

FREE EVERY WEEK

VOL. 26 ISS. 25 • APRIL 11, 2022

THETACOMALEDGER.COM

# THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



## Court 17 student housing looks to expand

Student housing on the UW Tacoma campus is looking to survey students and focus groups on the possibility of expansion.

Page 3





Students studying between classes outside of West Coast Grocery.

PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

# Balancing work life and academics

While a majority of college students work and attend university simultaneously, the reasons as to why vary along with the advantages and disadvantages.

**By LESLIE GONZALEZ CRUZ**  
NEWS REPORTER

Student life at a collegiate level remains a challenge for many students. Finding a balance between employment and school is essential in avoiding feeling burnt out.

Reported by Georgetown University, 70% of college students have worked and attended school at the same time for over 25 years now. In addition, the report indicates on average, working students work thirty

hours a week while attending classes full-time.

There are various reasons as to why students choose to work and attend university simultaneously. Primarily, students gain financial control and gain experience in their desired area of expertise as well as networking and learning time management.

Alice Torres, a nursing student, found herself working two jobs both on and off campus. On campus, she became the building monitor where her responsibilities included mon-

itoring temperatures and making sure entering pupils completed a COVID-19 questionnaire.

Off campus, Torres worked at a nursing student clinical job where she gained experience as a nurse and aided her community during unprecedented times as COVID-19 evolved.

"If I felt stressed, I made sure to go out with friends or spend time at the gym," answered Alice Torres when asked how she deals with stress, "Forgetting about the stress helps you come back later and solve

the tension with a clearer mind."

Torres also reports that while she worked and attended school full-time, she was never put into a position where she had to choose between her academics or employment. She had the freedom of controlling her work schedule to allow her enough time for academics and life outside of work and school.

She advises students who find themselves working and attending class to properly manage and budget their finances to avoid stress.

### The Ledger

UWT's weekly student publication  
April 11, 2022 | Vol. 26, Issue 25

 [thetacomaledger.com](https://twitter.com/thetacomaledger)

 [facebook.com/uwtledger](https://facebook.com/uwtledger)

 [@uwtledger](https://www.instagram.com/uwtledger)

 [@uwtledger](https://www.instagram.com/uwtledger)



**Office Hours:**  
**Monday** 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Tuesday** 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Wednesday** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Thursday** 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Friday** 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Zoom Link:**  
<https://washington.zoom.us/j/91636229141>

**Office:** MAT 151  
**Phone:** 253-692-4428  
**Email:** [ledger@uw.edu](mailto:ledger@uw.edu)

**Editors**

Editor-in-Chief .....Madeline Hiller  
Managing Editor .....Madi Williams  
News Editor.....Andrew Anderson  
Opinion Editor .....Remi Frederick  
A&E Editor.....Josephine Trueblood  
Copy Editor.....Raj Kumar

**Cover Art**  
by Alexa Christie

**Managers**

Distribution Manager.....Raj Kumar  
Web Manager.....Morgan Morgans  
Layout Manager.....Morgan Morgans

**Staff Writers**

News Reporter.....Leslie Gonzalez Cruz  
News Reporter.....Sharlaye Dezeurn  
Opinion Columnist.....Anthony Krejci  
Opinion Columnist.....Alex Buckingham  
A&E Columnist.....Angelo Alegre  
Film Critic.....Ryan Mantle

**Design**

Page Designer.....Trisha Carandang  
Page Designer.....Anuvir Dhaliwal

**Art**

Illustrator .....Jaida Noble  
Photographer.....Alexa Christie

**Advisor**

Publications Manager.....Daniel Nash



# Court 17 student housing looks to expand

Student housing on the UW Tacoma campus is looking to survey students and focus groups on the possibility of expansion.

By **ANDREW ANDERSON**  
News Editor

When it comes to on-campus housing, UW Tacoma has Court 17; a building of apartments originally owned by the City of Tacoma before UW acquired the building and began to convert the apartments into housing. First open to house international students, Court 17 eventually became the on-campus housing option for students.

Joe Lawless, Chief Strategy Officer on the Tacoma Campus and leader of the Center for Leadership & Social Responsibility, was available to provide more information on possible expansion to Court 17 housing, including more space, another building and the concept of a Visitor's Center.

Working with the UW Tacoma

Chancellor and Vice Chancellor, real estate professionals, those from Housing and Residence Life and even current residential advisors of Court 17, Lawless is currently focused on raising awareness for the possibility of expansion.

Lawless revealed that a demand survey done in 2017 revealed that there was a demand to build over 600 beds. While the University of Washington President in UW Seattle gave approval to move forward in Jan. 2020, survey and construction plans were put on halt as the COVID-19 pandemic began.

With two years having passed since the first demand study, Lawless reveals that they are redoing the demand study along with student focus groups that will be taking place during the week of April 11. The survey that Lawless is

compiling will be open through April 15 and will be sent out en masse to students through an email provided by Chancellor Lang.

Focus groups will number 2-3 with roughly 6-10 students per group, as explained in an email sent out by Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life Bernard Anderson. The focus groups will be open to all students, including those who do not currently live in Court 17, and can be joined or inquired about further by emailing [uwtsl@uw.edu](mailto:uwtsl@uw.edu).

"Court 17 was designed as apartments," Lawless explains when asked about the original building, "[N]ot necessarily as traditional student housing. It's fine for older students and grad students, but we need more. ... What we're studying is what type of housing students want and what makes sense, be-

cause ultimately, once we get this study done, we're going to be looking for P3 partnerships."

P3 partnerships, which are Public Private Partnerships, are used when the state will not provide funding. In order to proceed with Court 17 adjustments and partnerships, a demand study and collection of student focus groups are needed in order to give a rough estimate and prediction of what can be expected.

The survey and focus groups will revolve around questioning students what models of room, pricing and food services they would prefer out of what will be available. While Court 17 will house students, the goal is for the expansion to serve the whole campus.

"We're mostly a commuter campus," Lawless said while discussing plans to open Court 17 areas to all students,

"[A]nd you want to go use the cafeteria as well, so it serves our commuter students and our faculty, and our staff. Our hope is to build some sort of commons. We've got over 5,000 students on our campus, so the other 4,500 we want to be able to serve commuter students as well to hang out there and do some studying there and grab a sandwich and that sort of thing."

While Lawless has confirmed there are plans for a website regarding information on the project – future link available through the Ledger social media when live – updated information on the progress of Court 17 and any future housing expansion or on-campus living information can be found through Housing & Residence Life at [www.tacoma.uw.edu/housing](http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/housing).



A photo of UW Tacoma's Court 17 which houses students who live on campus.

PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE



# Innovation and Design Minor at UW Tacoma

A new design minor with emphasis on project-based and collaborative curriculum

TRISHA CARANDANG  
LAYOUT DESIGNER

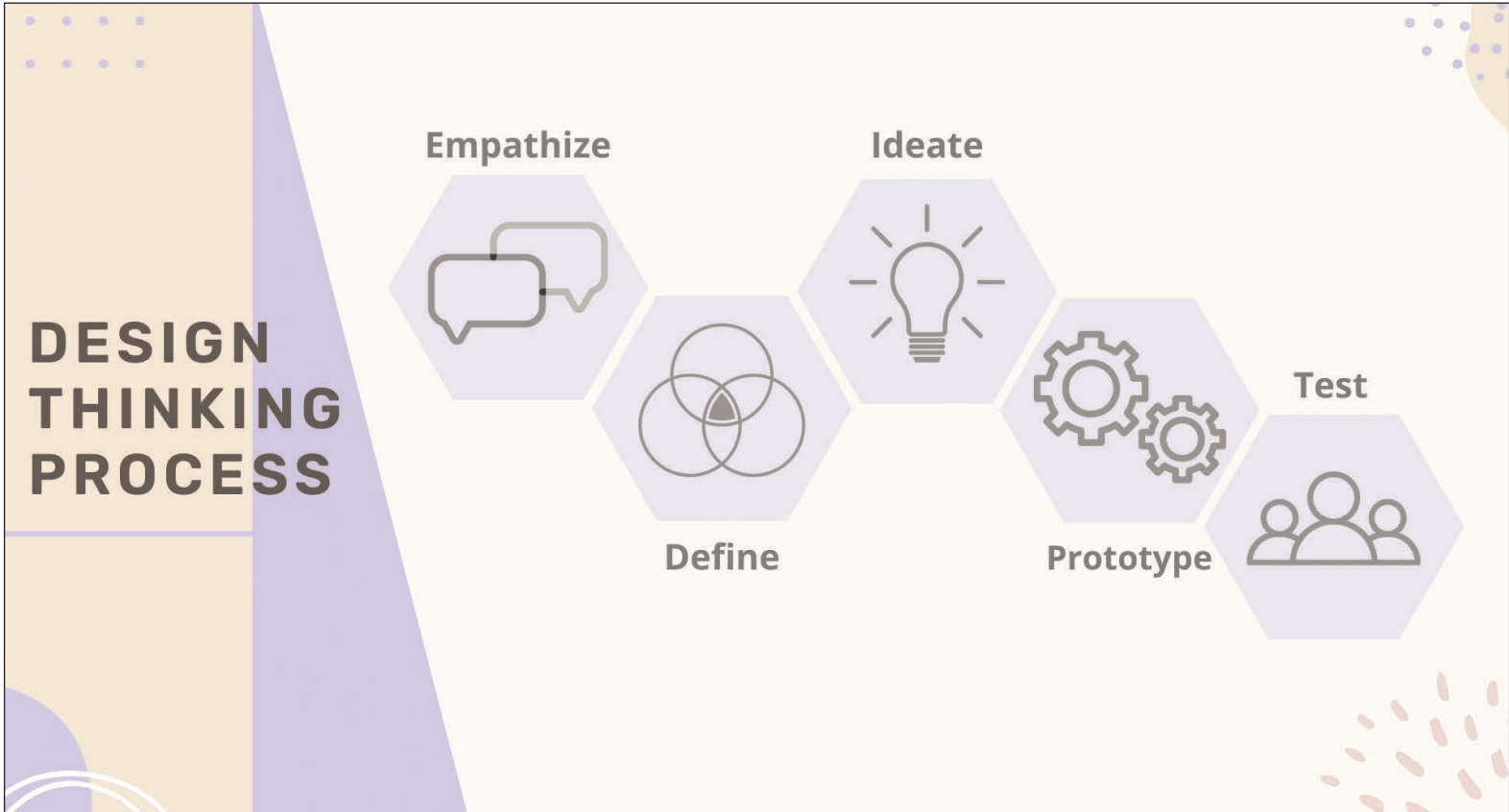
The Innovation and Design Minor offered at University of Washington Tacoma, allows students to collaborate on projects that let them become advocates, improve the UW Tacoma community and build their portfolio upon graduation.

The minor is designed to be completed within a year or two allowing students to learn about inclusion, exclusion and biases in design while being able to choose their projects by integrating the Design Thinking Process.

“You need everyone at the table for the best solutions,” said Professor Divya McMillin who led the creation of the Global Innovation and Design Lab and a core faculty of the Innovation and Design minor, “Those who are closest to the struggle are often the ones who have the best ideas for the solutions but also farthest away from the resources.”

Prior to the minor launching in Winter 2021, the core faculty members used the design thinking process they teach students taking the minor. The faculty interviewed students, worked with advisors at UW Tacoma and iterated the minor that will cater to students who wish to complete the minor in a year with a portfolio to show their future employers.

The minor, having a design thinking process at the forefront, is made up of five project-based, hands-on, and collaborative classes and it requires two studio-based classes to work on projects that matter to them



The Design Thinking Process used for projects.

ILLUSTRATION BY TRISHA CARANDANG

which could potentially have a client partner or community partner.

One project that’s been implemented on campus is the Anti-Racist Library located near the grand staircase. It was designed by students taking the minor in spring quarter of 2021 by doing intense user research and design thinking process after a funder came to the lab with a problem about the lack of access to BIPOC representation in books for children.

“I start by asking students what

they care about and what they want to change about the world,” said Professor Emma Rose, who is one of the core faculties that proposed the minor, “That usually leads us down a path where students get to choose topics they’re passionate about.”

Such topics can be but not limited to homelessness, climate change, police brutality or mental health. Rose said that she currently has a group of five women in her class who are working on an issue on period poverty

where they are creating a prototype to free dispense feminine hygiene products in the bathrooms.

“The big questions around design are who were designing for, who is designing, and who is either intentionally or unintentionally left out of the design,” Rose said, “Or to take it even further, we question who is harmed by this design.”

For students who are unable to complete the minor but want to gain some design experience and build a

portfolio, they are still able to take part in community based and short-term projects that are offered at the Global Innovation and Design Lab located at the TPS building room G016.

“My biggest advice would be to listen and observe to whose voice isn’t heard,” McMillin said, “Those are the ways in which you can understand the gaps and create a bridge because nobody would have thought about what’s in the shadows.”

## MINOR IN INNOVATION AND DESIGN

### Autumn or Winter Quarter

TWRT 350: User-Centered Design

Prerequisite

### Winter and Spring

TGID 320: Innovation and Design Studio

Breadth Courses (from list)

TGID 320: Innovation and Design Studio

Core Classes

### Spring

TGID 420: Reflexive Design Portfolio

Capstone (25 credits total for minor)

### FEATURES

- Project-based
- Portfolio
- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Cohort experience



GLOBAL INNOVATION AND DESIGN LAB

# OPINION: President Biden is not to blame for inflation

Many republicans that are crucifying Biden over inflation are much more to blame than he is.

By **ANTHONY KREJCI**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Unless you are fortunate enough to enjoy family support, veteran benefits, or your own financial independence, a difficult part of being a student is always the balancing act required in managing our future goals and our immediate practical needs equally.

I am sure many students here at UWT are feeling the economic strain of current events and in times like these it's only natural to seek answers and some of you may be looking for someone or something to blame.

Anytime there is a problem in life, people tend to want to find a scapegoat. We naturally want our world to make sense, and we want our problems to make sense.

Often when our lives are disrupted by a combination of ambiguous factors, the human tendency is to attempt to simplify the issue; to find a clear, uniform cause for our troubles and give us something to grumble about.

For those struggling their way through the socio-economic strain of

adult life, nothing feels as satisfying as a good grumble.

However, often our natural desire for simple answers and a quality grumble distorts our view of the problems we face. We are seeing this today in regard to the economy and President Joe Biden.

Now I have done my fair share of grumbling about President Biden and the Democratic Party. Like many full-blooded progressives in this country, I only vote Democratic for lack of a better option.

However, anyone who is putting full blame on Biden for the current inflation crisis is either actively avoiding or intentionally ignoring the real facts of the situation.

According to Reuters, inflation isn't only high in America. The inflation problem is a global problem, particularly in countries dependent on foreign energy reserves, like the U.S. and those in the European Union.

The COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented disruptions in the global distribution network. Had the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic

not been so incompetent, the resulting disruptions would not have been so impactful.

It wasn't President Biden who bungled the COVID-19 response, it was his predecessor, Donald Trump. A timeline created by Vox details Trump's pandemic response month by month, and there are some important facts to remember.

He dismissed the White House's Pandemic Response team in 2018. He failed to completely stop travel from China during the crucial early months when the virus was localized to China. He refused to enact even minimal pandemic mandates until nearly 4 months after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a world health emergency.

So, if the pandemic is the main reason for the global inflation trend, it is far more Trump's responsibility than Biden's.

Another fact that people should be talking about more is that while the average American worker is struggling with increased prices, the average American, multi-national, multi-billion dollar corporation is enjoying re-

cord-breaking profits.

Robert Reich from Inequality Media suggests that corporate concentration has much more to do with inflation than any policy Biden has or has not introduced. With fewer companies owning more of their respective industries, corporations no longer have to compete with one another like they used to.

In previous times of historic inflation, corporations attempted to absorb the extra cost as much as possible, while still providing the same quality of product. This was driven by the fear that if they did not do so, they would lose customers to the competition.

In today's quagmire of late-stage capitalism, corporations like Coca-Cola, Amazon and AT&T have only a few competitors. So many of them are seizing upon current events to drive up prices and make the consumer bear the cost of inflation.

In many ways, President Biden has done a fair job with the economy so far.

According to a November 2021 report from the BBC, in Biden's first ten months he added nearly 5.6 million jobs to the U.S. economy, almost

three times more than Trump's first ten months. The national gross domestic product also rose by 6% within the same period, and nearly 30% of the bottlenecked container ships were cleared from around U.S. ports.

I do not like President Biden very much. I think he is a half-baked corporate shill, masquerading as a true progressive to earn the millennial vote. That being said, I think he has done a fairly good job considering the historic circumstances he inherited and the quality of leadership America generally has these days.

If we judge Biden, we should judge him based on the issues that are actually his fault, not COVID-19, inflation, or the general corruption of American politics. Blame the people responsible for that, namely Trump, the Republicans and their corporate donors who laugh at us while we struggle to carry the corrupt, corpulent weight of their selfish shortsightedness our entire lives.





# OPINION: Good news for a new quarter, again

This year has been tough, so here is some good news to help lift your spirits.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHY SHROUT VIA FLICKR

Many pets, like this one, were adopted in honor of Betty White and the amazing advocacy she did for animal welfare.

**BY REMI FREDERICK**  
OPINION EDITOR

Once again, the world is seemingly dissolving into day after day of bad news and heartbreaking stories and photos. I don't need to tell you the exact things I am thinking of, I'm sure you can deduce them for yourselves.

It is continually taking a toll on our mental health. So, here I am again with a dose of good things that will hopefully start the quarter off on a good note.

On Jan. 17, in honor of Betty White's 100th birthday, people flooded animal shelters all across the country

with donations of money and even some people adopted animals.

The San Diego Humane Society waived all adoption fees on Jan. 17 and were hoping to have 100 pets adopted. By the afternoon of Jan. 17, 253 adult pets were adopted.

In addition to this, the Nashville Humane Association said that in just 17 minutes it had raised \$1,100. In total, \$30,000 was donated.

This trend continued for shelters all over the nation. All in honor of one of America's Golden Girls.

In January, Smithsonian Magazine reported that the Monarch butterfly

population has once again boomed. In 2020, less than 2,000 butterflies were observed in California. In 2021, over 247,000 butterflies were counted.

German residents crowded a train station and offered up their own homes to help house Ukrainian refugees.

Around 300,000 private homes were offered up for Ukrainian refugees by their German owners.

The No Surprises Act went into effect on Jan. 1 and helps to cover surprise medical bills. It covers specifically emergency care and out-of-network care that wouldn't be covered by your insurance.

Jack Hoadley, Kevin Lucia and Beth Fuchs from The Commonwealth Fund estimated that this act will help cover medical bills for over 135 million people.

HIV mRNA vaccines have just officially been launched in a clinical trial. Moderna announced on March 14 that they have just dosed the very first person with an HIV vaccination.

Moderna is hopeful that their vaccine will help to prevent HIV and therefore reduce the number of people with AIDS.

Many dogs, cats and other cute critters are available to adopt at the Ta-

coma and Pierce County Humane Society which is a no-kill shelter. There are currently 36 dogs available, 29 cats available and 8 other critters of various types available.

You can also volunteer and donate to the Tacoma and Pierce County Humane Society at their website.

Though these pieces of good news have some bitter tinges in them, they do show that our world is constantly changing and evolving to be a better place.

Be kind to one another, I promise it will make you feel better.



# The famed Brian Jonestown Massacre to play at Spanish Ballroom

This psychedelic, garage rock band oozes sonic perfection

By JOSEPHINE TRUEBLOOD  
A&E EDITOR

Looking to be transported to a psychedelic dreamscape? The Brian Jonestown Massacre is coming to Tacoma. Often compared to Spacemen 3 and My Bloody Valentine for their sound, the band goes far beyond shoegaze, spanning many genres including dream-pop, goth, folk, garage rock, electronic, '60s-inspired psychedelia... the list goes on. Yet, the BJM is known for terribly catchy and ethereally noisy songs, no matter what musical niche they explore.

Their stunning early shoegaze albums like "Methodrone" and "Spacegirl and Other Favorites" have now become cult favorites, along with trippy obscurities like their 2008 albums "Their Satanic Majesties' Second Request" and "My Bloody Underground." Actively putting out excellent albums since 1994, the San Francisco collective recently released their 18th album in 2019 and a new mini-EP called "The Real" in 2022. Shockingly, the band has a consistently fantastic and large body of work that stands the test of time.

Retaining many of their original members (a rarity!) including founder Anton Newcombe, guitarist Ricky Maymi and tambourinist Joel Gion, their rotating cast of multitudes of musicians are known for their unbelievable talent and perfect shows. Their performances often feature lengthy sets, seven-plus members and droolworthy vintage gear. Now on their post-COVID U.S. tour, the band is playing a combination of new songs, deep-cuts and hard-to-find tracks that will send you into a frantic Google search.

To hype yourself up for their show, listen to their 2001 album "Bravery Repetition & Noise" for classic and extremely well-produced alternative hits. While their early works are some of my personal favorites, it appears that they're promoting their 2019 self-titled album, featuring well-balanced, powerful rock tunes like "Drained" and "A Word." Nevertheless, please listen to the ever-vibey "Methodrone" on repeat and the boppy, poppy "Take it From the Man!" If you haven't already heard their psych-rock hit, "Pish," listen to it loud for peak low-harmony perfection, the grooviest drums ever and singable guitar riffs.

Visit their planet on Saturday, April 16 at the Spanish Ballroom.

Tickets are available on McMenamins' website and are \$25 in advance and \$30 day-of-show.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AURELIEN GUICHARD VIA WIKIPEDIA

## 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?

Are you a student, faculty or staff member of UWT?

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.



# Robert Pattinson sparkles in “The Batman”

“The Batman” is a gritty but excellent rendition of this classic character.

By RYAN MANTLE  
FILM CRITIC

Bwum bum bum bum! Director Matt Reeves’s take on “The Batman” is dark, dirty, and violent but that perfectly fits with Gotham’s criminal underworld. Batman is desperate to track down the Riddler who is killing off the most powerful members of society in gruesome and calculated ways.

Bwum bum bum bum! “The Batman” is not an origin story in the traditional sense but it is clear that Bruce Wayne has not gotten over his parents’ deaths, which is woven into the plot in a somewhat dissatisfying way. Robert Pattinson takes over the role as Bruce Wayne and returns him to his classic no-killing mantra, which is in stark contrast to Ben Affleck’s recent homicidal version. Perhaps the best way to describe Pattinson’s performance is that he is an excellent Batman and a mediocre Bruce Wayne. Luckily, he spends most of the film either in the mask or with the dramatic mascara smear on his face.

Bwum bum bum bum! This is a violent movie and Pattinson does not hold back. The audio during fight scenes highlights the power behind Batman’s

fists and how painful it must be for him to get shot as many times as he does. While Batman is not using lethal force, he has no problem impaling criminals’ legs or breaking bones.

Bwum bum bum bum! What makes any good Batman movie is the villains and the casting department nailed it for this film. Paul Dano turns the Riddler, who is usually a campy character, into an unhinged serial killer. Dano is terrifying at times but still maintains the methodical approach that the Riddler is associated with. The biggest surprise though is Colin Farrell’s Penguin. Not only is he entirely unrecognizable but he also brings a sleazy brightness to the film with his perfect laugh and mobster vibes. Danny DeVito would be proud.

Bwum bum bum bum! It’s time to explain this. “The Batman” is in love with Pattinson, dramatically and slowly walking out from the shadows to cause terror in the criminals he is about to pummel. In every one of these scenes, and even in a few others, this theme song plays. It works in some scenes but since the movie is roughly three hours long, it wears out its welcome. The runtime is the real villain of “The Batman” as some unnecessary storylines add length to an already jam-packed plot.

The sections related to Bruce’s parents in particular fell flat and ate up a good portion of the film. It was meant to add personal stakes but this was achieved in a better way later in the film anyways.

Another disappointing aspect was how helpless Zoë Kravitz’s Catwoman was in this film. She frequently tells the Caped Crusader how capable she is but at times is little more than a damsel in distress. Catwoman does serve the purpose of making Bruce realize that there is more nuance to criminals than just someone breaking the law, but she still feels underutilized. The romance between her and Batman also felt like it was crafted solely because it looked good on camera and served no other purpose.

Regardless, “The Batman” expertly creates tension and drama at every opportunity. While certain plot elements made it too long and Catwoman constantly needing saving certainly detract from the film, it is nonetheless still a great movie full of delightfully evil villains and a brutal but effective hero.

4\5 Stars

“The Batman” is available only in theaters.



“The Batman” movie poster.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES



COURTESY OF NINTENDO OF AMERICA

“Kirby and the Forgotten Land” is the newest addition to the Kirby game series

## Is it worth picking up the newest Kirby game?

Being the first real 3D Kirby game, “Kirby and the Forgotten Land” does a great job adding new mechanics to the game while still feeling like the older games.

By ANGELO ALEGRE  
A&E REPORTER

“Kirby and the Forgotten Land” has recently been released and already has become one of the most well-received Kirby games of all time, selling about 380,000 copies in the first week. One reason for this would be the accessibility of the game as just about anyone can play it, meaning you can be brand-new to the Kirby series and enjoy it just as much as a longtime fan.

Although you can beat the game in about 15 hours or less, there is a lot of content packed into the game that you can miss if you don’t look carefully. Each of the areas in the game has five levels, each with their own secrets and gimmicks. Items can be hidden in places you might not even notice as it could be disguised with the background of the game, which will make you replay the level in attempts to find what you didn’t the first time through.

Besides the large world Kirby is

brought into, there is the Waddle Dee Village, which is your home base. Here, you can rest at your house, upgrade your copy abilities, rewatch cutscenes, play minigames, collect collectibles that can be displayed and even fight bosses in the arena. With a huge array of things to do in the village, you can spend hours on end just playing around in the arena or in the minigames. In order to unlock all these things and expand your village, you will have to save a certain amount of Waddle Dees, which are found in all the levels you play in the game. It ranges from seven Waddle Dees in one level to 12 Waddle Dees.

If you are having trouble saving all the Waddle Dees, there is always the co-op play option where you have a friend help you out as the playable character, Bandana Waddle Dee. This can help in many ways, such as an extra pair of eyes looking for secrets, as well as another player to help you in boss fights. If you are skeptical about how the co-op mode works, there is nothing to worry

about as it works just as you would expect. Since there is no split-screen, the camera will always follow Kirby. One thing your friend might not like however is that there can only be one Kirby, meaning that player two cannot use copy abilities. To unlock this mode, just progress far enough into the game to unlock the Waddle Dee Village, which will take less than an hour at most.

Overall, the newest addition to the Kirby game series, “Kirby and the Forgotten Land” is a great game. As it is the first real 3D Kirby game, it might take a while to get used to if you are a longtime fan, but it is easy to pick up as a new player because of its well-thought-out tutorial. Just about anyone can pick up the game and try it out for themselves, and that is the great thing about the Kirby series.

If you are interested in playing “Kirby and the Forgotten Lands,” it is found exclusively on the Nintendo Switch.