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## Spectator 2024-02-01

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# THE SPECTATOR

seattlespectator

The official student run newspaper at Seattle University since 1933

February 1, 2024

★ FEATURE

## A New Generation of Presidential Voters

“

I think it's going to have more of an impact on this election than the last election, there are more Gen Z that are now able to vote like me

Tynan Mathieu

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## The Spectator

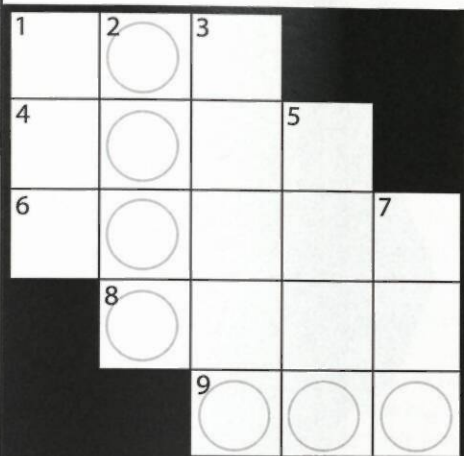
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# The Mini Crossword



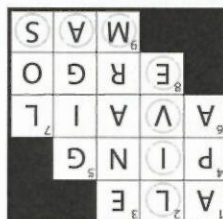
## Across

1. Oktoberfest serving
4. Sound a message makes
6. To no \_\_\_\_
8. As a result
9. More in Barcelona

## Down

1. Citation Style
2. When combined with 5-across, Taco Bell's Slogan
3. Equip
5. Could be a type of byte
7. \_\_\_\_ Angeles

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# Spectator's Picks

UPCOMING EVENTS **FEB**



**2**

**CurveCon 2024**  
Casey Commons

9:00 AM

CurveCon features work by SU students on topics of women, gender, and sexualities. Students from all colleges and majors presented poetry, videos, policy proposals, academic research papers, visual art, and performance pieces.



**3**

**HACK SU**  
Sine 100

ALL DAY

Come join us for our very own 24-hour-long hackathon! We will give a prompt or a problem, and you and a group of up to 4 people will do your best to develop a prototype within 24 hours.

\*(You will not be expected to be there all 24 hours, but we will give you the time and space if you'd like)

**5**

**Interfaith Dinner: Compan-**  
**ionship through Conflict**

5:30 PM

Oberto Commons

All events can be found on ConnectSU



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# Is COVID-19 the New Normal?

**Naja Johnson**

News Editor

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic transformed the world and changed daily life across the globe. When Washington state officially reported the first death in the United States, state residents were at the center of the pandemic that would go on to restrict lifestyles, withhold normalcy associated with direct contact and ultimately lead to the death of 1,172,229 people and the hospitalizations of millions in the United States. During the pandemic, masking and staying six feet away from patrons in public places became the new normal.

Nearly four years post-pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced there are new COVID variants that have been discovered in the U.S. and globally.

We checked in with students on campus to get their thoughts and reactions to the news of the variants.

Zoey Redmond, a second-year history major, opened up about her feelings regarding life on campus after the pandemic and the realities of daily life. Redmond makes it a goal to incorporate social distancing into her daily routine but sometimes falls short.

"I probably feel the need to social distance, I have been inconsistent with masking cause I forget my mask or no one else is wearing a mask," Redmond said.

To protect herself from the virus, Redmond makes it her goal to wear a mask and continue to social distance on campus to assuage her concerns related to COVID-19.

While Redmond makes the effort to take preventative measures against the virus, she feels that others on-campus, and the university as a whole, may not be doing the same.

"I have been hearing about a lot of people getting sick this quarter especially. I am not sure that they do a great job, but it's at the bar of every other place," Redmond said.

Redmond suggested that there may have been a rush to get things back to normal and the presence of COVID is not significantly acknowledged.

"My main complaint is that generally, society has kind of stopped acknowledging that COVID is a thing that affects people, and the university is maybe a bit lax about that," Redmond said.

While the university encourages students

and faculty to isolate for five to 10 days if one tests positive, it is no longer required to provide documentation of one's COVID-19 vaccination status. Additionally, masks are only encouraged if one believes that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 or after an infection as opposed to wearing one when with the onset of symptoms.

Caroline Penner, a second-year biology major, shared how COVID personally affected her back in 2020.

"One of my parents is a physician in the [emergency department] and was personally involved with so many COVID cases. It was a very stressful time because of the lack of information on COVID-19 and it was scary having to worry about my parents being exposed constantly to new variants, especially during the shortage of N95 masks," Penner said.

With it being the time of year that the spread of illness is heightened, Penner shared some things that she incorporates into her routine to avoid getting sick.

"I wash my hands before I eat and try to avoid people with symptoms of being sick, but otherwise not a lot. I've been told we humans generally have a good immune system, so I don't get too worried about catching colds," Penner said.

In regard to the announcement made by the CDC that addressed the new variants, Penner said that she did not find this news to be distressing.

"I have heard about it but am not very concerned.

**“I feel like COVID is becoming a part of our lives and will continue to stay in it, like the flu.**

**Caroline Penner**

I hope no changes to our college life will happen since we have more knowledge and understanding about this virus," Penner said.

Kai Schnitzius, a second-year international studies and political science major, also chooses to mask in his daily routine. Schnitzius, like Penner, was not too alarmed by news of the variants.



"I hadn't heard about it until last week, but I haven't heard much so I'm assuming it's not something I should be majorly worried about," Schnitzius said.

Schnitzius, similar to Redmond and Penner, encouraged their peers to take basic safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID across campus.

"I mask, frequently wash my hands, and try to maintain a balanced sleep schedule," Schnitzius said.

Student perspectives vary on appropriate precautions in light of new disease variants. As the university attempts to strike a balance between safety and returning to normal campus life, opportunities for diverse voices to be heard are vital in determining the most effective response for our community.



# On the Grind: On-Campus Employment

**Bridget Lawrence**  
Staff Reporter

Who doesn't love a job that fits with your academic schedule first?

Seattle University offers on-campus employment to students, which are highly sought after because they schedule your work around when you have classes. On-campus jobs offer students convenience and opportunities to network with the campus.

Arianna Gonzales, a second-year business marketing major, is part of the work-study program and has worked as a desk assistant on campus since her first year at Seattle U.

The work-study program at Seattle U is a need-based financial program that encourages students to work on campus, however it is not exclusive to students in financial need.



Adela Eccli, third-year computer science major, works in the Student Center.

"I'm a desk assistant at Chardin Hall. Last year I was the desk assistant in Campion Hall. One of the hardest things while working in Campion was how many packages Campion got every single day, because there were I believe 600 residents last year," Gonzales said.

Second-year Humanities for Teaching and Spanish Major Paige Wilson is a resident assistant in Bellarmine Hall and has overlapping tasks with desk assistants, such as dealing with lockouts.

Given the social nature of her position, Wilson transformed from being someone who few people may have known on her floor last year to being known by everyone on it.

"You do feel like there's a lot of eyes on you and you just have to get out of your comfort zone. Responding to calls and talking to a lot of people all at the same time can get a little overwhelming," Wilson said.

Obtaining on-campus employment varies in degrees of difficulty. Gonzales stated that she had no trouble getting her desk assistant job last year in Campion.

"I just went up to the desk and I asked the desk assistants if they were hiring. They said yes and then they gave me the application and I just filled it out and I got the job," Gonzales said.



Michael Sherman, fourth-year film and media major, works in the Media Production Center.

Wilson, on the other hand, had a more difficult time getting into her position. After a rigorous application process, she was put on a waitlist to be an RA.

"I didn't know I was going to be an RA until a few weeks before school," Wilson said.

Branndi Bowechop, a second-year psychology major, works at Wellness and Health Promotion on campus. She didn't find getting her job that difficult because she had already made connections with the center before applying.

"I kind of already went into the application with a relationship to all of them that work there so that was nice," Bowechop said.

“What made me apply was the fact that I was in there so much last year, and they kind of helped me find a community and space. They got me more comfortable being here at Seattle U. So I was like, I kind of want to do that too.”

**Branndi Bowechop**

Despite her passion for the center, there are still parts of the job that Bowechop finds

difficult, particularly in regards to time management. She opened up about the struggles student employees face balancing their academic responsibilities.

"It's very time-consuming, especially the prep for events and they try to keep us to working only 10 hours a week which makes it more difficult," Bowechop said.

Her job includes tasks such as facilitating workshops and peer-to-peer work specifically, which has helped her expand her skills and jump out of her comfort zone.

"I have to talk about things that I usually wouldn't talk about, which is a part of the job of making it more socially acceptable to talk about uncomfortable topics," Bowechop said.

Overall, they can agree on the fact that on-campus jobs are convenient for students to grow and network within the Seattle U community.

"I wanted to get a job anyways, but I knew that if I did get it on campus, it would probably be more accommodating to my schedule than going off campus," Bowechop said.

Gonzales highlighted another positive aspect of working on campus, stating that her commute to work is an attractive feature of her job.

"I think it's a good job for now. Especially while living on campus, it's an easy commute. I have a five minute walk from the Murphy Apartments to Chardin Hall," Gonzales said.

On top of having a short commute, Gonzales can get other work done when people aren't in need of assistance.

"I have a lot more downtime so I can actually get whole essays done or watch movies while I'm working," Gonzales said.

While it is possible to find employment off-campus, many students have found on-campus jobs accommodating while they are in the process of furthering their education.



Juli Dentone, fourth-year environmental studies and public affairs double major, works in the Student Center.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PEIRAN LIU



# Consumerism and the Pursuit of Happiness: The Stanley Cup Craze

**Hannah Mwangi**  
Staff Reporter

The rebirth of possessions, as well as festivity, become necessary in the progression of humanity, overconsumption, and the pursuit of happiness. But, possession may never be fully yoked in our buying-culture, in the bondage between humankind and its fatigued wallet.

We are entering, now, into a state of unprecedented material abundance. And the more we shop, the more that is produced. This is the pop culture remedy, the fantasy of investing worth in worthless things, faking “wanting,” as it is seen in pop culture.

Every season, the collective will propagate an item, a color, a political ideology and trend it. We will obscure a commodity until the very last infant is changed by it. I sat down with Mathew Isaac, chair of the marketing department, and April Atwood, associate marketing professor with a specialization in sustainability, and talked of the newest, laughable fixation: the Stanley cup.

HM: The company has increased nearly 700 million dollars in revenue, just over the past few years, and originally it was a company tethered towards male workers and now it's a female craze. Can you talk about who this commodity, now, specifically targets or why you think the product has gained so much popularity and profit?

AA: Evidently, it's women who are strongly influenced by [the] media and are certainly the emphasis consumer [of the Stanley]. The company only used to make the cup in green, and once they determined there are other reasons to purchase the Stanley, using it like a fashion item, which is how many women are treating it, they've come out with so many other colors, [tagging them as] limited edition, which is really just a way of unreasonably boosting the interest of the product.

MI: There's something about the Stanley being part of a collection that tricks consumers into buying more than one product, and the idea of completing something is appealing to most people. But the limited edition has this other element of scarcity, and, if a brand suggests that its product won't always be avail-



ANNABELLE DEGUZMAN-CARINO 

able, that increases consumer demand.

HM: Do you think price plays a role in the popularity of a product?

AA: In the case of limited-edition products, the price goes up because of demand. The demand for the product exceeds the quantity the company made and the consumers value the product at a level higher than the company initially charged. When we move into the secondary market, we can see the Stanley cup [already ridiculously priced] being resold for double or more the initial cost. Price just reflects the value of that product [in relation to how we've popularized it].

HM: What makes consumers keep buying even if it's detrimental to their financial liberty?

MI: That's very socially driven, this sort of herd-mentality, which is especially true in young consumers. It's a huge driver of why people make sub-optimal financial decisions. In the case of the Stanley, there's a lure in it being a quality product that allows purchasers to justify buying it, what they don't realize is that you're buying another one next week. There's a thrill, too, one gets from the act of acquisition. When you buy something new, it provides some emotional short-term lift.

HM: That sense of novelty is addicting and when you possess something so incredibly hyped, the consumer hopes it rubs off on them.

AA: Exactly. Consumers rely on products to boost their social standing, to be noticed.

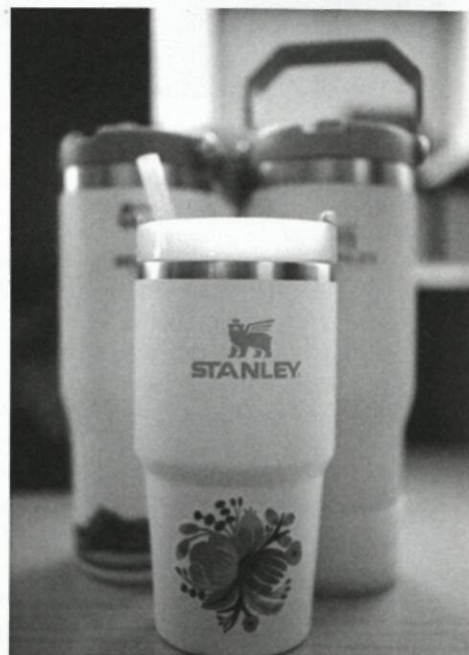
What's ironic about a FAD is you're not standing out, you're following the crowd.


Do trends, then, diminish individualism? I asked Shay Damany, a third-year strategic communications major, about the relationship consumers have with one another.

SD: We have made it so that the trends we purchase show which category of people we belong to. People want to be part of an in-group. We match aesthetics in a low-effort way of communicating my likeness to you. But, trends don't last forever, and when they die, you just rename the in-group. It's like when people buy Stanley cups when they already own a hydro flask. The purpose of trendsetting, of this in-group/out-group, is to uphold capitalism and consumerism while identifying yourself to the rest of the world.

The abundance of festivity, marked by good or bad feeling, and the need to fulfill temporal happiness, prolongs the purchase history. So that, as humankind keeps working, we will never stop buying those commodities which go beyond needfulness. Self-sufficiency will grow bored and placid, and the money saved up from stiff labor will be spent in appropriating the present for much less than any real aspirational investment.

We initiate a temporary self-fulfilling commodity, trend it, maximize its value, and end up with more of the same. We will buy and buy and the expectation of happiness will run away from us, will be chased forever.



ADELINE ONG 



# After the Show: The Trilogy Tour, Enrique Iglesias, Pitbull, Ricky Martin



**Sean Alexander**

*Director of Photography*

This was a weird one. I'm still unsure over a month later if I enjoyed myself. That's part of why it's taken me since early December to write this. Overall, this show was two parts good and one part bad—dare I say—I wish the trio were a duo.

## **Ricky Martin**

Out of the three, Ricky Martin was the one I knew the least about. Outside of "Livin' La Vida Loca," I couldn't name a song of his. He was just an artist that had a song in Shrek to me. I wouldn't say that I instantly became a super fan of his but he put on a good show

that had strong vocals and strong choreography, the strongest choreography of the three despite him being the oldest. The biggest thing that stood out about his show was how much you could tell he loved it. He had a wide, genuine smile on his face the entire show and by the end of it, you could tell he left it all out there on the stage for the audience and gave it his all.

## **Pitbull**

The second performance was Mr. Worldwide (Armando Pérez). Based on the energy from the crowd and the amount of people singing



along, I would say he definitely should have been the main act.

The performance was almost exactly what I would expect, except for one thing. About halfway through his set he went from performing a song where there was more than enough twerking and dance moves of that variety, then shifting into a presentation about the SLAM Foundation, which is a series of 14 public K-12 charter schools in Florida, Nevada, Georgia and Arizona of which Pérez founded in 2012. Now, this is great. Given that I don't follow Mr. 305, I didn't know this was a big part of what he does outside of music and the fact that he has done so much philanthropic work is fantastic.

Overall his performance was fun, and never having considered myself a huge Pitbull fan, I found myself knowing the vast majority of the music he performed.

## **Enrique Iglesias**

Smoke erupts from around the stage as Iglesias walks out, and the first song he performs is Tonight (I'm Loving You). I'm convinced for a second maybe this won't be as bad as people tell me his performances have been. Then as he got to the front of the stage it became as bad as everyone said: his lip syncing was off, and the dancing wasn't so much dancing but just moving from one part of the stage to another. It was not, however, the constant dry humping of the stage that TikTok would have had me believe, thankfully. There was one song, "Loco," in the middle of the performance that he sang with an unidentified singer that was actually quite good and heartwarming. For a brief moment, it felt like maybe the two had actual feelings for each other. Then right after it, he went back to bad lip-syncing and I was pulled from the one good moment of his set. I left disappointed before the set finished as did many others.

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](mailto:sean@su-spectator.com) and potentially be featured in the column After the Show.




PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN ALEXANDER





# A New Generation of Presidential Voters

Riley Zalbert *Volunteer Reporter* 

**I**n 2022, 8.3 million young people became eligible to vote as they turned 18. In 2024, over 8 million youth will be of voting age come time for elections in November, resulting in a new high of nearly 41 million members of Gen Z able to vote this election cycle. This group of new voters has become a formidable block with the opportunity to wield significant political power.

In the U.S., the last election to take place nationally was the 2022 midterm where many of these young voters were not of age or did not participate. With the 2024 election 10 months away, political activity and public discourse are too plentiful to synthesize in one article: legal battles in court, a campaign that is both revered and feared, a candidate that is trying to fight back to keep themselves in the race for the Republican nomination, and another that is trying to prevent the resurrection of a political entity.

**There has been a long road leading to today, where we see polarizing political discourse playing out in the public eye over the last few months and in the courts as we head into the months before a contentious U.S. election.**

Across the world, almost 50% of the population is also taking part in elections in over 60 countries and several regional blocs will hold elections, including the European Union. As this year is showing to be the election year across the globe, we can understand that far-reaching ramifications might be on track in the future if the geopolitical balance of the world is shifted or upended completely.

As we head into the unknown of the next few months, there is a lot to be said around Seattle University surrounding the candidates, primary elections and the upcoming general elections in the fall.

With months to go, there is still a sense of perseverance in the camp of Nikki Haley,

the only remaining challenger to Trump's presidential nomination. With fundraising events scheduled across three states, and a rally in her home state of South Carolina, her team continues to hold out hope for the eventual nomination

Alexa Zambrano, a first-year forensic psychology major, will be voting for the first time in this upcoming election. She intends to vote for Haley if she continues her campaign.

"As of right now, I'd have to go with Nikki, because I think it's about time, we give someone like her that control, and I would not like to see Trump again. But if it's down to Trump and Biden, I'd go with Trump because Biden's too old," Zambrano said.

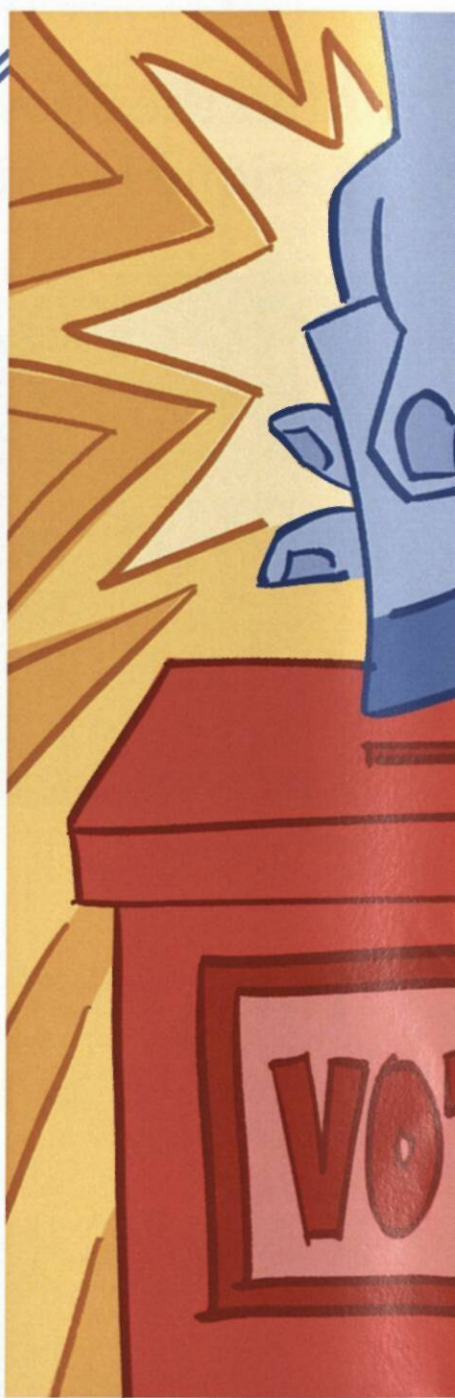
Biden would be continuing the presidency as the oldest president (82 for the 2024 election) to take office in 2021 at 78 and with Trump at 70 in 2017, they are the oldest presidents elected to office. We see that there is a growing distaste for these nominees as they head into the older years of their lives.

Harpreet Sangha is a third-year computer science major approaching his first upcoming presidential election. Sangha is wary of the potential candidates, not having seen promise in any of the options as of yet.

"I'll see who I want to vote for towards the end, over the past few months nominees have been dropping out left and right as it happens, but both candidates don't seem promising," Sangha said. "We've already seen both as president with these four years and the four years before with Trump, and besides them and other smaller third-party candidates, none of them stand out or do anything that would make me want to vote for either of them."

Tynan Mathieu is a third-year computer science major, and this will also be his first upcoming election. He echoed Sangha's weariness towards both candidates, if they are the eventual nominations in the fall.

"The options aren't that promising, but I don't think anyone else will be the nominations, it's also who will be doing the least damage is who I'll be rooting for because the main options aren't that promising. When Trump got elected, it was an alarming thing



to a lot of younger voters, and when Biden was elected it was alarming for the other side also," Mathieu said.

With the Gen Z vote becoming a larger number each year, there is the possibility that this year's voting block skews more Democratic than Republican. However, within the new generation of voters, there is a strong block of independents with no party affiliation that tends to vote for the Democratic nominee. With millions of new voters registered since 2020, there will be a strong impact from the incoming voting group.

"I think it's going to have more of an impact





KAY MCHUGH 

on this election than the last election, there are more Gen Z that are now able to vote like me," Mathieu said.

Though neither believes strongly for either potential candidate, Sangha believes that Gen Z will have a major impact on the voting body.

"They'll vote more because they have the opportunity, and with their strong beliefs, whether it be the Gen Z on the left or right, either side will get out to vote for candidates," Sangha said.

Though New Hampshire (Jan. 23) and Iowa (Jan. 15) were just the start of the presidential race, there are two notable upcoming races

with Nevada Feb. 8 and Haley's home state of South Carolina Feb. 24. Here, she is hoping to avoid being trounced and keep pushing towards the Republican nominee, but given Trump's historical influence, that possibility may not look promising to many viewers of the race.

While Trump may be barreling toward the nomination, he is under a slew of investigations relating to his business practices, payments made to Stormy Daniels, and election interference cases federally and in the state of Georgia.

With those cases at different stages in their processes, different groups from states, including Colorado and Maine, have brought forth cases to bar the former president from their state primary ballots. The Colorado case has been escalated all the way to the Supreme Court, where they are slated to decide if Trump's disqualification is valid or not.

This is a tough legal and political situation, but there is a tough road ahead for all of the potential candidates. If Trump is the eventual nominee, he has already indicated he will go after his political rivals that challenged him.

An anonymous law student provided their opinion on the first-year voters and what unique circumstances they are facing in this presidential election.

"I think it's really tough with this upcoming election, you have people who are born in the 1940s running in elections 80 years later, that's a tough thing as a first-time voter to get really excited about," the source said.

Regarding Republican candidates, the anonymous source highlighted how they are having a hard time connecting with the younger generation that will be voting in this election cycle.

"One reason why conservative candidates have a hard time connecting with young voters, is that a conservatism that is strictly focused on trying to preserve what was there before doesn't necessarily project any sort of vision of where to go in the future. Even if past practice had good answers to current problems, it's a hard sale to make," the law student said.

The American Constitutional Society's student chapter at Seattle U is a group focused on progressive interpretations of the Constitution. Last year was the first year back for the group and there have been several events they've held discussing a multitude of constitutional issues, cases in front of the Supreme Court and other current legal debates that are relevant to constitutional law.

Jennelle Carlin is the president of the student chapter and a third-year law student who provided her thoughts on where younger voters might be getting their election coverage from.

"With younger audiences especially, social media tends to be the main platform for news. The platforms can be great for disseminating information, but they can also put you in a tunnel where you only hear from one side," Carlin said. "So it's difficult for a first-time voter to know they're seeing the full picture if their only source of information is coming from social media."

An issue that is commonly discussed by members of The American Constitutional Society involves the role of social media and media literacy in first-time voters' political education.

Rebecca Hannan is the vice president of the Constitutional Society chapter at Seattle U and is a second-year law school student. She provided her thoughts on first-time voters who may not be up to date or know what's going on with some of the candidates in the legal world.

**“A first-time voter will care more about the actual events that are underlying the legal cases—even if you don't follow the news closely you know what happened on January 6. The first-time voters who are following the news very closely will care more about the underlying conduct of the candidates more so than the nuances of the legal battles that are playing out,**

**Hannan said.**

Coming from a law-based perspective, both Hannan and Carlin emphasized the lack of legal awareness that may influence first-time voters' decisions, believing that the younger generation places further value on behavior over legality, while they find both to be important.

"These legal cases are important and it's important also for the value of precedent moving forward of what we're saying under the law is okay and what you can do, what disqualifies someone from office in this country, it is important for that precedential value going forward," Hannan said. "For first-time voters it's important they understand the facts of what's happened."

With this upcoming election there will be a large number of factors that will play into the intricacies of the fall and who will be nominated eventually for both parties. Only time can tell what the remainder of election season will hold.



# Super Bowl 58: A Rematch Between The Chiefs and 49ers in Vegas

**Caleb Stipkovits**

*Volunteer Reporter*

This year's Super Bowl matchup is finally set, with the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers heading to Las Vegas.

This will be Kansas City's fourth Super Bowl appearance in five years. They won in 2019 and 2022, including a victory over the 49ers in Super Bowl 54. By reaching the big game, the 49ers are now tied with the Dallas Cowboys for the most Super Bowl appearances by a National Football Conference (NFC) team (eight). The matchup has drawn mixed feelings among Seattle University students, with some rooting for other teams and others excited for theirs to play in the championship.

So how did we get to this point? This year's playoffs started with an entertaining wild-card round that featured frigid temperature wins from the Chiefs and Buffalo Bills and disappointing exits from the Cowboys and the Philadelphia Eagles. The round also saw success from first-year starting quarterbacks Jordan Love of the Green Bay Packers and C.J. Stroud of the Houston Texans, who both defeated top-ranked defenses to bring their teams into the second round.

Arguably the best win from the wild-card round came from a team that hadn't won a playoff game in over 30 years: the Detroit Lions, who defeated the Los Angeles Rams 24-23. One week after their wild-card victory, the team won their second playoff game of the year by holding off Tampa Bay to punch a ticket to the NFC championship game.


The last time the Lions won two playoff games in a season? 1957.

The Lion's success this season has been special for Thomas Mann, a political science professor at Seattle U and a Michigan native.

"Previously there was nothing on the line. If [the Lions] win 10 games in a season, that's amazing, maybe we'll get to the playoffs, but with [no] expectations," Mann said. "You [have] these low expectations, and yet when they actually do it, it's like a miracle."

The divisional round saw four teams punch their tickets to the conference championship games: the 49ers, Lions, Chiefs and the Baltimore Ravens. The NFC championship game was set with San Francisco beating Green Bay 24-21 in a comeback victory and Detroit defeating Tampa Bay 31-23. The AFC championship game was set when Kansas City defeated Buffalo 27-24 and Baltimore crushed Houston 34-10.



ANNABELLE DEGUZMAN-CARINO 

It was in the NFC championship game that Detroit's magical run came to an end. After the Lions jumped to a 24-7 halftime lead, the 49ers scored three touchdowns in the third quarter and rallied back to a 34-31 win. San Francisco's victory gives them an opportunity to win their first Super Bowl in nearly 30 years.

The 49ers' comeback win was especially significant for one player: quarterback Brock Purdy. Throughout the season, Purdy had been called a "system quarterback" by many fans and some analysts. This refers to quarterbacks who aren't particularly talented passers but because they play for a good team, they benefit from a good "system." Following back-to-back comeback wins in the playoffs, Purdy is seemingly silencing his critics. Second-year Economics Major Mateo Poon is a 49ers fan and a Purdy believer.

"He's a dual threat. [He] runs, passes, [a] sneaky athletic type, high IQ guy... that's Brock Purdy," Poon said.

For Seattle Seahawks fans, like Second-year Mechanical Engineering Major E.J. Edora, it was hard to see the 49ers defeat the Lions.

"I'm very tired of the 49ers but that's because I'm a Seahawks fan and we're rivals," Edora said. "[Additionally,] I enjoyed [the Lions] success and love an underdog story. It's cool to see a team that's been bad for so long finally find some success."

In the AFC championship game, Kansas City's defense clamped down on the Ravens' offense with a 17-10 win on the road. The

game marked the sixth season in a row that the Chiefs played for the AFC title. Additionally, the victory gives Kansas City a chance to repeat as Super Bowl champions. If the team wins the big game, it would be the first time since 2005 that a franchise won back-to-back championships. While Kansas City has enjoyed playoff success for years, the same cannot be said for Baltimore. In former MVP quarterback Lamar Jackson's tenure with the team, they have only won two playoff games while losing four.

"I was disappointed with the Ravens because I thought they could do better, but I like [Kansas City quarterback] Patrick Mahomes and want him to pass Tom Brady as the [greatest of all-time], so I'm ok with him going to another Super Bowl," Edora said.

With the 2024 NFL playoffs wrapping up, Super Bowl 58 is just around the corner. Who will win this Super Bowl rematch? We will know the new champion on Feb. 11.



# NIL: Collegiate Sports' Next Dilemma

**Qasim Ali**

*Sports & Opinion Editor*

The National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) is one of the most profitable sports organizations in the world. Comprising over 1,000 schools at the Division I, II and III levels combined, the NCAA has markets in every corner of the United States to profit from and to provide academic and athletic opportunities in.

Student-athletes have long been compensated for their efforts with scholarships, room and board and the rare opportunity for some to compete professionally after graduation. But, with academic duties to take care of, as well as constant training for their respective sports, it's been a long-held stance of some in the sports world that student-athletes ought to be compensated with a paycheck as well.

The tide shifted in favor of this school of thought in 2021, as the Supreme Court ruled that the NCAA could no longer bar athletes from profiting off their name, image and likeness (NIL). Since then, NIL deals have been rattled off at every level, with players of all sports participating in advertising campaigns, social media promotions, name-branded apparel deals and more. But nearly three years after the Supreme Court's decision, no federal regulations regarding NIL proceedings have been passed.

This has made state legislatures decide what regulations they'll put in place, if any. As you can imagine, this creates a fair bit of confusion for players and institutions alike, as they are left to navigate NCAA bylaws and state regulations in all their NIL dealings, with the risk of having their eligibility revoked and sanctions put in place. For example, the University of Tennessee is currently under investigation for violating the NCAA's rules on NIL and has already been fined \$8 million for past violations.

The state of Washington has yet to pass any NIL legislation regulating the industry. Eric Guerra is the senior associate athletic director for compliance and student-athlete services at Seattle University, which has yet to have any issues with NIL compliance.

To combat initial confusion, Seattle U rolled out their own NIL policy document in 2021, setting a few hard boundaries for athletes.

"[NIL deals] cannot be compensation for being an athlete, but it can be compensation for the notoriety of their athletic endeavors and that reputation," Guerra said. "It's a matter of quid pro quo... they have to perform



LUCA DEL CARLO 

a service to receive compensation."

That notoriety doesn't have to be ground-shattering either. Alex Schumacher, a Senior guard on the men's basketball team at Seattle U, has done two NIL deals thus far. Neither involved direct cash compensation, but rather free services and goods. With just over 4,500 followers on Instagram and over 80,000 on TikTok, Schumacher's following is solid but not as big as some may think to garner NIL deals.

"I think the biggest [misconception] is you have to have a large following to get NIL," Schumacher said.

His most recent NIL deal with City Sweats, a sauna and spa company, involved him posting about the business on his Instagram story in exchange for a few free uses of the facilities per month.

In terms of how athletes get connected, there are a few methods the athletic department at Seattle U employs. Al Grigsby, the assistant athletic director for development at Seattle U, handles corporate sponsorships and licensing and merchandising with the teams. Grigsby explained that the university uses two third-party platforms to facilitate NIL propositions from businesses: INFLCR and Brandr.

Both platforms include compliance considerations, like tools to aid student-athletes in reporting their dealings to the school (which is required) as well as educational resources to help update them on the changing NIL landscape.

"We feel like we have an obligation to make sure that we help [student-athletes] and to make sure they understand the process," Grigsby said.

"Doing that allows us to have some checks and balances with INFLCR, with the companies the student-athletes work with."

Even with these safeguards in place, there are ethical disputes about the nature of NIL in general. Guerra expressed how NIL is an effective vehicle for students to make money on the side, but that it's a "balancing act" to assure that the institution maintains its identity of amateurism.

Seattle U student-athletes may not be pulling in multi-million dollar NIL deals, but high-profile stars around the country like Angel Reese, Bronny James, Shadeur Sanders and more are all valued well above the seven-figure mark in NIL money. Opportunities to chase that kind of wealth at different schools in bigger markets, along with the ever-active transfer portal, have created a "free agency" feel for collegiate sports—a bad model for academic success according to Guerra.

"The more someone transfers, the less likely they are to graduate," Guerra said, emphasizing the earning potential associated with a college degree. "We need to figure out how we move forward and maintain the integrity of college sports... and allow students opportunities to grow and offset their costs."

NIL is the next big thing in college sports—it represents a complete paradigm shift in the way we view student-athletes as business entities. But all innovations take time to settle into their final form. Despite all the publicity and glamor, it's crucial to note that NIL is still in its infancy. What it grows into through future legislation and bylaws remains to be seen.



# Winter UREC Check-In

**Abdullah El-sherbeeney**

Staff Reporter

Seattle University Recreation (UREC) holds many fun activities and programs to encourage students to stay active by offering opportunities for hiking, skiing, rowing and intramural sports. Intramural sports at UREC this quarter include dodgeball, basketball, soccer, volleyball and pickleball.

Trace Seaton, the assistant director of UREC's competitive sports, explained how the mission of UREC is to encourage students to participate in these events even if they do not play the sports routinely.

"We try not to discourage anyone from coming out because they are worried they aren't going to be good enough," Seaton said. "It's intramurals; there are no TV contracts, there are no multi-million dollar salaries at stake. It's just about coming out and having fun, and enjoying your time here while doing something a little bit different and moving your body, and getting some exercise."

Seaton encourages students to attend events or join intramural leagues that may be of interest, especially. The upcoming dodgeball tournament will be held March 2 and the registration will open on the IMLeague website in association with Project Positive. The upcoming dodgeball tournament will also feature a new unique glow-in-the-dark theme where students will be encouraged to wear neon clothes while playing in the dark.

Furthering the theme of inclusivity, Sara Janosik, the assistant director of UREC's operations and engagement, talked about the gym programs that are offered for beginners. The gym has a free group fitness program which includes classes for yoga, cardio, cycling and much more. These classes are held on the Eisiminger Fitness Center's second floor and



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the schedule can be found on the Seattle U website by simply searching for the group fitness link.

Another specialized program for beginners is Learn to Lift. The program will be held Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and is a two-hour group meeting with a personal trainer. The trainer will take the students into the weight room and teach them how to work with the equipment safely and with proper form. At the end of the event, the students leave with a basic strength program. The group usually has a max of 10 students and each student pays \$10.

A special program that Janosik is currently working on is called Project Positive, an annual signature UREC event set to be held the last week in February.

"It's a week-long campaign where we do different events that fit the theme. During the week, we have the students take kind of a step back and focus on wellness and their mental

health, and then, see how moving their body at UREC can be tied to that also. [There is] a lot of community-building," Janosik said.

In terms of other services, the UREC transit system has a shuttle bus that takes students from campus to the Vertical World climbing gym for \$5 every Wednesday around 6:00 p.m. The snow van shuttles at UREC also get a lot of attention. The shuttles are free and take students to Snoqualmie Resort on Friday nights and Crystal Mountain Resort on Sundays. The next opportunity for students to visit Crystal Mountain Resort is Feb. 11.

Luke Meyers is a fourth-year marine and conservation biology major who works as an outdoor leader and an outdoor office manager for UREC. Meyers mentioned an upcoming ski event at Mount Baker, which will be held Presidents' Day Feb. 19.

"Hopefully UREC runs another successful trip to Mount Baker on Presidents' Day weekend," Meyers said. "We get accommodations, food and transportation. And then you just gotta provide lift tickets."

Snowshoeing trips are another outdoor program that UREC offers.

"We always go up to scenic hot springs... It's a perfect length for snowshoeing, it's beautiful. It's in Steven's Pass and then you get to hang out in these wonderful hot springs with a cool view surrounded by snow," Meyers said of one of the program's most popular outdoor trips.

From basking in the snow-encrusted hot springs to watching glow in the dark dodgeballs whizz by, students this quarter have many opportunities to get involved and get active.





# "Glengarry Glen Ross" Features Donna Summer and Scheming Conmen

**Leila Bunker**

News Editor

New York City swindlers, otherwise known as real estate salesmen, find themselves in an anxiety-inducing pinch when they are informed that if they aren't the top sellers in the office, they'll be fired. As the desperation to sell premier plots and the desire to be at the top of the board sets in, Donna Summer is playing everywhere. Cakes are left out in the rain. And schemes are devised, followed by commencing dance interludes. Why? Because it's the '70s and everyone can do whatever the hell they want!

The Seattle University Theatre Department's winter quarter production will be "Glengarry Glen Ross," a renowned play that received critical acclaim in the 1980s. While "Glengarry Glen Ross" is known for winning a Pulitzer Prize in 1984 for its depiction of American life and the 1992 film adaptation with Al Pacino, Alec Baldwin and other well-known male actors, it is also a play that was initially written with the roles reserved solely for men. Unlike the initial work, the theatre department's version of "Glengarry Glen Ross" is set in the late '70s and reimagines the essence of a few particular characters to make the viewing experience unique.

Brennan Murphy, the director, expressed that he has been wanting to direct this production for over 20 years, and that pushing the time period back a few years allows for an additional lens to view the play from.

"The very first song we open with was a number one hit 50 years ago, and when I lived in New York during this period I would go out dancing. That's what all these people would be doing," Murphy said. "They could be selling [during the day] and then that night they'd go out and let loose. Have some drinks and dance, and the music they were dancing to would be Donna Summer."

Jarrett Magdaleno, a second-year theatre major who plays George Aaronow, echoed Murphy's sentiment and added that the set time period has made the production especially enjoyable.

"The '70s align pretty well with how bombastic you're supposed to be on stage. There's a lot of



The cast of Glengarry Glen Ross  
INCOMING!

shaking of the shoulders and stuff like that. There's a cadence to it and it's really fun," Magdaleno said.

The incorporation of the '70s aesthetics in combination with the dance interludes were to make the production more lively, as the original script is significantly darker. Murphy wanted audiences to be able to indulge in the more fun elements of the play, but in a way that still preserved the larger themes.

Murphy also expressed that the subject matter of this play has captivated himself and audiences alike, despite the writer's poor reputation.

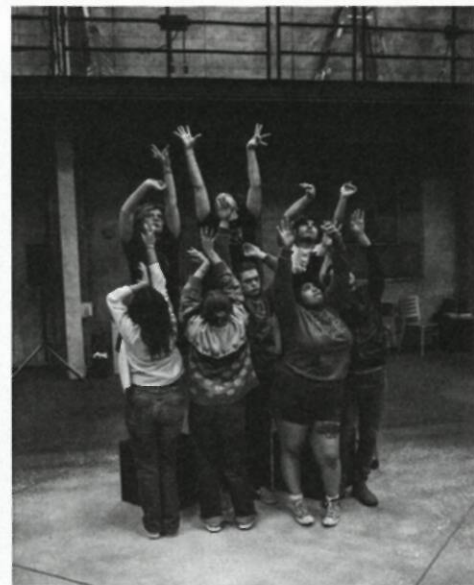
"People don't like [David Mamet] but that's not an excuse to not examine the work. What interests me about this play is the toxic masculinity and how that can be looked at through a different lens. The vitality of the language is also powerful and I'm all about doing projects that possess that," Murphy said.

"Glengarry Glen Ross" deals with themes of morality and capitalism through a predominantly masculine lens, but Murphy wanted to encompass a larger view of this time. Another change that Murphy made was that he intentionally cast two of the most powerful characters as women.

Sarah Rodler, a double major in communications and theatre, plays John Williamson, who is primarily in charge of the leads that determine whether or not the salesmen in the office will be able to buy a Cadillac. Rodler said that the layer of femininity she gets to add to her character is different from previous roles she played.

"Learning to bring the womanhood into Williamson, that Williamson would have if she were a woman, was definitely a bit of a challenge. I think that I'm still trying to dig into what that is, but it's definitely empowering," Rodler said.

She also added that there are heightened moments throughout the play that would've been absent if her character had still been a man. There is a particular scene with Ben Freeman, who plays Shelley "The Machine"



The cast of Glengarry Glen Ross rehearsing dance transitions!

Levene, when he calls Rodler's character a secretary, and the effect of that dialogue doesn't exist in the original version.

Isabella Martinez, a third-year theatre major, plays Richard Roma, who is the top-seller in the office and has a rather large ego because of it. Martinez expressed that finding what works well for her character has been a challenging process.

"When I first started playing the character, I was leading with the mindset of acting like a man and thinking like a man, and I think that kind of confused me," Martinez said. "I had to be like 'Okay, no. I'm a woman. She's a woman. What does it look like to be a strong, driven and successful woman in a male-dominated industry?'"

While this production is set in the '70s, Martinez went on to add that people continue to struggle to understand women and even give them spaces to talk— it can be difficult as a female-embodied person to realize that having a voice, being successful and being hot and sexy at the same time is possible. Martinez hopes that the portrayal of women in this play leaves audiences instilled with inspiration.

"Members of audiences may have seen 'Glengarry Glen Ross' the movie or on Broadway, but they've never seen Brennan's version. They haven't seen 'Glengarry Glen Ross' gone disco or maybe they haven't even seen the gender bending. There is so much substance to be found in this production in terms of how different it is," Magdaleno said.

"Glengarry Glen Ross" opens Valentine's Day Feb. 14 and will have showings until Feb. 24.



Actors Jarret and Carlo rehearsing their scene



# Chicken Sandwich Review



**George Burquest**  
Staff Reporter



The Bok a Bok ordering window at the Cap Hill location on 10th Avenue.

### Dave's Hot Chicken

The first stop on the chicken tour was bustling at 12:30 on a Friday afternoon. It took 12 minutes for our single medium spice slider to be ready and the presentation was lackluster. At Dave's, having a tray filled with two sliders, a side of fries, sauce and pickle slices is the way to go. Ordering a single slider isn't a meal, nor did it look amazing on our tray.

Chicken tenders being Dave's expertise, it was difficult to not laugh at the oblong chicken sitting inside of the small slider bun. Nevertheless, toppings of slaw, pickles, and Dave's sauce helped make the chicken tender on a bun into a sandwich.

The part that truly sets Dave's apart from the other chicken sandwiches on this list is its spice options. Ordering medium spice in an attempt to stay neutral, the chicken still had a red tint and the flavors were impressive, seeming out of this world compared to the spicy chicken sandwiches at common fast food stops such as McDonald's and Chick-fil-A. Dave's seven options, ranging from no spice to reaper, allowed for a personalized eating experience.

Unfortunately, or fortunately depending on your perspective, my napkins were a translucent yellow ball by the time I finished eating. Greasy, spicy and perfect for an order of two or more, Dave's Chicken Sandwich is likely best enjoyed on a late weekend night.

Overall, the business and wait times coupled with a sandwich of affable dimensions failed to outweigh the undeniable enjoyment brought by a piece of juicy, spicy chicken, squashed between a bun with pickles, slaw and sauce.

7.5/10

This article is a pseudo-comprehensive guide to chicken sandwiches in Capitol Hill. Three restaurants were judged for their most classic offerings; Dave's Hot Chicken, Mt. Joy and Bok a Bok. If you feel that there is any chicken spot missing from this list, let us know by emailing The Spectator! I would take any opportunity to do this again.

It is important to note that judging chicken sandwiches purely off of taste is impossible. When one goes to experience a chicken sandwich, one does not do so in a sensory deprivation tank. Eating a chicken sandwich is a holistic experience.



Mt. Joy storefront, a new chicken restaurant opened on 11th Avenue in the heart of Capitol Hill

### Mt. Joy

The next stop was Mt. Joy, another recent opening, and a place I had previously avoided under the impression that it was vegan or vegetarian. (Mt. Joy, along with Dave's, has vegetarian options in the form of portobello and cauliflower respectively)

Walking in, Mt. Joy had the vibes. Self-advertised as a place to find fresh, clean and organic food, everything felt like what a quintessential Capitol Hill chicken sandwich shop should be. There were local farms listed on the wall, a chic couch in the center of the dining area, a pair of iPads to order off of and shades of green and white everywhere.

To further compliment this aesthetic, their white meat chicken sandwich was about as picturesque as chicken sandwiches come. Carefully wrapped in parchment paper, the sandwich itself came with lettuce, tomato and fry sauce, to complement the decently sized breaded chicken breast. However, no chicken sandwich is complete without pickles, so I was a bit let down.

Upon first sniff, I was reminded a lot of a McChicken, given the combination of lettuce and a mayonnaise-based sauce, but my first bite gave way to something tender and fresh. The sandwich was much lighter than Dave's, but not nearly as flavorful. The breading was crumbly and there was enough lettuce left on the parchment after eating to garnish a whole other sandwich.

All in all, Mt. Joy was a very pleasant experience, but nothing to write home about. The sandwich looked like a dictionary definition (minus pickles), and the flavors were by book as well.

7.0/10



The street view of the new restaurant, Dave's Hot Chicken, located on the corner of Pike Street and 12th Avenue.

### Bok a Bok

Bok a Bok is different from the previous two restaurants given its walk-up window, Korean-style fried chicken and feature on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.

The sandwich we ordered was their "The Classic" Chicken Sandwich, made up of a double fried chicken breast, sweet pickles, shaved romaine lettuce and a green onion remoulade. After your first bite, it is clear why Guy Fieri visited this place. The sandwich knows what it wants to do and does it well. Not reliant on the spice of Dave's or the aesthetics of Mt. Joy, Bok a Bok's sandwich has a crunch and quality that is simply hard to compete with.

The chicken fit the bun, the pickles complimented the remoulade, and the romaine was not piled on. It is not your classic chicken sandwich, but it is also not trying to be. If there was an interior and better drink options at this location, it would be very hard to fault the chicken sandwich experience at Bok a Bok.

8.4/10



A bite into the medium-heat slider from Dave's Hot Chicken

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JORDIE SIMPSON   
ILLUSTRATION BY ZAM ORTEGA



# Under 21 Nightlife Needs a Revamp

**Kevin Rocha**

*Volunteer Reporter*

Seattle University students can agree that there is no safe or lawful nightlife on and near campus for people under 21. When living as a next-door neighbor to bars and clubs, it seems like a twisted joke that the university chose to reside where it is.

The challenges of being below the legal drinking age are shared amongst our underage community. Many students just stay home and lay low to do their assignments, hang with their roommates, or scroll through their phones the entire night. The college nightlife experience is limited on campus and those that want to dance the night away with their friends face highly limited options.

To understand what nightlife feels like at Seattle U, an anonymous source shared what being underage and going out can look like.

"The nightlife feels very predatory. [Pubs and bars] make you feel very taken advantage of, not gonna lie. It's kinda gross," the source said. "Since people know that underage girls attend these bars, they come there just to be with underage girls."

The impact of being underage limits much of what students can attend. Given that Seattle U already has a reputation for not being a party school, the possibilities dwindle further.

"Sometimes you're scared of going to certain places because you know that they are not going to let you in because of your age. That is always my fear. And, yes, I do wish I could change [the legal drinking age] but it's the law," The anonymous source said.

The 2010 phrase, FOMO (fear of missing out), is a common feeling at Seattle U that cannot be ignored. People are pushed to feel forgotten in their dorms or seek nightlife activities elsewhere to feel included with other people their age and older.

"I think it's hard since Seattle U is not a party school," the source said. "Since we do not have a Greek life it can be challenging to socialize. People resort to going to bars underage. It's more unsafe going to these bars

than going to a normal party because you are out there in the wild."

They elaborated on their experience of going out while under 21 in Capitol Hill.

"I remember being 18 and getting in places and having 30-year-olds hitting on you. It's disgusting. My friends feel the same. Most people don't go to [pubs and bars] because it's just so gross," the source said.

Andrew Pascual, a third-year kinesiology major, believes that there is an unusual vibe to the experience of looking for something to do on the weekends when underage.

"[I would go] clubbing at Trinity," Pascual said, referencing the 18+ nightclub. "A weird night and an experience. Never leave without your friends or go without a group."

Pascual also enjoys outdoor dining options and activities.

"After the clubs and pregaming, there would be some nighttime walks with friends. Going to Cal Anderson and seeing the night lights. Getting Seattle Dogs. It's a must," Pascual said.

Pascual believes that nightlife under 21 has its pros and cons, and always has a learning curve. He takes a positive note on the sense

of being with people who care about you and want to be there with you when you're out on the town for an extra sense of security.

"Pros: you know your limits once you are of age. The cons are you do not even know how to react [to being intoxicated]," Pascual said. "Nightlife is a learning experience. Stay safe and have fun. Look out for the people you know and love."

Pascual acknowledges that the nightlife is not for everyone. He stated that the college environment and age group offer a unique experience.

"Everyone has different opinions... The college experience is a learning level where people have to get out of their comfort zone. As long as you're being smart, wise and safe, that's all that matters. Life is an experience and we grow."

Students all share a similar desire to do more with their nights and friends, but many succumb to limits because of age and the lack of spaces that offer a safe and welcoming experience.



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**Crossword**  
on pg. 3