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Holiday Recap: The Truth Behind Thanksgiving

PHOTO/PAINTING BY JENNIE AUGUSTA BROWNSCOMBE (1914)



Students Assisting Businesses program open for applications

Milgard School of Business offers an opportunity for students to assist local businesses and nonprofits in Tacoma.

By KATIE SCOTT
STAFF REPORTER

The Milgard School of Business is offering an opportunity for business students to partner with local organizations. The UWT Students Assisting Businesses program places students with local institutions to provide hands-on work experience, while earning above-minimum wage and providing a flexible schedule to accommodate students' needs.

The Students Assisting Businesses program began in 2020 with a focus on helping local businesses apply for government Paycheck Protection Program loans, more commonly referred to as PPP loans. Since then, it has grown to incorporate other focus areas and partnerships.

Facilitated by Professor Evy Shankus, a Milgard School of Business founding faculty member and faculty supervisor of business student internships, the Students Assisting Businesses program pays students \$20 an hour, for up to 50 hours per project. The stipend is provided through funding from the Milgard School of Business and aims to fund project-based needs within community organizations, where a substantive learning experience is provided.

Professor Shankus says "What's unique about the program is that the employer does not pay. It's funded through

stipends for students, so it works like a scholarship that the student doesn't need to pay back and the company doesn't need to pay back. It's all covered through the Milgard School of Business at UWT."

Professor Shankus says the program is open to all Milgard students, both graduate and undergraduate.

Once enrolled, students are placed within a community organization, government department, or local non-profit organization to assist with various tasks related to business administration, management, marketing and other areas of need.

Professor Shankus says students are also able to present partnership opportunities in hopes of creating new placement positions.

"I am in the process of identifying opportunities for both businesses and students, and doing the matchmaking," Professor Shankus said.

Dave Moore, a UWT senior in the Milgard School of Business, says the Students Assisting Businesses program provides flexibility with his school schedule, and gives him an opportunity to give back to his community while learning on-the-job skills.

"It's really a cool program because I'm learning what it's like to work for a county government. Not only is it a good opportunity for me to make connections and good income,

but I'm doing something that's helping the community I live in," Moore said.

Moore works in partnership with Pierce County Economic Development as a liaison for businesses applying for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding, also known as the CARES Act. In his role, he works one-on-one with local businesses who are owned by members of underrepresented individuals and communities such as BIPOC, women and veterans.

Moore's primary task is helping owners fill out applications and navigating paperwork to give businesses access to grants that offer assistance like commercial lease stipends, innovation grants to help businesses with equipment updates and other operational costs.

"If a student is considering this program and is maybe apprehensive because of what it will add to their schedule, don't let that hold you back. Not only is it a good program to help you make some extra money, but more importantly, it provides so many benefits for you as a college student. It is also a good way to give back to the community, which is pretty nice as well," Moore said.

To apply for the Students Assisting Businesses program, students can email Professor Shankus with their current resume and a short message expressing their interest in the program.

Professor Shankus can be reached at ezent@uw.edu



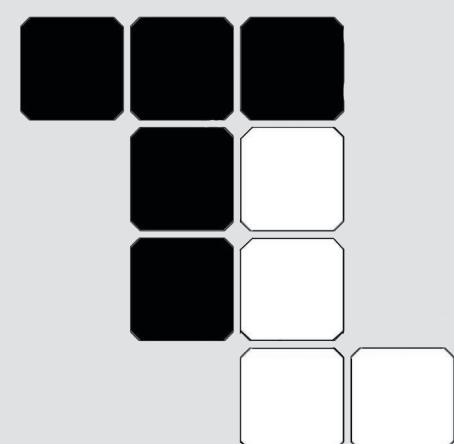
PHOTO BY KATIE SCOTT

Dave Moore, UWT Senior and current program participant, has partnered with the City of Tacoma to assist local small businesses with applications for various aid resources.

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PHOTO BY UW POE TAIWAN 2019

Experience studying abroad in Taiwan

From wetlands to mudflats, studying abroad in Taiwan is a 5-week experience in and outside the classroom.

By Leslie Cruz
Staff Reporter

Immerse yourself into a new culture by studying abroad in Taiwan. The five-week summer course consists of traveling around Taiwanese cities alongside local students, experts and communities as students attend hands-on lectures with special guests and field trips.

Among the field trips,

students will visit wetlands, mudflats, limestone caves, tea farms and much more.

"One of my students' favorites is the tea farm. It's in the area of Taipei, where they practiced organic farming. The owner of the tea company tries to do this from the plantation to the processing of the tea," said Yen-Chu Weng, Program Director of the Study Abroad Program in Taiwan.

The program is designed

to explore social and environmental cases of resilience, focusing on the eco-city, food and society, renewable energy, tourism and aboriginal communities in Taipei, Changhua and Kaosiung.

"One of the highlights of my program is the activities and mingling with Taiwanese students. Not all study-abroad programs will have the component to interact with local students," said Weng.

One of the challenges of studying abroad is financing the trip, but students can submit financial aid applications. With an estimated program fee of \$5,050 and a study abroad fee of \$470, the costs cover lodging, local transportation, program activities and field trips. Out of pocket costs include airfare, daily meals and personal spending averaging at \$3,000 for the entire five weeks.

This program is available to all majors looking to receive 12 credits, in natural sciences and social sciences. Students will earn six credits in ENVIR 496/JSIS: 391 Exploring Environmental and Social Resilience and six credits in ENVIR 495: Food and Society.

"Our students had a good experience," said Weng.

Applications for studying abroad in Taiwan close Jan. 31, 2023.

UWT 2023 Study Abroad Programs

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For more information on studying abroad in Taiwan:

<https://sites.google.com/view/uw-poe-taiwan-2019/blogs?pli=1>

To contact Program Director Yen-Chu Weng:
yweng@uw.edu

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The truth about Thanksgiving

The real story of how this holiday came to be

By CELIA WILLIAMS
OPINION EDITOR

With another Thanksgiving having come and gone, I have once again found myself thinking about the first one; the first Thanksgiving that everyone learned about in elementary school. You know the one with the pilgrims, the turkey, and the giving thanks for everything.

To start from the beginning, between 1616 and 1619 a total of 90% of the Indigenous population was wiped out by the introduction of diseases that they didn't have immunity to. This was the result of settlers trying to establish a settlement along the East Coast, but not being able to due to the high population of Native people. Settlers also took many Indigenous men hostage to sell into slavery. All of this understand-

ably led to high tensions between the Indigenous people and new coming settlers. Local tribes were also extremely cautious and suspicious of any newcomers after that point.

News of the New World had spread and the Pilgrims, who were trying to escape the persecution of the monarchy for practicing their religion, made a 66-day journey across the Pacific Ocean in 1620 on the Mayflower. They first landed in Cape Cod and then journeyed across the Massachusetts Bay to establish a small village called Plymouth. The pilgrims were not equipped to survive in the New World and were dying off rapidly from starvation and exposure. The local Indigenous people chose to help them establish a promising agricultural set up and how to live with the land. The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag

people supposedly shared a three-day feast that would later be known as Thanksgiving.

Supposedly, the purpose behind Thanksgiving was to give thanks and bless the autumn harvest and the harvest for the next year. However, this is not the case today nor was it really the case then either. Today, some families spend time being thankful for everything they have been given over the last year, but that wasn't the intent behind the first Thanksgiving.

The genocide and brutality against Indigenous people since the colonization of the Americas is also no secret. For years, settlers would quite literally hunt Indigenous people for a bounty. Indigenous people also faced persecution for practicing our own spiritual beliefs and rituals, which if you think about it is the exact

thing that the Pilgrims had been trying to escape. These dark truths don't exclude the now-consumeristic holiday that we know today.

Thanksgiving, while the modern idea behind it is seemingly harmless, has nothing to do with the original holiday. There is very little in common with the first Thanksgiving that everyone is taught about. They didn't have turkey, they didn't have mashed potatoes, they didn't have Grandma's homemade pecan pie.

This being said, why are we still calling this holiday Thanksgiving? Why are we still celebrating it as if it is the same holiday? It has nothing in common with the original idea of the holiday, including the food and the purpose behind the holiday and activities.

Personally, I like to refer to this holiday as Food Day or Turkey Day. This is what the day entails if you really think about it. Everyone gathers at one person's house and then they consume way more food than is probably recommended and watch whatever football game happens to be on. Sure some families might go around the dinner table and say what they are thankful for, but again it's really just about food.

Thanksgiving has a very dark history that has directly affected Indigenous people in the worst way possible, and it's not the only one. That being said, it's important to be mindful of what you are celebrating and the origins behind it.



ILLUSTRATION/PAINTING BY JEAN LEON GEROME FERRIS (1899)

Huskies in the Hallway Question of the Week: What do you want for Christmas?

PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE



Sam Dilling - Undeclared Freshman - He/him

Answer: A new hat. Specifically, those hats that are like sun hats but they're more bulky. Round on top with the wide brim.

PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE



Brody Arbon - History Major Senior - He/him

Answer: An RTX 480 graphics card.



Naia Elizarraraz - Ethnic Gender & Labor Studies Senior - She/her

Answer: A plane ticket to my home in America Samoa.

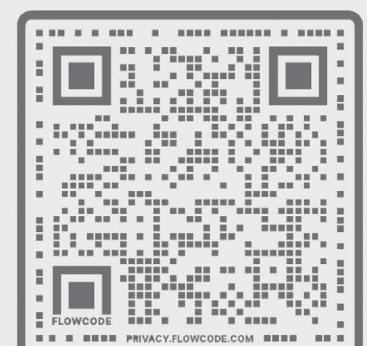
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The good, the bad, and everything in between for ‘Pokémon Scarlet and Violet’

‘Pokémon Scarlet and Violet’ are finally out, but how does it hold up?

By ANGELO ALEGRE
A&E REPORTER

Game Freak have recently released their 8th installment of the mainline Pokémon games; titled “Pokémon Scarlet and Violet.” As the brand-new Pokémon game, there are new additions that make this different from its predecessors, with a vast open-world game design and new mechanics with entirely new Pokémon.

In this game, players start their adventure in the Paldea region, which is home to Pokémon that players know, and some they have yet to meet. Players start their journey by being introduced to Director Clavell, whose academy they will attend. Much like every other mainline Pokémon game, he shows the player the three starting Pokémon who will be your partner throughout your adventure.

After players receive their first Pokémon, they can head to his academy with Nemonia, the student council president. After being shown the ropes at the academy, the core of the game begins.

As a player, you are put into a project called the Treasure Hunt and here, you decide what you will do in the Paldea region. There are three main routes for you to take. You can fight for glory to obtain the champion trainer status, help dissipate a school gang that disrupts the livelihood of many people across Paldea or you can uncover the hidden truths of the region with your classmate, Arven.

While being shown these three options to pick from in the game, the decision ultimately lies with the player. This is where the idea of an open-world game truly comes to fruition. This idea was exper-

imented with by Game Freak in their last title, “Pokémon Legends: Arceus,” and people loved it. By having the freedom to explore and take more time with your adventure, this provides a different experience from the previous seven installments of Pokémon.

In “Pokémon Scarlet and Violet,” there is a new gimmick called the Terastal phenomenon, where Pokémon can turn into a crystallized version of themselves. Adding a new gimmick to the battle system has been a trend done by Game Freak since their 6th installment of Pokémon.

Although, these crystallized Pokémon can actually have different types. Pikachu, an electric-type Pokémon, can Terastallize and become a flying-type. This changes the idea of battle altogether, as Pokémon who are weak to one type can suddenly change and

nullify that weakness.

Though these new features sound great, it isn’t a new Pokémon game unless it has some faults. The main problem with Pokémon Scarlet and Violet is not the game itself, but rather how it performs on the Nintendo Switch.

The Nintendo Switch isn’t a powerful game console like the PS5 or Xbox Series X, but that should not excuse the poor gaming experience in Pokémon Scarlet and Violet. There is an abundance of graphical glitches, slow frame rates – including loading times, and bugged movements in the game to where players can fall straight through the map.

At its current state, the game is playable but is definitely not enjoyable at times. The only way to fix these problems would be for Game Freak to work on better optimization to let the game run smoother on

the current Nintendo Switch hardware, or Nintendo could release an upgraded version of the Nintendo Switch.

But Nintendo refuses to make upgrades to the current models of the Nintendo Switch, and Game Freak is not known for fixing many of the bugs in their games after release.

Although there are ways to fix the current problems of the “Pokémon Scarlet and Violet” game, Pokémon fans know that it won’t be that easy for us consumers.

Overall, “Pokémon Scarlet and Violet” tackle the game series in a different way than previous installments, and it does so in a great fashion. The only thing that could turn consumers away is its poor performance on the Nintendo Switch, and that makes it hard to recommend the game in its current state.



Official art of Pokémon Scarlet and Violet courtesy of the Official Pokémon Twitter Page

PHOTO BY THE POKÉMON COMPANY



Official lyric video for "Take A Chance With Me" by NIKI

PHOTO BY NIKI ON YOUTUBE

'Take A Chance With Me' By NIKI

Is an underrated modern day early 2000s Indie/Alternative rewind song.

By KIARRA BLAKELY-RUSSELL
A&E EDITOR

The weather on campus has dropped, the leaves have fallen, and we have finally lost that summer heat. Midterms should be coming to an end for some students, but that doesn't mean we should lose out on some diverse listening. Here's a potential artist to add to your fall/winter playlists.

NIKI, Nicole Zefanya, put out her second album "Nicole" earlier this year during the summer time. The album provided a cool and carefree feeling but also gave the listener a glimpse into some stories of her school years. Most of the songs on this project were originally written during that time; "Take A Chance With Me"

being one of those songs originally written in 2015.

"Take A Chance With Me" is a breath of fresh air, an unbreakable seal of bittersweetness and pays homage to old 2000s songs. Being the final song on the album, this provides the listener with a new beginning as opposed to the songs before, which were chapters closing of her past.

NIKI is in a space of excitement as she sings in a curious way describing her new lover through each line. The song introduces itself with a normal-paced electric guitar, with what sounds like hints of a piano, or a harp.

This smoothly sets the mood as she sings, "His laugh you'd die for, His laugh you'd die for. / The kind that colors the sky," she sings,

"Heart intangible, slips away faster than dandelion fluff in the sunlight."

As the verses are pretty long, each approach themselves as build-ups with a faster pace, as she sounds more excited through each word sung, "And he's got swirls of passion in his eyes. / Uncovering the dreams, he dreams at night. / As much and hard as he tries to hide, I can see right through, see right through."

Verse two still has the same build but with replacement sounds of ukulele strums, and what sounds like a güiro sound instrumental.

NIKI sings, "His voice you'd melt for, he says my name like I'll fade away somehow if he's too loud. / What I would give for me

to get my feet back on the ground, head off the clouds," she sings with a quicker pace, "I laugh at how we're polar opposites. / I read him like a book, and he's a clueless little kid. / Doesn't know that I'd stop time and space/ Just to make him smile, make him smile."

As the chorus begins, NIKI's isolated vocal comes to focus, a vulnerable yet key moment as she is wondering why they both can't be open and honest.

"Oh, why can't we for once. / Say what we want, say what we feel? / Oh, why can't we for once/ Disregard the world and run to what you know is real? / Take a chance with me," NIKI sings.

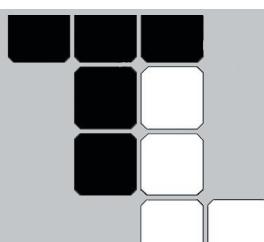
You can easily notice a melody that is uncanny to a Liz Phair song called "Why Can't I?" if you have

a good ear.

She then goes on to sing in verse three, continuing to describe all the things that draw her to this boy. Especially the fact that he thinks love is overrated, she shows more confusion in this verse. The bridge could give the listener the image of, "admiring someone from across the room," but she also dances through this bridge with safety towards her lover, only to later complete the final chorus once more, ending the song with ease.

You can listen to "Take A Chance With Me" on streaming platforms such as Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube, and listen to the full-length album "Nicole" as well.

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PHOTO BY 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

Anya Taylor-Joy and Ralph Fiennes in "The Menu"

'The Menu' deliciously satirizes wealth and ego

More dark comedy than horror, this thriller is something eccentric and tense that audiences can really sink their teeth into.

BY EMILIA BELL
FILM CRITIC

"The Menu," directed by Mark Mylod, follows a couple, food connoisseur Tyler and mysterious cool-girl Margot, as they set out to an exclusive island for a gourmet and lavishly expensive meal. Accompanied by fellow ultra-wealthy patrons, it becomes clear that Margot doesn't entirely fit in with the group. She doesn't seem so excited about the food compared to the others and isn't afraid to speak her mind. As the meal commences, the chef, played by Ralph Fiennes, as well as the staff,

start to exhibit strange and menacing behaviors.

Anya Taylor-Joy does well as the rebellious cool-girl type in the role of Margot, and Nicholas Hoult plays off her hilariously as Tyler. Hoult is wonderful to dislike, and sells the pomposity excellently. Ralph Fiennes is chilling as the chef, and provides a contrast to the rest of the supporting cast, which includes John Leguizamo as a boastful has-been movie star and Janet McTeer as a snooty and artificial food critic. Nearly all of the characters are delightfully egotistical and unappealing.

The film is slick despite

its simplicity, with the set designs bringing a luxurious yet ominous feel to scenes. Rich wood and metal with moody lighting support the acting wonderfully. The music provides a sense of opulence, but it also adds an undercurrent of tension with its eery violins. The editing is clever and funny, with intermittent text over images of the dishes to suggest a new scene, and to add to the story. This further adds to the satire and play on foodie culture.

As a movie where its plot focus is food, the food itself needed to be realistic and appropriately over the top. The design

for the food was mouthwatering and stunning, balancing pretentiousness with believability. This attention to detail helped to boost the themes of art and perfectionism in the film itself.

The film criticizes the whims and egos of the wealthy with dark humor and a uniquely unsettling plot. It was often unpredictable, defying expectations by building mystery and tension effectively. Though it was not always fast-paced or action-packed, it was never boring. Characters were established early on without giving away too much, and it provided

a fresh and interesting take on the tortured artist trope. Anyone looking for traditional action or horror will likely be disappointed, but as long as one approaches it with an open mind, it will be an enjoyable experience.

4/5

