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October 19, 2023

THE SPECTATOR

The Official Student Run Newspaper at Seattle University Since 1933

**QUEER AND SPIRITUAL:
AT THE INTERSECTION OF**

**SPIRITUALITY,
SEXUALITY
AND IDENTITY**

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No Need For Potty Training: Navigating Seattle's Toilet Crisis

Abdullah El-Sherbeeney
Volunteer Reporter

Seattle has been grappling with a toilet crisis for over two years.

The problem originated before the pandemic, according to local journalists. The Seattle area does not offer a wide selection of public restrooms, and the ones available have had their condition called into question. The Seattle Met reported that some of the conditions of toilets in local establishments had “missing toilet seats and lids” and “floors covered in debris.”

This resurfaced Oct. 9, after the recent story was published in The Seattle Times by Daniel Beekman and Anna Patrick, titled “To understand Seattle's toilet crisis, take a ride through the city.” The article described how a trip from Northgate all the way to Rainier Beach would not provide public restrooms to a potential commuter. For reference, they are 17.5 miles apart, which is approximately 90 minutes by public transit.

This creates problems for both accessibility and public health, as many of the city's 140 facilities are not available on a 24-hour basis or are kept within parks that close seasonally.

Due to the scarcity of public restrooms, many citizens turn to those provided by private companies and restaurants. However, this does not amend the problem of accessibility—as most restaurants have limited hours—and can create an added burden on the sanitation workers who attend to them.

Peter Owen, a barista at Starbucks, deals with the topic every day—Starbucks has an



ADELINE ONG THE SPECTATOR

open bathroom policy. Owen has noticed the need for accessible restrooms reflected in the store's patrons.

“I noticed that there are a handful of people who don't even order anything; they just come in here and use the bathroom,” Owen said.

Owen also felt that Starbucks management does not have a strategy set in place to address the high quantity of usage they see.

Another restaurant in Seattle, Al Bacha Restaurant near Cal Anderson Park, also provides a public restroom. Irving Santiago, who works as a cashier at Al Bacha Restaurant, expressed how the establishment accommodates the current crisis.

“We usually give permission to use the restroom,” Santiago said.

Santiago feels that opening the restaurant's bathrooms to the public can make it more difficult to upkeep sanitation standards as well. He expressed frustration of the onus being placed on restaurant workers, as he feels that public access to the restroom makes too much of a mess to clean.

Megan Okuma, a fourth-year communication and media major at Seattle U, worked on a project in her communications class about how to improve sanitation in public restrooms.

She developed a business idea called “When Nature Calls” that creates blogs for restaurants where people could write reviews based on experiences they had in the restaurants.

“The whole goal of that project was to raise awareness about the lack of facilities in Seattle, but also to get people talking about other issues that are involved with it,” Okuma said.

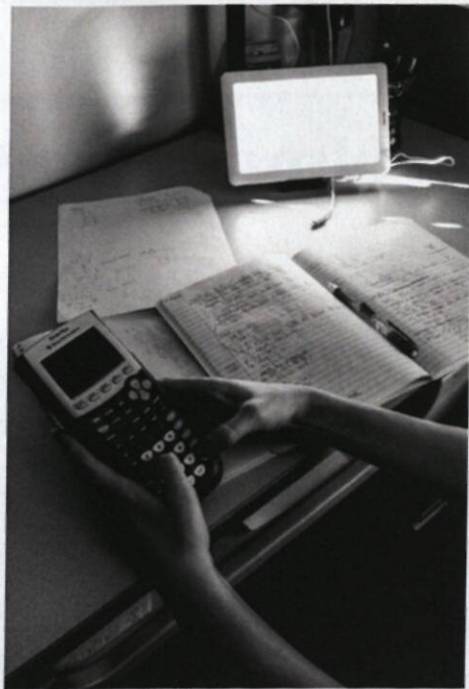
She added that her project was sparked from her own personal experience in Seattle. The main objective of it is to raise awareness and promote care for Seattle's public health.

“I think it's so difficult for people to care about this because it's weird and no one wants to talk about it, but if you just look at it from a standpoint of caring for one another and caring for people in general, I think then it's easier for us to imagine that this is something that should be afforded to everyone,” Okuma said. “It's not a privilege; it's a right.”

Many local restaurants and cafes in the area continue to face challenges due to the absence of sanitary public restrooms. These establishments struggle to maintain cleaning standards while helping to fulfill the demand for accessible public restrooms, contributing to the limited availability of public restrooms.



KAY MCHUGH THE SPECTATOR



Bridget Lawrence
Volunteer Reporter

Fighting through Fall Feelings

Students moving to Seattle for the first time are often asked, “Are you ready for the rain?”

However, there is a bigger worry for students than just missing the sun—seasonal depression. Seasonal depression is a mood disorder that can occur in climates where there is less sun during certain times of the year. Symptoms include feelings of hopelessness, fatigue, depression and social withdrawal.

Eden Crisler, a first-year criminal justice major at Seattle University, is a native of the sunny state of Hawaii and has had to adjust to Seattle’s changing climate. One of the reasons for moving to Seattle was to experience the seasons.

Having lived in Hawaii her whole life, she has been missing the sun recently.

“Any time it’s sunny outside, I force myself to go study or sit outside because I’m tired of the cold,” Crisler said.

Crisler anticipates that as the weather continues to change over seasons, she will continue to find ways to adapt.

“I’m going to try and just get used to it as best I can, force myself to go outside and bundle up and do all of that so I can just get used to it, but I’m sure at some point it’ll start getting to me and I’ll have to buy one of those [light therapy] lamps,” Crisler said.

Muz Katende, a first-year computer science major, has lived in Seattle her whole life. She

believes that you can never fully get used to the weather in Seattle.

“I remember when I really started realizing seasonal depression was really hitting me a lot. It became really important for me to constantly talk to my friends about it, make sure that me and my friends were checking in on each other, because a lot of people think they go through it alone. Not everybody experiences seasonal depression here, but everybody has some variety of it,” Katende said.

Katende provided insight on the impact that the environment has on mental health.

“Your environment does affect your mental health a lot and especially for kids who are from like Hawaii or California, I’m very worried about them because this environment is so different from what they are used to,” Katende said.

Kira B. Mauseth, a senior instructor in psychology at Seattle U, has experience dealing with seasonal depression in both teenagers and adults. Symptoms for seasonal depression typically start showing up at age 18. For new students who are experiencing a new environment like college, there are many factors besides the weather that could potentially be impacting them emotionally.

“October and November typically are the hardest months psychologically for students, because the novelty of having started the school year has worn off, and the reality of the social challenges and the reality of the academic challenges sinks in by then. Across the board, we see an increase in mental health symptoms in October and November anyway, and then in the northern latitudes, some of that is compounded by weather and daylight,” Mauseth said.

Students are also advised not to change medication or make drastic life changes in October and November because of the difficulty of these months in general without seasonal effects as well. Seasonal depression can be combated with methods that are similarly used with depression.

Mauseth gave indicators that someone may be dealing with depression.

“If you’re not usually a depressed person and you’re not getting out of bed, you find yourself saying no to a lot of things and not doing things and just not being motivated or any hopelessness kind of creeping in, get some help with that. Get some support. There are lots of little things you can do,” Mauseth said.

She also introduced some advice for students dealing with depression during the season.

“Start by making a list of the things that pick you up and perk you up a little bit that aren’t escape and avoidance. Things that make you feel better, that give you some renewal of energy, then be intentional about doing those things,” Mauseth said.

Mauseth expressed the importance of students developing self-help skills to prepare for the changing seasons.

“We all have a lot more capacity for making good healthy choices and helping ourselves feel better than we think we do. It’s about developing insight and practice around that and then just doing it behaviorally,” Mauseth said.

Check in on yourself, your friends and make sure to keep a regular sleep schedule that’s not dependent on the sun.

To combat seasonal depression, Seattle U has many resources available to help. Physical activity is a way to help reduce the impacts of seasonal depression. University Recreation has many fitness classes, outdoor outings and more to keep students active. Social connections are also important to maintain and joining clubs is a great way to do that. You can find new clubs to join on ConnectSU or in the Center for Student Involvement.

Light therapy is another suggested treatment. Light therapy lamps are available from the Office of Wellness and Health Promotion, located in room 380 in the Student Center. Counseling and Psychological Services also offers counseling and mental health resources.

If you find yourself to be struggling with the transition to winter, there are resources readily available on campus for students to combat symptoms attributed to seasonal depression.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FERN CRISON



The Race to the Oval Office

Hudson Bryne

Volunteer Reporter

With election season drawing near, candidates are attempting to solidify themselves as early favorites. Despite Donald Trump's record disapproval rates before leaving office, the former head of state continues to be the projected frontrunner in the Republican primaries.

With Trump refusing to participate in the first few Republican debates, other candidates are slowly cutting down on the former president's lead. Vivek Ramaswamy, a multimillionaire entrepreneur who is known for his pro-capitalism rhetoric, has had the largest jump in the polls.

One of Ramaswamy's campaign promises is to slash government programs, putting 75% of government employees out of work. According to Hanna Trudo, a political correspondent for The Hill, Ramaswamy has garnered approval with the Republican Party, polling 5% higher than he did in July. The 38-year-old Ramaswamy still trails behind Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

DeSantis is known for his conservative policy agenda and gained national attention for his COVID-19 response, advocating for a more open and business-friendly approach, which includes resisting lockdowns and mask mandates. He has also focused on education reform, controversially supporting a ban on certain curricula that Florida Republicans deem unfit for the classroom. Polling at around 13%, DeSantis still sits far behind Trump who polls at 53%.

Mathew Patrick Thomas, chairman of the King County Republican Party, said Trump's defeat is likely. Despite Nikki Haley polling outside the top four, Thomas believes Haley and DeSantis have the best chance at winning the primaries.

When prompted on why Seattle citizens should vote for Republican candidates, Thomas alluded to the city's legislation around drug consumption and homelessness, which he believes that Democrat leaders have done an insufficient job of addressing.

"Look out your window," Thomas said.

A candidate who can potentially affect the Republican nominee is Independent Robert F. Kennedy. Robert started his career as an environmental lawyer and first gained political traction through his stance on vaccination, believing they can cause mental defects.

Kennedy, the son of former Attorney General Bobby Kennedy, and nephew of former President John F. Kennedy, polls as high as 14%, which is almost unprecedented in modern politics. An independent candidate has not polled this high since Ross Perot in the 1996 presidential election.

This trend of interest in third party candidates has seemingly grown since the 2016 election. Cornel West, who recently renounced his bid for the Green Party, is another independent candidate to look out for. The self-proclaimed Socialist has gained traction with the youth of the country. As a founder of the Democratic Socialists of America and a leading thinker

of the Christian left, West is well respected by many looking for an alternative to America's binary political system.

Sarah James, an organizer for Socialist Alternative, believes West's presidency is the only way to implement a "real meritocracy." She describes a future of change that is "only possible through a radical approach."

"The two party system is failing us, choosing the lesser of two evils is a losing battle,"

James said.

Despite his popularity on the left, West is unlikely to take many votes from the incumbent Democrat Joe Biden.

The current president is coming off of a polarizing four years, with his popularity within the Democratic Party dropping. Since August 2021, Biden has not seen an approval rate of over 50%. Reports reflect that Americans are not pleased with the Biden administration.

Patrick Schoettmer, associate professor of political science at Seattle University, offered some perspective on what could potentially damage President Biden's chance of reelection.

With a potential recession looming, President Biden's ability to mitigate the impact of an economic downturn will be closely scrutinized, as it could significantly affect his chances of re-election.

"Signs of a recession could be disastrous for the Democratic Party," Schoettmer said.

The way the administration handles this economic downturn, and the outcomes of these decisions will have far-reaching implications for the Democratic Party in the upcoming election.



KAY MCHUGH THE SPECTATOR

After the Show: Bellingham Exit

Sean Alexander

Director of Photography



Veterans of the music industry, students and others in the Bellingham community came together this past weekend to put on a unique interdisciplinary music and art festival.

2023 is the first year for Bellingham Exit, a city-wide festival featuring headliners like The Hu, Deltron 3030, Monét X Change and comedian Joe Pera. But more than just the headliners, this festival brings in countless local acts, such as the band Actress and singer-songwriter Kazmyn.

This event was heavily rooted in the community and incorporated many different approaches to supporting Bellingham and its artists. Many of the shows were free, keeping the barrier of entry low enough that city locals could attend performances.

Acts also didn't just play at music venues and theaters, but at local businesses and different spots in town.

I had the opportunity to watch a few of these

pop-ups, including one outside of a local ice cream shop. At first, it seemed to me an odd place to have live music, but I was quickly proven wrong when a crowd of over 30 people formed on the sidewalk. Some came to hear the music specifically, and others came for ice cream and stayed to listen.

"I've never played outside of Mallards or any ice cream shops," Kazmyn said. "I play in cafes and restaurants and stuff like that, so I'm used to being kind of the background noise. However, I think it's cool that this is a mixture of both. This can be just as fun as playing at a venue because people are constantly up and down the strip."

Kazmyn, a Seattle native, attended Western Washington University and attributes much of finding herself as an artist to her time in Bellingham. Before moving up to Bellingham, she played lots of wineries and similar venues where she felt the need to cater her sets to audiences instead of playing the music she wanted to.

Bellingham, for her, brought in an environment where she could play the music she wrote for people who relate to her own experiences. Coming up to play at the festival allows her to contribute to that community. During her set, she mentioned how her time in Bellingham could be the best years of her life, and played a song she wrote about the city.

"Even if it's not the genre that they love to listen to, there are people showing up," Kazmyn said. "I think that makes it really unique compared to other places and events."

As I was going between shows, I ran into Forest Templin, the marketing coordinator for the event. Excitedly, he pulled out his phone to show me a photo: a tattoo artist had made their own sign and hosted a pop-up in their space as part of the overall festival. This is what they were hoping for; the staff wanted people in the community to host pop-ups and use the platform to showcase even more music.

They felt it was unexpected to have it happen in the first year, but a good kind of unexpected.

"We're just doing everything we can to give back to our friends, family, and the community that are here," Templin said. "Since this is the first year, it's a new concept, it's hard to imagine where the vision can go but it's a very positive collaborative, growing experience."

With a successful turnout of over 5,500 people, the planners, movers and shakers are already building big new ideas and aspects they want to implement at next year's iteration... but my lips are sealed.

Are you or someone you know a musician or involved in music? Do you like to talk about your music? Well, email sean@su-spectator.com to potentially be featured in After the Show.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN ALEXANDER



QUEER AND SPIRITUAL: AT THE INTERSECTION OF SPIRITUALITY, SEXUALITY AND IDENTITY

Genny Sheara
Editor-in-Chief



Chloe Platt
Managing Editor

One's spirituality and sexuality are two deeply personal aspects of their being that can evolve throughout their lifetime. For students at Seattle University who seek to explore their own identities as they enter adulthood, finding community on campus can be both a source of security and comfort.

However, some students can often feel that their queerness and spirituality are incompatible traits or that one must be subdued in order to properly explore the other. This contradiction is emboldened by the fact that about half of LGBTQ+ individuals in the United States identify as moderately or highly religious, according to a study from UCLA.

Anabella Vucci, a third-year public affairs and women, gender, & sexuality studies major, grew up in Christianity, and commented on her hesitation to talk about sexuality in religious spaces after seeing the lack of acceptance afforded to a lesbian couple at her childhood church.

"I am straight-passing so I've never had to water down my queerness in religious spaces, I've just had to not mention I was queer," Vucci said.

Rose Lindsey, a third-year creative writing major, grew up in a household where the Christian faith was accepting of those with queer identities, and has found the two to coexist peacefully within the context of their home life.

"I never felt tension between a relationship to God and being queer," Lindsey said. "Though I wouldn't identify as religious in the current day, my younger self never doubted that a God could still love those who are queer—He loved my lesbian parents and their Christian lesbian friends, after all."

Seattle U's Jesuit foundation may intimidate students who have had negative encounters with the Church in the past, leaving them hesitant to openly express themselves. However, for students like Third-year English Major Trent Haynes who initially felt closed off from religion, Seattle U's relationship to spirituality has been welcoming and supportive.

"I really appreciate that one of the safest spaces on campus for queer people is also campus ministry, and that I know so many queer people who are faculty and students at campus ministry," Haynes said. "That definitely opened up in my mind to the possibility that someone could be queer and spiritual."

Haynes feels that institutions and groups on campus that are not exclusive to religious students nonetheless have a special connection to spirituality. One such space is the New Student Retreat, offered annually by Campus Ministry, which provides an opportunity for first-year and transfer students to build community as the academic year begins.

"Campus Ministry is such a foundation for so many campus events... they play so many roles on campus," Haynes said.

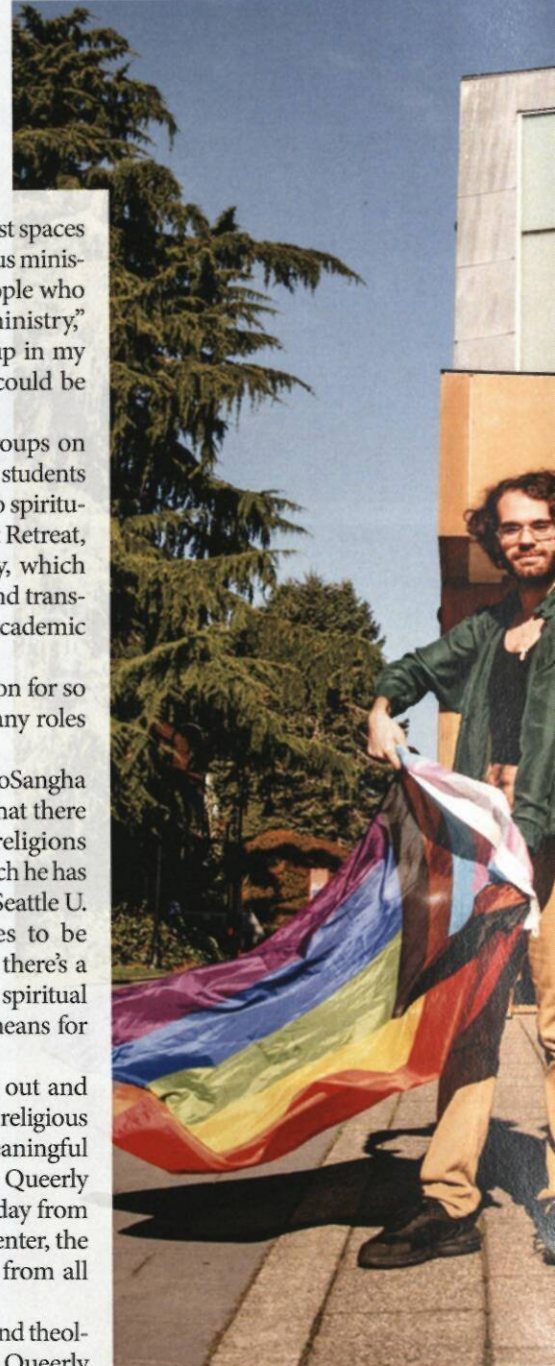
Haynes is also the president of the EcoSangha Zen Community on campus. He feels that there are a multitude of spiritualities and religions represented through campus groups which he has been able to interact with in his time at Seattle U.

"This potential for spiritual spaces to be reclaimed is really beautiful, and I see there's a lot of that on campus. There are queer spiritual people and they're finding what that means for them," Haynes said.

Some students on campus also seek out and work to create spaces for their queer and religious identities to interact in positive and meaningful ways. One such group founded the club Queerly Spiritual. Meeting every other Wednesday from 6:30–7:30 p.m. in the Gender Justice Center, the club welcomes all LGBTQ+ students from all sects and degrees of spirituality.

Al Partington, a second-year English and theology & religious studies student, views Queerly Spiritual as a safe space to remedy the tension felt by students at the intersection of sexuality and spirituality. Partington hopes that the club's new presence on campus presents an opportunity for students to join others with varying experiences to explore both collective and individual identities.

Raymond Carr, a third-year film studies major,



Pride in motion: third-year Seattle University Students, Rose (they/ them) and Gabi (they/ them), wave their flags in front of St. Ignatius Chapel.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JORDIE SIMPSON THE SPECTATOR

spoke to the importance of spaces like Queerly Spiritual, having experienced societal stigma around their intersectional identity.

"It's so important that we have intentional, safe spaces for students to build community with other people who are both queer and spiritual, because there are a lot more of us than I think most people realize," Carr said.

Carr has seen the beauty of these safe spaces both on and off campus, seeing progress in the acceptance and encouragement of historically "unorthodox" religious practices.

"One thing I love about Seattle is being able to see some spaces for organized religions become more accepting of queer identities. For example, there are parishes who allow non-men to preach to the congregation, or one of the female rabbis at a Shabbat service

I attended and her non-binary child whom she proudly honors," Carr said.

Identity, being an inextricably nuanced concept, can manifest itself in endlessly varying ways. While community and shared spaces can help students feel supported, many such as Partington do so in tandem with an inner personal journey. Having done introspective work into their own identity, Partington is looking forward to using their experience to assist in leading others.

"As a transmas/nonbinary, AFAB, Chinese adoptee, I think I tend to focus a lot of my energy and spiritual practices around coming home to myself and my body," Partington wrote to *The Spector*. "I've found that I can serve others best when I am in tune with myself first."

While exploring one's identity can be hindered by close-mindedness, the blossoming of personal expression can sometimes be inadvertently catalyzed by a lack of acceptance. In Carr's case, they discovered more and more about themselves after leaving a Christian youth group that promoted anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric.

"I felt like I had to choose one or the other. So I chose my newly-forming queer identity and had a hard time bridging the two things for many years," Carr said. "Now I have crafted my own personal spirituality that celebrates all of my identities and sees them as sacred and divine."

For Lindsey, the more solidified they became in their queerness, the more spiritual they began to feel; their relationship with the universe strengthened alongside their relationship with themselves.

"The more I allow myself to exist as a queer individual, the more connection I've

felt towards the energy I place out into the universe," Lindsey stated.

Being queer and experiencing wholehearted queerness... that's a spiritual experience in and of itself."

for the existence of spaces to experience spirituality and queerness, this sense of community and acknowledgement isn't inherently exclusive to clubs.

Partington believes that creating a wider awareness of the existence of queer, spiritual students is imperative to expanding the breadth of allyship, both generally and on Seattle U's campus.

"One way students can be better allies is unlearning the harmful narrative that you can't be religious and queer, as well as getting rid of the notion that no religious person can be an ally," Partington said.

Similarly to Partington, Carr expressed that part of engaging thoughtfully with other students on campus is not assuming that someone can only feel connected to one or the other identity.



ANNABELLE DEGUZMAN-CARINO THE SPECTATOR

"Students can be better allies ... by engaging thoughtfully in their day to day lives, without assuming that because one student identifies openly [as queer or spiritual] that they couldn't identify with the other as well," Carr stated.

Identity is ever-evolving. Societal conversations on different facets of personhood are consistently reshaped by time and discourse; one's own experience of personal identity can be affected just the same.

As students continue to openly identify themselves as both spiritual and queer, it is the evolution of preconceived notions on what identities can and cannot coexist that will impact the manner in which they interact with themselves and others.

"Everyone should feel permitted to experience the world beyond themselves, in whatever way feels right and true, including the queer truths," Lindsey said.

What is a Walk-On?

George Burquest

Staff Reporter

There is a certain connotation associated with the term “walk-on.” Oftentimes, they are thought of as practice players, benchwarmers or backups. However, whether they are recruited out of high school, or join the team officially through a tryout, walk-ons are full members of their respective teams and, in large part, the backbone of some college sports. As non-scholarship athletes, walk-ons are different from the majority of their teammates—many of whom are on partial or full athletic scholarships.

There are National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regulations guiding which sports can hand out full scholarships, and in certain sports stipulating how the allotment of “full ride scholarships” must be split up.

David Whyte, the assistant athletic director for Compliance and Student Athlete Services at Seattle University, shared how school administration operates under the same set of NCAA guidelines as all other Division I schools.

“For women’s basketball, men’s basketball and volleyball, everyone on the roster who is not a walk-on is a full scholarship athlete,” Whyte said.

But this is not the case for every team.

“Baseball has 11.7 full ride scholarships they can give out, but they must break that up among 27 athletes, with the remaining eight on the roster of 35 considered walk-ons,” Whyte said.

Once committing, walk-ons aren’t guaranteed any playing time, but they are offered a spot on the roster.

For those with hopes of potentially joining one of Seattle U’s Division I athletic teams post-enrollment, there are opportunities there too. Those spots can be elusive though.

“Teams can have tryouts if they want to and if they need more walk-ons,” Whyte said. “But for the most part, there are mostly preferred walk-ons at Seattle U.”

Preferred walk-ons are athletes who were offered to join the team out of high school, as compared to going through a formal tryout. Matt Levis, a computer science major and junior guard for the Seattle U Men’s Basketball

team, was one of those preferred walk-ons. But, just a few weeks ago, Levis achieved the ultimate goal of any walk-on and earned himself a full ride scholarship after three years of hard work and unconditional commitment. Levis appeared in a career-high 22 games last season, becoming a mainstay in the team’s rotation.

Coming out of high school, Levis had no offers to play college basketball until Seattle U called him at the end of the summer, offering a preferred walk-on spot. Levis had something to prove from the start.

“Getting used to college athletics itself was weird to me,” Levis said. “But on top of that, having that label of a walk-on made me different from the rest of the guys.”

After finally achieving his dream of playing college basketball, Levis described a conversation with Head Coach Chris Victor.

“He asked me, ‘Are you satisfied with just being part of the team, or do you want something more?’ And to that I said, ‘No I’m not satisfied,’ and I set myself the goal of earning a scholarship... [I] didn’t want to be labeled as ‘that walk-on’ anymore,” Levis said.

He was immediately welcomed to the team by the other players, but still had an internal drive to prove to himself he belonged on the court as much as anyone else.

Levis’ story is a heartwarming one, and as he described it, “one of the top three moments of [his] life,” upon the announcement of his scholarship during a team meeting after practice. However, not every walk-on gets the schol-



arship they dream of, and not everyone who dreams of walking on gets that chance.

Amsalu Schmidt, a third-year business administration major and manager of the men’s basketball team, has been interested in walking on ever since his senior year of high school.

But as mentioned by Whyte previously, tryouts are a rare occurrence at Seattle U—even for Schmidt, who has been a manager since his freshman year.

“I talked to them at the very beginning,” Schmidt said. “They weren’t going to hold tryouts, and if they did, they would be very discreet.”

The men’s basketball team has not held tryouts since Schmidt has been at Seattle U, but he is hopeful for this year.

“Communication has been very slow, in terms of when the tryouts might be and what might be involved, but they have told me they will be having them this year,” Schmidt said.

With no official date or time for a tryout as of yet, Schmidt’s story of trying to walk on post-enrollment is not uncommon.

Based on necessity, NCAA guidelines and funding, collegiate athletics are both complicated and extremely competitive. If you go to watch a game, meet, or event this year, be sure to remember the walk-ons who dedicate their time and abilities to their sport without a scholarship.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEATTLE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Mariners Miss Playoffs Again, Fans Still Hopeful for Future

Marisa Sexsmith
Volunteer Reporter

The Seattle Mariners were unable to make the playoffs this year, their 21st time missing the playoffs in 22 seasons. Last year, the team made the playoffs for the only time in that span. This sparked hope within the dedicated fanbase of what they had to look forward to in the future.

But missing the playoffs by just a few games this year left fans disappointed and wondering if they are about to face another streak of playoff-less seasons. Longtime Mariners fan Gretchen Coe, who has been attending games since the 1990s, explained her thoughts on this season's end.

"I am optimistic as long as the M's add an impact player or two. The team played their hearts out this year and could have made the playoffs with just a tiny bit of help," Coe said.

Their biggest impact player this year was All-Star outfielder Julio Rodríguez, whose 17 hits over a four-game span in August set an MLB record. Still, Seattle's combined on-base percentage of .321 and run total of 758 were both right at league average. With the lack of definitive hitting star power, some might be concerned about the resilience of the fanbase.

However, Mariners fans have proven that there is more to the game than winning. In Seattle, fans are seen wearing their jerseys year-round no matter how their squad is playing.

"Baseball is an act of optimism that begins in April. We start each season with hope. More often than not, our hearts are broken

by September. Still, we return each spring with renewed hope," Coe said.

Mark Padilla, a first-year biology major, and Harrison Limbaugh, an undeclared first-year, both Seattle University students, attended the Sept. 30 Mariners vs. Rangers game. The game ended 6-1 for the Rangers, ending the Mariners' playoff hopes.

"Being my first-ever professional baseball game, it was such a great atmosphere. I really enjoyed the Mariners fans even as they were fighting a losing battle," Padilla said.

The loss hit the fans hard. This kind of disappointment wasn't expected because the Mariners had won 8-0 the night before.

"Everyone came to the game with high hopes but by the third inning we were losing, it was pretty disappointing," Limbaugh said.

But the experience in the stadium echoed Coe's sentiments of hope. Michelle Lee, an employee with the Mariners' guest experience staff, explained her experience with fans this year.

"People were happy, hopefully, excited to be at the ballpark. The chatter about the standings was a constant topic of discussion, no exaggeration," Lee said. "The anticipation was palpable and so exciting to be hopeful about Mariners baseball."

That excitement was warranted—the Mariners were in first place in their division in August. But they were unable to keep that momentum into September and eventually lost out on the playoff opportunity. The abrupt change was obvious in the crowd, as some fans became discouraged about the future of



the team.

"Pretty much the common grievances were everything you heard on talk radio and social media: all of the should've, could've, would've. More money, different lineups, different trades, better hitting..." Lee said.

There is no concern over whether the fans will be there to support their team. But will the Mariners be able to reward their fans with the successful season many think they deserve? As Coe said earlier, many fans are frustrated with the lack of star power on the team. The Mariners are lacking in their ability to score runs and be a threat offensively. Only seven players have a batting average higher than .250, and none meet .300, which is considered excellent.

Whether the team is winning or losing, the Mariners staff wants to provide the best experience possible for their fans. As a result, fans come back year after year with a renewed sense of hope no matter what the results of the season before were.

"Fans are so important to the game and experience. We show up to work and hope fans will also show up to watch," Lee said. "The players commented numerous times this season and last how important it was to them that the fans showed up and supported them, the energy in the stadium makes this job so much fun."

The Mariners' fan experience is not dictated by the team's play, for better or for worse. For decades the Mariners have drawn in a dedicated and optimistic fan base. A fan base that is not going anywhere in the near future, what's left now is for the Mariners to achieve their goals and thank their fans for their dedication with a successful playoff run.



PHOTOS BY SEAN ALEXANDER

NBA Preseason Update: Lillard Trade Reinforces Contenders

Qasim Ali
Sports & Opinion Editor

The National Basketball Association (NBA) season starts Oct. 24, and fans are in for a different look. Specifically, the top teams from the league's Eastern Conference, the Milwaukee Bucks and Boston Celtics, have increased their star power in a flurry of moves.

The first domino to fall was All-NBA point guard Damian Lillard's departure from his team of 11 years, the Portland Trail Blazers. He was traded to the Bucks Sept. 27 for multiple players and draft picks in a three-team deal. It was a trade Lillard, whose loyalty to the city has become that of NBA lore, requested.

Lillard's time in Portland led to seven All-NBA selections and a spot on the NBA's prestigious 75th Anniversary Team, a list of the 75 best players in league history. But as far as team success goes, the Blazers made the conference finals just once, never quite putting together a championship team.

Even as Lillard had a career season, averaging over 32 points per game (PPG) last year, he didn't have a co-star or veteran team to lean on. As a result, Portland's mediocre offensive output and bottom-10 defense had them on the outside of the NBA playoffs for a second consecutive season.

The team had put off the trade for years, but after having to shut down Lillard before April due to losses piling up and injuries, you got the sense that it was finally closing time

for the Blazers.

The deal left Portland with a wealth of picks and some solid young players to build with, including former Phoenix Suns center Deandre Ayton. Ayton, a former first-overall pick, will be paired with Portland's most recent first round pick, guard Scoot Henderson. As Henderson develops and the Blazers reckon with finding an identity outside of Lillard, Portland is in for a rough few seasons.

The upside is that the franchise will have no problem selling jerseys during this period. Henderson's ability to attack the rim is reminiscent of Lillard's, and his highly-touted passing ability may make "Henderson to Ayton" a recurring theme in Pacific Northwest hoops. But without Lillard's otherworldly shooting ability and killer mentality in late-game situations that earned him the moniker of "Dame Time," it'll take time for Blazers fans to move on.

Those are issues of the west though. More than anything, this was an aggressive move to put the Bucks back at the top of the Eastern Conference's big board of contenders.

Lillard will be joining a franchise that has championship pedigree, having won the Finals in 2021. Most of all, he will be joining fellow 75th Anniversary team member and multi-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo in Milwaukee. Lillard's specialty

as a long-distance shooter creates space for Antetokounmpo, a prolific slasher, to attack the rim.

In the past, teams like the 2019 Toronto Raptors have folded their entire defense to wall off the painted area from the "Greek Freak." This daring defensive strategy leaves shooters open, and Antetokounmpo's supporting cast hasn't been up to the task of shooting lights out from 3-point range in the past.

Lillard has made the sixth-most 3-pointers in league history.

Needless to say, teams will need to make a choice when defending Milwaukee. Still, the Bucks sit tied for second in preseason betting odds.

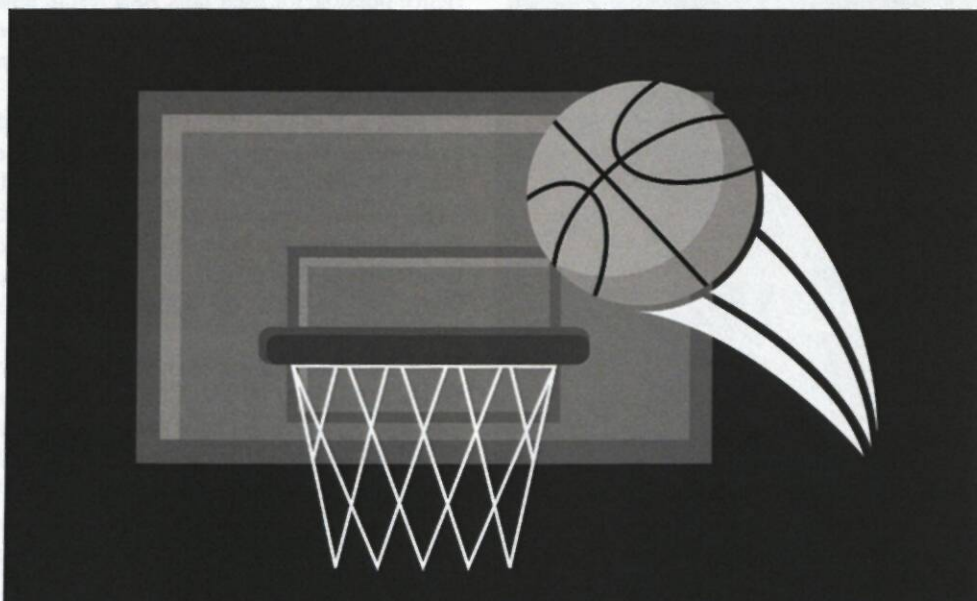
The Celtics sit atop the league, and they're doing it with the Bucks' previous guard, Jrue Holiday. Holiday's arrival in Boston via Portland from the Lillard trade patches a need for the Celtics. Although they've appeared in the conference finals in five of the last seven years, rarely have they had a reliable scoring point guard.

And no, Kyrie Irving does not count.

Holiday scores almost 75% of his two-pointers on unassisted shots and over 57% of his three-pointers without a pass to set him up—the seventh-lowest of any player in the NBA last season. Holiday, touted as a career lockdown defender, has the ability to get his own shots. For Celtics star wing players Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, that will relieve plenty of offensive pressure.

Both the Bucks and Celtics were contenders in the east far before the Lillard trade transpired, but they'll win in new and possibly more exciting ways now. The Lillard-Antetokounmpo duo will have defenses ripping up their gameplan on a nightly basis while Holiday's ability to handle the ball, score and defend the opposition's best will let Boston's stars play as true wings. Needless to say, prices have been paid: The Bucks had to sacrifice a defensive piece in Holiday and the Celtics have forgone their depth, losing key starters and bench players like Marcus Smart, Robert Williams and Grant Williams this offseason.

Either way, if star power buys you anything in this league, the Bucks and Celtics are the biggest spenders of the offseason. Now, determining whether those plans pan out is why they play the games.



NATALIE SCHORR THE SPECTATOR

A Five Foot College Student Takes On René Rapp's "Snow Hard Feelings Tour"

Madi Oswald

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Being squeezed into a space too small to comfortably occupy with limited viewpoints was not how I foresaw my evening playing out. Yet, an overall infatuation with the surrounding music pulled me into a wondrous trance and headspace, where I did not care about anything else.

Just an hour earlier, I had been pleasantly sitting on the floor basking in the excitement of what would arrive shortly. But when you stand at five feet tall and are in the pit of a concert, the comfortability wears off quickly.

An hour later, I was stuck in the sweaty cluster of fellow concert-goers, hearing audience members exclaim things like, "I need to take my second BeReal!" and "I LOVE YOU!"

Including two separate openers, René Rapp's Oct. 7 concert was a show to behold. Bringing energetic, empowering vibes, Towa Bird excited the audience. With songs going out to all the bisexuals or renters wishing to give their landlords a piece of their minds, there was a way for everyone to raise their energy.

The second opener was one near and dear to Rapp's heart, Alexander 23. Co-writing and producing "Snow Angel," he more than earned the opportunity to showcase his own talents, and perfectly executed the challenge of preparing the audience for the main event. Covering "Steal My Girl" by One Direction and playing his best hits, it is safe to say the crowd fell in love with the 28-year-old American singer-songwriter.

Now that the audience was buzzing with excitement, the long wait for Rapp began. As anybody who has been to a concert knows, this is the worst part of any show. One minute feels like 10, people are anxiously bouncing in an attempt to keep their energy in, and I began to rethink why this sounded like a fun idea. But the lights dimmed, and I was overtaken with enough adrenaline to make this, once again, the best idea ever.

Screaming, loud enough that I felt the force of it, ruptured from every crowd member and filled any vacant space left in the theater. It



GENNY SHEARA THE SPECTATOR

seemed like a worthy welcome, however, as Rapp stepped onto the stage with a grandiloquent entrance.

Starting off with two upbeat, peppy songs, "Talk Too Much" and "Poison Poison," the audience jumped while singing their hearts out. And it quickly became clear how Rapp has gotten to where she is.

Self-confident, charismatic and witty, she danced her way around the entire stage. Only concerned with having fun, Rapp carried an authentic vibe through her whole setlist.

"Willow," with lyrics directed towards an individual facing the challenges of growing up, and "Pretty Girls," emphasizing attraction, manipulation and self-deception, had the whole audience singing along. With the majority of Rapp's demographic being queer women in their 20s, these songs portrayed collective emotions.

As "Tummy Hurts" began to play, loud cheers from the crowd ensued. Towa Bird had sauntered onstage, with her guitar and a beaming smile. The original song was more of a slow, pop song, but it became a whole new vibe with Bird's added rock elements. And the two put on quite a show as they danced and sang together.

Rapp had one more surprise up her sleeve as she invited her other opener and collaborator onstage for "I Wish." A slower melody with heartfelt lyrics came alive as Rapp's outstanding vocals took the song to a whole new level. Featuring Alexander in the live performance gave a whole new sense of personality to the observing audience.

As most artists are doing nowadays, Rapp included an encore in her established setlist. This allowed her to make an epic exit that stayed with the crowd as they exited the venue. Returning after the short intermission, Rapp appeared in an all-white suit, making her an angel with the wings projected on the screen behind her. A truly angelic performance ensued, with vocals reverberating off the detailed Paramount Theater ceilings and bringing the audiences together to sing the choruses along Rapp.

Even though the squishy crowd had me doubting if I would enjoy my time, Rapp and her openers brought a performance that was hard to not fall in love with. I highly encourage anyone to see René Rapp live if the option ever presents itself.

Ahoy! Nintendo & the Seattle Aquarium Partner to Bring “New Horizons” to Life

Leila Bunker
Staff Reporter

As of Oct. 7, Nintendo of America and the Seattle Aquarium have brought the Emerald City the ultimate “critter crossover.” For a limited time, aquarium visitors have the opportunity to dive into an immersive experience that features fan-favorite characters from *Animal Crossing: New Horizons*.

According to the aquarium, this partnership is the first of its kind in North America. The only other *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* aquarium experience that has been brought to life was at the Umigatari Joetsu Aquarium in Japan.

Animal Crossing is a Nintendo game that was originally released in 2001. Since then, the franchise has gained five different versions for players to enjoy with *New Horizons*, an island themed game, being the latest release in 2020. *Animal Crossing* has become one of Nintendo’s most beloved games among fans, noted for its calming nature and quirky and iconic characters.

The aquarium’s mission is “Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment” and the characters of *Animal Crossing* are serving as the brand ambassadors this fall. Emily Malone, the public relations specialist for the Seattle Aquarium, expressed that the

partnership with Nintendo allows the aquarium to communicate the importance of marine conservation in a unique way to attendees.

“You can’t really inspire people to want to change their habits or necessarily care without being face to face and exposing people to these amazing creatures and these amazing habitats,” Malone said. “It’s about exposing people to a whole new world, and I think *Animal Crossing* kind of does that in its own way as well.”

Malone went on to explain that the only way to improve conditions for the ocean and marine life is to get everybody involved. Reaching out to people across different platforms allows the aquarium to do so.

As the *New Horizons* exhibit was assembled with the intention to be a more engaging experience, those who attend the aquarium can expect to find themed marine life descriptions that feature information directly from the game. These commentary panels are presented by the character “Blathers,” an owl that is the curator of the in-game museum. One can also expect to find life-size standees of familiar characters from the game such as Isabelle, Tom Nook, Pascal and more, as well as the opportunity to play a bingo scavenger hunt via a smart device.



HANNAH SUTHERLAND

The Seattle Aquarium

Kaya Brown-Carveth, a second-year criminal justice major, had the opportunity to visit the aquarium in the past weekend. She expressed that she was drawn to attend because of the *Animal Crossing* theme. She was excited to find that one of her favorite elements of the game was included throughout the exhibits.

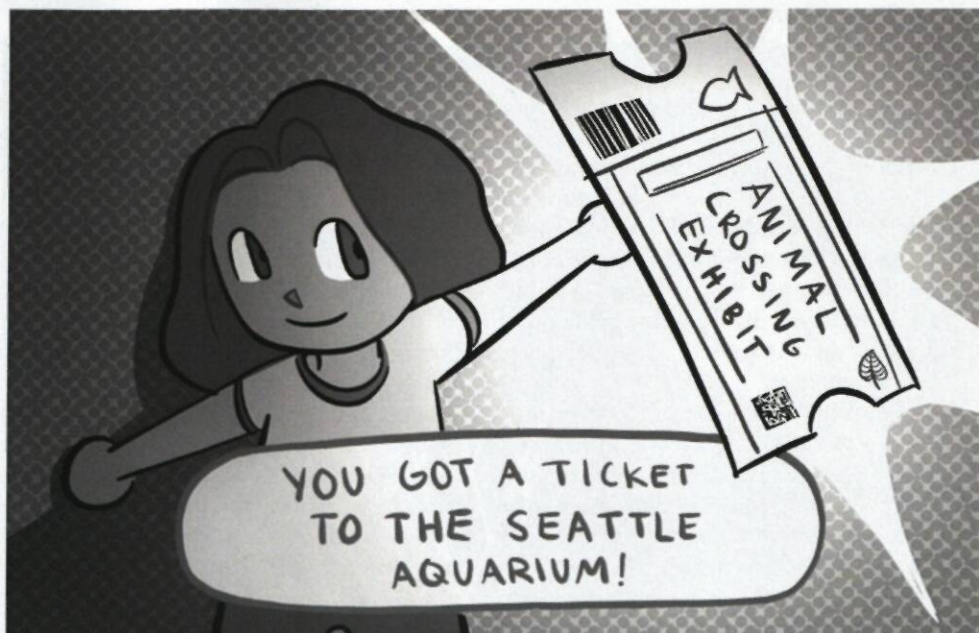
“One of the things I really enjoyed seeing the aquarium bring to life was the ‘critterpedia.’ I think that *Animal Crossing* and the aquarium both share educational aspects about themselves,” Carveth said. “As someone that is an *Animal Crossing* lover, I thought it was really neat that the aquarium was able to incorporate the blurbs of information about the critters that the game provides its players.”

Video games have become integrated into the lives of younger generations that have grown up with access to technology, whether that be a gaming console or a smartphone. With that, aquariums and institutions are constantly searching for ways to adapt to a world that has become more involved with the everyday use of technology. Partnerships like the one that the Seattle Aquarium and Nintendo share is one method that can potentially be effective in retaining the interest of young people about issues of conservation.

Eliza Blythe, a second-year environmental studies major, thinks that the collaboration between Nintendo and the aquarium is unique. However, a technology-based world worries her and what that means for younger audiences that seek to disconnect themselves in virtual ways from reality.

“*Animal Crossing* is based on cool things about the world that are worth exploring and protecting,” Blythe said. “I think it’s fun that the aquarium is using the game as a strategy to appeal to a wider audience, but I hope that people actually reflect on the importance of the message they are trying to send.”

The *Animal Crossing* exhibition is set to run until Dec. 31 and will be on display during regular hours.



KAY MCHUGH THE SPECTATOR

AI in the Arts and Public Policy

Luca Del Carlo
Lead Designer

With the sudden rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT and Dall-E, issues surrounding intellectual property rights and copyright laws have become a pressing concern in Hollywood and visual arts as a whole. Recent writer strikes have emphasized the necessity to scrutinize the new technology and pass public policy to regulate it.

Darian Mullen, a first-year law student at Seattle University, seemed apprehensive yet curious about the technology.

“ChatGPT is something I’m keeping my eye on. As someone interested in intellectual property law, I wouldn’t say I’m interested in ChatGPT specifically,” Mullen said.

Although ChatGPT has become one of the most notorious language models in popular culture right now, developing AI software reaches beyond chat programs. Adobe recently launched a new Generative AI built into beta versions of Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. Adobe AI emphasizes its time-saving features, which seems to be a great appeal of the technology.

The Artificial Intelligence Law Society is a club on campus that aims to encourage conversation about AI—their most recent presentation delved into ChatGPT and Dall-E.

Keith Wassner, a third-year law student and the vice president of the Artificial Intelligence



LUCA DEL CARLO THE SPECTATOR

Keith Wassner, the Vice President of the Artificial Intelligence Law Society.

Law Society, expressed his optimism for the future of AI.

“I think that ChatGPT obviously has a lot of propensity for great good and also for great evil, especially with the political climate and conflicts that are happening right now; deep fakes and propaganda,” Wassner said.

Wassner also continued to describe the complexity of new inventive technology.

“It’s really easy to pump out fake stuff. But on the other hand, you saw the video, it comes up with an adorable story about a sunflower hedgehog, and writes really eloquent stories,” Wassner said, referencing the advertisement from OpenAI showcasing a mother using ChatGPT to expand on a story about a fictional hedgehog named Larry for her daughter who

originally came up with the concept.

Wassner noted that Generative AI works well as a practical time-saving tool, but what that increased efficiency means for workers is still ambiguous.

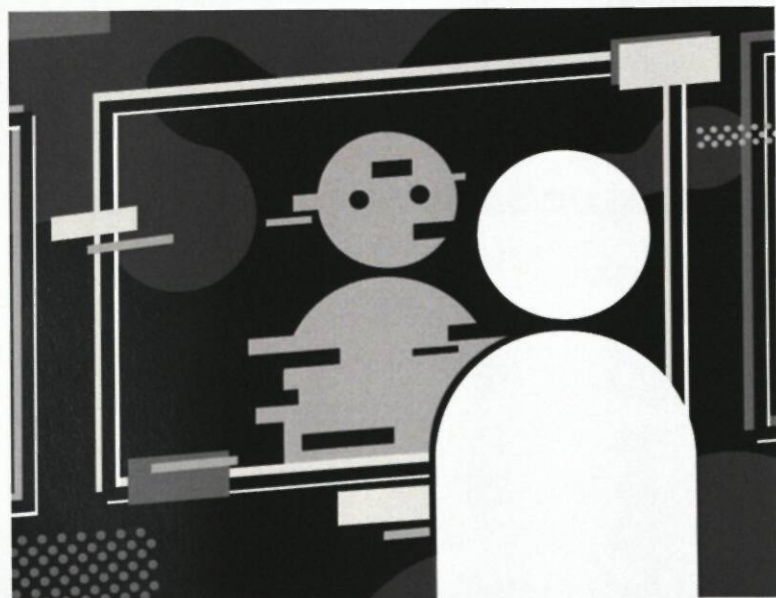
“I’m hoping to be somebody who’s in a position to help guide this down a path that balances the powerful things that we can do with this tool, versus the harmful effects that can come with being reckless with it,” Wassner said.

In Wassner’s presentation, he talked about how OpenAI has gone through efforts to inhibit the creation of copyright imagery. Dall-E, for example, can no longer replicate styles of living artists, which was a common frustration expressed by creatives online. Wassner hopes to get their club more involved with the arts department as well as the computer science department on campus.

President of the Artificial Intelligence Law Society and Third-year Law Student, Matt Rupel, spoke on the future of AI.

“I think that generally, new technologies open up unexpected and unanticipated avenues for human exploration and human development. It’s sort of [like] the wool looms of England, where we don’t know what sort of creative destruction will be the result of it. But it has a lot of potential to create new opportunities in the world, [and] it’s exciting to see the development of the technology that has that kind of capacity,” Rupel said.

Rupel concluded by urging students to continue to participate in conversations surrounding the topic. He encourages students interested in all facets of AI to take part in the club.



ANNABELLE DEGUZMAN-CARINO

The Comics



SEDGE RINS

Spectator's Picks

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

19

5 - 7 PM

Pumpkin Palooza with SEAC

Student Center 160

21

2 - 4 PM

Cards for Kids

Student Center 350

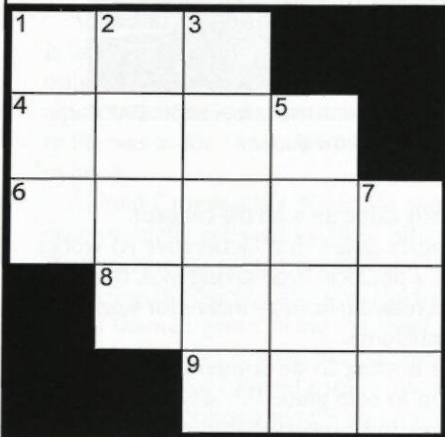
24

12:30 - 1:20 PM

Be Well @ Bell

Bellarmine Advising Center Lobby

The Mini Crossword



Find the answers for this week at seattlespectator.com



Across

1. Alternative to coffee
4. Could be x, y or even z
6. Gives a title to
8. Large
9. 24 hours

Down

1. What one might get in the summer
2. Test
3. Shot for
5. Creators of Sonic the Hedgehog
7. Speak

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