.

Sexual violence includes sexual harassment (unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature), sexual assault (any sexual contact without clear initial and/or ongoing consent), stalking (unwanted, repeated and continuing contact that causes a person to feel uncomfortable, fearful or harassed), and dating violence and relationship violence (coercive and abusive tactics to gain power and control over another person). It can be challenging to know what to do

after experiencing sexual violence, no matter how recent or prior the incidence occurred.

Advocacy is a safe and confidential starting point for any UW Tacoma student affected by sexual violence. Confidential advocacy is free and provided by the UW Tacoma confidential advocate staff person, who provides compassionate and empowering support to help survivors explore their rights and options for next steps, and get them connected to resources. All decisions to pursue next steps, if any, are entirely up to the survivor. Survivors do not need to make a formal complaint to receive support from an advocate, and meeting with an advocate does not automatically lead to any kind of investigation by the university or the police.

Should a survivor decide to make a formal complaint to the University, the survivor will work with the Title IX Investigation Office. The Title IX Investigation Office serves all three UW campuses and is responsible for investigating complaints that a University student engaged in conduct that violates any of the sexual misconduct provisions of the Student Conduct Code, including sexual violence. The conduct process is designed to provide a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation process and to equitably protect the rights of individuals participating in the investigation. The UW Tacoma confidential advocate can be present and supportive during the complaint and investigation process, should the survivor want support. For a detailed explanation of the process of formal complaint and investigations, visit https://www.washington. edu/compliance/tixio/university-policies-and-processes.

We all have a part to play in preventing and responding to sexual violence. Students, faculty, and staff can call SafeCampus at 206-685-7233 for free consultation and support during times of safety and well-being concerns, such as sexual and gender-based violence. Caring, trained professionals are available 24 hours/7 days a week to talk callers through options and connect them with resources, such as a confidential advocate, if callers want them. Callers can even reach out on behalf of another person. All calls are private, and callers can call anonymously and share as much or as little information as they want.

Consent plays a foundational role in preventing sexual violence. Consent is an active process of willingly choosing to participate in sex and

physically intimate activities of any kind. When consent is not communicated and obtained from all parties, it could lead to sexual violence. Learn more about the ABCs of and how to communicate consent at www.tacoma.uw.edu/consent.

There are resources and systems in place for UW Tacoma students who are impacted by sexual violence. Survivors can reach the UW Tacoma confidential advocate at 253-692-4750 and uwtsva@uw.edu. Learn more about what to expect when meeting with an advocate at tacoma.uw.edu/confidential-advocate. Consider sharing this information with your peers and in the classroom, to further efforts to raise awareness of advocacy support on campus. We all have a part to play in protecting the Husky pack.

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Your first and last name

"Dear Editor," as the opening of your piece
Respond to one of our articles or happenings on campus in 300 - 500 words

Send your letters to: LEDGER@UW.EDU

Do you want to voice your issues of concern related to news, politics, campus issues and more? Then we invite you to write a Letter to the Editor.

Letters submitted to the Ledger may be published through both TheTacomaLedger.com and our print edition.

A campus based testing center: a social solution to a social crisis.

UWT should stop emphasizing personal responsibility in their public-health plan. Instead, they should provide the tools we need to be safe and open a testing center on campus.



PHOTO VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A COVID-19 mobile testing site in Greece, photo by Konstantinos "Geraki" Stampoulis.

ALEX BUCKINGHAM OPINION COLUMNIST

If UW Tacoma was serious about our safety, there would be a COVID-19 testing center in the middle of campus. Instead, the university continues to call on individuals to do their part. A convenient way to avoid responsibility.

On Monday, Jan. 3, UW's office of the president emailed the "students, staff, faculty, and academic personnel across the university" per the email. President Ana Mari Cauce and Provost Mark A. Richards praised the community's work for our contributions to a "safe" in-person school environment last quarter before encouraging us to continue such safety measures this quarter.

But the message is ultimately one of individual action, putting the responsibility on each of us to get tested regularly, staying home from work when sick, and avoiding unsafe gatherings. The message offers no system changes or solutions.

Anyone who tried to get a COVID-19 test two weeks ago knows that it was no easy feat. With testing centers closed and at-home tests unavailable, many were left wondering if they became infected during holiday

travel. Furthermore, it is not easy for every community member to stop by a testing center between work, school, and personal or family responsibilities, let alone take time off work when sick.

This is why the university should staff and fund a testing center on campus during the school week. Testing could be as easy as stopping at a tent or office between classes or on your way to your place of work. Such infrastructure could even allow for weekly testing of the entire community, giving us a chance to actually maintain safe in-person learning.

UW's "Husky Coronavirus Testing" program is not a campus-based testing site; it is a way to monitor behavior and direct individuals to get tested when the algorithm deems it appropriate.

More testing is needed for various reasons, not least of which is the overburdened local health infrastructure putting us all at risk if we become severely ill. UW's Seattle research hospital, the UW Medical Center, is one such overburdened facility struggling with over-exerted and extended staff and a full hospital all in the midst of the current Omicron wave.

Like the rest of our region's healthcare infrastructure, the UW Medical Center is designed to function at near-capacity at all times. Such profit-minded planning means our hospitals are ill-equipped to deal with disasters and pandemics.

Hospitals are designed this way driven by financial decisions. I suspect telling the UW community to get tested rather than providing testing is also driven by financial determinants.

But maybe our healthcare systems and pandemic response should be driven by our community's needs instead.

President Cauce and Provost Richards call on all of us to do the individual work needed to keep us safe. Fundamentally, this emphasis on individual responsibility is a neo-liberal framework. That is to say, it is a framework that emphasises individual behaviors rather than a framework that looks to public intervention and public funding for a solution.

The pandemic is a social crisis and requires social solutions.

So I call on President Cauce and Provost Richards to give us the actual tools we need to keep us safe. Give us a social solution; provide accessible and regular testing on our campuses.



Play Auditions

Collaboration between
Tacoma Little Theatre and UWT
UWT students/staff inveited to audion
performing at Tacoma Little Theatre
April 29 - May 15

"THE HAPPIEST SONG PLAYS LAST"
by Quiara Alegría Hudes

SEEKING DIVERSE ACTORS TO PLAY:

Elliot: 20's, Latino-Puerto Rican American Marine Shar (Shahrnush): 20's, Arab-American, emphasis on American

Agustín: 50's-60's, Latino: romantic, musician (guitar), Ari: 40's Arab, strong dialect Lefty: 40's-70's; can be any ethnicity; seeking a male person of color, if possible

AUDITION LINK:

http://castingmanager.com/audition/info/mFOEScgoMNJaA2R

DATES/TIMES/LOCATIONS:

January 9, 2022: 6-9pm Tacoma Little Theatre 210 North I Street, Tacoma, WA January 10, 2022: 7-10pm Tacoma Little Theatre

January 11, 2022: 4-7pm University of Washington, Broadcast Studio 007, Cherry Parks Building; 1918 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma.

*For the audition, we will also be reading from the script. 10-minute slots.

CALLBACKS:

January 12, 7-10pm Tacoma Little Theatre

ALSO SEEKING TECHNICAL CREW MEMBERS

Credit available for UWT students; stipend for student and community actors.

For more information contact: Marilyn Bennett, Stage Director at marilyn.bennett60@gmail.com OPINION — THE LEDGER January 10, 2022 5

Good news for a new quarter

Bad news seems to be a constant over these past two years. Here's some good news to make you feel a little better.



How cute! No one can resist a cute puppy, especially not one with a soccer ball.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

By Remi Frederick Opinion Editor

For the last two years, it seems like all we've heard is bad news. I could go through the entire list of deaths, pandemics, and other horrific events, but I won't because odds are you already know it all.

So, for the second issue of 2022, I'd like to share just some of the good news out there in the world.

From small things like New York City Marathoners helping a fellow runner to the finish line or big things like Chris Vogt, a college basketball player, raising \$150,000 for his hometown that was destroyed by a tornado. I'd like to restore both your faith and my faith in humanity, one story at a time.

In one viral video circulating the internet posted on TikTok by @ kelsey_ward, a toddler who has a feeding tube tries an orange popsicle for the first time. As she tastes it, her smile becomes almost too big for her face and her arms wave excitedly.

Henry, an eight-year-old Boston Terrier, saved a nine-month-old baby by continually going into the baby's nursery and waking her up. Eventually the parents realized that their daughters' cold symptoms caused her to stop breathing and took her to the hospital. Henry had kept waking the baby up to make sure she was still breathing.

Curtis Jenkins, a bus driver in

Texas, buys the students on his bus personalized gifts throughout the year. For example, he gave a little girl who wrote a book, a t-shirt with a picture from the book she wrote. these acts of kindness did not go unnoticed because an anonymous viewer saw Jenkins's story and gave him a new car. In addition to this, he got a promotion.

After the tornadoes that tore through the country a few weeks ago, Jim Finch drove thirty minutes with a grill and a truckload of food to bring to Mayfield, Kentucky to feed people whose houses, jobs and businesses were destroyed. They had no power and the city seemed to be demolished.

A soccer team in Russia walked

onto the field with adoptable dogs to spread awareness about the responsibility of having a dog and to raise money for shelters. Look up the images for this story, you won't regret it.

A taxi driver in Spain was given a check and a round of applause from hospital staff after continually giving COVID-19 patients free rides to the hospital.

Shelby Hoefling surprised her grandma with a trip to New York City and tickets to see the Rockettes. In the viral video posted to Instagram, her grandma keeps repeating that she can't believe it and even starts to cry from happiness.

On "MasterChef", Gordon Ramsay sent a nineteen-year-old to culi-

nary school after he was cut from the competition and another judge on MasterChef, Aaron Sanchez, offered the young man a job after he graduated. True to his word, Ramsay paid for Gabriel Lewis to attend culinary school. Lewis graduated in 2019 and was going to work for Sanchez when the pandemic hit.

There are hundreds of good things happening every day. Every day, soldiers come home and see their families. Every day, children are adopted. Every day, someone decides to do something positive in the world.

Don't forget, you can be the good you want to see in the world.

January 10, 2022 THE LEDGER **OPINION**

In-person school: is it a good idea?

Since the discovery of the Omicron variant, COVID-19 cases have been skyrocketing all over the world.

By Remi Frederick **OPINION EDITOR**

The Washington State Department of Health reported on Dec. 29 that Dec. 24 had the largest single-day report of new COVID-19 cases with 6,140 cases. With the number of breakthrough cases rising, there is an understandable fear surrounding returning to in-person classes this winter quarter.

I have my own fear surrounding returning to in-person classes. Recently, two members of my family who were fully vaccinated tested positive on a rapid test for COVID-19. While we did see them on Dec. 26, all four people living in my household have tested negative for COVID-19.

I've heard many stories like this.

Is returning in-person as safe as it was in the fall? It would seem not. The New York Times reports that Washington has had a 293% case increase in the last fourteen days, as of

It has been reported by The New York Times that both Pierce and King counties are hot spots, meaning that they've had more than 250 cases per 100,000 people in the week of Dec. 27.

Despite these harrowing statistics, another part of me wants to return to in-person classes.

For one, I have had only one quarter of in-person classes for my entire college career, and for two, now that I know what I'm missing out on , I don't think I can go back to black Zoom screens and emails again.

Online school was hard enough the first time and now that I've gotten a taste of making friends and going to in-person classes and the general college experience, I don't think I could easily go back.

Because most of my time in college was online, I didn't realize the importance of having a social aspect in classes. The in-class discussions either didn't happen or consisted of one or two people during online classes. I don't want to miss out on the amazing debates and discussions that I expect since returning to in-person classes.

I learn so much better in person than I ever have online, no matter

what subject or professor; I am a hands-on learner, and trying to learn online as a hands-on learner is much harder and more frustrating than in-person.

Ana Mari Cauce, the UW president, sent out an email encouraging all UW students to get tested before returning to in-person classes on Jan. 10. Cauce says that if anything changes in terms of COVID-19 cases and the general effect of coronavirus in the community then the UW will return, possibly temporarily, to online classes.

Cauce also suggested that students, staff and faculty upgrade from cloth homemade masks to surgical, KN95, or KF94 masks for more protection.

This is such a tough decision to make and there are many pros and cons for both staying in-person and going back to online classes.

There is undoubtedly much anxiety and fear among many students regarding returning to campus. However, if we all do our best to stay safe, maybe we can ease some of the stress for our students, staff and faculty.



Screens showing Canvas, like this were a common sight during online classes

UW Announcement:

will have additional student absences." flexibility to choose classes through Jan. and 28. Instructors may if they also can provide an option that al-Jan. 28. This flexibility out wearing masks.

As of Jan 7 UW Pres- will help manage varident Ana Mari Cauce ious Omicron-related sent out an email stat- disruptions, including ing that "instructors increased numbers of

Other classes like the modality of their Practicums, lab-based experiential courses, and clinical hold in-person classes instruction will have priority for in person classes. To help stop lows students to par- the spread of Omiticipate remotely, or cron and other varithey may keep their ants do your best to classes online through stay home and while



A&E — THE LEDGER January 10, 2022

What to do in virtual reality

The Oculus Quest and Quest 2 are some of the best stand alone VR headsets consumers can get their hands on

ANGELO ALEGRE
A&E REPORTER

Technology improves at a rate faster than people realize. Virtual reality has improved quite drastically from when it grew in popularity in the mid-2010s. It's finally the new year and what better way to start than experiencing it in virtual reality?

Companies such as Oculus have steadily worked to improve their consumers' experience with VR. Throughout the years, they have branched out and expanded the reach, especially when they introduced the Oculus Quest, their standalone VR headset. This is very different to their previous VR headset line, the Oculus Rift S, which required a powerful enough PC to work. They have also improved their standalone device's graphic output as well as increased the headset's refresh rate - which makes images on the device much smoother - with their introduction of the Oculus Quest 2. This fast and sudden development actually brought upon the fall of the Oculus Rift S as the Quest 2 was able to do what the Rift was able to and more.

There are a multitude of things you can do in Virtual Reality, including playing virtual sports, exploring places you wouldn't think you could explore in real life, socially interacting with others, playing VR games of varying genres and much more. Some VR experiences available on Oculus devices that stand out from the rest include VRChat, Rec Room, Beat Saber and more.

VRChat is a place where people can

socially interact and play virtual games in worlds made by the players themselves. It is one of the most popular applications on Oculus devices, however it is not available on other forms of VR headsets such as the Playstation VR.

Much like VRChat, Rec Room is another application that people can use to socially interact and play virtual games, but one upside to Rec Room is that it is available on the Playstation VR. This means that there is a larger reach to consumers when it comes to Rec Room when compared to VRChat.

Beat Saber is a full-on VR game unlike VRChat and Rec Room which is limited to being used as a platform to just socially interact. It is a VR rhythm game that makes you swing the controller in the correct direction to the beat of a song. There are multiple difficulty levels to each song you can play, and some make you dodge obstacles in your path. The point of this game is to purely have fun while challenging yourself to play and beat your previous scores on songs you have played.

Besides VRChat, Rec Room and Beat Saber, VR has so much more to offer to all kinds of people. You can have experiences such as visiting locations virtually, riding roller coasters, fishing, boxing and all kinds of other pastimes. If you have not had the opportunity to try Virtual Reality for yourself, the start of a new year is sure to be the best time to try, and with the rise of yet another new COVID variant, now may be the time to secure yourself a VR headset, as there is always another possibility of a nationwide lockdown.

Watch The Sound: Mark Ronson's audio recording 101

The producer of artists like Amy Winehouse, Lady Gaga, Duran Duran and Bruno Mars unpacks gear and tone in this brand new docuseries.

JOSEPHINE TRUEBLOOD A&E EDITOR

Unpack various recording effects and tools used to craft popular records in Mark Ronson's new documentary series, "Watch the Sound." Meeting with famous musicians, engineers and inventors, Ronson brings to light a new side of the recording process through fantastic storytelling, demonstrations and real-world examples. From traveling to empty oil tanks in Scotland to adding space-age Harmony Engine to classic John Len-

non songs, this series is both a deepdive into music and a fun watch.

The six episodes cover both audio recording effects, such as reverb and distortion, and commonly-used tools, such as synthesizers and drum machines. By exploring both the history and the application of effects and tools, Ronson is able to paint a full picture of the significance of these technical recording elements. The "Drum Machines" episode interviews Roger Linn, the creator of the LinnDrum, to tell the behind-the-scenes story about tracking the iconic drum sound in a closet in Tarzana, Los An-



geles, and uses clips of Prince's "When Doves Cry" to explain how the drum machine was later used incorrectly to create mega-hits.

While each episode discusses relatively-complex musical concepts, Ronson does a great job of making them palatable to all viewers through great stories and examples. Using interviews from newer artists like King Princess and Charli XCX, who hilariously helps Ronson record an autotuned song, along with revered artists like Paul McCartney and the Beastie Boys, Ronson finds examples for every viewer. With a clear personal interest in all genres, Mark Ronson meets with production idol, Premier, to discuss

sampling in hip hop by using eclectic sounds from crate-digging records. In "Sampling," the duo breaks down the unique samples in Nas and Gang Starr songs, which originally came from a Methodist Church record and "Devil in the Dark" by The Manhattans.

With an impressive catalog of production credit, Mark Ronson additionally uses examples from his own career and childhood. Revealing his mistakes in sampling the string part in "Sunny" by Boney M. and the drum break in "Scorpio" by Dennis Coffey for his song "Ooh Wee," which resulted in a royalty battle, along with his successes in using thick reverb on Amy Winehouse's album "Back to Black", Ronson

takes a humble approach in his interviews for "Watch the Sound."

The series beautifully balances technical information with amazing tidbits about music. While "Watch the Sound" is definitely geared towards musicians, the stories and performances by artists like Duran Duran, Bikini Kill, Tame Impala and Angel Olsen make it well worth the watch for any music-lover. Fair warning, this series will leave you obsessively Googling obscure synthesizer and drum machine models and listening to deep-cut songs you forgot about.

[Available on AppleTV+]





Tribute to Betty White

She put her foot in the doors of entertainment and never left.

By Madi Williams Managing Editor

New Year's Eve of 2021 will be a day that no one will forget, as it was the day we learned that the beloved Betty White died just shy of turning 100. White's passing was a great loss in the entertainment industry, but from her death people are sharing and connecting with others who were also touched by her work.

White is best known for her role in the show "The Golden Girls" where she played the lovable Rose, whose naive personality and spunk always made the audience laugh from the antics that she would get into. White played the character so well that seeing her play other characters seemed out of place, especially in some of the Saturday Night Live skits, but it just shows how open she was to playing different characters.

Some might not know that White started her entertainment career do-

ing radio shows, first reading commercials and even singing or going on game shows. This eventually led her to appear on many radio shows and even having her own radio show called "The Betty White Show." In the early '50s, White appeared in "Hollywood on Television", where she started as a co-host but then began hosting herself in 1952, where she performed for five and a half hours of live television six days a week.

During the same time she was hosting "Hollywood on Television", she was also the star of a show called "Life With Elizabeth" where White played the main character. With

She was only 28 when she became the co-producer and owner of a television show. this show, White was one of the first women who had full creative control in front of and behind the cameras. This was unusual for the 1950s, but it shows the creative and societal influence that White had as an entertainer, not to mention she was only 28 when she became the co-producer and owner of a television show.

Not only did White push boundaries in the production aspect of the entertainment industry, she continued to push boundaries on her television talk show "The Betty White Show" from 1952-1954. She was the first to feature an African American performer, Arthur Duncan, on television. The show got criticism for having an African American as a regular on the show tap dancing. White's response was "I'm sorry. Live with it" and gave Duncan more time on the show.

White would then continue on doing many game shows and talk shows like "Password", "Match

Game," and "Pyramid," just to name a few. White would also make appearances on shows like "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," "The Carol Burnett Show" and "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson." In more entertainment, White was seen in "Boston Legal" as Catherine Piper, the soap opera "The Bold and the Beautiful" as Ann Douglas, "The Proposal" a romantic comedy with Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds, and the comical Snickers commercial for Super Bowl XLIV.

White was an animal welfare advocate by donating, volunteering and fundraising for animals and the shelters. White fought against racial injustice like she did with Duncan and throughout her life. She also supported LGBTQ+ rights saying "If a couple has been together all that time – and there are gay relationships that are more solid than some heterosexual ones – I think it's fine if they want to get married. I don't know how peo-

In White's 99 years, she received 57 award nominations and won a total of 27, five of them being Primetime Emmys.

ple can get so anti-something. Mind your own business, take care of your affairs, and don't worry about other people so much," which she said in Parade magazine in 2010.

In White's 99 years, she received 57 award nominations and won a total of 27, five of them being Primetime Emmys. Betty White gave us so much during her time and put every ounce of herself into her work. She leaves a legacy full of laughs and we are lucky to have the technology to look back at all her work and continue to spread the joys of Betty White.