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October 26, 2023

THE SPECTATOR

Seattle
University's
Strategic
Directions
Toward
Sustainability



p. 8

Seattle Kaiser Unions
Expect Strike

News

p. 4

Redemption: #13 Seattle
U Men's Soccer scores 2-1
Senior Day Win

Sports

p. 10

The Seattle Queer Film
Festival is Perfectly Queer
[REVIEW]

A&E

p. 13

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STAFF

- 3 The Spectator's Statement on Coverage of the Israel-Hamas War

NEWS

- 4 Seattle Kaiser Unions Expect Strike
6 House Speaker Election Narrowly Avoids Government Shutdown

OPINION

- 7 Concert Culture Has a Problem

FEATURE

- 8 Seattle University's Strategic Directions Toward Sustainability

SPORTS

- 10 Redemption: #13 Seattle U Men's Soccer Scores 2-1 Senior Day Win
11 New Sports Announced for 2028 Los Angeles Olympics
12 Reset for Success: Previewing Seattle U Women's Basketball

A & E

- 13 The Seattle Queer Film Festival is Perfectly Queer [REVIEW]
14 Oh, my Gourd! PSL is Back [REVIEW]
15 Is Drake Even Trying Anymore? [REVIEW]

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The Spectator is the official student newspaper of Seattle University. It is published every Wednesday, except for the first week of the quarter, final examination periods and university breaks.

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The Spectator's Statement on Coverage of the Israel-Hamas War

The Spectator Editorial Board

The Spectator would like to update our readers on our lack of coverage thus far regarding the Israel-Hamas War (as referred to by the Associated Press)—a conflict which has cost the lives of over 1,300 Israelis according to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and over 6,500 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip according to the Palestinian Health Ministry, a number that grows by the hour. This is the most recent development in a long and bloody history in the region, as of Oct. 25.

This development began Oct. 7 when Hamas militants killed hundreds of Israeli citizens in indiscriminate shootings and bombings, prompting an Israeli military response that has killed thousands of Palestinian citizens. That response seems to be just the beginning, as the IDF has clarified that it will “expand operational activities,” with a ground invasion of Gaza being repeatedly mentioned by Israeli brass. The United Nations (UN) has recognized the IDF’s response as “collective punishment” and a war crime against civilians.

As student journalists, we have been working in the past weeks to provide readers with coverage that is unbiased, informative, empathetic and factually accurate. We have run into roadblocks that have forced the editorial board to delay stories pertaining to the ongoing bloodshed. However, we feel that rushing our coverage would be a disservice to the gravity of the situation and our university community.

As editors, we hold ourselves and our publication to high standards of journalistic integrity. We also recognize that part of that integrity is acknowledging when we are noticeably quiet on major world events and we will not make excuses for that absence of content.

As a newspaper, we are committed to platforming voices in our campus community, particularly those who call for social justice. As such, we encourage everyone to read the statement written by the Seattle University Muslim Student Association and Students for Justice in Palestine and co-signed by 33 campus clubs and organizations calling for solidarity and support for the people of Palestine. We would like to express our support for our fellow campus organizations and condolences for all who are grieving.

We appreciate your patience and continued readership, and we expect to share articles in the coming weeks.



People walking in front of the Kaiser Permanente building.

JORDIE SIMPSON THE SPECTATOR

Seattle Kaiser Unions Expect Strike

Hudson Byrne

Volunteer Reporter

Despite Kaiser Permanente reaching a tentative deal with union members across the nation, Western Washington healthcare unions have declined the offer, asking for higher pay and better benefits. Washington is now the only state where Kaiser workers intend to be on strike.

For over six months, unions and board members deliberated on a new deal that would benefit the unions and the Kaiser corporation. Because Kaiser did not agree to their requests, unions went on a three-day strike beginning Oct. 1, demanding higher hourly minimum pay, greater benefits and increased staffing.

If Kaiser Permanente workers of Washington fail to reach a deal with health care providers by Oct. 31, a strike will occur. In the event that that happens, 3,000 Kaiser Permanente employees across 36 locations will walk out, the union announced.

“This marks the largest healthcare strike in American history, with over 75,000 healthcare workers participating.”

Though only lasting three days, this strike signified a trend of American workers moving toward another labor movement.

The new contract—agreed to by all workers except those under Washington healthcare unions—lasts until October 2026 and includes performance based bonuses, higher wages for night shifts and a higher minimum salary of \$23 per hour, rising by 5% every year to adjust for cost of living increases.

Experts in Seattle speculate that this is still not a living wage. Seattle is ranked by many sources as one of the most expensive cities in America, with the cost of living sitting 50% above the national average. The National Low Income Housing Coalition reports that to afford two-bedroom housing in Seattle, renters must make a minimum of \$40 per hour, almost double of what was given to Kaiser workers.

From 2017 to 2020, Gregory Adams, CEO of Kaiser Permanente, nearly tripled his payroll, from just below seven million to nearly eight-



JORDIE SIMPSON THE SPECTATOR

Signage in front of Kaiser Permanente.

teen million in 2020. A Kaiser Permanente worker, who wishes to remain anonymous, commented on how union members in his area feel about the CEO's rise in pay.

“The overall consensus is that they get paid too much. There is an increasing need for services, but the amount of staffing has not been increased.”

According to Butch de Castro, dean of Seattle University's College of Nursing, short staffing is common in many hospitals.

“There has been a number of shortages with nursing staff occurring across the country,” de Castro said.

This is not the first time Kaiser Permanente unions have voiced their opinion about understaffing. In 2017, the union's main agenda was to push for safe staffing. This not only benefits workers, but also helps patients get timely care.

In a study that researched the safety implications of understaffing among nurses conducted by Stephanie Anel, researchers found that, “nurses who are in units experiencing higher levels of expertise, understaffing may be especially likely to feel mentally ‘stretched,’ leading to more cognitive failures, such as lapses in memory, perceptions or attention.”



JORDIE SIMPSON THE SPECTATOR

Signage in front of Kaiser Permanente.

Kaiser workers reported the same dilemma to The Washington Post. Business reporter Aaron Gregg wrote that, “Workers told The Washington Post that the staff shortages are at a breaking point in many clinics, resulting in a worsening of patient care and an erosion of mental health among front-line providers.”

The treatment of these nurses has wide reaching implications for the future of healthcare. Data from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing reflects that by 2027, nearly one-fifth of the 4.5 million registered nurses in America plan to leave the workforce.

To Sarah James, an organizer for Workers Strike Back, the answer to why Kaiser continues to neglect the needs of their staff is simple. “Because they can,” James said.

James also spoke on the complications of healthcare strikes due to union contracts. Healthcare workers can only strike at a certain time, minimizing the impact they have on corporations.

“They just don't have enough leverage,” James said.

If given more leverage, James believes these unions would have been able to receive more benefits and far better pay.

Considering Kaiser Permanente's work with unions in recent years, Western Washington workers will have trouble receiving all they are asking for. If a new deal is not reached within the next week, union members will strike from Nov. 1–8.

House Speaker Election Narrowly Avoids Government Shutdown



Jocelyn Garcia
Volunteer Reporter

LUCA DEL CARLO THE SPECTATOR

After weeks of deliberations and political discourse surrounding Congress, the United States House of Representatives has now elected Representative Mike Johnson as house speaker Oct. 25. This follows the initial ousting of predecessor Kevin McCarthy, and Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan failing to win enough votes to secure the house speaker position.

Americans began to speculate how the government would function with no speaker for the House of Representatives. There has been past speculation that a government shutdown was inevitable.

A government shutdown occurs when the federal government's funding expires, and Congress has not passed a budget or a continuing resolution to fund government operations for the upcoming fiscal year. The situation can arise when lawmakers are unable to agree on the federal budget or other specific bills, leading to a temporary suspension of non-essential government services and the furlough of federal employees. In this case, lawmakers would be unable to agree on specific laws because there is no speaker of the House to regulate and make decisions.

The results of the first round of votes were

disappointing for Jim Jordan, the main candidate. The House voted 200 to 232, with 20 Republicans voting against Jordan. These members voted for previous candidates for the position such as House Majority Leader Steve Scalise and former Speaker Kevin McCarthy. The next two rounds ended similarly with Jordan falling short, losing by 19 votes in the second round and then by 20 in the third and final round of voting.

Kayla Downing, a third-year political science major, expressed concern for government employees who would be affected in the event of a government shutdown.

"The scariest consequence is that government workers will not receive pay. That doesn't just affect wealthy politicians, but federal employees who are working in affected positions," Downing said.

A shutdown would likely include the furlough of federal employees and the placement of non-essential federal workers on unpaid leave. Essential employees, like those in the military and law enforcement, would continue working without pay until the shutdown is resolved.

History and International Studies Professor Nova Robinson provided insight on the effects

of a potential government shutdown, specifically to government employees.

"A government shutdown of course hurts the individuals who have chosen to work for our federal government and that's perhaps the greatest tragedy. That individuals who have chosen to serve our nation in very admirable ways are the ones that are the victims in this period of political dysfunction,"

Robinson said.

Kai Schnitzius, a second-year international studies and political science major, found the possibility of a shutdown unlikely.

"I think it's possible, but not likely, because they have said this multiple times before and it hasn't really happened yet. But, I wouldn't say that there is never the possibility of it happening," Schnitzius said.

With the recent election of Mike Johnson, Congress has yet again nearly averted a government shutdown, meanwhile some Americans remain concerned about the federal strategies in place.

OPINION: Concert Culture Has a Problem

Sean Alexander, Madi Oswald and Genny Sheara

Director of Photography, Arts & Entertainment Editor and Editor-in-Chief

Actually, it has a lot of problems. From venue overpacking and poor crowd behavior to inflated ticket prices and Live Nation's entertainment monopoly, concert-going now feels like a far cry from what it once was. It's almost impossible to imagine that there was once a time you could follow your favorite band city to city on tour (People still do this and I don't know how -Madi), let alone get tickets for a show without lingering in a Ticketmaster presale portal for hours on end.

In the past few years, all three of us have noticed similar trends. Getting to see your favorite artist live often means spending at least three figures on tickets rife with unexplained 'convenience fees,' and jostling your way to the front of the crowd only to be surrounded by people standing motionless in the hopes of getting the best possible Instagram video. And there's nothing wrong with Instagram videos, but we can't help but feel that the prioritization of social media content over audience participation is smothering whatever embers remain of the live music experience.

There used to be a day when, instead of waiting for hours in a Ticketmaster queue, you were waiting for hours in line to purchase tickets at the box office (Ah, the days before the internet -Sean). However, instead of spending all that money, you just paid \$10 and got a ticket.



SEAN ALEXANDER THE SPECTATOR

Crowded audience at a concert venue.



SEAN ALEXANDER THE SPECTATOR

Pianist onstage.

Gone are the days when one could spontaneously add a concert to their day plans. Instead, we face mobs of pushy fans, tall-people detracting from the view of the stage (Sometimes the tall people break your tooth -Sean) and an overall anxiety-inducing setting. Surrounded by cellphones, the younger generation may be oblivious to these issues. In addition to that, people who lack decorum in social settings.

Imagine snagging tickets to an artist you love and whose vocals you dream of hearing live. Months later, a planned outfit and saved funds lead you to the venue where you find the end of the security line. You quickly realize the crowd is disorganized and eager to head a sprint for the barricade. As security begins, it is a fight for your life while making the trek inside the venue to find a seat or place in the pit. Throughout the entire show, commentary flows from all directions as you get squished perpetually. By the time the concert is over, it feels like all the trouble was not worth it, and regret starts to sink in. It doesn't help that your wallet is now empty. (This scenario is heavily inspired by my Louis Tomlinson concert experience at WAMU Theater -Madi).

This is a scenario that has become more and more frequent for the average concert-goer. Live performances were once a way for fans to feel more connected to their favorite artists; now, it is a struggle to even get inside the venue without being trampled. Overcrowding and understaffing are serious dangers that venues

continue to leave unaddressed.

However, all hope is not lost. There is still one way to capture the spiritual experience of being engulfed in sound with your closest friends and strangers alike. Local shows are the backbone of any city's music scene, and Seattle is one of the most storied examples. Crammed into a dingy bar or house basement, in my (Genny) experience local concert-goers are far more kind, social and ready to mosh and jump around. Performing and getting to see your friends perform is always a highlight as well in these environments. (One time my friend cut open his hand on his bass guitar, wrapped it in his t-shirt and kept playing. It was epic -Sean) I've spent almost every Friday night of my (Genny) teen years dropping seven bucks to dance, sing along and cheer for whoever was playing their heart out on stage.

At their worst, concerts can be an expensive, uncomfortable, disappointing and even dangerous experience. But at their best—and what we believe all concerts have the capacity to be—they're a moment of transcendent connection with those around you. They bring you back to the indescribability of music, felt in all its power, and are an opportunity to share that feeling with the people around you. And at least until audiences at stadium shows acknowledge concerts as a communal event—go to your local venue!

Seattle University's Strategic Directions Toward Sustainability

Genny Sheara
Editor-in-Chief



Chloe Platt
Managing Editor

While the academic year halts for students throughout the solace of summer break, administrators and professors continue to work on university projects. Through Seattle University's monthly Strategic Directions Updates newsletter, students can stay informed on these projects even when class is not in session.

Perhaps most notably, toward the end of the 2022-2023 academic year, Seattle U became the first university in Washington and the first Jesuit university nationwide to fully divest from fossil fuels. This is in tandem with the university's Laudato Si Action Platform (LSAP), which seeks to accomplish sustainability and social justice goals laid about by Pope Francis in his Laudato Si encyclical.

As a nonprofit organization, Seattle U operates an endowment composed of funds from donors—such as university alumni—which is then invested for different purposes. The recent divestment finalized a process of Seattle U ending the endowment's economic investments in the fossil fuel industry.

The shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy alternatives follows public awareness surrounding the correlation between fossil fuels, carbon emissions and climate change. This move also promotes opportunities for renewable energy and other environmentally friendly alternatives.

Seattle U's accomplishment in fossil fuel divestment also reflects its joint identities as being a school in the heart of Seattle and being a Jesuit institution. Seattle U President Eduardo Peñalver spoke to how these identities are reflected by the decision to divest.

"As a Jesuit university, we are committed to caring for our common home and accompanying our students towards a hope-filled future. And, as a city, Seattle is known for its natural beauty and for attracting people who value the environment," Peñalver wrote to *The Spectator*. "Sustainability is in our DNA."

Though this divestment marks a significant achievement for the university, the LSAP's efforts toward sustainability and integral ecology are ongoing.

Jeanette Rodriguez, professor of theology & religious

studies and LSAP steering co-chair, noted that the Pope's encyclical contains language that is fundamental to Seattle U's LSAP goals. She explained that both his remarks and rhetoric are foundationally centered on being in relationship with others and the environment.

"I don't hear that language a lot. We know that zero carbon neutrality or just purchasing affects people, but we don't talk about relationships," Rodriguez said.

Uso we want to emphasize our common humanity and our common home, and that all of us—no matter what area or discipline we're in—we can start collaborating for our shared commitment.

LSAP Steering Co-chair Yolanda Cieters also explained that many of the efforts on campus, including the recent fossil fuel divestment, are initially student-driven.

"It's so great to hear from students—what are the issues that you see? What do you as students, the major population group on this campus, think are changes that need to be made? So much of the effort is student-driven," Cieters said.

In a 2018 statement published on *The Spectator's* website, the campus organization Sustainable Student Action (SSA) noted that the university's decision to begin divestment "was the culmination of a six-year campaign of advocacy and pressure from student organizers," but only another step in the struggle for environmental climate justice.

While students have long been advocating for a greener, more sustainable campus, with faculty support toward the implementation of sustainable initiatives, President

Peñalver hopes for an increasingly collaborative effort.

“I look forward to continuing to collaborate with our students to find new ways for Seattle U to continue to be a leader in this area,” President Peñalver wrote.

Through the strategic initiatives and programs such as the LSAP, the university is currently evaluating what the best next steps will be toward bettering campus sustainability.

Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Chris Van Liew also explained that the university’s environmental and ecological goals are deeply connected to its other ongoing projects.

One such project is the Mission Priority Examen (MPE), a process for the university to reaffirm its Jesuit Catholic mission and engage in Ignatian reflection. The Office of the President released the penultimate draft of the MPE self-study for Fall 2023 Oct. 24 and announced the members of the visiting committee who will be joining campus in late November to assist in the Examen.

Catherine Punsalan-Manlimos, the vice president for mission integration, explained that part of the work of evaluating the university’s commitment to its mission is engaging with the ways in which Seattle U’s Jesuit identity uniquely influences other facets of academic and campus life. For students who may be unfamiliar with Jesuit history or traditions, Punsalan-Manlimos illustrated what exactly that educational mission is.

“It’s regrounding it in this 500 year-old educational tradition that we inherited from the Society of Jesus... there’s so many beautiful characteristics of this kind of education. It’s an education that invites us to really be attentive to not just ourselves, but to the community around us, to the world in which we live, with a special attention to those who are most vulnerable,” Punsalan-Manlimos said.

The vice president also emphasized academic rigor and “education with a purpose” as highlights of her own experience being Jesuit-educated.

Like Cieters and Rodriguez, Punsalan-Manlimos views the sustainability efforts of the university as uniquely Jesuit.

“Laudato Si comes from one of the Pope’s most recent encyclicals, concerned not with just the environment and sustainability, but all dimensions, the whole notion of relationships and interrelatedness. There’s a critical theological foundation for us as a faith-based institution.”

Alongside these efforts is the initiative for the recruitment and retention of BIPOC students and faculty. This is the primary goal of the office of diversity and inclusions’ LIFT SU action plan, developed as Goal 4 of the university’s five-year strategic plan.

Laura Heider, assistant vice president for diversity and inclusion, has been working on LIFT SU and with others in the office on student retention, among other goals.

In the effort to create a more uplifting and supportive campus environment for students with marginalized identities, Heider distinguished a number of programs and organizations available, including the MOSAIC Center, International Student Center, Black Student Union, the Caribbean and Latin American Student Society, the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Student Association, the African Student Association, the Indigenous Student Association, the Indian Student Association and the Triangle Club—among many others.

“Student clubs play a vital role in building community and celebrating identity... [they] help create and sustain belonging and offer an avenue for coordinated advocacy,” Heider wrote.

From an administrative end, Heider also noted that university offices have founded programs aimed at cultivating community—particularly for those with marginalized identities—on campus. These include the Campus Climate Incident Reporting and Response Protocol (CCIRRT), founded in 2022, which seeks to connect students who have faced harm on campus with support and resources.

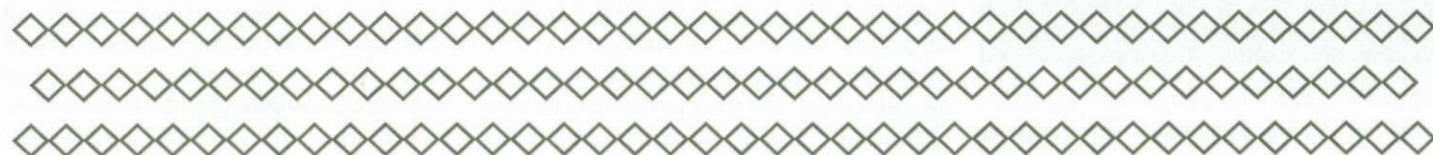
The CCIRRT year-end report from the last academic year (2022-2023) found that 52% of reporting individuals identified as BIPOC, and 79.6% of incidents occurred on-campus.

“Systems, protocols, processes and approaches are either already in place or in development throughout the university to ensure the student experience is affirming, enlivening and empowering, from the first visit to campus until well after crossing the stage as a graduate,” Heider wrote.

Seattle U has made significant progress since its founding. 132 years later it is still developing and growing with the world around it.

Students represent the future of society, and Seattle U faculty and staff work to account for this fact when reviewing university structure and policies.

“All of the faculty and staff at Seattle University are glad you’re here. We value you not only because of what you contribute, but because of who you are as unique and wonderful individuals,” Heider wrote. “It is a privilege to be on this journey together, and I look forward to all of us learning from one another in the years to come.”



Redemption: #13 Seattle U Men's Soccer Scores 2-1 Senior Day Win

Kevin Ruiz
Volunteer Reporter

For the seniors with Seattle University Men's Soccer, winning 2-1 Oct. 21 against San Jose State University (SJSU) was both a nod to the past and the future.

Last November, SJSU beat Seattle U 4-0 in the semifinals of the 2022 WAC Tournament to knock them out of the competition and end their season. This loss closed the chapter on Pete Fewing's career as Seattle U's legendary head coach—Fewing stepped down after 29 seasons at Seattle U.

The contest was an opportunity to redeem themselves against the team that ended their season last year, on one of the most special days of the season: Senior Day.

SJSU looked to be playing spoiler once again when a corner kick driven into the middle of the box led SJSU defender Niklas Dossmann to score right before the halftime whistle. In a half where Seattle U seemed to control the game, leading the Spartans in shots, they were down 1-0.

Nate Daligcon, who is in his first season as the team's head coach, has the team ranked No. 12 in the country as of Oct. 23. He saw this adversity as just another opportunity for his team to show what they are made of.

"We talked about an opportunity [at half-

time]," Daligcon said. "We want to make sure when we walk off that field that we're not looking back at a list of missed opportunities."

But missed opportunities were the story of the first half. After receiving a long ball into the 18-yard box, Senior forward James Morris was left one-on-one with only the sliding keeper to beat. He made a move to his left foot and with nothing but net in sight, his shot hit the post and bounced out of bounds.

Morris, a captain for the Redhawks, who currently leads the team with 10 goals and six assists, has shown his impact on and off the field as a leader during his four years at Seattle U.

"I want people to look back at this team, not just me," Morris said. "I want this team as a whole to be remembered for years to come."

After being down 1-0 and missing a clear chance at a goal, Morris preached resilience to his teammates.

"We've been here many times this season, and that's what makes this team so rare," Morris said. "We always have the belief that we can win."

The team has shown plenty of fight all season long, including an emotional 3-2 victory over a 20th-ranked University of Washington team earlier this season.

The opportunity that Daligcon preached at halftime appeared five minutes into the second half. Another senior made his presence known when midfielder Kotaro Hirokawa found the back of the net in the 48th minute to even up the score at 1-1, assisted by none other than Morris.

The message of resilience seemed to appear in every single player and was something that Morris said started back in August.

"We laid down the ground rules and said, 'hey this is what the standards are and we're not sticking below them,'" Morris said.

As the rain started pouring onto Championship Field, Seattle U was looking for another goal and continued pushing their top-20 scoring offense into the thick of the SJSU defense.

Seattle U's aggressive offensive play caused a series of fouls on both sides. With the atmosphere of the game starting to heat up, players



from both sides began tugging at each other. Seattle U received the bitter half of that, with three yellow cards being handed out to the team in the second half.

But the Redhawks let their play do the talking. At the 62-minute mark, Hirokawa's through ball up the left side to Sophomore midfielder Yeider Zuluaga set up a cross for Morris. Morris's missed shot deflected right into the feet of Senior midfielder Taketo Onodera, who from 18 yards out scored a powerful shot into the bottom left corner as Championship Field erupted. Onodera's goal secured a great come-from-behind win for the Redhawks.

Senior defender Habib Famuditimi called this win "an emotional one, but going out there with your guys and the fans, it's what you play for."

The close win also pushed the Redhawks up a spot in the United Soccer Coaches top-25 poll, as they sit at No. 12.

The future is now reality for the seniors, Daligcon and the rest of the team, as they close the chapter on Championship Field for 2023—the contest marked their final home game of the season. Though with the way this team is playing, it's hard to imagine they won't be competing deep into November with the Western Athletic Conference Tournament looming and an NCAA Tournament berth at stake. The Redhawks hope to continue their resilient play into the competition that starts Nov. 5.

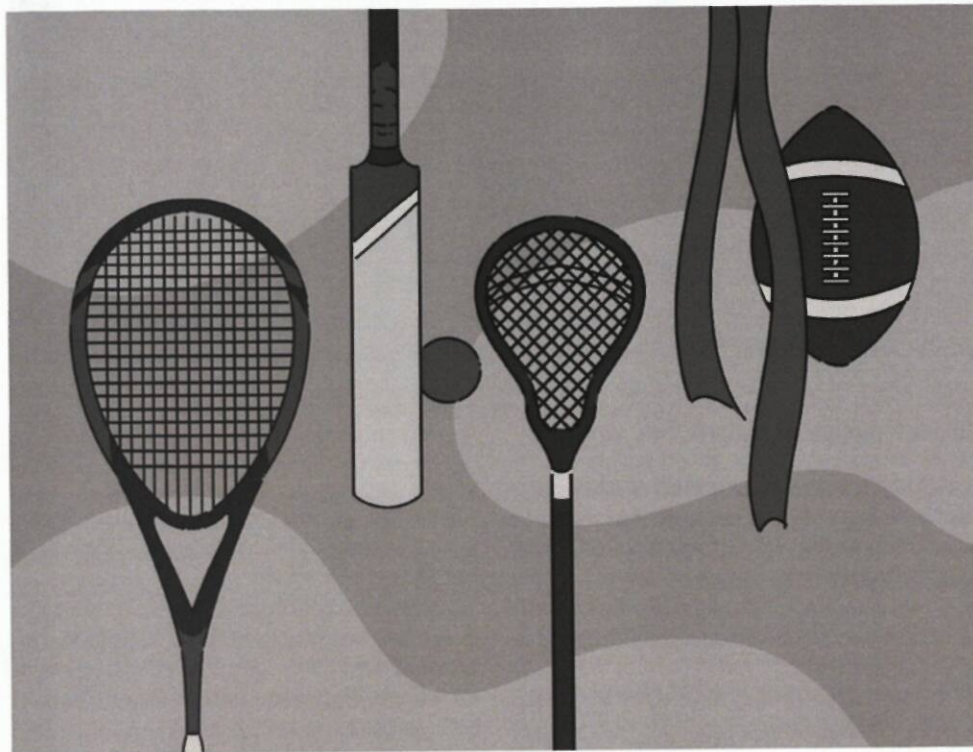
But with more season to play, Daligcon's message to the team is simply, "One game at a time."



Seattle U Men's Soccer.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN ALEXANDER

New Sports Announced for 2028 Los Angeles Olympics



ANNABELLE DEGUZMAN-CARINO THE SPECTATOR

George Burquest
Staff Reporter

The International Olympic Committee announced Oct. 16 that it had accepted a proposal by local organizers of the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles to add squash, cricket, flag football, lacrosse, baseball and softball to the official event pool.

In the cases of squash and flag football, LA 2028 will mark the first time they have been played on the Olympic stage. Cricket has not been included since the 1900 Paris Olympics, and lacrosse has been absent since being featured in 1904 and 1908. Baseball and softball will be skipping over the 2024 Paris Olympics, but were featured as recently as Tokyo in 2020.

There are a variety of factors at play when it comes to what sports are included and added to the Olympics.

Jagan Nemani runs the youth national tournament for Major League Cricket (MLC), a professional cricket organization in the United States founded in 2019. Nemani shared that the inclusion of cricket in the Olympics is something they have been working toward for a

long time.

“One of the big milestones for us was to get cricket in the Olympics,” Nemani said. “One of the things the U.S. is crazy about is the Olympics, and one of the fastest growing sports in the U.S. is cricket. So it is perfect timing to have more people introduced to the sport.”

In the MLC’s inaugural season, which was just this past year 1,400 miles away from LA in Prairieville, Texas, “[the league] beat all of [their] expectations,” according to Nemani. “87% of the games sold out.”

The style of cricket that will be played in the Olympics is Twenty20 (T20), a shorter version of the occasionally dayslong sport introduced in the early 2000’s. Games typically last around two and a half hours, making T20 cricket much more digestible. This comes to an American audience who had to revamp their national pastime, baseball, this year to speed things up with the addition of the pitch clock.

Squash is another example of a sport which has seen much of its popularity lie beyond the U.S..

Sam Juszczuk, a former collegiate squash player at Xavier University, was “beyond hyped” about squash’s inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games.

“The sport is huge on the east coast but not really in the midwest where I was,” Juszczuk said.

Juszczuk has been involved in a larger campaign to have squash included in the Olympics for close to a decade. Once a participant in the 2020 National Championships at Harvard in his senior year, Juszczuk recalled signing a petition in 2014 for squash’s inclusion in the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics.

With major international tournaments around the world, such as the British Open or PSA World Tour, squash is a very popular sport throughout Europe and the Middle East. It may be a while before the U.S. wins a gold medal though, as the highest-ranked American player is Timothy Brownell at #40 in the world. Still, Juszczuk hopes that its inclusion in the Olympics will “give American kids a chance to look up to something different, and even think about playing squash beyond the college level.”

Shifting to a sport which is not internationally popular, flag football is a non-contact version of American football and will be included in the 2028 Olympics. Large backing from the National Football League (NFL), one of the world’s richest sports leagues, has played a major role in the sport’s inclusion, which came as a surprise to many people.

Antonio Woo, a fourth-year economics major who has been playing intramural flag football since his second year at Seattle U, is excited about the chance to watch flag football on the international stage.

“I have to say that I was pretty surprised by the inclusion of flag football in the Olympics,” Woo said. “I think overall it’s a good thing for football, and especially the NFL, in their attempts to make the sport more international.”

The NFL already has different initiatives to broaden the sport’s fanbase, including games being played this season in both London, England and Frankfurt, Germany.

Woo assumed “the fact that the Olympics are being played in the U.S. likely has a large influence over flag football’s inclusion.” But he is also excited by the fact that the NFL is encouraging active professional players to participate, as the league has stated their intentions to enable its players to join the new Olympic event.

For cricket, squash and flag football, the Olympics provide a great chance to grow. Depending on their popularity in 2028, they stand the chance of establishing themselves as international competitions on the largest global stage.

Reset for Success: Previewing Seattle U Women's Basketball

Bridget Lawrence
Volunteer Reporter

Seattle University Women's Basketball starts their season Nov. 2 with their new head coach, Skyler Young, at the helm. The roster is composed primarily of Redhawk veterans, along with one new addition, Graduate Student guard Aannah Interrante. Before the academic year and training camp, the team took two months off this summer to spend some time with their family. Young decided that they needed that break to refresh their minds from the past season, where they only accrued five total conference wins.

"I thought it was a great mental reset for [the team]. The season they had previously, not reaching the goals they wanted to reach, then having a change with leadership... it can be a lot for a young athlete," Young said. "So giving them that break, I thought it was really good for them mentally."

The time off during summer did not affect their training plan however, as they prepare for their first home game against Evergreen State Nov. 2 at 6 p.m..



Seattle U Women's Basketball.

Aannah Interrante is a transfer student from Bradley University, bringing championship experience to the team of veterans—she was a part of the 2020-21 Missouri Valley Conference Tournament Championship team. With her experience, Interrante hopes she can be a leader at Seattle U.

"I try to take things from that and help people, whether that's just pushing people, running or talking or just being there as support. I feel like it has been kind of a role that I'm trying to get better in, leading by example," Interrante said.

Senior guard Peyton Howard has been with the team since her first year. She reflected on her past years of basketball and how she is feeling about this season with the new staff change.

"I feel like it's changed a lot from last year... I just feel like we haven't had that family dynamic here at all. We went through some really hard times, like COVID, and it was really tough to want to play basketball. I was just playing basketball," Howard said. "Now this is like a

family."

Howard admired how passionately Young prioritizes basketball and how he cares about the players as a whole.

"This is his family and he just loves it, I've never had a coach that loves it that much," Howard said. "He comes in every day, with the same energy to literally eat, breathe, basketball—everything he does is basketball. It's cool to have somebody who is so intelligent, but also, so passionate and does care so much, it's not just basketball."

Young has learned a lot from his various coaching jobs throughout his career—most recently at the University of Portland.

"Two things I learned at Portland is you can have talent and win, but it depends on your [team] culture, and then you don't have to have a lot of talent and win, but it still depends on how they come together," Young said.

Young is optimistic for this season and believes his team has all the skills needed to succeed. He does not feel any pressure coming in after their past season.

"We have a plan and that plan never talks about wins and losses. Just stay to the process, and then it's gonna take care of itself," Young said. "The team may have to face adversity this season and they'll have to figure out how to come together and get through that."

After taking the summer to reset, and with a new addition both on the roster and the coaching staff, the team is ready for the season. Young and seniors like Howard seem prepared for whatever challenges lie ahead. They are feeling closer as a team, and as Howard conveyed, more passionate about basketball than ever. They have put in lots of hard work as Young's expectations of excellence are clear.



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF SEATTLE U ATHLETICS

The Seattle Queer Film Festival is Perfectly Queer

Natalie Santana
Volunteer Reporter

The Seattle Queer Film Festival (SQFF) took place Oct. 12 to Oct. 22, incorporating a virtual program Oct. 22 to Oct. 29, available in Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Idaho. SQFF is a film festival to experience queer media that is not as mainstream in today's society, while enjoying a wide variety of films created by queer people, made for queer people.

Kathleen Mullen, the festival and artistic director, spoke about the essence of this year's 28th annual SQFF.

"How do we as a community find support and community and collective action against us, because we're here, we're queer, we're everywhere," said Mullen.

The films that have been carefully curated for this year's festival are showing throughout different theaters in the Seattle area. Some of the categories featured in this year's festival included documentaries, shorts, comedies and narratives, all of which had a focus on gay, lesbian, trans, non-binary, bisexual and QTBIPOC experiences. There truly is a film for anyone who is interested in the festival and what it has to offer.

This year, Actress and Screenwriter Guinevere Turner will be receiving the Luminary award for her work in this year's Sapphic Centerpiece titled "Healed." Turner did a film in the early 90s, "Go Fish," that was a crucially progressive lesbian film at the time, along with many other bodies of work she was involved in that are being recognized Oct. 22.

"She's been working as a writer, screenwriter, actor, director for 30 years, and we really wanted to recognize her body of work and her dedication and work in terms of lesbian and queer storytelling," Mullen said.

The film festival is unique in that it not only reinvents methods of storytelling, but completely changes the way in which queerness is represented and expressed in media of all forms. Queer filmmakers are given the platform and creative freedom to produce films for other queer people, and the SQFF features

just some of these films that are not as widely spread.

A prominent trope in the film industry is the "bury your gays" trope. A trope aimed to kill off gay characters in movies or shows where heterosexual characters are the main focus. Seeing queer people exist as regular people and the complexity that comes along with just being human, regardless of identity or sexual orientation, was refreshing.

Queer people are multifaceted, just like anyone else, and killing them off does nothing but belittle their existence on screen which translates to how queer people could feel about themselves in real life.

The films shown at the SQFF completely reinvent that idea and display authentic representation.

In attendance at the Northwest Film Forum, I was able to catch the showing of "Chance Encounters," a series of gay short films that were all unique from one another and that told very diverse stories, some to laugh with, some to cry with, and others that just left you to think.

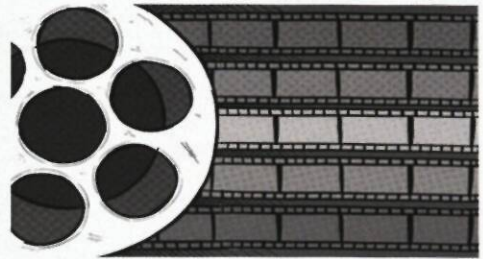
Afterward, I was able to talk to Greg Campbell, W Seattle hotel sponsor for SQFF, who spoke before the showing and elaborated on how the festival is great representation for the community.

"It provides a space or place for us to celebrate our queer culture," Campbell said.

The main thing I noticed while watching some of these films was that the filmmakers emphasized the story, themes and plot rather than fixating on the fact that the characters are queer. In most blockbuster films, there will be one queer character that is known for just that, being the token queer person and not expanding on their story or background any further.

Another film I was able to watch was "Artist Unknown," a rom-com directed by Cinder Chou, which had the audience laughing from beginning to end. This film encapsulated the idea that queerness in media does not need a melancholy or tragic undertone; it can be

REVIEW



KAY MCHUGH THE SPECTATOR

experimental, intuitive, and most importantly, fun.

For Volunteer Emily Carlson, she wanted to meet more queer people in Seattle while pursuing art in film, so she decided to become a volunteer and work on-site for the SQFF. For Carlson, the SQFF is a fun way to sit in a theater and know that everyone in the audience is experiencing something special at the same time.

"I hope that people are inspired to go find more queer films, especially small indie films or DIY films, and just enjoy the art that we are making for ourselves," Carlson said.

Not only is it the filmmakers and directors that make this event, but the community. It is a place where queer people can gather safely, comfortably and warmly while surrounded by other people in the community eager to see their representation on the big screen.

"Queer joy is resistance, queer joy is love, queer joy is protests, queer joy is trans, queer joy is comedy, queer joy is queer," Mullen said.

This inclusive, fun, curious, queer film festival has something for anyone in the queer community. If you want to be immersed in an amiable queer community where you can see people like you on the screen that accurately exhibits what it is like to be queer while feeling all the emotions it encompasses, the SQFF is for you.

Oh, my Gourd! PSL is Back

REVIEW



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ABDULLAH EL SHERBEENY

Leila Bunker

News Editor

As the cold drafts of autumn slowly consume the streets of Seattle, the average person craves nothing more than a little sweet drink to warm their palms. 'Tis the season for pumpkin spice and everything nice. It's time for none other than our (now annual) pumpkin spice latte (PSL) review. I'll be your host, guide and connoisseur this October as I take you on a journey through Capitol Hill to local coffee shops, taking on the challenge of finding the perfect pumpkin spice latte.

On my PSL quest last fall, I ventured into coffee shops close to campus and often visited by students. However, I hope to expand the map of where students should visit for their fun little fall beverage this year. You may not have the convenience of walking right off campus, but taking a stroll through the neighborhood with the abundance of colored leaves adorning street curbs, and feeling the brisk air that makes one want to get bundled up, will justify the trek.

Porchlight Coffee and Records is the first speciality coffee shop I will be reviewing, and is about a 15 minute walk from campus. This spot is both a record and a coffee shop with limited inside seating, but if you want a mellow environment with a quiet atmosphere, this is the place to go. The owner is often behind the counter serving coffee, and I had the pleasure of having my drink served by him when I visited. Instead of a pumpkin spice latte, they are calling their featured fall drink a "pumpkin pie" latte (PPL) which is made with organic spiced syrup and served in cups that Porchlight stamps with jack-o'-lantern faces.

Official Porchlight PPL rating: four out of five pumpkins

This PSL gets a 4/5 because of how pumpkin-forward it was. I'm someone who doesn't often get flavoring in their latte, but on the occasions I do, I love feeling like I'm getting a special sweet treat. I found that naming this latte pumpkin pie instead of pumpkin spice was definitely appropriate. Herkimer Coffee creates a blend unique for Porchlight that works well in this fall special. The espresso beans they serve are an Ethiopian blend that features apple, cinnamon and floral notes. Between the blend and the syrup, this latte was sweetened to my liking. I really enjoyed the mellow flavor profile. If you're someone that prefers sweet over spicy, be sure to acquire a PSL from here.

Next on our list is Analog Coffee, which has earned an honorary mention. This charming café appears very unassuming from the outside, as it's surrounded by apartment buildings and is located a few blocks away from Broadway. However, once you walk in, you'll find that this spot is bustling with activity as many locals frequent here. Stacks of vinyls and cassettes occupy a corner behind the counter, with print newspapers and magazines clipped up on the wall for customers to read as they enjoy a beverage. They've also got a wide variety of seating with benches surrounding a coffee table, tables and stools toward the back, and bar stools lining the wall with corners of seating that look out onto Summit Avenue.

Even though they do not serve PSLs during the fall, they have an "autumn blast!" latte



(ABL) that essentially has the spice without the pumpkin. It's made with a spiced maple syrup that's made next door at B-Side.

Official Analog ABL rating: three out of five

Their "autumn blast!" gets a 3/5 as it was a bit spicy for my liking. But, that is to be expected when the flavoring is supposed to infuse your latte with abundant spices. Analog also serves Herkimer Coffee alongside Porchlight; however, the roast they serve has dark chocolate and cherry notes, making for an intense flavor profile. Would I indulge in the ABL again? Probably not, but do I suggest that you visit this spot for its ambiance and other offered beverages? Absolutely.

Finally, we have Caffe Vita. The Capitol Hill location is home to their flagship roastery, and they've been in the neighborhood since 1995. Only a 10 minute walk from campus, this is notably the closest café we feature in this review. Vita's seating area invites you to observe their roasting process through a window in the lobby and keeps things nice and sunny, with lots of large windows looking out onto Pike Street. Vita offers a "great pumpkin latte" (GPL) made with natural pumpkin puree vanilla, pumpkin spice, brown sugar and sea salt.

Official Caffe Vita GPL rating: five out of five pumpkins!

They weren't kidding when they named this a great pumpkin latte. This combination of flavors, in tandem with their espresso blend, "Caffe del sol," (a light-medium roast with notes of milk chocolate, caramel, and dark cherry), was like fall in a cup. I'm a sucker for pumpkin puree, and they hit the nail on the head with this one, finding the blend of spicy and sweet. Vita is also offering a caramel miso latte this fall, and while I didn't get to try it, it certainly piqued my interest. So yum, and you best believe I will be returning for another in the near future.

I hope that this review inspires you to embrace the fall vibes. I encourage you to explore beyond campus to get these drinks before they're gone and the peppermint mocha takes our sweet pumpkin time away from us. Savor the moment and the PSLs!



KAY MCHUGH THE SPECTATOR

Dylan Berman
Volunteer Reporter

Announced last June in Drake's poetry book "Titles Ruin Everything," the much-anticipated new album "For All The Dogs" had its release postponed from Sept. 22 to Oct. 6, only increasing the fan hype for the project. It is Drake's eighth studio album, and his third album in the last two years.

The Canadian artist, known not only for his rapping but for his singing and R&B focus, has been topping charts for over ten years now. No matter what he releases, it will do well due to his reputation and devoted fanbase, and it feels like he knows it on this new album. "For All The Dogs" is a boring hour and a half slog, enjoyable as background music at its best. It's dreary, generic, aimless, moody, slow and dispassionate.

One of its few redeeming features is the cover, drawn by Drake's son Adonis, featuring a messy crayon drawing of a white dog with red eyes, both endearing and menacing.

Another positive is the album's stacked list of featured artists. Yeat, Sexxy Red, Chief Keef, Lil Yachty, 21 Savage, SZA and J. Cole are not names you would expect to see on a project together. Most of the features are good, so good in fact, the listener is left wondering why they're listening to Drake instead of the featured artist. Although "Calling For You" is

an overall standout track, and Drake's verse is passable, he's thoroughly outdone by J. Cole. The same could be said of "IDGAF," the song with Yeat. It feels like a Yeat song with a Drake feature, and the energy Yeat brings is a breath of fresh air compared to Drake's completely unconvincing delivery throughout the record.

Drake's lack of energy stands out on attempted high energy tracks like "Fear of Heights" and "Daylight," where Drake does his best impression of something in the Rage sub-genre. These songs are fun, but Drake just sounds like he's trying incredibly hard. Why not listen to any artist who can actually pull off this type of performance.

"Don't tell me you're scared of lil Drake, don't tell me you're scared of lil Aubrey," Drake raps in a forced whisper on the track "Fear of Heights."

Worse than Drake's delivery, however, are Drake's lyrics. The album is full of bitterness, pathetic energy, pining over various exes and so many eye roll inducing bars. Drake, to put it bluntly, is way too old to not come across as insufferable with lyrics like, "Ask me if I coulda treated you better, but no, not at all," or "And I had way badder b*tches than you, TBH." Yes, he actually says TBH.

This continues on the track "Drew a Picasso,"

where Drake goes on endlessly about someone he definitely needs to get over, with lines like "I'm the one that you was wishin' for when you was married," and "Too many reasons why I can't picture you with him, that's just so embarrassin', I want to die, to die."

We also get uncomfortable bars like "I was in the club, before she even had it," then "Shawty still young, she don't know the classics." Across the album, Drake tries to make himself sound confident with comparisons to his ex's new partners, but instead sounds transparently insecure and angry. He wants to be a sad boy, to complain and paint himself the victim in his relationships, but he also wants to sound cool by being toxic, unfaithful, and cold.

Sonically, the album does have a few stand-out tracks, including "Another Late Night," with Lil Yachty. Drake flows well over the punchy bass and upbeat synths, and Yachty's signature auto tuned vocals are fun. The album's second track, "Amen," with Teezo Touchdown, has crisp drums, rubbery 808s, and twinkly piano, forming a lush backdrop to Teezo Touchdown's rich vocal harmonies.

Still an unforgivable length of an hour and 24 minutes, the project is mostly a soup of basic trap drums, spacy synth instrumentals, understated soul samples, emotionless R&B singing and repetitive flows. It's just so meh. Listening to the whole project all the way through, there's almost nothing that really pops. The listener is mostly just left with a few lines that could be cringey Instagram captions.

If you're a ride or die Drake fan, you could come away from this album happy, with some new bland, inoffensive, and formulaic tracks, where Drake does his brand of R&B and raps about girls and being rich. But for anyone looking for something interesting, something with new sounds to offer the genre, or something genuinely fun to listen to, you will have to look elsewhere. It does not feel like Drake is even trying anymore.

The Comics



SEEDGE RINS

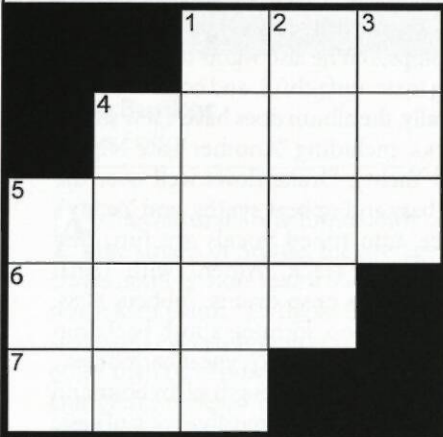
OCT & NOV

Spectator's Picks

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

- 31** Campus Trick or Treat
Student Center
3:30 PM
- 1** Diwali Celebration
Law School
7pm
- 5** HAWC Hangouts
Student Center 380
3:30-4:30pm

The Mini Crossword



Find the answers for this week at seattlespectator.com

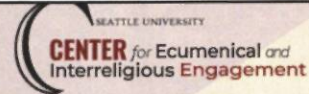


Across

- 1. ___ Com
- 4. Type of deal at a store
- 5. Squash in the title of an article this week
- 6. Let up
- 7. Iron source

Down

- 1. Wake
- 2. Shrek, for one
- 3. Build your own pizza chain
- 4. Wild pig
- 5. Prefix meaning Earth



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7
Taizé at SeattleU

ALL WELCOME

Taizé Lunch with Students



11:30am - 1:00pm, Student Center 210, Seattle University
Join Br. Emile of the Taizé Community, an ecumenical monastic community in Burgundy, France, for an informal lunch and conversation.

Taizé Worship

7:00pm, Chapel of St. Ignatius, Seattle University
An evening of contemplative worship in the style of the Taizé community.



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