

FREE EVERY WEEK

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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



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Study Abroad: everything a student needs to know

After a long pause due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Study Abroad programs are once again open for UWT students.

Why students chose UW Tacoma

UWT students share why they accepted offers to UW Tacoma and how it paid off

SHARLAYE DEZURN
NEWS REPORTER

As students prepare to apply for college and accept admissions offers, The Ledger takes a look as to why students accepted their offer to UW Tacoma. The end of winter quarter can be described as challenging from many perspectives and sometimes students need a reminder as to why they chose to be here.

First-year student Clare McCoy shares her experience choosing UW Tacoma.

“I chose UWT because of the proximity to my family and hometown friends who are only about an hour and a half away,” McCoy says, “It gave me the freedom to be independent while also still being close to the people I love. I also was directly admitted to my major which was a major stress reliever and made UWT quickly one of my top choices. I also grew up being a Husky fan so going to any UW campus was definitely a dream for me, as well as my familys.”

UWT was one of the few colleges known for the theme of independence and work/student balance. With a high population of commuting students and downtown Tacoma scenery, UWT has made a city life of it’s own.

Second-year student Luc Tworek shares his reasons for committing to UW Tacoma.

“I chose UWT because of the School of Urban Studies, which is a major only offered at this campus specifically,” Tworek says, “I also love that there are smaller class sizes here, they’re more personal and allow me to connect with my classmates and professors on a deeper level. Coming from eastern Washington, Tacoma has been such a beautiful place to live with so much to offer, and the people here have been so nice.”

UW Tacoma has an average student to staff ratio of 16:1, making it easier for students to connect with

their professors and their peers.

Matt Chalfant, third-year history major gives his top reasons why people of diverse backgrounds and identities should attend UWT.

“Out of all the campuses it seemed like the most diverse and most accepting,” says Chalfant, “I think the smaller classrooms have really helped me to get closer with my professors and they have made it easier for me to come out of my comfort zone to talk with my peers.”

UWT is a college where diversity, inclusion, and unity is promoted as students see in peer organized clubs, events and gatherings. For more information visit www.tacoma.uw.edu/involvement

Clare McCoy shares her thoughts on the outcome of her decision to attend UWT.

“My favorite part of UWT has been the academic aspect. I love the small class sizes which lead to easy relationships with peers and teachers. And, the convenience of living on campus and getting to class and other campus activities is super ideal,” says McCoy.

As college application season continues, these UWT students hope these insights can influence and encourage people to attend UWT these upcoming quarters. Visit www.tacoma.uw.edu/advising for more information on how to get academic advising or speaking with someone about continuing an educational path.



UW Tacoma's Tioga Library

PHOTO BY THE LEDGER

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Study Abroad: everything a student needs to know

After a long pause due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Study Abroad programs are once again open for UWT students.

ANDREW ANDERSON
News Editor

According to statistical data provided by UW Tacoma's Office of Global Affairs (OGA), from early fall 2018 through summer 2019 there were 155 UW Tacoma students that studied abroad. With the rise of COVID-19 the Study Abroad programs were put on halt, but UW has now reopened the programs and are accepting students.

The Study Abroad program is run through the Office of Global Affairs and provides students with an opportunity to study programs of their choice in different countries and cultures. Some of the programs, such as the one to Spain dealing with business, focus on specific majors and

require prerequisites.

Current programs accepting students are to India, Spain, Brazil and Germany, focusing on programs such as Global Health, Global Economy and pre-approved School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences courses. Students typically earn between 24-30 UW quarter credits per semester of the program, but those participating in the exchange program must be of sophomore standing or above and have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above.

Students having any worries about payment can look into the scholarships and fellowships offered by the OGA that aid in covering the costs. Students can also contact the program at uwintl@uw.edu anytime in order to learn more information on payment or can work with their

Academic Advisors or the Financial Aid Office.

While applications for some programs have already closed, the early fall programs to India and Spain have received an extended application deadline of March 15, with Brazil and Germany still taking applicants as well.

Those wishing to be approved must submit an application, details of which can be found at www.tacoma.uw.edu/oga/study-abroad-application-guide. The website guides students on how to start an application, achieve a recommendation letter through a faculty or staff member, and how to write their three short essays that are required. The essays are focused on why the program would be a good fit, a student's adaptability and their group dynamics.



PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

A picture of the Office of Global Affairs on the Tacoma Campus where students can learn more about the Study Abroad program.

To keep up-to-date on the Study Abroad program students can follow their social media handles at www.facebook.com/UWTStudyAbroad/ and www.instagram.com/uwtstudyabroad/.

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Organizations for students of color to connect with their communities

Student organizations are created to support students of color as they continue their education in a safe space with support from their communities.

LESLIE GONZALEZ CRUZ
News Reporter

The UWT's commitment to diversity aims to shape and nurture students of color in a learning environment to support them and dismantle oppressive systems.

Reported by the Office of Equity and Inclusion at UWT, 32% of the student body demographic are students of underrepresented minorities. The underrepresented minorities such as Asian, Hispanic, African-American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and Native American students have the opportunity to join organizations on campus to help them connect with their cultural identities.

The Black Opportunity Fund supports vital sources for students, alumni and the campus. The fund created by UW Seattle, on July 8 2020, through the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, establishes their commitment and acknowledges the harm Black students face in their communities due to systemic racism.

The fund is also available to UWT students as well, such as supporting the Black Student Union (BSU), Black Mens' Student organization on campus and the RISE (Race, Identity, Social Engagement) Scholars program.

The BSU aims to establish a safe space for students with activism to push diversity and inclusion in the classroom and curriculum at UWT. To join the organization, students can be of any ethnicity to help amplify social injustices.

Reported by News and Information by UWT, Patrick Pow, the vice chancellor of Information technology, expands support for college-bound Asian Americans and Pacific Islander students. Pow led efforts for UWT to have a designated serving institution such as AANAPISI, the institution brings eligibility to federal grants. In 2021, Pow and his wife donated \$86,000 to form the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) impact endowment to sustain programs after their grants ran out. With the endowments, students have access



PHOTO COURTESY OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Students come together to form a "W" to show their support for each other.

to internships and scholarships from non-profit APIA Scholars as well as receiving support on campus for mentoring and campus jobs.

The Filipino-American Student Association (FASA), spreads awareness of Filipino heritage culturally, politically and socially while also promoting unity on and off campus. They pride themselves as allies with other minority groups on campus. To join this organization students can attend Zoom meetings as well as meetings held in JOY 114 on Wednesdays, bi-weekly from 12:30-1:20 p.m.

HuskyKai, the Japanese student

union, hopes to connect students of Japanese descent to their Japanese culture as well as teaching anyone who is interested in Japanese culture.

"We started with the aim to promote Japanese culture and also engage with fellow Japanese students who may struggle blending into the school community," Maki Matsuo said.

Matsuo is one of the founding members and President of HuskyKai said in a statement as she recalled the psychological comfort and connections she has created with her peers. Matsuo said HuskyKai, the Japanese organization has helped enhance the

foundation of her own identity and her knowledge on diverse communities. Through this community the members of HuskyKai are helping themselves navigate through American society as a Japanese person.

The Latinx student union for Latinx students is committed in building an inclusive and supporting space, to support Latinx culture and promote social awareness on issues the Latinx community faces. Their next meeting will be held in TPS 104 on March 4, 2022 at 12:30-1:20 p.m.

OPINION: The trojan horse affair warns of a bleak future

We must be cognizant of the information we receive and where we get it from, we cannot repeat Britain's mistake.



ILLUSTRATION BY JAIDA NOBLE
Brian Reed and Hamza Syed tried to detangle the web of cover-ups to determine who was the true author of the anonymous letter and why they wrote it. This illustrates how their headquarters may have looked as they did so.

BY REMI FREDERICK
OPINION EDITOR

Anonymous letters and writings have helped to shape history for centuries. Take “The Federalist Papers,” written mostly by Alexander Hamilton, which helped to defend the baby American government system to the public.

Or even people giving information anonymously can be beneficial. Take the Watergate scandal. The case was thrown wide open by Deep Throat and his anonymous information given to the two Washington Post reporters, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, arguably two of the most famous investigative journalists in the world.

However, anonymous information still needs to be fact-checked and vetted.

This did not happen with an anonymous letter that was left on a city council member's desk in Birmingham, England in 2014. The letter detailed an elaborate plot to turn Birmingham's students into Islamic extremists.

It accused several people in the teaching profession of carrying out this plan and gave its code name: Operation Trojan Horse.

Two journalists, Brian Reed and Hamza Syed, tried to uncover the truth about the anonymous letter. Who wrote it, why, and are the claims made

in it true?

In their reporting, Reed and Syed couldn't say for certain who wrote the letter and therefore couldn't say why someone had written it. They did report that no one could find evidence that this plot actually exists in the schools.

However, this letter, that no one knows where it came from, was used as an excuse by the British government to attack the educators mentioned in it and to launch a massive investigation of schools that had Muslim teachers or anything that could be construed as converting the children to Islam.

One of these educators was black-listed, even though his work in one of the schools was to recognize

the primarily Muslim population in it. This made the school one of the best in the country with many people heaping praise on him before the letter became public.

The government let their unbri-dled Islamophobia and fear trump any critical thinking skills they may have had. This letter made an extremely big accusation, to not fact check or even stop to think that the letter could be a hoax is insane.

This could have very well happened to the United States. People make false claims all the time and sometimes people just get swept away by them and don't pause to think critically about the claim.

It has happened in the past and still happens today. The Republican fight to ban teaching Critical Race Theory (CRT) in schools is incredibly misguided and misinformed.

We must think critically about the information we receive. In addition to this, we also must fight to end Islamophobia so that this cannot possibly happen again.

I also encourage you to listen to The Trojan Horse Affair Podcast. You won't regret it and you'll learn a lot about British schools and politics.

OPINION: The Canadian truck convoy: a cover for far-right racism

The so called “freedom convoy” in Canada had a fascist core with an agenda; use mainstream concern over a pandemic to build the far-right movement.



A truck from the “freedom convoy”

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By **ALEX BUCKINGHAM**
OPINION COLUMNIST

The trucker convoy in Canada, a demonstration involving a small number of commercial truck drivers and their anti-vax supporters, involved a cross-country convoy ending in Ottawa with simultaneous protests throughout Canada.

On the ground reports and images predominantly show Canadian flags and calls for “freedom”, with plenty of “F*ck Trudeau” and “don’t tread on me” flags flying. There is also the occasional use of the swastika, Confederate flags, and even a Nazi flag in use.

The far-right core of the protest, some of whom were pushing for their own Jan. 6 moment in this convoy, according to Salon journalist Kathryn Joyce, helps to explain the widespread disapproval of the protests by Canadians.

These international developments matter for us as our own far-right in our region and the states more generally are connected to this move-

ment and emboldened by it. See the fundraising or talk of a U.S. convoy as evidence. Or, if you’re feeling brave and have the stomach for it, hop on a far-right chat board or website and see how they are portraying and identifying with the convoy.

Convoy organizers have relied on GiveSendGo for crowdfunding. Due to the fact that GoFundMe froze the hate-filled campaign; GiveSendGo is a crowdfunding site popular among the far-right in the U.S. as the “Christian” website seems to have no qualms with white nationalism.

While the convoy portrayed itself as a working-class struggle against vaccine requirements for crossing the US/Canada border, as much as 90% of Canadian truckers who need to cross the border are vaccinated according to the BBC.

In fact, very few big rigs seem to have been involved in the protests, with the far more common appearance being pick-up trucks and SUVs of presumably both Nazis and run-of-the-mill anti-vaxxers tagging along. It

seems many of the protestors are not connected to the logistics industry per the BBC.

John Bell, a reporter for the Canadian Socialist Worker explained “The racist, white supremacist roots of the ‘truckers’ convoy are as Canadian as maple syrup and residential schools.” These racists in Canada are finding themselves emboldened just like they are throughout the world.

The phenomenon is tied to populist right-wing politicians and a failure of the left to effectively offer alternatives to the miserable status quo. This may be most understandable to us in the states as Trumpism and the growth of far-right militias.

Fundamental to their strategy is tying their fascist ideas and agendas to mainstream issues that have broader engagement than their fascist fringe, think police funding, CRT, voting fraud, border control, and obviously, vaccination requirements.

This is why leftists, including feminists, unionists, and anti-racists, challenged the convoy demonstra-

tions in the streets. In Ottawa, such a group involving hundreds blocked the convoy for hours before finally allowing the convoy to leave only after forcing the anti-vaxxers to lower their flags and signs. Reports of similar blockades in other cities abound.

While the police initially seemed to fraternize and even colluded with the anti-vax convoy, these mobilizations of the left were all the more powerful. Unfortunately, many looked to the police to repress the convoy, failing to see how an empowered police force is always used most brutally against the left.

Socialist Worker offered this cautionary tale in an editorial, “In Toronto, after far-right groups began organizing rallies at city hall in 2017 a similar plan to ban them was proposed by the city council. When the motion was made public, however, the first group named and targeted as extremists by the ban was the annual Al Quds day rally for Palestinian rights.”

The editorial goes on to argue, “A state crackdown won’t stop the rise of the far-right. That can only be done

with a 2-pronged strategy.”

“Our policy of fighting fascism was two-track: attacking the rats and attacking the sewers in which the rats multiply. Fighting the fascists is not enough. One has also to fight the unemployment, low wages and social deprivation that create conditions for the growth of fascism,” stated Socialist Tony Cliff.

Such a two-pronged strategy requires us to both confront the far-right when they are public, but also organize for a better world like lower tuition at UWT, better pay and unionization in our workplaces, for racial and gender justice more generally, and ultimately a socialist society where the conditions of despair from which fascism grows is unknown.

This issue becomes all the pressing as reports are appearing of a truck convoy being organized here in the states. The far-right will use such space to organize for their agenda; they should be confronted at every turn.

Travel back to the late-'90s with "Pam & Tommy"

Wow! This car crash of a story really happened.

JOSEPHINE TRUEBLOOD
A&E EDITOR

Chaos, karma, prosthetic body parts, Hi8 sex tapes and Mötley Crüe: "Pam & Tommy" is a classic revenge tale that debunks the story of the hottest celebrity couple of the late '90s. Putting wild characters on display like symbolism-obsessed carpenter and electrician opposite an intense, rageful and simple-minded drummer, the story is bound to be entertaining. Exploring themes of both declining and rising fame within the star couple, along with the seedy LA porn industry as the internet becomes popular, "Pam & Tommy" brings amazing complexity to a seemingly straightforward tale of a celebrity sex tape.

The storyline is divided, following Rand Gauthier, a construction employee working on Lee's "love deluxe" mansion while simultaneously tracking the abrupt marriage of Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee. When Gauthier is rudely fired from the job, Lee's unfortunate personality flaws are exposed and Gauthier seeks revenge in the form of "Operation Karma." When Gauthier gets a bit more than he bargained for, the absurdity of the story begins to unfold. Meanwhile,

Anderson navigates being a sex-symbol in the late '90s, wanting to be taken seriously as an actress and the new pressure of being in the most desired relationship in the world.

While the Baywatch actress and heavy metal drummer duo seem clueless, spoiled and a bit stupid at first, both Sebastian Stan and Lily James take these roles to the next level. Interestingly enough, Tommy Lee chose to assist in the creation of this docuseries while Anderson did not, despite the positive portrayal of Pam and the horrible-and probably quite honest-portrayal of Tommy. Stan and James capture the essence of these characters and bring to life the late '90s life of these two mega-stars.

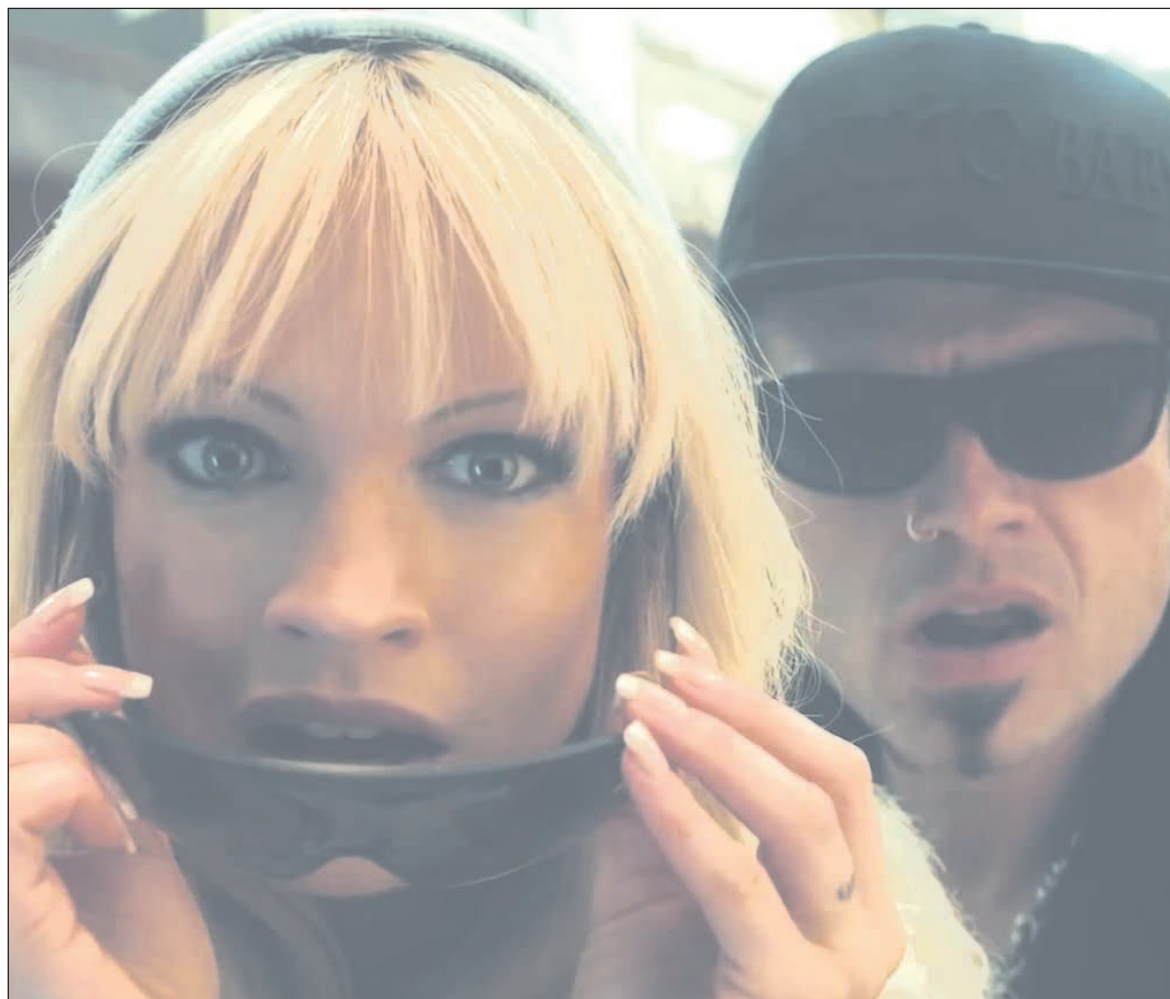
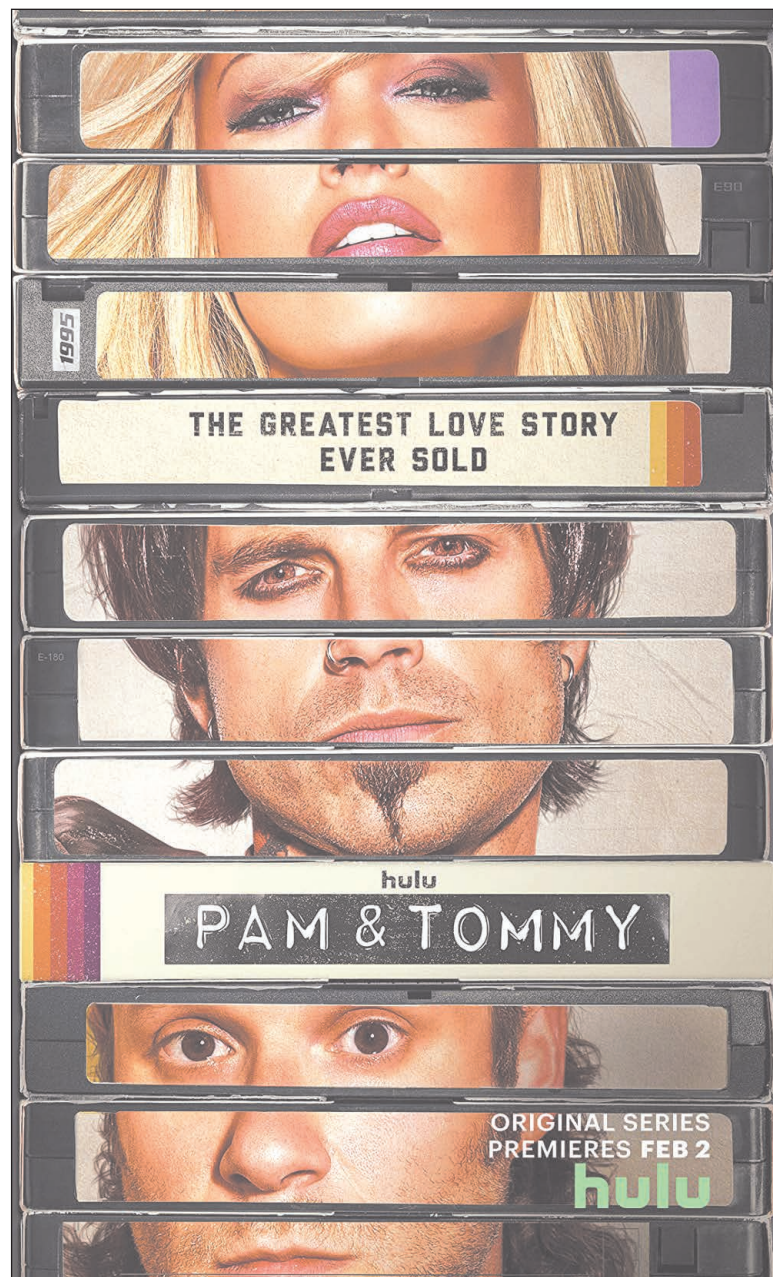
Seth Rogen teams up with Nick Offerman when Rand Gauthier takes karma into his own hands, and sports a magnificent throwback mullet all the while. Offerman perfects the seedy, skeezy energy necessary for his role as an LA porn producer, Uncle Miltie, serving as both a friend and advisor to Gauthier. Rogen, who shines a light on the forgotten antagonist in the well-known Pam and Tommy story, exposes both the simple handyman and stroke-of-genius sides of this role. Dog disguises, poorly thought-out plans, an epic construction van and stupidly hi-

larious porn antics are exemplified by the Rogen-Offerman duo.

Unfortunately, the first episode drags on, making it difficult to latch onto the storyline. The second episode, which highlights Pam and Tommy's sudden wedding, is so grandiose in comparison that it creates a bit of viewer whiplash. Luckily, all the basics have been covered by the third episode. With multiple characters that come across as dumb, "Pam and Tommy" can be difficult to watch at first. This show is definitely a slow burn and a car crash that you can't look away from somehow, in a good way.

Between the adorably fluffy family dog, superb set design and amazing outfit inspiration across the board, "Pam & Tommy" is a well-done and nostalgic new show to catch up on. You'll be obsessed with learning about all the details in this crazy and outlandish story, rapidly becoming an expert on their relationship timeline and drawing many comparisons between other celebrity power-couples. If all else fails, "Pam & Tommy" is a great lesson to never, ever, make a sex tape.

[New episodes are available Tuesday nights on Hulu]



Stan and James star in "Pam & Tommy"



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT SIEGEL AND JEN COHN'S PRODUCTION COMPANY

With an interesting premise, “Triangle Strategy” is one JRPG you should not miss

“Triangle Strategy” strays away from the typical JRPG turn-based combat style and adopts the top-down strategy combat style, similar to the “Final Fantasy Tactics” and “Fire Emblem”

ANGELO ALEGRE
A&E REPORTER

Coming from the creators of “Octopath Traveler,” “Triangle Strategy” has some high expectations to meet. Players of “Octopath Traveler” should expect this game to have a great story alongside a good soundtrack, as the art for “Triangle Strategy” is heavily inspired by it. With the demo available on the Nintendo Switch’s eShop, people who are interested in the game can try it at no cost and decide whether it is worth getting when it is officially launched.

With only about four to five hours of gameplay, the demo takes players through the first three chapters of the game. It introduces us to the land of Norzelia, which includes three kingdoms with their own distinctive people, trade and culture. The Kingdom of Glenbrook, which earns most of their profits from trade, is where the main character, Serenoa Wolfport, is from. The Great Duchy of Aesfrost, which earns most of their profit from iron, is where the spouse-to-be of Serenoa, Frederica Aesfrost is from. The Holy State of Hyzante, which profits off of salt sales, is where you meet one of the many allies that will aid you throughout the game.

One thing that differentiates “Triangle Strategy” from “Octopath Traveler” is the combat system. In “Octopath Traveler,” the combat style was similar to that of generic turn-based systems used in many Japanese role-playing games (JRPGs). In “Triangle Strategy,” that changes as it is more of a tactics-combat style



PHOTO COURTESY OF SQUARE ENIX

From the creators of “Octopath Traveler” and the “Bravely Default” game series comes their newest game, “Triangle Strategy”

reminiscent of “Final Fantasy Tactics” or the “Fire Emblem” series. As it stands now, there is no way to tell if this is a good change or not since the demo only contains three fights, but it is a nice change of pace to the typical JRPG.

“Triangle Strategy” also adds elements of storytelling games in which the decisions you make matter in the

course of the game. This is mainly seen in chapter three of the game where Serenoa Wolfport and his party decide where to venture, either to Aesfrost or Hyzante.

One thing that the game absolutely meets in expectation is the soundtrack. Although there are only three chapters that are available right now, all the music that has been in the background during gameplay has been very

pleasant. The game’s setting is definitely thought about whenever music is played in the background as it never overpowers the story. Instead, it adds to its storytelling by adding emotion to the game, especially when the game isn’t in its voice-acted scenes.

Overall, the demo for “Triangle Strategy” is something everyone should try, even if you are not fans of

JRPGs. It does a great job being friendly to those who have not played strategy tactic games in the past but also gives more experienced players a reason to keep playing as the story is interesting and leaves you at a cliffhanger on what the main cast will do next.

[Exclusively releases to the Nintendo Switch on March 4th]

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“The Tragedy of Macbeth” Review

Joel Coen's "The Tragedy of Macbeth" stays true to Shakespeare's work, for better or worse.

RYAN MANTLE
FILM CRITIC

Anytime someone tries to tackle a Shakespeare classic, they can either embrace that their movie is destined for high school English classrooms or attempt to modernize it like “West Side Story.” Joel Coen takes the former approach in this movie that seemingly wants to be a play. In some ways, that is a strength but in others a weakness.

“The Tragedy of Macbeth” features several artistic choices that likely aren’t for everyone. For starters, it is in black and white, which only adds to the desolate scenery and ambient music. A thick fog constantly obscures the background, only revealing bits and pieces of the countryside or the castle. This in particular is used to great effect at keeping your eyes fixed on the actors. The sets are angular and sharp, with plenty of nooks and crannies to create optical illusions with the light. Overall, these artistic choices are very strong and support the film, but I can see some people being bored with them.

One choice that Coen made in “The Tragedy of Macbeth” was to not update the dialogue. Because of that, the first 15 minutes of the movie will likely be spent just getting used to how they talk. At times the characters mut-

ter to themselves, indicating that it is internal dialogue to a play audience, but it is at times too quiet for a movie. Subtitles are an absolute requirement for watching this film, which is a shame because it distracts from the extremely-calculated set design.

Since the characters all know each other before the film starts, they fail to introduce themselves. This led to me constantly wondering who people were and why they mattered (looking at you “Siward”) and my wife pulling up Sparknotes.

Despite some characters not being named, there are still some excellent performances given. Denzel Washington as the titular character starts off timid and unsure but grows more and more confident throughout the film. He delivers a powerful performance in the closing acts that shows why he gets paid the big bucks. Frances McDormand as Lady Macbeth starts out as the calculating and manipulative wife but quickly spirals into insanity. While the plot does little to explain why this happens, McDormand absolutely makes it convincing. The Weird Sisters are played by Kathryn Hunter who does her best Gollum impression which is somehow a compliment.

Full disclosure, I have never read Shakespeare's "Macbeth" but the



PHOTO COURTESY OF APPLETV+ AND A24

Denzel Washington as Lord Macbeth and Frances McDormand as Lady Macbeth

movie made me curious enough to give it a shot in the future. Part of that curiosity is because I did enjoy some parts of the movie. The rest of it is rooted in finding out who people were or if Shakespeare actually wrote it that vaguely.

STAR RATING: 3.5\5

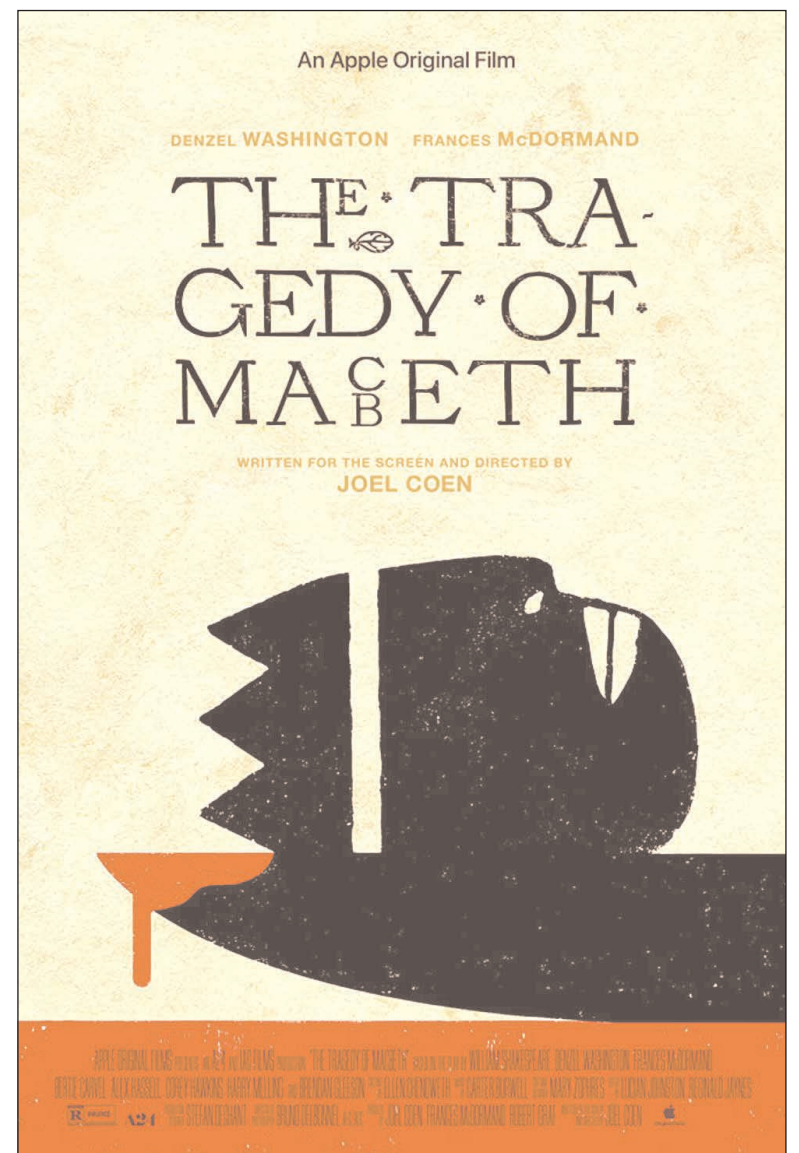
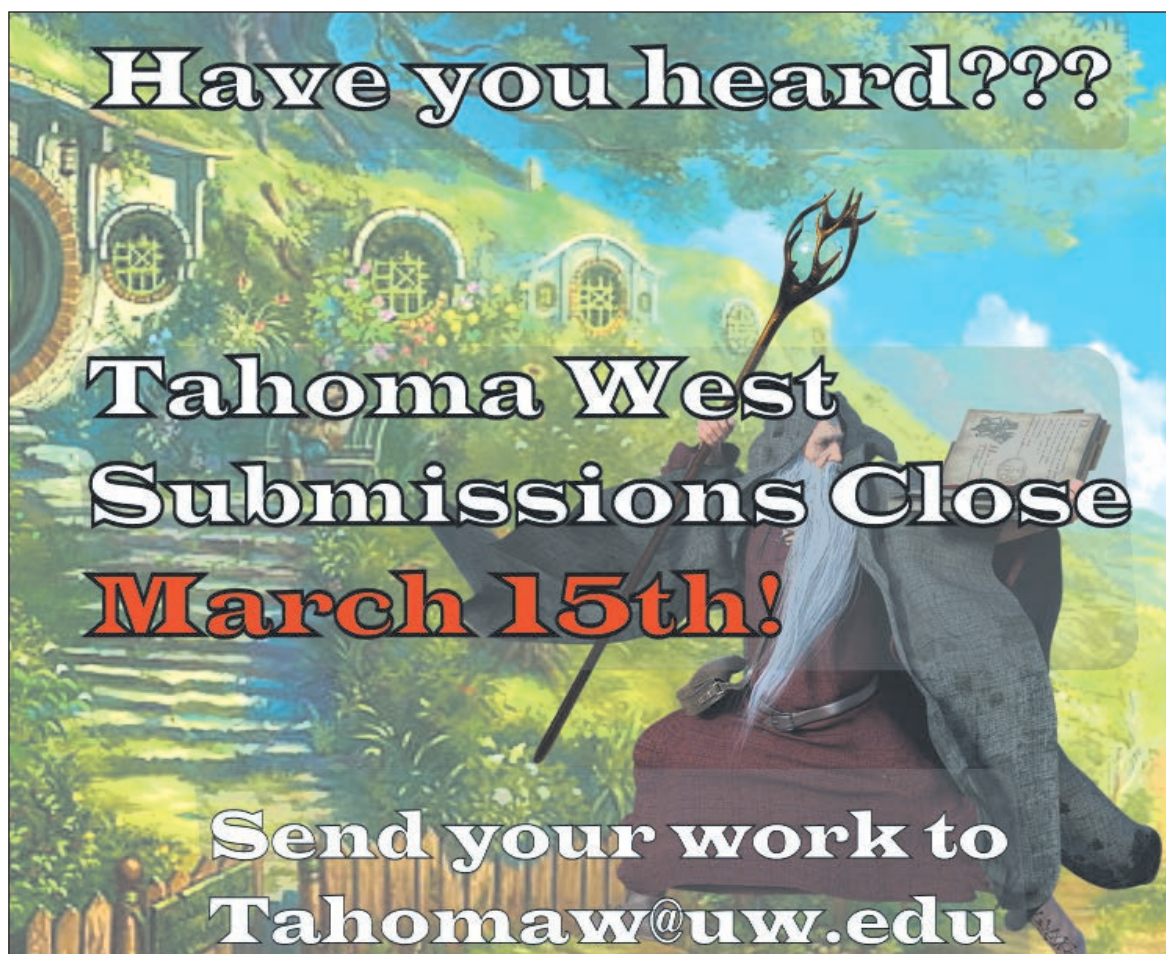


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The Tragedy of Macbeth illustration poster