

FREE EVERY WEEK

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# THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to  
justive everywhere”  
-Martin Luther King Jr.





“Emerging from the COVID-19 crisis, the Latino, Black and immigrant workers that McDonald’s relied on to keep its restaurants open during the pandemic are in danger of being left behind”

# The silent heroes that fed America during the pandemic

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, new terms such as “essential employees” came to light and many restaurant workers found themselves being needed by the public to serve under new circumstances regarding the pandemic.

By **LESLIE GONZALEZ CRUZ**  
News Reporter

Beginning March 19, 2020 when quarantine for COVID-19 started and forced many businesses to close, among those that remained open were fast-food restaurants. What coined the term ‘essential worker’ during the COVID-19 pandemic were critical infrastructures needed to continue operating to serve their communities.

While nurses and doctors fought on the frontlines of the pandemic against an unknown and incurable disease, the public also had those who served on the sidelines. Restaurant employees that came to carry more than just serving food.

They could be considered the silent hero that continued to feed America while earning minimum wage with little protection against the deadly but fast spreading virus. Like nurses and doctors, they only had a cloth mask and gloves.

What started as fast-food workers becoming the life line of a hungry country has ended in nationwide shortages as more employees quit their jobs in hopes of seeking better wages and benefits for them and their families.

Many restaurants implemented COVID-19 guidelines such as; recording the employees’ temperatures and asking questions about possible symptoms they could be experiencing, but was it truly enough to keep

their employees safe? With no hazard pay or paid time off if they were to get the coronavirus, many were forced to come into work while experiencing symptoms.

Not only did they face possible health exposures but were also overworked and underpaid. With quarantine, much of the population lost their jobs and were forced into remaining in their homes with their families for what was supposed to be weeks but prolonged for months. Many, with nothing to do during the time, turned to food to relieve them of their boredom. With drive-thrus and take-out deliveries being the only way to get out of their houses, consumers flocked to their favorite fast-food places and employees found

themselves dealing with consumers refusing to wear masks, further exposing their health and of those they came into contact with.




With essential employees policing and enforcing state-mandated laws for their own protection, the aftermath of being overworked and exposed was retaliating by quitting. Due to this, the nation faces shortages across the country in fast-food restaurants. Many restaurants are now offering higher wages in hopes of attracting new employees, but only after working for a certain time period can they reap those benefits.

In March of 2021, The Seattle Restaurant Alliance and the Washington Hospitality Association advocated and petitioned the state

governor Jay Inslee for restaurant employees to be included in the latest phase of Washington’s COVID-19 vaccine plan along with other essential employees. Employees in restaurants were not included in the workers in food production who were eligible for the vaccine. This prompted backlash against the eligibility requirements for food establishments and a week later a local health official came out to confirm that restaurant employees were included to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.




When low-wage employees were needed they became “essential workers” but as the fear of COVID-19 declined and normalcy began, they found themselves back to being unrecognized for their work.

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# Husky 100: be boundless and run with the pack

Have that classmate or student that has helped you more than you thought and outshined your expectations? UW is opening up applications and nominations for the Husky 100 which is meant to honor those students.

By **ANDREW ANDERSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

From helping a classmate with a difficult problem in class, to taking notes for those who couldn't be in class that day, to even arriving early to help the teacher with setup, we all know those students that are willing to go above and beyond to make our time at UW a special one.

An email sent out to all UW students earlier this week gives the opportunity for us to recognize those students and classmates that have made our time at school a great one. The email, written by Mark Richards, the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, talks about the Husky 100.

Richards, in the email, writes, "Each year, the Husky 100 recognizes 100 outstanding UW undergraduate and graduate students who are making the most of their time at the UW." To be nominated for the Hus-

ky 100, a student must be currently attending UW and must be a junior, senior, or graduate from any of the three campuses, which include Seattle, Tacoma, and Bothell.

You don't have to wait for a nomination either. Students are welcome and encouraged to apply themselves, but applications end Feb. 4th. The ability to nominate students continues until Jan. 21st, but you don't need to be nominated to apply. They're simply a good way to show your support for fellow students or for faculty and staff to recommend a student they might see shine in particular.

Remember though, as Richards instructs in the email that was sent out, a single person can only nominate ten students, and you will need the NetID of the students you want to nominate, so plan ahead as much as possible.

Why bother nominating and applying? The Husky 100 isn't just a popularity contest like some may be-

lieve. Richards states that, "In spring quarter, these 100 students will be recognized and celebrated across the UW. They will also have opportunities in the 2022-23 academic year to expand their networks with UW students, alumni, faculty, staff and business leaders."

For those wishing to expand their network and broaden their horizons, it's an indispensable opportunity, especially for those who might be going into expansive fields once they graduate. Remember, this isn't about good grades.

The Husky 100 is all about the students who take time out of their day to make a difference, whether that be in the classroom or off-campus. Be sure to visit the official site at [washington.edu/husky100](http://washington.edu/husky100) in order to learn more about how to nominate, how to apply, and what determines those who are picked. You can also discover previous Husky 100 students.

So grab those NetIDs, which

would be those official school emails without the "@uw.edu", take a look around your campus and classroom,

and honor someone who helped you out when you most needed it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

## The campus social experience from a commuter student and a live-on-campus student

Two students, one commuting and one living on campus, share what it has been like making friends on campus this year.

By **SHARLAYE DEZURN**  
NEWS REPORTER

UW Tacoma is known for its high population of commuting students and most are not aware of the opportunity to live on campus. Many students have suffered socially and The Ledger was able to speak with some amazing students about their experiences so far.

Eleni (Ah-lenny) Theodoropoulos flew all the way from Chicago, Illinois to attend UW Tacoma. Eleni is a hardworking student who loves to be social. Eleni hosts get-togethers, spends time at the Student Y center, and cooks amazing Greek food. As a first-year student living at Court 17, Eleni was asked to share her experience with The Ledger and how she feels about living on campus.

She says that, "Making friends was hard and easy at the same time. For me it was easy in a sense that I am extroverted so I enjoy meeting and talking to new people. What made it hard was me going to most of the social events but not a lot of people go so it was hard to make friends there. I feel if more people lived on campus, our school would do so well or if we had a better way of getting the word

out about social events." Eleni has gotten to experience making friends, experiencing the campus day and night, and living away from home.

First-year student Jenny Jiang opened up to The Ledger on her experience as a commuting student from University Place, Washington. Jenny is a hardworking, outgoing student who loves to make new friends. If she is not studying she is probably crafting, reading a good book, or completing a board game. Jenny was asked to share her struggles of creating a social life on campus.

Jenny says that, "Making friends on campus does require a little bit of an effort. Reasons being that [UW Tacoma] is a commuter college therefore there really isn't much you can rely on to make friends besides attending class, and even so people really just want to be in and out of class. Yet, with the COVID

currently being active it really destroys the main gateway to communicate with different peers."

All in all, students all over campus are finding it difficult to create a social life for themselves. The previous two years for students all

over the world have been emotional, chaotic, and unfortunate. Currently, the Court 17 apartments are housing students at 50% reduced capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Allegedly, The Court 17 apartments are looking forward to opening up to

100% capacity to start the next 2022-23 school year. Students currently living off campus are strongly recommended to apply.



The student housing building The Court 17 Apartments located on 1717 Market Street, Tacoma, Washington 98402.

PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

# Stand with the people of Sudan

Following the military coup last October, the temporary puppet regime has fallen while the people struggle for genuine democracy.

**ALEX BUCKINGHAM**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

One slogan from the streets and the press rises above the rest in the ongoing revolution in Sudan, “no negotiation, no partnership, no legitimacy.” That is, no negotiations with the military coup, no partnership or shared governance with the coup, and no aspect of legitimacy in the military rule.

In a world where the rich sell us out with climate change in their pursuit of profits, a world that maintains military-backed empires combined with racist police systems to wage war at home, revolutions and mass uprisings for change are of incredible importance. Those of us working to change the world today can not only learn from current events in Sudan but can simultaneously be contributing to changing the world by acting in solidarity with the Sudanese people.

I last wrote about events in Sudan for The Ledger this past November titled “Sudan Resists the Coup” when the military ended its power sharing agreement with the civilian government and took full control of the state via a coup. The popular struggle preceding and following this counter-revolutionary coup have only grown since then.

The uprising I detailed in that article quickly resulted in international pressure for the military rulers to compromise. Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, ousted in the October coup, was invited to return to his position.

Charlie Kimber from the Socialist Worker, a British newspaper, explained, “The US, Britain, Saudi Arabia and the United Nations all backed Hamdok in the hope he could blunt the anger against the generals. But most of the

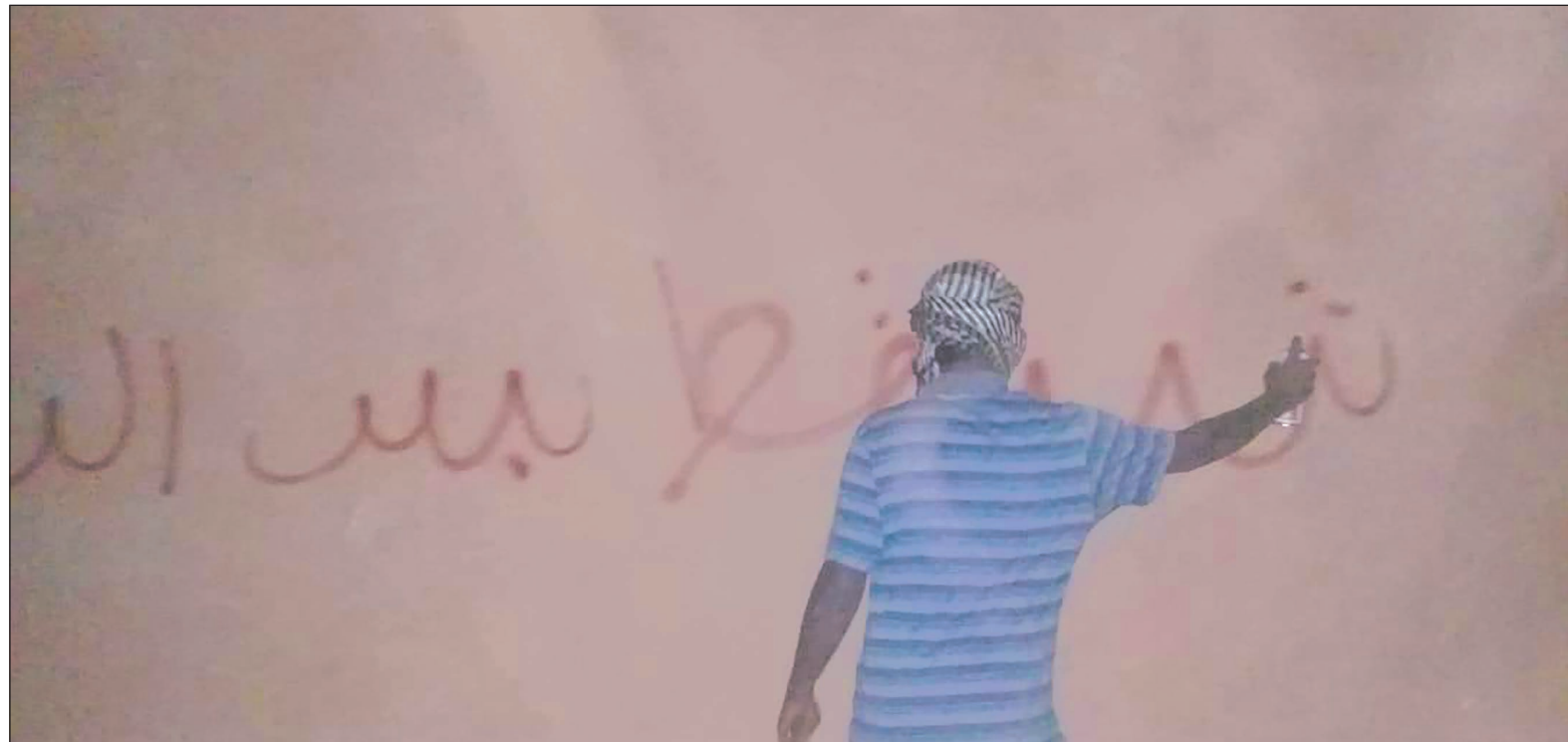


PHOTO COUTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Activist tags wall with popular slogan, “tasgut bas” meaning “just fall” which refers to the regime.

pro-democracy forces saw through him.” There was and is no popular support for Hamdok, a neoliberal described in “Sudan Resists the Coup.”

This puppet regime could not last as it had zero legitimacy; Hamdok resigned from office at the start of the new year.

Sudanese activist Marine Alneel told Democracy Now!, a news publication, that while “in 2019, many people were displeased with the partnership, now mostly people are outright rejecting any form of partnership with the military.”

And yet what does Hamdok call for as he steps down? The same thing the United Nations is pushing for: Negotiations with the military.

Various states and forces, like the International Monetary Fund and the

United States, have an interest both in Sudan’s mineral reserves and overall stability in the region. Popular struggle, on the other hand, puts these things at risk. They want an end to the protests but with a government they can count on to maintain policies friendly to international capital.

Regional despots too are concerned, lest their own people rise in struggle against their rule. Egypt, for instance, has thrown its weight behind the UN’s calls for negotiations.

But again, the people of Sudan are clear. They say, “no negotiation, no partnership, no legitimacy.”

This difference between the peoples’ cries for democracy and the calls for compromise from various coun-

tries and the mainstream news is, arguably, neocolonialism.

It is, at the very least, implicitly racist for the western powers and media to dismiss the people of Sudan, while explaining compromise and negotiation as the answer.

The coup forces continue to repress the popular struggle but fail to deter the activists. Organized both in neighborhood and regional committees called the resistance committees, the revolution continues.

The resistance committees are, in places, showing what an alternative form of government could look like. Organized democratically, raising up feminist and anti-racist demands like opposition to the anti-Darfur scape-

goating, and genuinely popular, it is possible to imagine an alternative to compromising with the military or settling for the limited political democracy we are familiar with.

One can start to imagine a social democracy rooted in the activity and decisions of the Sudanese working class forming within these committees.

While international powers like Israel and the US will continue to push for stability, those opposed to modern colonialism and racism should reject their elitist framework. Support the people of Sudan in their struggle for liberation.

## Tahoma West

We are looking for artist to submit their visual art to be featured in a student art gallery in February!

All visual media can be submitted. There is no limit to the number of artworks per submission.

Submissions due by **February 20th.**

Email [tahomaw@uw.edu](mailto:tahomaw@uw.edu) with photos of your submission following our submission guidelines as seen on our website. [www.tacoma.uw.edu/tahoma-west/submission-guidelines](http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/tahoma-west/submission-guidelines)



# Call for Submissions

Online Art Gallery and  
Cover Contest,  
February 2022

# The common view of Martin Luther King is not a complete one.

Was MLK just a Civil Rights leader?

By **ANTHONY KREJCI**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Every third Monday of the month of January we take time to acknowledge, honor and remember the life and career of Martin Luther King Jr. To many, this means remembering King as a strong opponent of racial discrimination and advocate of equal rights for African Americans. While this vision of King is true and worthy of our enduring admiration, it fails in producing the full image of a great man.

There is another, more radical and controversial side of King which I believe America could gain from. I recently had the pleasure of learning quite a bit about this other side of King in Dr. Michael Honey's labor history class.

Much like how the killing of Trayvon Martin in 2013 exploded into the Black Lives Matter movement today, the killing of Emmet Till in 1955 proved to be the spark of the civil rights movement which King would eventually give his life for.

Although King disavowed Communism, he strongly criticized American capitalism while advocating the social gospel: a set of ideals which had similarities to Marxism but were rooted in the teachings of Christianity rather than Marx.

"There is something wrong with a situation that will take the necessities from the masses to give luxuries to the classes," became an iconic mantra of Kings when he advocated the social gospel.

King recognized not only the threat of resurgent capitalist influence but that unions and the civil rights movement must realign their efforts to face the threat as well. King would take his social gospel message and his civil rights unionism across the country and around the world.

Throughout his career, King was the subject of threats, violence, bombings, FBI blackmailing, false arrests and imprisonments. As he preached the coming of a Promised Land, where America would truly realize the equality and economic freedom it professed, King began to say he would not live to see its coming. Like so many of King's words, these too would prove prophetic.

It is impossible to truly calculate the effect that King's efforts and sacrifice had on unionism and social justice from the 1960s on, yet both the 1960s and 70s were a time of dramatic social activism and solidarity which challenged the inequalities of capitalism, war, and racism like never before. However, one thing is clear, King's Promised Land has not been realized and won't be anytime soon.

Today, American society tends to focus on the aspects of King that can be slapped on a canvas bag and sold at Whole Foods for \$4.99 while ignoring or forgetting the aspects of King which challenged us, criticized us, and demanded better from us.

For the complete message of King is one which challenges the founding principles of our democracy. The Founding Father's original dream of freedom, liberty and equality was marred by the hypocrisy of slavery. The question of who deserved freedom remained a debate which has permeated our social psyche and defined the internal struggles of our shared history, in our courts, in our homes, on our streets and across bloodstained battlefields.

Since the role of race in these struggles has



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Every January we rightfully honor M.L.K., but do we truly remember everything he was?

been such a crucial center piece throughout their history, race has naturally taken center stage of the discussion, and what we remember King to be. Yet when stripped down to its simplest form, the question of equality is not merely one of race or religion or gender but of universal human dignity.

Without adequate housing, a worker has no dignity. Without a safe and clean workplace, a worker has no dignity. Without security from war and prejudice, a worker has no dignity. Without food on the table, safe schools for their children, and medical care for their family, a worker has no dignity.

King's Promised Land was not a communist utopia where nobody would be rich, and nobody would be poor, but an America which valued the human right to basic dignity as much

as it valued the personal enrichment of the elite. I think all one has to do is take one look at the COVID-19 era worker to see that this dream is far from being realized.

Racial equality may have been a goal of King's social gospel, but the philosophy behind the goal was not limited to one group of people. To remember King as only a civil rights leader is to remember only a part of him.

King's stalwart defense of the common man stands as one of the greatest campaigns for true equality in our nation's history. His vision of the Promised Land and the social gospel deserve the same recognition as any iconic speech he gave. This message was not just a declaration of hope but a call to action for all of us. If we allow ourselves to forget

it, we will never realize it.

If anyone would like to learn more about King and the social gospel, I could not recommend Dr. Honey's labor history course enough.



This is what my New Year's resolutions list looks like! No resolutions for me.

ILLUSTRATION BY JAIDA NOBLE

## New Year's resolutions: are they really worth it?

Honestly, New Year's resolutions are the worst kind of resolutions and are made at the worst time to make them. Here's why.

**REMI FREDERICK**  
OPINION EDITOR

By about the middle-end of January, most of you that made New Year's resolutions have fallen off the bandwagon. Now, this is of course nothing against you but- and I hate to break it to you- New Year's resolutions don't work.

There are fewer of you making New Year's resolutions this year than there were the year before. The New York Times reports that 29% of Americans say that they will make New Year's resolutions whereas last

year, 43% of Americans said that they would make resolutions.

So to the 29% of you that still make New Year's resolutions, here's why you shouldn't.

For one, and probably the most important reason, they don't work. One study done by the University of Scranton found that after one week, 23% of people who made resolutions quit them after just one week of completing them. Only 19% of people were able to stick to their resolutions in the long term.

Secondly, why is New Year's Day even the best time to make a resolu-

tion? You've probably hyped up the new year in your head and are having inflated expectations of what you will accomplish. It's an understanding feeling but one that doesn't last long, especially during a global pandemic.

Though I am firmly against making New Year's resolutions, here are some tips you can try to help you succeed if you decide to make one.

Keep it manageable. Make sure you give yourself a goal that isn't too outrageous. If you want to start working out every single day and you aren't working out at all, chances are

you won't accomplish your goal.

Find a way to encourage yourself throughout the year as you complete your resolution. Tell your friends and family so that they can also encourage and support you.

One way to achieve your resolution is to make it a S.M.A.R.T. goal. Make it specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound.

Say your goal is to exercise more in the new year. To make the chance of your resolution succeeding, make it a S.M.A.R.T. goal.

To specify the goal, you could say I will work out on Tuesdays and

Thursdays. To make sure you can measure your progress, every time you work out, add it to your calendar. This goal seems achievable, make sure your goal is something you want to do and it will make you happy and finally, make sure you have a timeline along the year for your goal to be completed.

Don't feel bad if you don't achieve your goal. There's always next year.

# New Year : New Books

The excitement of waiting for a new book to be released is something that every book nerd is feeling when a new year starts

**MADI WILLIAMS**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Book lovers everywhere know that when the new year starts, it means the countdown to new book releases of all genres. Here is a list of just some of the 2022 books coming out this year.

**"A FLICKER IN THE DARK" BY STACY WILLINGHAM**

This is Willingham's debut book in the thriller/suspense genre. "A Flicker in the Dark" is about Chloe Davis whose father confessed to the disappearance of six teen girls when Chloe was only 12. Now 20 years later when teen girls start to go missing again, she starts to see parallels from the past.

Release date : January 11

**"REMINERS OF HIM" BY COLLEEN HOOVER**

From the author of "Verity" and "It Ends With Us," Hoover has yet another piece that will surely make readers emotional. "Reminders of Him" follows Kenna Rowan who after serving 5 years in prison, is trying to reconnect with her daughter, and the only person who hasn't shut her out and the last link to her daughter is Ledger Ward, a local bar owner.

Release date : January 18

**"THE PARIS APARTMENT" BY LUCY FOLEY**

Jess needs a fresh start and asks her half-brother Ben if she can stay with him for a bit. When Jess arrives at Ben's apartment, he is nowhere to be found. Jess takes it into her own hands to figure out what happened to Ben by looking into his life and the neighbors around him.

Release date : February 22

**"THE BOOK OF COLD CASES" BY SIMONE ST. JAMES**

From the author of "The Sun Down Motel," St. James has yet another spooky tale to tell. In 1977, Beth Greer was acquitted of the murder of two men. In 2017, Shea who runs a true crime website, gets in touch with Beth who agrees for an interview, but Shea feels that something is not right in the Greer house.

Release date : March 15

**"INSOMNIA" BY SARAH PINBOROUGH**

From the author of "Behind Her Eyes," comes another thriller. Emma Averell is living the best life with a great job, kids and a husband. But

childhood trauma is now making it so that she can't sleep and she is showing similar signs her mother showed before the incident. Is this in her blood or is she really losing her mind?

Release date : April 12

**"TAKE MY HAND" BY DOLEN PERKINS-VALDEZ**

From the author of "Wench," this book takes place in Montgomery, Alabama in 1973. Newly graduated from nursing school, Civil wants to make a difference in her community. Her first day will change her life forever, even decades later.

Release date : April 12

**"BOOK LOVERS" BY EMILY HENRY**

From the author of "Beach Read" and "People We Meet on Vacation" is another romance with a plot twist. Nora, a lover of books, needs a getaway in the country but keeps running into Charlie, a book editor from the city whom she has met many times before and it has never ended well. How will their stories come together?

Release date : May 3

**"SOMETHING WILDER" BY CHRISTINA LAUREN**

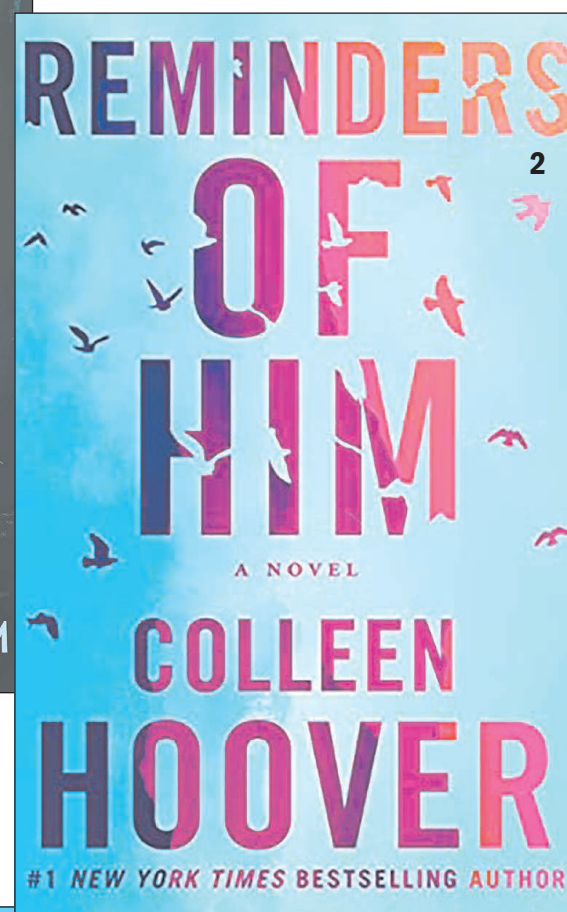
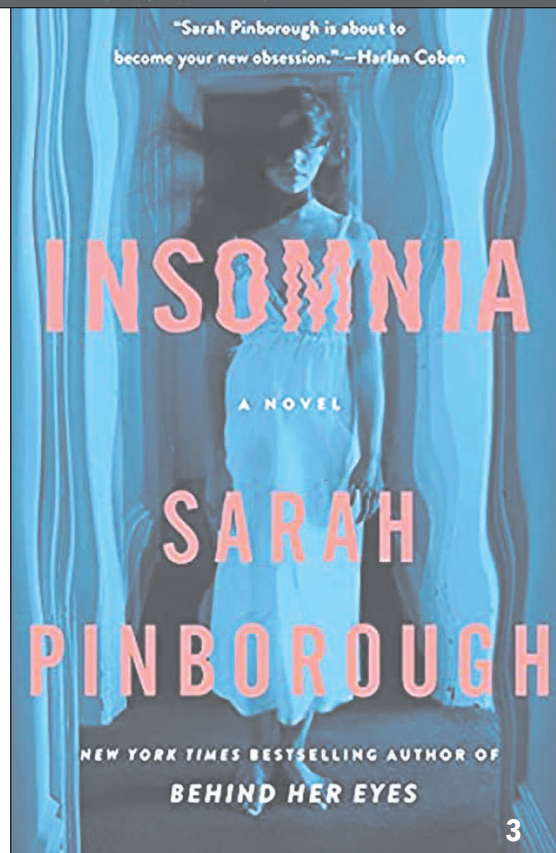
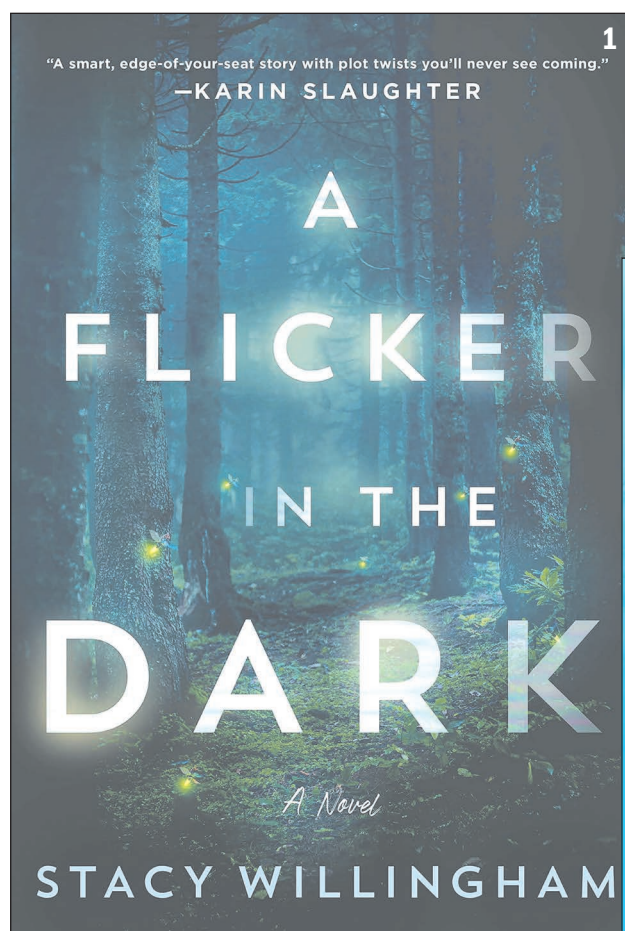
From the author of "The Soulmate Equation" and "The Unhoneymooners," Lauren brings readers a laugh-out-loud novel with adventure and love. When Lily finds herself on a trip that goes wrong, she and Leo, who has been in love with her, have to work together and put differences aside to navigate the red rock canyons of Utah together.

Release date : May 17

**"REPUTATION" BY LEX CROUCHER**

In this "Bridgerton" meets "Gossip Girl" novel, Georgina Ellers spends the summer with her aunt and uncle after being abandoned by her parents. She meets Frances who brings her into her improper friend group showing Georgina the world of drunken debauchery. She then meets Thomas Hawksley and sparks begin to fly but not without some drama.

Release date : July 18



1 - Courtesy of Minotaur Books

2 - Courtesy of Montlake

3 - Courtesy of William Morrow & Company

4 - Courtesy of Berkley

# “tick, tick...BOOM!” is one musical you should not miss

“tick, tick...BOOM!” is a stunning musical no one should miss

By **ANGELO ALEGRE**  
A&E COLUMNIST

Set as a semi-autobiographical musical about Jonathan Larson - the man who redefined musicals with his work “Rent,” “Tick, Tick...BOOM!” directed by Lin Manuel Miranda is a stunning and musically beautiful movie that reimagines the life of Larson before he made it big in theater.

The movie “tick, tick...BOOM!” is a great reimagination of the life Jonathan Larson led while aspiring to become a musical playwright. It shows the struggles and hardships he went through, the relationships that had been affected by his journey and includes 13 of his wonderful pieces of music.

Larson’s girlfriend is offered a job in another city, his friend is going up in the world, all the while Larson is still working as a waiter, waiting for his big break. The movie takes place as a storytelling of his life in the midst of a theatrical performance. Set in the year 1990, Larson has spent the past eight years of his life constructing his first musical titled “Superbia” - the musical we see in the story being told by Larson. After getting a chance to finally show off his work in a workshop aimed to show friends and possible investors - Larson decides that it is finally his time to achieve his dream of being a musical playwright. He focuses on the production of his workshop the whole week prior to the show time, but this is where complications arise.

After the work Larson has put into his first musical, things don’t go the way he plans. This

changes his perspective on what he has been doing for the past eight years. To add insult to injury, he further receives more negative news in his life regarding those he holds important to him. This puts Larson in a tough situation when he decides on his future, but not all is bad when he learns that there is someone out there willing to give him a shoulder to lean on.

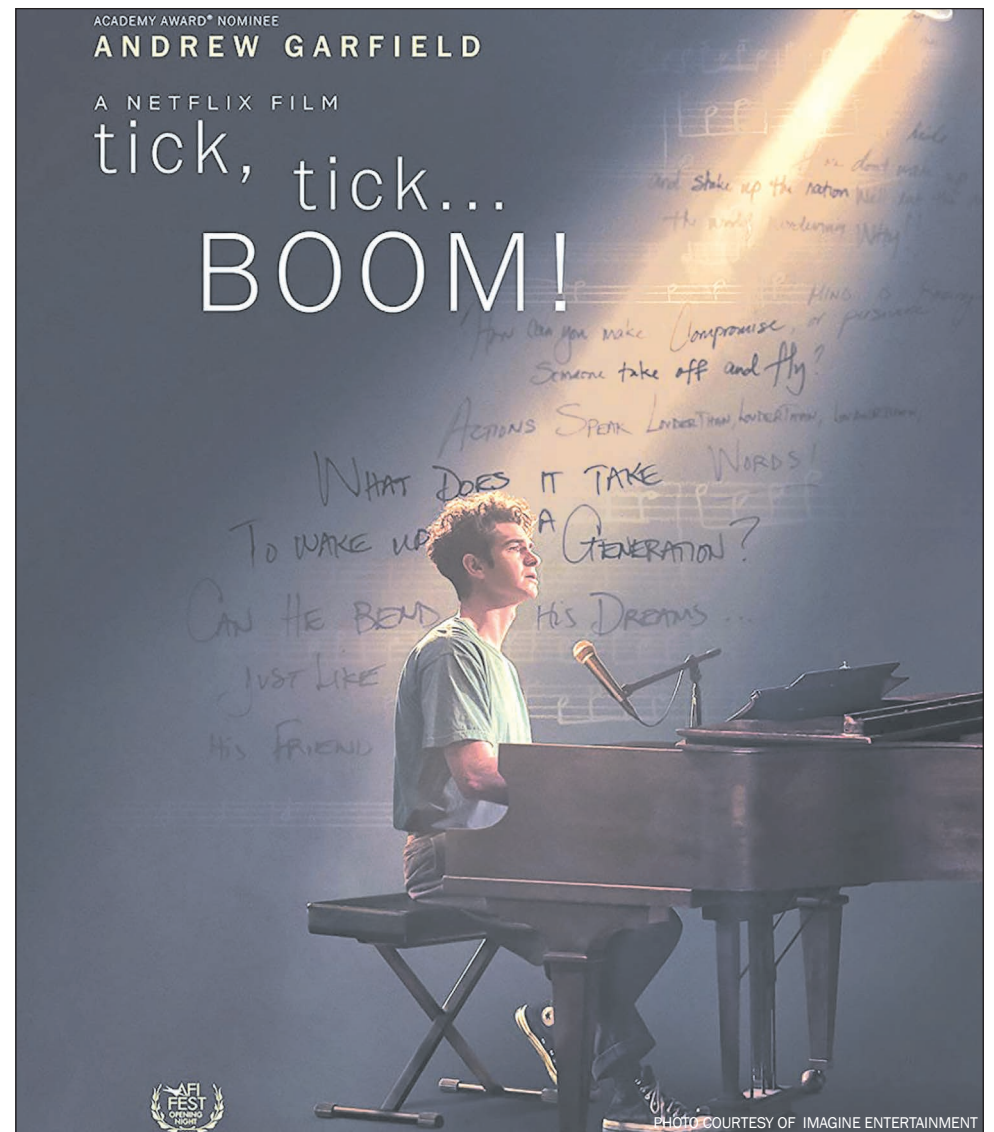
The musical does a great job in not having the music be the main focus but rather have it enhance the storytelling. Songs break at times where you would expect them - but one thing that “tick, tick...BOOM!” does well is include important dialogue/scenes in the middle of the music. This might be because Larson is someone who is able to make music about anything, so the music may have come from the real life situations that pair within the musical.

Overall, the movie “tick, tick...BOOM!” is great for both people who knew of Jonathan Larson’s works beforehand and to people who have never heard of him at all. This movie has a great cast from Andrew Garfield to Vanessa Hudgens to Alexandra Shipp. If you have not watched it yet and are even the slightest bit interested, “tick, tick...BOOM!” is one musical you should not miss.

**TITLE: “TICK, TICK...BOOM!”**

Star Rating: 4/5

[Available only on Netflix]



## 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](mailto: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.

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