

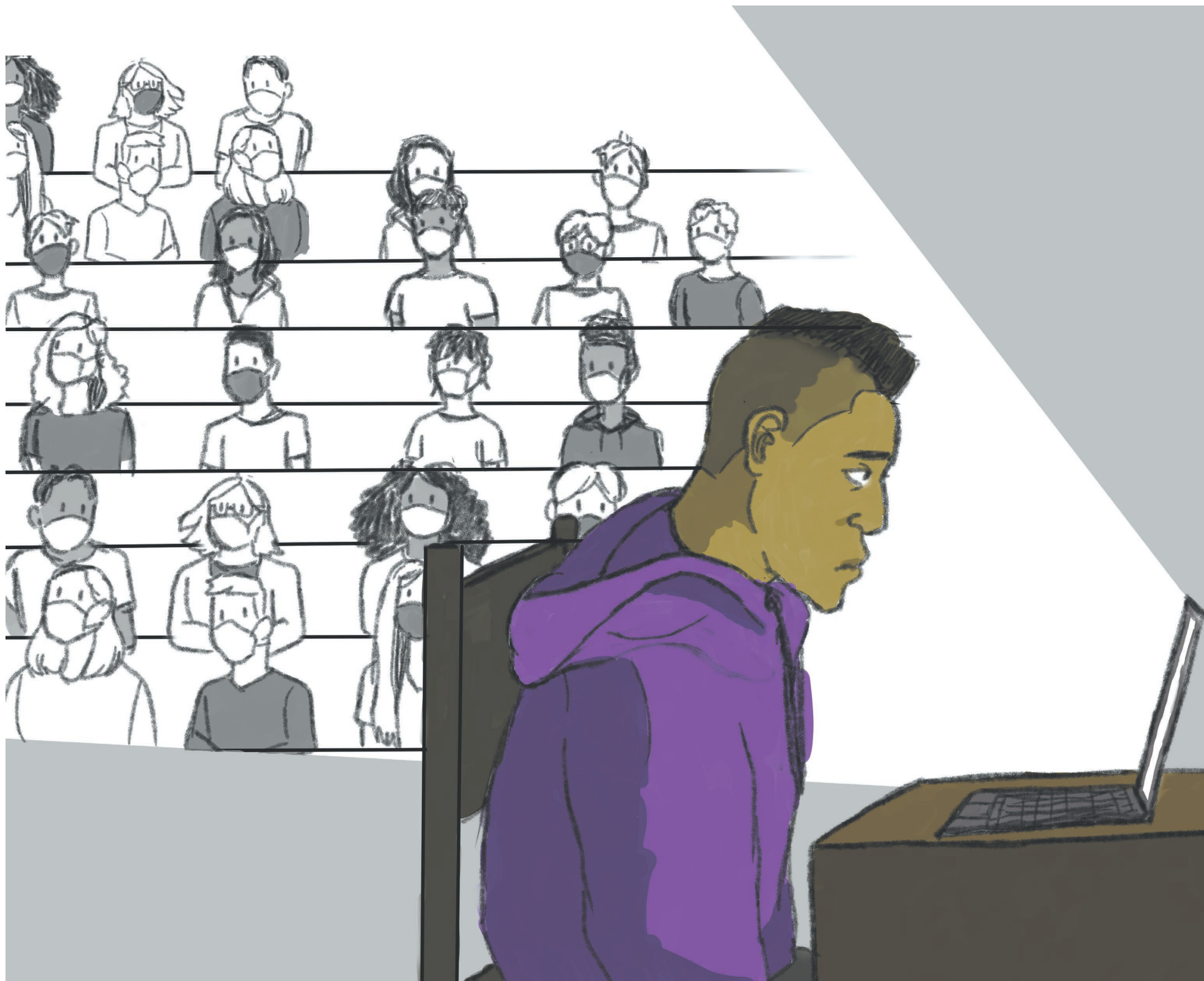
FREE EVERY WEEK

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THETACOMALEDGER.COM

# THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



## OPINION: Returning to in-person classes

UWT will be returning to majority in-person learning on Jan. 31. But is it safe to do so?



# BSU's moonlit prom of Black Excellence

After a slight delay, the BSU continues with their plans to throw a prom at the end of Black History month.

ANDREW ANDERSON  
NEWS EDITOR

UW Tacoma is known for multiple student-run organizations such as the Black Student Union, more commonly referred to as the BSU among staff and students. To celebrate Black History Month the BSU will be hosting, in their words, a “moonlit prom” to wrap up the festivities of the month.

While the prom was originally scheduled to kick off Black History month, the date was changed to better accommodate students regarding COVID-19 concerns. The BSU, after explaining this in much of their promotional material, also informs students that the prom will have access to a food truck, a photo area, and a DJ for the event. The BSU will, as well, be making handmade corsages and themed masks that will be handed out as keepsakes after the event comes to an end.

“Our theme,” the BSU promotional Instagram posting says, “is Clair De Lune - Black Excellence. Expect to hear music by Black artists and come

in your best dressed! We suggest silver for moonlight, or our BSU colors, black and/or gold to be in theme.”

Their Instagram, as well as their Twitter, explain how those who wish to attend can purchase their tickets, of which up to 10 can be bought per person. The tickets, which range in price from \$50 to \$75, can be bought through links which are located in the bios of both social media handles, being @UnionUWT on Twitter and @UWTB-SU on Instagram. Up-to-date information on the prom can also be found at either handle.

The BSU have also been careful to adhere to the ongoing COVID-19 precautions, letting others know that there will be social distancing, a guest count capacity limit with guests requiring masks to be worn at all times, and that vaccine cards will be checked before entering the venue. It is recommended, but not required, that those who attend wear filtered masks or double masks.

For those wishing to attend and celebrate Black History month and Black Excellence, the prom will be held Feb.

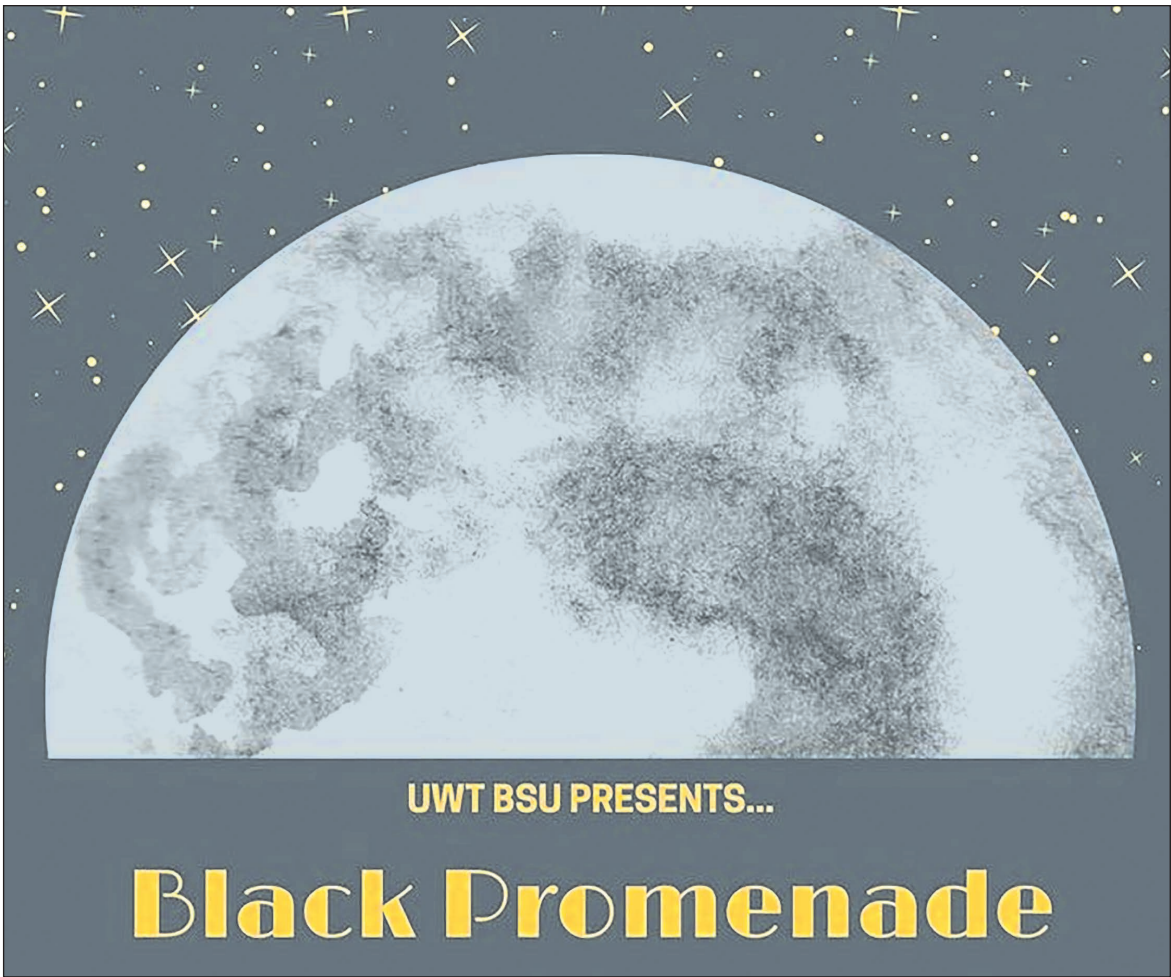


PHOTO COURTESY OF UWT BLACK STUDENT UNION VIA TWITTER

An image of one of the promotional posters for the BSU's Black Excellence Prom.

26, 2022 at Alma Mater, which is located at 1322 South Fawcett Ave in Tacoma. The prom is planned to be held from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Any in need of accommodation requests related to a disability should, as the BSU instructs, be made by Feb. 10 to [uwtbsu@uw.edu](mailto:uwtbsu@uw.edu). The same

email is also used for any questions regarding ticket prices, location, or COVID-19 concerns.

# Tahoma West

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

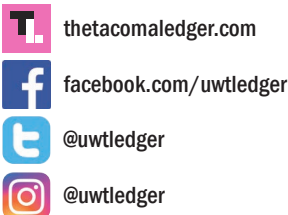
All visual media can be submitted. There is no limit to the number of artworks per submission.

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)



## The Ledger

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# College student guide to self care during a pandemic

Students on campus share their experience and offer advice on how to self care during these trying times



Illustration of a student stressed while doing school work.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

**SHARLAYE DEZURN**  
NEWS REPORTER

UW Tacoma students are almost halfway through their winter quarter and have found themselves facing a

burnout. Self-care has now become an unfamiliar practice to college students, especially when trying to avoid testing positive for COVID-19. For those not aware, self-care can look different for everyone, but self-care is the focus of stress

relieving and self pampering practices.

The Ledger got to speak with criminal justice major Cameron Lawson. Lawson enjoys hanging out with friends and practicing gymnastics. The Ledger asked Lawson to share how he practices

self-care during a pandemic.

“Doing my hair at least once a week and taking time to take care of my skin on a daily basis,” Lawson said.

Lawson stresses the importance of starting off simple to build a routine that should be implemented daily. The Ledger additionally asked Lawson to share advice to underclassmen for starting to practice self-care.

“Set aside time out of the day to do self-care in whatever way you feel comfortable doing it,” he said.

After graduating UWT, Lawson plans to move to Seattle and pursue a career in social work within the criminal justice system.

Vaimoana “Moana” Mau was asked to share her self-care routine. Mau is a first-year student who enjoys playing volleyball, going to UWT events, and hanging out with friends.

“Usually I do my hair and makeup if I need a break from everything,” Mau said, “I take time for myself, and I practice dancing when I am stressed. I also take time for myself to reflect and decide if there are things I need to change or adjust to help myself in the future.”

Mau encourages students to get in touch with their peers because it can help ease stress and form connections

when students interact with each other. The Ledger asked Mau to share some tips for her peers.

“Try different things that will help your stress levels go down,” Mau said. “If you can’t find anything, try talking to people. People can offer advice or give you some self care tips. Don’t be afraid to ask for help or talk to people.”

Self-care can be a difficult concept for students who do not know where to start. UWT offers PAWS, which is the Psychological & Wellness Services offered to students attending classes.

“Psychological & Wellness Services provides confidential crisis, individual, and group counseling; educational workshops and classroom presentations; consultation for students, faculty, staff, and student families; and referrals (when appropriate) to community mental health and social service providers and other UWT student services and resources,” says the [tacoma.uw.edu](http://tacoma.uw.edu) website.

Students can take advantage of the resource; especially when feeling overwhelmed by academic stresses, personal issues, or just need someone to listen.

## President Biden’s promise on student loan forgiveness

The ongoing battle of student loans, whether they should be eliminated or fixed.

**LESLIE GONZALEZ CRUZ**  
NEWS REPORTER

When President Joe Biden was campaigning for the 2020 election, one of his promises was to cancel student loan debt. As the national student loan average of recent college graduates reached a record high of \$39,351 in 2021, found by the Education Data Initiative (EDI), many voters looked to Biden as a beacon of hope.

Due to the pandemic causing financial hardships, President Biden announced on his first day in office that student loans will be put on pause until Jan. 31, 2022 to relieve and support borrowers across the nation.

As the COVID-19 variant-omicron continued to raise cases, President Biden announced on Dec. 22, 2021 an extension on the pause on student loans until May 2022. Reported by EDI, nationwide, there are 43 million loan borrowers, who can expect their loan bill in April, at least 21 days before their payment is due. With the two year pause of student loans thousands, including Elizabeth Warren, are asking for a permanent pause on loans.

Elizabeth Warren, U.S. senator from Massachusetts, is among one of the na-

tion’s leading advocates for the elimination of student loans.

“...Making student debt relief permanent is the right thing to do,” Warren tweeted on Jan. 20, 2022. Student loan forgiveness has been an ongoing political debate on whether it should be eliminated or have fixed lower interest rates.

UWT students who are dependent on their families, are able to receive up to \$138 thousand in federal aid over the course of their education, according to the student loans program chart published by University of Washington’s Financial Aid Office. Grants and scholarships as well as the Husky Promise are available to aid students with financial hardships.

The Husky Promise assures each student a future, guaranteeing them full tuition and standard fees to be covered by grants and scholarships. They believe students, no matter their financial background, have the opportunity to achieve a UW degree.

To qualify for the Husky Promise, one must be a Washington state resident pursuing a bachelor’s degree while maintaining satisfactory academic standing and while meeting criteria for the Pell grant program.

After leaving the university for six to



The University of Washington Tacoma graduates

PHOTO COURTESY OF WASHINGTON ROWING VIA TWITTER

nine months students can expect to receive billing payments over their loans, with President Biden in office, the Biden administration is promising to eliminate student loans for those who make less than \$125 thousand a year, according to

the White House official website.

“Forgive all undergraduate tuition-related federal student debt from two-year and four-year public colleges and universities,” are statements that can be found on the White House of-

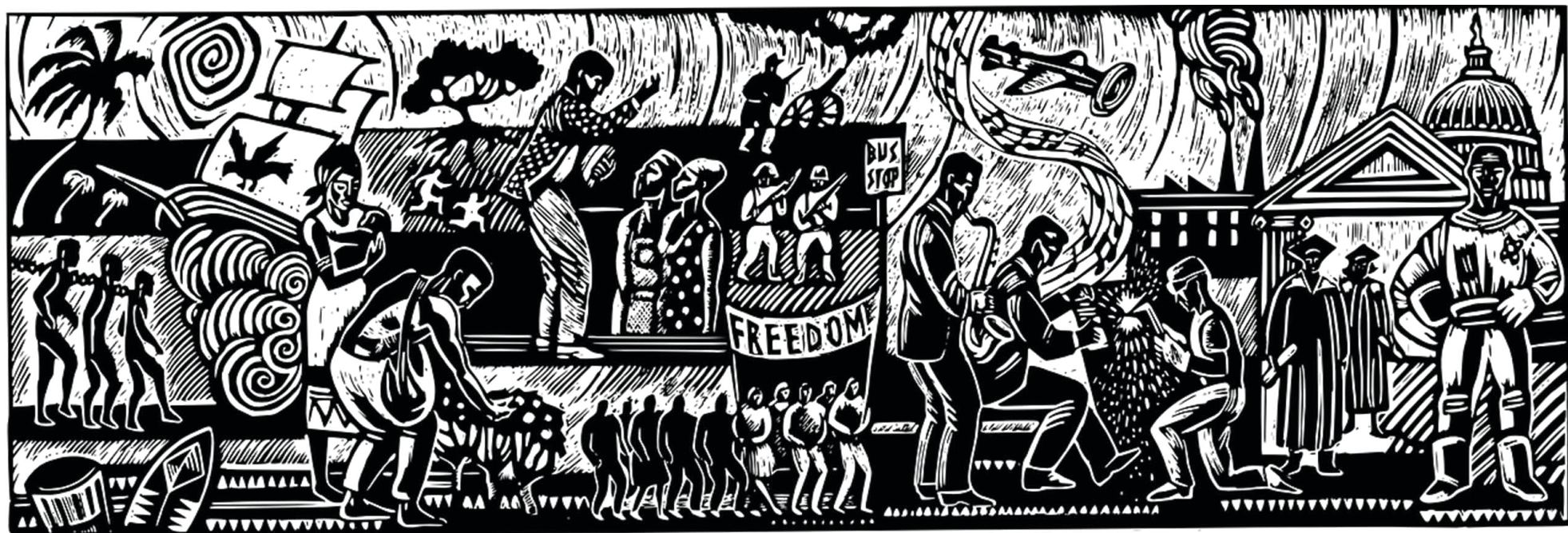
ficial website.

With May coming up, students who are currently enrolled in college and universities will not be impacted by the Biden Administrations loan payments.



# Racial education is incomplete in many U.S. schools

Every February, U.S. schools focus on racial education, but is it good enough?



## African-American History Month

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

The complete story of African American history must be told.

By ANTHONY KREJCI  
OPINION COLUMNIST

This February will mark the 52nd national observance of Black History Month. In a time where Black Lives Matter activists and Critical Race Theory are as commonplace in the headlines as they are around the dinner table, it is especially important that we consider the month of February, and what it means for our nation, for African Americans, and for ourselves.

My experience with Black History Month was personified by casual awareness for much of my life. I grew up in Gig Harbor, a predominantly white community. To count all the Black classmates I had who stuck around for my full K-12 experience, I wouldn't even need a full hand. I would just need one finger.

Every February, we had a Black History Month assembly, and we did reports on Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights era. We were taught about slavery, segregation and racism, and how important it was that those things never happened again.

**However, throughout it all, there was a prevailing undertone that racism and hate were in the past.**

That all of it happened ages ago, and all of America's past evils were solved and put into a neat little box which was safely buried in the depths of history.

**It wasn't until I was in my late teens, that I started venturing outside of my white bubbly and into the real world**

I noticed that things were not as neat and tidy as I had been led to believe. Racism was still very much alive and well.

I am sure my story is not an uncommon one. Many communities in America are predominantly white like Gig Harbor. Depending on the state and school district, many white students receive a similar narrative of racial history in America.

In reality, this narrative is as dangerously incomplete as it is intentionally misleading. Organized suppression of African Americans is still a prevailing sentiment in some corners of American society.

These efforts are not as obvious and out in the open as they used to be. Nowadays they hide behind seemingly harmless zoning legislation and curtains of bureaucratic legitimacy. Yet, they can be found for those who are

willing to look for them.

In the 1980s, Ronald Reagan's infamous War on Drugs was one of these curtains of legitimacy. At face value, nothing seemed wrong to the average American. Drug addiction was seen as an immoral crime at the time and many supported a strong crackdown on drug users and distributors.

Yet what was hidden beneath the War on Drugs was a concerted effort to re-enslave Black people and strip them of their right to vote. According to the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and 1988, even minor possession charges were met with severe prison sentences and felony charges.

Once in prison, the charged were often put to work without pay, also known as slavery. If and when they got out, those with felony charges had lost their right to vote. Numbers found in the book "From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend" by Priscilla Murolo and A.B. Chitty, put the number of incarcerated Americans in 1980 at 474,368 and by 1990 that number had grown to over one million.

According to the Divided Justice report, African Americans were over three times as likely to be incarcerated during this time. From 1990 to 2005 the Black incarceration rate grew by 27%.

An example of systemic racism can also be found today with the ongoing voting rights debate and the Republican filibuster of the Freedom to Vote Act. According to a report by Public

Democracy America, in the wake of Donald Trump's stolen election lie, 52 different voter suppression initiatives have been passed in many states like Georgia and Texas.

Many prominent politicians, activists and academics across many disciplines believe many of these initiatives are targeted at working class Black people, communities that tend to vote against the Republican Party, according to decades of research conducted by the Pew Research Center.

**Unfortunately, race does still play an institutionalized factor in American politics.**

As federal law supersedes state law, the now dead Freedom to Vote Act would have rendered these racist and undemocratic initiatives unlawful. Yet thanks to the Republican filibuster and the betrayal of Senators Joe Manchin and Kristen Sinema, these initiatives are likely to play crucial roles in future elections.

Unfortunately, race does still play an institutionalized factor in American politics. This is one of the key ideas expressed in Critical Race Theory. Many on the conservative right lambast Critical Race Theory as a hateful lie designed to make white people hate themselves.

I do not think all of them believe this for malicious reasons. The truth espoused in Critical Race Theory is an unpleasant one. People would rather see a pretty lie which tells them their world is just fine, than be faced with something unpleasant which challenges them.

I think this is precisely why my own racial education was so incomplete and why many children in America grow up without a proper understanding of the role race has played and still plays in our society.

I do not think racism is found hidden in every corner of America, and I'll admit, sometimes I think that political correctness can have an itchy trigger when it comes to broad declarations. I also think America's history is defined by those who opposed racism, just as much as those who defended it.

It's a complicated, uncomfortable, and nuanced story. Yet all of it should be taught, not just the easy parts, not just the story of the heroes, but the story of the villains, past and present.

The fact of the matter is that in many schools, this is not happening, kids are being sold a pleasant lie. If we are to overcome racism, I think the first step would be to stop lying about it. Teach Critical Race Theory in schools.



# Chicago Teachers point the way forward for safer schools

When Chicago teachers saw how bad the Omicron wave was following the new year, they chose to teach remotely. Instead, the city Mayor locked them out from work and continued to prioritize the economy over people's safety.

By **ALEX BUCKINGHAM**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Teachers put their students and their community first; they have throughout this pandemic. That's why it's been disappointing to watch politicians and others disparage teachers or ignore their concerns, as they've been doing in Chicago.

Chicago teachers, organized in the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), have been fighting their city establishment for safer schools. Lessons from their fight include their democratic organizing, centering anti-racism, and their willingness to stand up not just against Trump and his ilk, but against the Democratic Party establishment. These are lessons for all of us here in Tacoma who want a safer school and a safer community.

When Chicago teachers returned to work following the new year, they did so skeptically and cautiously.

The city had sent roughly half the student body mail-in COVID-19 tests in an attempt to limit contagious students returning to the classroom fol-

lowing the break. But the COVID-19 tests overwhelmed FedEx and pictures of the mountains of COVID-19 tests that clearly were not going to make it to a lab in the necessary time frame made it into the media.

Of course, understaffed and under-resourced schools pre-date the pandemic, and teachers were already exhausted by their working conditions. Still, COVID-19 has only increased the burden teachers carry.

Chicago teacher Kirstin Roberts told Tempest Magazine in an interview, "The schools constantly feel chaotic, understaffed, and like nobody can do their jobs. It's just a hard, stressful place to be. Very similar, I think, to what hospitals are facing and a lot of other workplaces from short-staffing. You just never feel like you're accomplishing anything."

Teachers quickly realized just how unsafe school had become, and by the second day back they decided the best course of action, for themselves and their students, was to stay home and teach remotely.

As Roberts put it, "We're in the middle of a terrible surge of over twenty percent positivity. The hospitals are filling. We're scared for our students. We're scared for ourselves. We're scared for our communities. So, we decided not to go into work and try to teach remotely."

They told the city of their plans, and the city, headed by Democrat Mayor Lori Lightfoot, chose to lock-out the teachers rather than let them teach remotely. A lock-out is when an employer refuses to let their workers work. Sort of like a reverse strike.

Worse, Mayor Lightfoot, a former prosecutor, actively scapegoated the teachers throughout the lock-out.

The lock-out affected all public-school teachers, even the ones who teach online full time in Chicago's Virtual Academy, a 100% remote school. What can explain this decision by Lightfoot?

Chicago school nurse Dennis Kosuth, also interviewed by Tempest Magazine, argued that what "Lightfoot is doing, which is very much in line with Republicans, is promoting this idea that the union, the workers who are employed in schools who do the actual educating, provide the services, all the rest of it, should have no say in the operation of their workplaces."

At least one big aspect of all this is the Mayor saying she's in charge, and the teachers and other school workers need to shut up and do their job.

As Kosuth goes on to point out, "Her own kid goes to a private school that has been remote. Her 'let them eat cake' approach to the rest of the city of Chicago is completely hypocritical. But that's where she's coming from. It's her way or the highway."

**These dynamics of pushing for everything open regardless of the cost is relatable for all of us here in Tacoma and across the country.**

The teachers' demands were simple enough: increase testing, set up metrics for closing school when case rates are high, and close for about two weeks

while the surge levels out and hospitals recover.

Ultimately, the lock-out ended when teachers voted to accept Lightfoot's offer to create the metrics and deliver KN-95 respirators, but the vote was contentious suggesting that many educators still felt the workplace unsafe.

Things have changed since Democrats took control of each branch of the federal government and Democratic-run cities like Chicago, Seattle, and Tacoma are not addressing the crisis like the Republicans are. But that doesn't mean it's good.

As Roberts explains, unlike the Republicans, "what the Democratic Party does is look at the science, look at the number of cases and deaths, and say, 'We're not going to let that stand in the way of the economy.'"

As the teachers in Chicago have shown us, we don't need to let the Democrats sell us out for the sake of the economy. There is an alternative, but it takes organizing to do so. The teachers were able to take the steps they took because they are organized and actively participating in a union that prioritizes democratic practices.

**Each step of this fight involved full engagement and voting by the teachers, from choosing to teach remotely to accepting the city's compromise, each step was driven by the teachers' democracy.**

Our own faculty and campus workers need a union, but more important than any formal union is the need for us to be organized democratically and with our community's interests in the front.

Otherwise, our local politicians will continue to count on our votes while simply pursuing what's best for business, not people.



Photograph from the 2019 Chicago teachers' strike. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



# Are biodegradable products enough to save the planet?

There has been a recent surge in companies and laws pushing for biodegradable items. Is this enough to make a difference?



In a dilapidated room, many objects can survive for years and years under the elements.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE-KATHERIN KNAPPE VIA FLICKR

REMI FREDERICK  
OPINION EDITOR

In recent years, many companies and governments have made the push for biodegradable or recyclable packaging or products. Lush for one, Kelloggs, and even Samsung. Now, Lego is going to join the pack.

Lego has unveiled its plans for new Lego bricks made out of recycled plastic. Lego has had bricks made out of plant-based plastic since 2018 and though they are not biodegradable, they are made from sugar cane which releases less carbon dioxide during production according to G r aldine Kutas from Sugarcane.org.

Washington also recently passed a law banning restaurants from automatically giving single-use plastics such as lids, straws and utensils out unless the customer asks for them.

This law went into effect on Jan. 1. This law is great in theory, but I've gotten takeout from a few restaurants and it seems they are still just giving away these plastics, even when you tell them you don't need them.

While this is great, the question I have is, is it enough to seriously make a difference in the environment?

Jim Robbins from YaleEnvironmental360 magazine says no. He reports that bioplastics are just not enough to completely change our recycling and trashing habits.

A Pew research study done in 2020 reports that the current com-

mitments done by the government and other industries will only cut the amount of plastic going into the ocean by 7% by 2040.

7%. Which is good, yes, but it's not enough.

Renee Cho from the Columbia Climate School said that switching to corn-based plastic would reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 25%. However, if traditional plastics were made using renewable energy sources greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced by 50% to 75%.

Cho also said, if biodegradable plastics are not disposed of properly, they can release methane which is a greenhouse gas that is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

There are better things that we can do to help save the planet and while this is a step in the right direction, it is not enough.

Obviously, the most important actions that we, as a country and really as a world, can take are to keep fossil fuels in the ground and to switch to renewable energy sources.

We must stop relying on oil or gas for energy, it is the only way we will be able to save the planet.

Doing these two things will help to drastically reduce the amount of fossil fuels being pumped into the atmosphere daily.

## SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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- "Dear Editor," as the opening of your piece
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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](http://TheTacomaLedger.com) and our print edition.





ILLUSTRATION BY JAIDA NOBLE

## Returning to in-person classes

UWT will be returning to majority in-person learning on Jan. 31. But is it safe to do so?

By **MADELINE HILLER**, EDITOR IN CHIEF  
**MADI WILLIAMS**, MANAGING EDITOR  
**REMI FREDERICK**, OPINION EDITOR

On Jan. 24, President Ana Mari Cauce and Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Mark Richards sent out a blast email to students across all three University of Washington campuses in Seattle, Tacoma and Bothell.

The email subject line said “The UW is returning to largely in-person classes Jan. 31” The rest of the email went into detail about what we are to expect for the rest of the quarter.

“We look forward to welcoming more of you back to our campuses and into our classrooms and labs,” said the email from Cauce and Richards.

According to the email, there is no evidence that there was any in-classroom transmission of the virus during the first three weeks of winter quarter. Could that be because there was absolutely nobody on campus for much of the time?

After all, only about 20% of the classes showed up on campus at any given time. Do they think that the same can be said when the campus gets re-flooded with students come Jan. 31?

This seems to be a pattern that we

have been going through for a while now. We attempt to go back in person, everyone’s anxieties rise at the same time the cases do and then we get sent back online. The back and forth is awful for our mental health and our grades.

### The back and forth is awful for our mental health and our grades.

Kelsie Heinz, an Environmental Sustainability major and a fellow classmate shared her opinion on the deal when asked how she felt about the email.

“I got COVID at the beginning of the quarter so I was happy I didn’t have to miss class for a month while being sick,” she said, “Since I still work in the public and now I have to go to school in person again, I’m nervous that I may get COVID again.”

There is absolutely no getting used to anything this quarter. The last three quarters, Spring 2021, Fall 2021 and Winter 2022, have all had different formats from fully online to fully in-person. We don’t know about everyone else, but our grades

definitely reflect it.

Some have only been on campus for one quarter in the last two years. Even so, we are not ready to go back to in-person classes.

On Jan. 25, there was a town hall meeting regarding the decision of moving back in-person.

There was a panel discussion in William Philip Hall which had people from various departments including Chancellor Sheila Edwards Lange, Interim Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Ali Modarres, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Vann Smiley and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Mentha Hynes-Wilson.

During this YouTube livestream, those individuals answered questions that were sent in ahead of time regarding the community concern of the current situation.

Questions were all along the lines of “How can we guarantee the safety of our students?” Some were asking specific questions like “Are teachers being given hazard pay?” The answer to that would be no since the teachers are not being forced to teach in-person.

We cannot express how much we disagree with the choice that Cauce and Richards made for all three campuses.

King County has about 4,500

COVID-19 cases per day, Pierce County has a little over 2,000 cases per day and Snohomish has over 1,000 cases per day all according to The New York Times Coronavirus tracker.

Besides, Pierce County has the lowest vaccination rate of all three counties with 62% of all residents vaccinated, according to The New York Times coronavirus tracker. Snohomish County comes in second with 68% of all residents vaccinated whereas King County has 72% of all residents vaccinated.

Numbers of cases, deaths and hospitalizations are all up and are higher than they were in December 2020 according to The New York Times coronavirus tracker.

### Pierce County has the lowest vaccination rate of all three counties with 62% of all residents vaccinated,

Is this really safe? How can we be sure when Pierce County has the lowest vaccination rate of the three counties?

According to the UW’s own COVID-19 case tracker, during the

week of Jan. 22, UWT students, staff and faculty reported 54 new cases. We don’t even know how many reports have not been filed, some didn’t even know about reporting to UW when they tested positive.

### Both professors and students are struggling with this sudden change

COVID-19 cases aside, there is a transition from in-person classes to online and vice versa. How are we expected to be able to do this seamlessly with no wiggle room or time to adjust?

It is hard enough doing online classes but to then switch to in-person classes halfway through the quarter? Insane.

We need flexibility from the university. Both professors and students are struggling with this sudden change and we aren’t getting the support we need or frankly, deserve.

We are calling upon the university to do something, anything to ease our stress during this uncertain time.



# “Zenith: The Last City” is a VR experience you wouldn’t want to miss

“Zenith: The Last City” will pave the path to success for all future VR MMOs



PHOTO COURTESY OF EREN LI VIA PEXELS

What you might look like fighting in “Zenith: The Last City”

ANGELO ALEGRE  
A&E REPORTER

“Zenith: The Last City” is a recent VR massive multiplayer online (MMO) that has launched on Oculus, Playstation VR and SteamVR. It is inspired by both anime and Japanese role-playing games (JRPGs), with the massively popular “Sword Art Online” as a large inspiration. This can be seen in the game with its use of sword skills and magic skills that players can use in the world of Zenith.

Exploration is a large part of the game. The world of Zenith is a large, open world that players can explore to their heart’s content. There are places like small towns all the way to snow-capped mountains. In this world, you can run, climb and glide! Running is simple, but climbing and gliding just adds another level of immersion into the game. To do these actions, the player must be in the correct position. For climbing, you use your arms to climb up walls by holding and letting go of the grab button. To glide, the player has to find a place high enough to glide and extend their arms to the side, as if the player is making their body into the shape of a “T”.

The game’s combat system consists of two classes: the blade master and the essence mage. The one you pick will have an effect on how you play the game. The blade master will of course be up close and personal, but will require the player

to have a larger play space as you will be swinging your arms around to land attacks on enemies. The essence mage will require less space since there is no need for swinging your arms around to land attacks and instead you fire off spells from a range. Having enough space is one thing you should keep in mind when you start the game.

The most important part of this game is its multiplayer capabilities. This is what makes the game an MMO, a massive multiplayer online game. In “Zenith: The Last City” you can party with friends and explore the world, raid dungeons and get better loot to make yourself stronger and do it all over again. The stronger you get, the more difficult dungeons you can explore, meaning the better loot you get. This is what makes the game one you can play for hours on end. If you are diving into the game by yourself, you can meet others who are in the same situation and make some new friends.

“Zenith: The Last City” is going to be one game that will keep players occupied as their official YouTube stated “We’ll be focused solely on Zenith development for years to come as we continue expanding and growing ‘live-service,’ massive world and game in so many different ways” in reply to a comment on their launch date trailer. This gives players the hope that the game will be ever evolving and will always provide them with things to do.

## King Princess releases single “Little Bother”

Something new to listen to while you wait for their long-awaited next album.

JOSEPHINE TRUEBLOOD  
A&E EDITOR

King Princess, with a well-known discography including LGBTQ+ anthems like “1950” and “Hit the Back,” has released a fresh single for 2022. The song, titled “Little Bother feat. Fousheé,” is a stylistic departure from earlier works, such as their 2019 album “Cheap Queen.” This comes as an exciting signal as King Princess took to Instagram earlier this week, inviting fans to ask questions about their long-awaited upcoming album.

The Brooklyn-based artist, who also goes by Mikaela Straus, is known for their strong songwriting and range of styles, pushing the boundaries of pop with futuristic singles like “Only Time Makes it Human” and “PAIN.” Straus’ new releases have signaled that the King Princess dance pop era may be at its end, with heavy guitars and anthemic choruses in the 2021 single, “House Burn Down.” Their collaboration with Fousheé, whose single “deep end” went viral on TikTok in 2020, is both delightful and unexpected as Straus hasn’t historically collaborated

with many artists beyond producer Mark Ronson.

“Little Bother” combines the best of Straus’ previous hits with a electronic rock sound. With distorted backing guitar and an energetic build throughout the song, the tones pair well with the iconic King Princess electronic drums and pulsing bass sound. Uniquely, Straus finds a balance between having clear, upfront vocals and adding futuristic effects, like swelling, autotuned harmonies in the chorus. With lyrics like “I’m screwed from a past life and that’s why I lost you” along with “I guess I’ll see you around, you’re a little bother,” the song is undoubtedly a reflective and moody 2022 anthem.

As we all wait patiently for King Princess’ next album, which reportedly was being mixed in August (Audacy), listen to “Little Bother” and take a deep dive into Straus’ vast collection of forgotten singles and obscure cover songs.

[Available now on all streaming platforms]



Little Bother Cover

PHOTO COURTESY OF KING PRINCESS