

THE LEDGER



Students Protest Gaza Siege

PHOTO BY KARLA PASTRANI

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Students walkout to protest the siege on Gaza

In response to the humanitarian concerns that have developed out of the Israel-Gaza War, students walked out of class to show international solidarity with the Palestinians and criticize UWT's complicity.



Students gather to hear speeches from activists and community members. PHOTO BY KARLA PASTRANA

By REESE RAMIREZ
NEWS EDITOR

On October 25, students walked out of class to protest Israel's siege of Gaza. Participants gathered below the main stairs carrying Pro-Palestine signs with messages such as "End the occupation. Free Palestine" and "Stop the US war machine."

On October 7, Hamas, a militant group and political authority in Gaza, launched an attack on Israel, killing over 1,000 civilians. In retaliation, Israel has conducted military operations in and around the Gaza strip. Israel also cut off supplies such as water and electricity to the roughly 2 million people living in Gaza. As of October 26, the official death toll of Palestinians and Israelis is over 9,000 people, with another 1.5 million displaced. A majority of those displaced are Palestinians in Gaza.

Amid these humanitarian concerns, students and activists engaged in chants, speeches and conversation to show support for Palestine. Participants also expressed discontentment with Israel's policies towards Gaza and

the West Bank over the last century.

"There is only one solution, Intifada Revolution," said attendees in unison. Intifada is an Arabic word used to refer to Palestinian revolution in the West Bank and Gaza.

Throughout the walkout, students, faculty and community members spoke on international solidarity with Palestine and called the university to action.

"We want to apply pressure on the UW campus," said Claudia, a community member who helped organize the event. "A lot of these institutions are complicit directly in what's happening through their partnerships with weapons manufacturers like Boeing."

Throughout the event, many speakers expressed a desire for the university to cut ties with Boeing, while also suggesting other courses of action such as lobbying in Olympia or contacting local legislators.

"We can get UW to divest from Boeing, but it's not enough," said Gordon Barnes, professor at UWT. "What will stop the bombs is

worker action against Zionist terror."

Students joined the event throughout its duration.

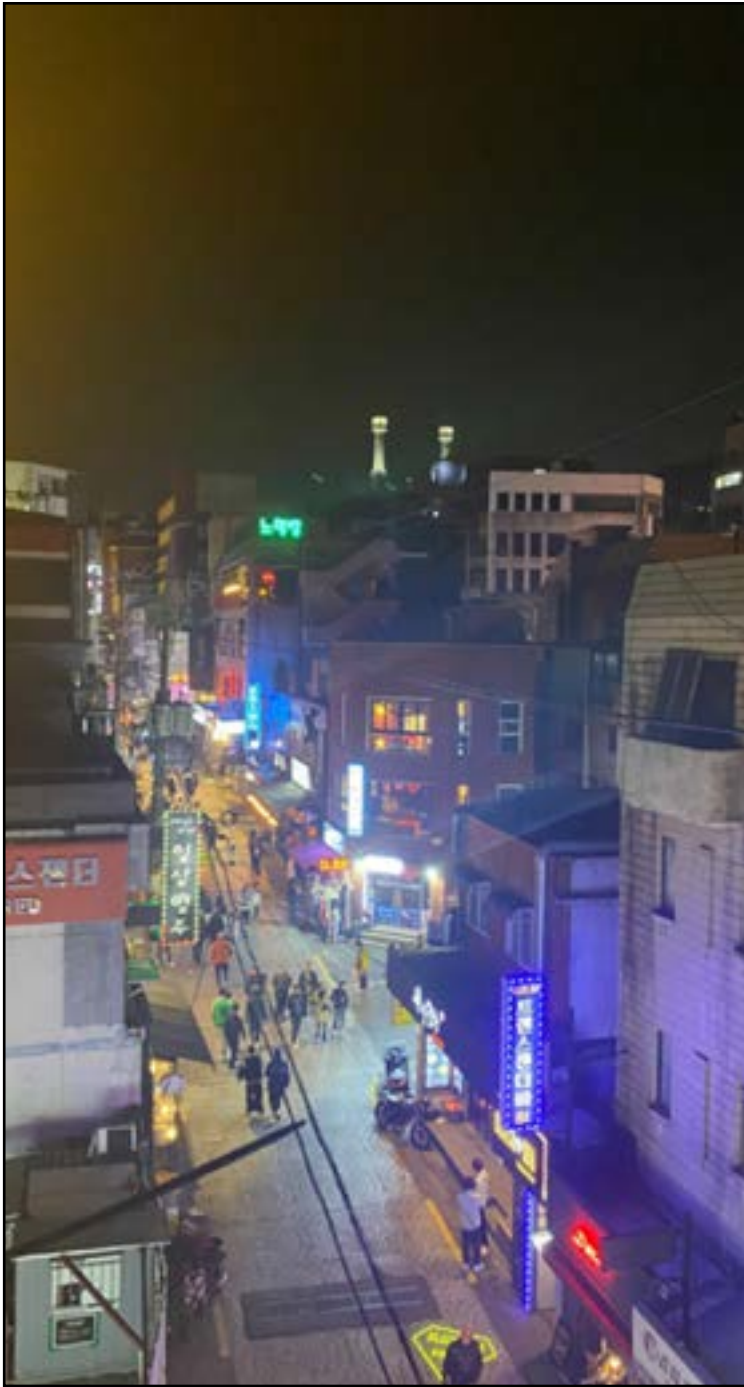
"I was just walking past, got out of class, and I saw people protesting. Making their claim on the situations that's happening right now in Palestine-Israel," said Warfa Mohamed, a student at UWT. "How it looks right now is that people are opening their eyes and seeing that the western media is portraying Palestine and Hamas as terrorist groups. But for 75 years Palestine has been pushed away and suffocated by the Israel government."

It is unlikely the conflict will come to a conclusion soon due to tensions between surrounding states and the urban landscape of Gaza, according to the Institute for the Study of War.



Students appeared with multiple protest signs. PHOTO BY KARLA PASTRANA

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A bird's eye view of a street in Seoul.

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN FREDELL

Pushing past social anxiety in the aftermath of COVID through study abroad

Study abroad is not just for social outgoing types; it can be a great way to get yourself out of your comfort zone.

By BENJAMIN FREDELL
OPINION COLUMNIST

The Covid-19 pandemic took a lot from me. It took my grandma in 2021. It took three years of my college education experience. All on-line classes yet same tuition, from the very end of 2019 to 2022. I didn't meet anyone on campus for four years. I've been attending the University of Washington Tacoma as a ghost, as most others have.

I wanted the full college experience. I was living in the dorms on campus right before the pandemic. I had three roommates, things were looking good. When Covid hit the States they all decided to go back home. For the next three years I lived by myself. I haven't met anyone since that time and it's only gotten harder to socialize.

I am a victim of self sabotage. I have severe social anxiety that makes it hard to meet new people. It was only exacerbated by the lockdown. I knew that since this was my last year of college this would be my last

chance to get the full, or any, college experience.

That's what led me to apply for the study abroad program to South Korea. It would be like ripping the bandaid off.

I'm about a week into the trip right now, and so far it has been one of the most difficult experiences I've put myself through and I might be all the better for it. It's hard but it's important and it's getting easier.

Everyone has been trying much harder to get along because we're stuck with each other for three weeks. It's overwhelming and challenging, but I'm taking it slow.

I decided to make some rules for myself to follow on this trip that you may take into your own life:

- I will always be honest, first to myself, then to those around me.

- Understand that I cannot change the things I have said in the past.

- Say yes when invited.

- I am but a grain of sand in the silo of life. There's more

out there than I could ever know. Always stay curious.

- Take things at your own pace. Find time to take a deep breath.

I'm writing this article on the train to Busan. Expect an article next week about my thoughts on Korea and our class experiences here. It's a beautiful and accommodating country that deserves its own article.

Do I hold resentment toward the for-profit institution for the way they handled the pandemic? Yes. I am just trying to make the most out of what is available to me just like the rest of the students on campus.

Study abroad is for every student, not just the outgoing and high energy personality types. Please, use all the resources available to you while they are available; who knows when it will all be taken away again.

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

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.



Major frustrations of students on campus

UWT students have strong feelings about Court 17 and on-campus parking.

By CELIA WILLIAMS
OPINION EDITOR

If you have been a UWT student for a while, you have no doubt become accustomed to the frustrations that come with being a student here, from Court 17 raising rent to the lack of parking available to students. I took to campus to ask UWT students about their frustrations and thoughts about issues present on campus. Here is what I have gathered:

The first, and probably the most frustrating, obstacle that has become a norm for UWT students is the task of finding a parking spot near campus. If you are somewhat lucky, you got a permit before they went out of stock, which is quick due to the limited number of permits available. You're even more lucky if you can actually find a spot in the parking lot you paid a large amount to park in. We also lost parking spaces to the new Milgard building for the business school program, which has only decreased the number of available for students.

If you don't have a permit, things become even more difficult when you are trying to get to class. If you do find a spot in one of the lots, you

have to pay for it, and that can add up depending on your time on campus. There is also limited pay-by-the-hour parking near campus. As a commuter campus, this would seem like something to be addressed and thought out a bit better. With enrollment numbers down, this might become less of an issue in the future, but with that comes budget cuts.

There has to be a solution to support those who commute to UWT. Whether that be making current parking more accessible or finding more space for students to park. If students can't even find pay by the hour parking to go to the classes that they spend thousands of dollars on, how can we be expected to continue coming to campus? According to the UW website, nearly 70% of UWT students commute to and from campus, meaning the majority of students need to have fair access to parking.

Another frustration for UWT students is Court 17 student housing. One of the more recent frustrations is rent being raised by \$200 starting this academic year. As a student who lived in the dorms last year, there were a number of things that would make me frustrat-

ed by this change. From my experience, maintenance was extremely slow and, depending on how busy you are, hard to resolve. As someone who has a rather busy schedule I am rarely home during the day. Without someone present while the staff is working on fixing the problem you have to hope that you are home when they come.

Of course, I don't think that this is entirely the fault of the maintenance workers, simply the understaffing that has become the norm in a lot of places. Everyone has their own schedule, and it can be difficult to find time to be home. Something that might help solve this problem is hiring another maintenance worker to deal with the everyday wear and tear of college apartments.

There is also no air conditioning in the units, only in the hallways and common room. This makes the units insufferable after April as the days continue to heat up. The windows are no help either as they barely open. With the small issues, this increase in rate can seem a bit absurd. If I were still living at Court 17, I would be wondering where this money was going.

Finally, every student has to deal with the cost of



PHOTO BY CAMERON J. BERRENS

school. When I asked a first-year student about things they had been frustrated by when coming to UWT, the main thing that came to mind was financial aid and the resources available. From the office being backed up during operating hours to unclear answers, it can be incredibly overwhelming. Having more available one-on-ones and workshops on campus to help students get the necessary resources to figure out any financial aid question they might have would be a great way to counter this issue.

UWT is an amazing campus, but that doesn't mean that it's without faults. As a commuter campus, and as

a space for a large number of students from out of the country and first-generation students, these are some of the many things that UWT should take into consideration when making changes. Each is vital to student life and having access to these resources needs to be easier for incoming students and returning students alike.

Have any other thoughts about UWT or campus? Send the Ledger a letter to the editor or email at <https://thetacomaledger.com/contact-us/>.

A TWO-WAY

MIRROR:

Double Consciousness in Contemporary Glass by Black Artists



Left to right: (1) Layo Bright (Nigerian, born 1991), *Akébi* IV, 2020. Kilo formed glass, 11 1/2 x 11 1/2 x 3 in. Courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, Illinois. (2) Layo Bright (Nigerian, born 1991), *Akébi* I, 2020. Kilo formed glass, 11 1/2 x 12 x 3 in. Courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, Illinois.

On View Now!

MUSEUM OF GLASS

The people that persevere: Four Palestinian artists who have made an impact in their communities

Paying homage to the rich Palestinian culture, we've compiled a list of talented artists that want to share their beautiful culture with the world.

BY HEIDI ORTIZ CANDELARIA
A&E COLUMNIST

These past few weeks, news of the ongoing war between Palestine and Israel has oversaturated all social medias. Almost like an avalanche, stories upon stories from Palestinian survivors have started being dug up, giving light to a drastically dark situation. Politicians and government officials are not giving a voice to the countless victims of the Gaza strip air bomb strikes. Instead, we are being fed a point of view that is warped by politicians and those in power, favoring the Israeli forces and antagonizing the whole of Palestine for "harboring" Hamas terrorists.

Many talented and proud Palestinian artists have created art to spread awareness of the truth. Their experiences as inhabitants of Palestine -- the day-to-day life -- including the moments where Israeli forces mounted attacks dating back decades. There is one common message being spread by these creators, and that is that they simply wish for their experiences to be truly heard, and their lives remembered. For miscommunication and faulty media coverage to be terminated. That is why I've decided to dig deep and find some artists that are currently fighting for their right to speak up about the reality that they live in.

Eliana Marijeh is a Palestinian-Chilean singer who goes by Elyanna on the stage and on all social media platforms. Currently signed into the Universal Arabic Music label, she has gotten over 557.6k listeners on Spotify as of today. She also recently performed in Coachella with a full Arab-language set list and became the first Arab singer to ever perform in the event. She continuously sings in her native tongue, proclaiming her love for the language.

Her voice is otherworldly, with impeccable vocal control. Beautiful vibratos and

exquisite use of the mawwal genre. Mawwal is an Arabic music genre that heavily relies on the quick progression of vocalization and requires superior voice control. You can truly hear the passion in her voice transcends the digital medium we hear it from. Recently, she had announced an upcoming tour where she would announce her new album that supposedly focused on the mawwal genre.

But after news of the Gaza strip bombings spread and continues to worsen, Elyanna decided to postpone her tour. She announced it alongside a heart wrenching TikTok video where she previewed a new song she was hoping to release later in the tour. The new song says, "In the land of peace, peace is dead, and the world is sleeping on a hurt child." This song is currently untitled, but Elyanna has stated that she wishes to show solidarity with her people, demonstrating the hurt she feels for being so far away from her home country. I encourage everyone to listen to these previews and the rest of her music: alternative pop with a bit of R&B and that perfect undulating voice.

Sliman Mansour is a well-known Palestinian painter considered influential amongst the contemporary Palestinian artist community. His paintings branch from the cultural Palestinian concept of sumud: its literal translation meaning "steadfast perseverance". It is the concept that Palestinians have adopted in order to persevere under Israeli rule, an undying hope to overcome adversity and take back the lands that were stolen from them. During the Intifada in 1988, Sliman made a four-painting series depicting destroyed Palestinian villages, and painted them using natural found around the environment (such as clay, mud, henna and coffee) as a way to protest art supplies brought by the Israeli invaders.

Mansour's work is so influential in fact, that his art is often spoken about by Pal-

estinian activists who use it as posters to protest Israeli forces. His paintings depict Palestinian villages, families and natural formations carry a sense of displacement. Mansour changed mediums throughout his career to solidify this narrative and prove the impact that fragmentation of his culture had on his psyche and ambition. His main goal is to show the beauty that Palestine continues to give, despite the destruction that might surround it due to opposing forces. Mansour has received critical acclaim worldwide and has his own website where he sells high quality prints of his art: [Sliman Mansour - Palestinian art prints and posters](#).

Nemah Hasan, also known as Nemahsis, is a Palestinian Canadian singer that began her career through TikTok with the same name. Initially starting as a lifestyle and Muslim fashion influencer, she later transitioned to making song covers from artists such as Adele. At the start of her music career she faced a discriminatory event in which her record label fired her for being openly pro-Palestine. Nehmasis took it upon herself to record a response in a song format and publish it herself. "What if I took it off for you?" explores the struggles that come with wearing a hijab as an Arab woman, the direct discrimination and indirect judgement that comes from the West. It also brings room for exploration on the self-consciousness and dwindling self-esteem that can come from this constant hate.

Continued on
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PHOTO BY UNITED ARABIC MUSIC
Palestinian-Chilean singer and songwriter Elyanna.



PAINTING BY SLIMAN MANSOUR
Sliman Mansour Painting "Camel of Hardships."

Continued from pg 5

These past two weeks, Nehmasis has been an active voice in the #FreePalestine movement, taking part in the protests in Toronto and uploading informative and inspiring content to her TikTok. She highlights both the gruesome reality Palestinians are being faced with, but also promotes the sumud. This has begun giving people the strength to fight alongside the Palestinian protesters to get aid to those currently still inhabiting Gaza.

Heba Zagout was a professional artist who studied graphic design and visual arts and was a teacher in a Gaza elementary school. She was a loving mother of two whose artistic skills thrived through the medium of painting. For years, she dedicated her free time to creating beautiful pieces por-

traying her personal experience as a Palestinian living under the constant surveillance of the Israeli government. Yet using such vibrant colors and brush strokes to show the delicate love she shared for her home, her small town and family. On October 13th, only a few weeks ago, Heba Zagout and her two sons were killed during an airstrike attack made on Gaza.

Alongside this, all her paintings were destroyed in the explosions. Little is being relayed about this occurrence, and her paintings are now only preserved in the chasms of the internet. Slowly, people have begun gathering pictures and videos of Heba's works and telling her story for her, as well as finding her instagram page where most of her works have been digitally preserved: www.instagram.com/zagoutheba. This is another instance where

a great human beings' life was ripped away from them when they were only just getting started on their journey. Heba had a passion for painting, teaching, and family. We will make sure to show some of her works here and keep her memory alive.

Though each of these individuals have contributed immensely to the cause, it is truly up to us to educate ourselves in the matter and heighten these people's voices. Spread the word, share a song with a friend or family member, and admire a painting. But most importantly, remember them. The people, those who are there, those who are far away and can't return home; and those who have passed. Together, we can give a voice for those who no longer can.

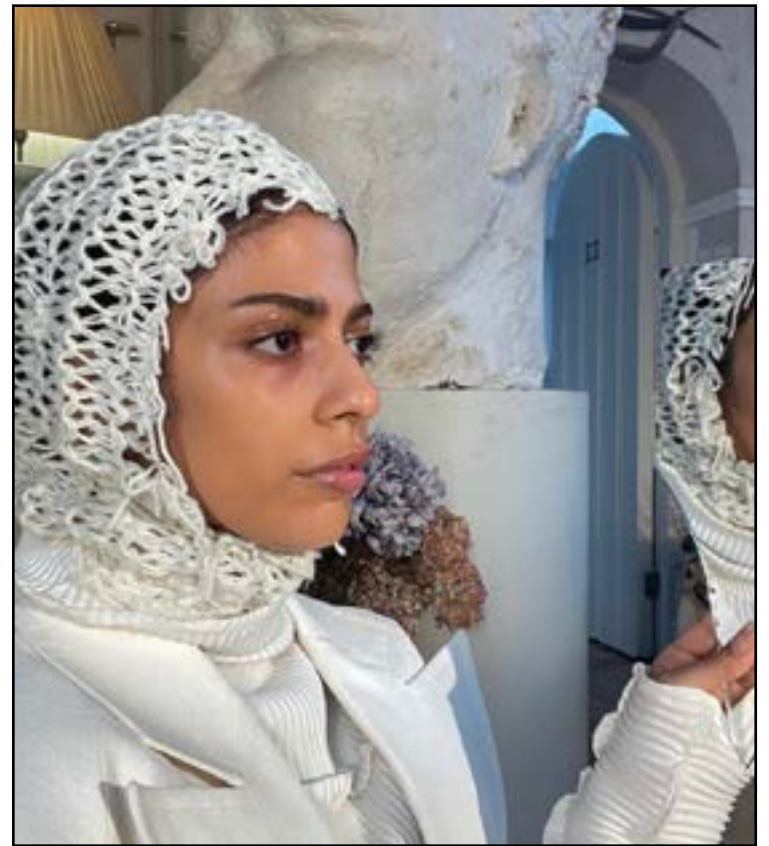


PHOTO BY @NEHMASIS VIA INSTAGRAM
Nehmasis's BTS snapshot for her new single's video "What if I took it off for you?"



"Jerusalem" (left) and "Olive Tree" (right) were both done by Heba Zagout, a recent victim of a strike attack done on Gaza.

PAINTINGS BY @ZAGOUTHEBA VIA INSTAGRAM

UWT Theatre program pushes students to critically explore themselves

The UWT Theatre Director reflects on acting classes and the importance of taking risks as a student.



ILLUSTRATION VIA COLE MARTIN

By Rachel Meatte
A&E Editor

UWT is different from UW Seattle in that it offers fewer classes on a smaller scale. The Seattle campus has more choices when it comes to math, science, history and art classes. But according to Professor Maria-Tania Bades Becerra Weingarden, who goes by Dr. B., what Tacoma offers measures on a different scale.

“The Tacoma Campus offers things that particular students want that Seattle can’t offer,” said Dr. B. “It has a more focused attention to specific aspects of storytelling that you wouldn’t find on a bigger campus like Seattle. Maybe you want to learn about set design or lighting? Students who are just starting out and trying to understand the basic fundamentals of theatre or acting get a much more in-depth experience at the Tacoma campus. That’s where I think our campus really shines.”

Dr. B has worked at UWT for the past five years. She is the only full-time theatre professor on campus. She teaches classes on acting, theatre, Shakespeare and more. One of her favorite classes that she teaches is Fundamentals of Acting. It serves as an arts and humanities credit, and she teaches it 2 out of the 3 quarters. Here she has a lot of fun and sees her students really come into their own.

“It’s a class where I see that students really learn that they can do this, even if they have never acted before,” said Dr. B. “You can learn acting. It’s not as difficult as you think it is and all the skills that you acquire from acting you can apply to any job that you get. That’s the key to remember. It’s all transferable.”

People often think that acting classes are purely improv and acting out scenes. However, in Dr. B’s class, she has students do much more critical thinking about the content they are immersing themselves in.

“I have them do activities like a personal manifesto that really make them reflect on who they are, what they bring into the room and the approach they have to others,” says Dr. B. “They do a character analysis and write a paper at the end of the quarter which helps them build writing skills.”

“People often come in thinking it’s just going to be doing theatre games and whatnot. Yes, we have that, but we also have much more that help you grow as a person and succeed after college. I want to get to know who you are and what you expect out of this class. It’s important they develop character and become proud of the work when you look back at the end of the quarter.”

For students who may be shy or nervous about speaking in front of others, acting

might seem scary and intimidating. But Dr. B believes these people are the ones who need it most.

“Students are often surprised to learn when I tell them that I have social anxiety,” said Dr. B. “They’re like, ‘What? You? No way!’ But it affects you in more ways than you realize. As an actor, I don’t think that it ever really goes away, and I wouldn’t ever tell someone to just get up there and do it. That is so traumatizing. I think it’s all about taking that feeling that you have and using it to fuel you to get through to that other side.”

Dr. B said that stage fright is a common aspect of theatre that people think only affects people new to acting. The only way students can truly get over it is to use that fear and anxiety they have and put it towards their performance.

Acting is a usually thought of for someone interested in pursuing a career in film or theatre. However, the skills taught in Fundamentals of Acting reflect much needed skills that people often lack today. The improv that you learn teaches you how to be quick on your feet and come up with new ideas in a short amount of time. It teaches you how to carry yourself in front of others and react in the moment. It teaches you to trust in your partners and learn how to take orders. When you have a scene, you

have to literally build the world together. The audience depends on you to entertain them. These are all qualities that Dr. B includes in her acting classes.

“When you create a play or musical you are on a strict deadline to keep everything on track and move according to schedule,” said Dr. B. “A lot depends on you, the cast and the crew so you really have to be on time and get things done. It’s not just me, it’s a whole team of wonderful, amazing people.”

Dr. B hires several other employees for her performances including actors, actresses, choreographers, and vocal teachers. They each have an incredibly important part to play in helping prepare students to perform.

Right now, Dr. B is preparing for the upcoming show “Rent” that she is directing and is also in partnership with Tacoma Little Theatre. It’s expected to premiere on March 8, 2024, and run through March 31, 2024. “Rent” follows the lives of impoverished young artists who are struggling to survive in the East Village during the AIDS epidemic. The musical has won several awards, including a Tony award for Best Drama and a Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Dr. B plans to audition students next month on December 3rd and begin the process of rehearsing the musical.

UWT is collaborating with The Tacoma Little Theatre to put on this performance, which will be shown at TLT. The actors and crew will begin rehearsing at UWT and then for the final two weeks before the premiere, they will rehearse at TLT. This will be one of the many collaborations they have done together.

For students interested in taking any classes from Dr. B, you can view her on the UWT class schedule catalog when signing up for classes. For more information or questions regarding the UWT theatre program including auditions, please contact Dr. B at mtbbw@uw.edu.

Thank you for reading and we'll see you next week.

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