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SPECTATOR

The official student run newspaper at Seattle University since 1933

2024 ELECTION NEWS

★ FEATURE

Kamala and brat, that's funny, but also, she's an ex-prosecutor [and] I don't really know what affinity she has with an album with more cocaine references than I could count

Luke Maden

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A & E

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a brat review but it's completely different
and also in the spectator

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Totally Booked: Libra

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Spectator's **Picks**



UPCOMING EVENTS

24

6-8pm

Halloween Board Games and
Hot Chocolate

STCN 322

25

5-7pm

History of Student Activism

Oberto Commons

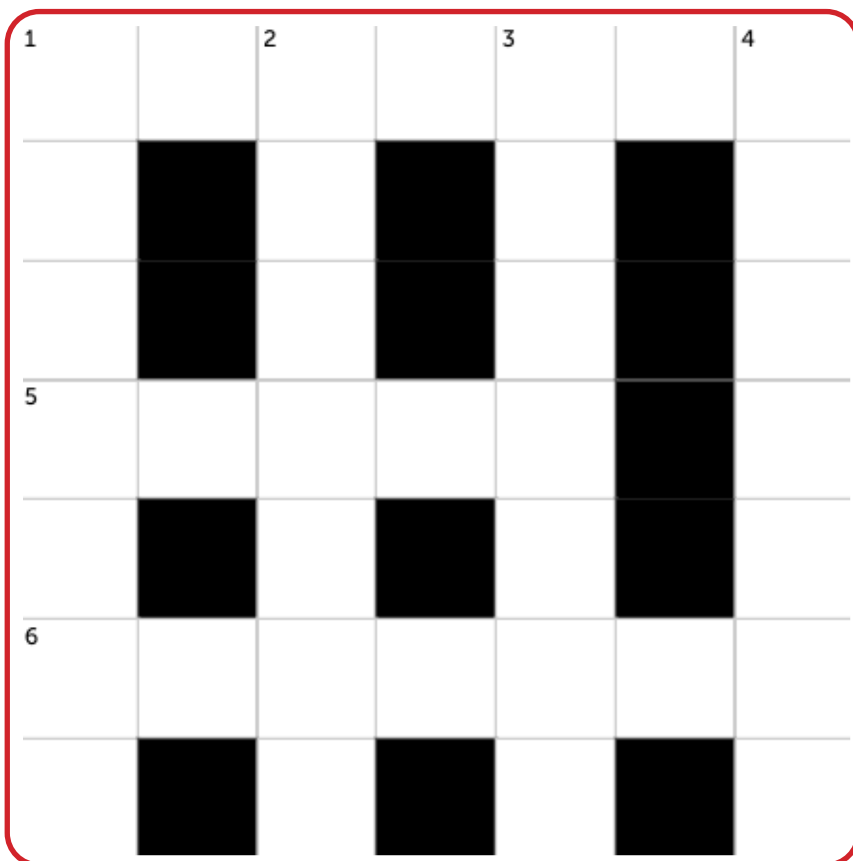
25

6-9pm

Garba Night

Campion Ballroom

The **Mini Crossword**



Across

1. Form of media discussed in this week's feature
5. Reflected, like a statue perhaps?
6. Future holder of a position

Down

1. Daytime profession of a classic video game icon
2. Common member of a flower crown
3. Sharpness often found from citrus
4. Device that gives rise to slices

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Journeys Beyond the Classroom: Seattle U Students Abroad

Ahmed Abdirashid Abdullah

Volunteer Reporter

Every year, Seattle University students have the opportunity to travel abroad, studying in different parts of the world for as long as a quarter to as short as two weeks, or even up to a year. Many students may wonder what these trips are like and what those who participated experienced. This week, we connected with some of these students to find out.

Known for its iconic red double-decker buses, historic landmarks like Big Ben and the timeless charm of its old European architecture, Tynan Mathieu, a fourth-year computer science major, spent this summer studying abroad in London at University College London. While staying in London for six weeks, he had the opportunity to take three courses, two of which were in computer science. Despite a heavy academic load, Mathieu found time to explore the city and connect with a wide range of people.

"London is extremely diverse. I was surprised by how many people from different backgrounds I met," Mathieu said.

While Mathieu found that there were a lot of American students studying in London, he also met many students from Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada and other countries in Europe. Mathieu shared that one of his favorite parts about going abroad was not only the ability to connect with people from all over the world but to learn from their varying life experiences as well.

From free museums to various parks scattered throughout the city, a plethora of activities and places were at Mathieu's fingertips. He mentioned how he loved wandering around without a plan and finding random places. He particularly enjoyed one unexpected find, the Design Museum, which featured everything from cars to chairs, with cutting-edge exhibits that explore the future of design.

Though Mathieu enjoyed aimlessly wandering, he also emphasized that the field trips offered by his program were incredible. Mathieu had the opportunity to visit Bath, a city west of London known for its Roman-built baths, Stonehenge and Oxford, home to the

second-oldest university in the world.

Only a short skip away from England are the rolling green hills of Ireland. Amelia Carey, a fourth-year English major, went on the "Writers' Workshop in Ireland" this summer led by English Professor Sean McDowell. Primarily focusing on travel writing and cultivating an adoration for mundanity, the workshop pushed students to take everyday moments that may typically slip by one and turn those observations into something meaningful. While exploring the rich culture and landscapes of Ireland, Carey engaged in various writing techniques and experimented with different forms of poetry.

During the first half of the trip which was spent in Dublin, Carey and a few other of her peers unfortunately contracted COVID. She found this difficult as it was her first time getting COVID, let alone in another country, and it also limited the extent to which she could explore Dublin.

Luckily, Carey was in good health by the time her group reached Galway, a city on the west coast of Ireland known for being the country's cultural heart. It was here that she had the chance to connect and chat with locals, finding the smaller city enjoyable.

"The people were so nice. I had a great conversation with a taxi driver about U.S. politics, the cost of airlines and more. People there want to talk to you and tell stories," Carey said.

Carey enjoyed her short time studying abroad, even mentioning how she is considering staying a quarter or two longer at Seattle U instead of graduating next year to potentially study abroad again in another part of Europe. She plans to continue taking more political science courses to earn a minor.

Shifting to another side of the globe, Nico Camacho, a fourth-year marketing major, spent fall 2023 studying abroad at Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea. Outside of his courses, Camacho explored many of the country's tourist landmarks, including the Han River where he often ventured to enjoy picnics. Camacho was stunned by the numerous

temples he encountered in Korea.

Camacho was also impressed by South Korea's advanced technology, noting how everything from the kiosks in cafés to doors, security cameras and even train stations felt miles ahead of America. Additionally, the experience of studying abroad helped Camacho gain a sense of independence.

"It was my opportunity to do what I wanted, and it forced me to interact with the world around me," Camacho said.

One of Camacho's most memorable experiences was participating in "Membership Training" (MT), an overnight sleepover event traditionally held by Korean student clubs to welcome new members. Typically held in cozy cabins, retreat centers or the university dorms, MT features game nights, delicious food and opportunities for bonding. Participants engage in entertaining activities and lively conversations, allowing everyone to connect and have a great time together.

"I was the only foreign student in a group of mostly Korean students, but they welcomed me, which made me feel included," Camacho said.

When asked for advice on studying abroad or if it is something other students should consider, Camacho said that students should just do it. He believes that there are so many unique experiences that will help you grow and open your mind.



ANNABELLE DEGUZMAN-CARINO 

Studying abroad can be a rewarding journey filled with personal growth, cultural exchange and lifelong memories. Whether you're looking to immerse yourself in a new writing process while wandering through a city filled with rich history or learn about marketing techniques somewhere with revolutionary technology, an abundance of opportunities awaits Redhawks.

A Washington State Voter Guide For Students

The Spectator Editorial Board

With Election Day rapidly approaching, headlines of the Trump v. Harris presidential race are dominating the news cycle. While many voters are focused on selecting the next U.S. president, Washingtonians will also vote on four ballot initiatives, along with federal and state candidates.

The four ballot initiatives are detailed below. More information on the proposals can be found in the King County voting guide. A list of both federal and state election candidates are also provided.

Initiative Measure No. 2066

This initiative exists in response to changes last year in the State Building Code Council energy policy, which severely limited natural gas line hookups in newly built homes. It also responds to the passage of House Bill 1589 (HB 1589), which required combination gas and electric companies that serve more than 800,000 customers to plan for actions “supporting gas system decarbonization and electrification.” This is part of the state’s goal to move toward 100% clean energy.

If this initiative passes, Washington utilities would have to provide natural gas to any person

or business that requests it. It would also make the Washington Utility and Trade Commission unable to pass multi-year utility rate plans that incentivize or require terminating natural gas.

Supporters of 2066 argue that the state’s restrictions on natural gas will lead to increased construction costs and increased utility costs for restaurants. They also fear that Washington is moving toward a full ban on natural gas, and view this initiative as a way to change course. HB 1589 does not ban natural gas, but it requires Puget Sound Energy to assess and plan for ways to transition fully to electric in certain areas such as heating.

Opponents of 2066 view natural gas as an inefficient and cost-ineffective form of energy, and view the initiative as a way to prevent progress toward clean energy in the state. They argue that this initiative locks the state into getting energy from oil and gas companies.

Initiative Measure No. 2109

Initiative 2109, if passed, will repeal the 7% excise tax imposed on the sale or exchange of long-term capital assets by individuals who have annual capital gains of over \$250,000. The capital gains tax applies to certain

types of capital assets held for a year such as stocks, bonds, precious metals, artwork and investments. The tax does not apply to the sale of other assets such as real estate, retirement savings accounts, breeding livestock, property that is depreciable, commercial fishing privileges, timberland or timber.

The state of Washington imposes several taxes to raise revenue for the state government. Those taxes include retail sales tax, the business and occupation tax, the state property tax and other state taxes. In 2021, Washington state legislature passed legislation establishing a capital gains tax. It officially took effect Jan. 1, 2022. In 2023, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that the capital gains tax was an excise tax and did not violate the constitutional prohibition on income taxes.

Proponents of the initiative argue that this initiative would benefit all of Washington, fostering job creation and state-wide economic growth.

Opponents of this initiative put forth that the initiative benefits those who are already wealthy, and that it would directly take money from educational resources, early learning and childcare.

Initiative Measure No. 2117

If passed, Initiative 2117 will prevent state agencies from imposing any carbon tax credit trading systems in the future. Passing the initiative would also repeal Washington’s existing carbon tax system, the Climate Commitment Act (CCA).

The CCA, which was passed in 2021, set an emissions limit for some of the largest greenhouse gas polluters in Washington. This leaves high-polluting companies with two options: to either comply with the cap and reduce emissions, or pay for “carbon credits” to offset the pollution they create that is over the cap. The revenue earned from the carbon credits then is invested into climate-related policies and projects across the state. In 2023, the CCA raised \$1.8 billion to fund its initiatives.

Those in favor of passing Initiative 2117 argue that the CCA has caused the price of gas, energy, and other goods to rise. Proponents put forward that the CCA is not producing the environmental results that were originally promised, and that other climate initiatives could be more effective.



The American flag, standing atop a building, blowing in the wind.

Those against passing the initiative argue that the CCA is not the reason gas prices have gone up, and that repealing it would not meaningfully decrease the price of gas and other goods. Opponents also believe that the program is effective in helping combat climate change.

Initiative Measure No. 2124

Initiative 2124 seeks to reform Washington state's insurance program, WA Cares. Currently, most employees are required to contribute 0.58% of their wages to the fund, and in turn, after paying in for 10 years, can access up to \$36,500 (adjusted to inflation) for long-term care costs when they need it. The initiative would allow employees and self-employed individuals to opt out of the program at any time, and require those in the program to decide whether to opt out or continue. It would also remove a currently existing exemption for those who had private long-term care insurance before November 2021.

Proponents of the initiative argue that it increases choice for citizens who would prefer private insurance. They also put forward that the existing payroll tax is placing a burden on those who might already be struggling, and that the benefit the existing tax provides is inadequate.

Opponents fear that people opting out of the program would leave it without enough money to support those who rely on it, and that private insurance is not a viable option for a majority of the population.



A bucket of "VOTE!" pins.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROWAN STARK 

Candidates on Your Ballot

Federal

U.S. President & Vice President

Kamala Harris & Tim Walz (Democratic)
Donald Trump & JD Vance (Republican)
Robert Kennedy Jr. & Nicole Shanahan (We The People)
Jill Stein & Rudolph Ware (Green)
Claudia De la Cruz & Karina Garcia (Socialism and Liberation)
Rachele Fruit & Dennis Richter (Socialist Workers)
Joseph Kishore & Jerry White (Socialist Equality)
Chase Oliver & Mike ter Maat (Libertarian)
Cornel West & Melina Abdullah (Justice For All)
Shiva Ayyadurai & Crystal Ellis (Independent)

U.S. Senator

Sen. Maria Cantwell (prefers Democratic)
Raul Garcia (prefers Republican)

Congressional District 7, U.S. Representative

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (prefers Democratic)
Dan Alexander (prefers Republican)

State

Washington State, Governor

Bob Ferguson (prefers Democratic)
Dave Reichert (prefers Republican)

Washington State, Lt. Governor

Denny Heck (prefers Democratic)
Dan Matthews (prefers Republican)

Washington State, Secretary of State

Steve Hobbs (prefers Democratic)
Dale Whitaker (prefers Republican)

Washington State, State Treasurer

Mike Pellicciotti (prefers Democratic)
Sharon Hanek (prefers Republican)

Washington State, State Auditor

Pat (Patrice) McCarthy (prefers Democratic)
Matt Hawkins (prefers Republican)

Cracking Gen Z:

The Online Race to Capture the Vote of the Youth



Milan Damjanac ✓
Volunteer Reporter

Modern social media, like the young people that dominate it, can be unseemly, unprofessional and unhinged. Yet, because of its all-encompassing reach in modern culture, the 2024 election has seen both presidential candidates venture out past their meticulously crafted PR statements and official news appearances.

Instead, both Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump have set out into the vast, untamed world of social media and its algorithms to attempt to win over young voters. However, despite their many attempts, it remains uncertain whether their ventures into youth culture will help either of them secure the presidency on election day.

Ava Stubee, a second-year sociology major and a member of the political science club, has noticed the candidates' presence on social media.

"I think at this point, it's almost hard to not have some sort of that media exposed to you," Stubee said.

An important part of any presidential campaign is marketing an image and message to the voter base. While this is traditionally done through rallies, convention appearances and TV and print advertisements, presidential candidates are quick to adapt to new innovations in media to try to get any edge over their opponents.

Now, that means finding a way to achieve virality on algorithm-based social media platforms. Much of this is done through scrollable short-form media on platforms like TikTok and Instagram Reels, which heavily favor the attention-grabbing and sensationalized content that garners the most views.

Rather than using traditional advertising sources to get a message in front of voters, these efforts of building a social-media presence try to naturally harness existing trends and personalities. By relying on tailored algorithms to get them views and visibility, they can skirt around the usual stigma and annoyance surrounding advertising. Additionally, it allows them the chance to benefit from

the loyalty that viewers hold to a particular subculture or individual.

The most viral of Harris' efforts has to do with a tie into the extremely popular "brat summer" trend that spawned around singer Charli xcx's hit album "BRAT." Following Biden stepping down and endorsing Harris, Charli xcx tweeted out "kamala IS brat." The next day, when Biden's campaign accounts rebranded to @KamalaHQ, they unveiled a brand-new brat themed, bright green banner and profile picture, which garnered millions of views and reactions from fans.

The new banner referenced the album's cover artwork, which features the word "brat" in lowercase Arial font over a bold shade of bright green. The unique and shocking iconography of the album, working in tandem with its commercial success and resonant themes about womanhood and identity made the album a huge success, especially with Gen Z women.

Many found "brat" relatable and inspiring because of its rejection of traditional feminine ideals of perfection, empowering women to still be strong and independent while allowing them to have fun, make mistakes and be authentic. With Harris potentially being the first female president, the endorsement and adoption of brat aesthetics also thematically connected the campaign with the themes of the album and the feelings of its fans.

Stubee believes that hopping on trends can be helpful to political campaigns, especially those hoping to reel in younger voters.

"It is a really quick and easy way to gain attention and bring in younger voters who might not be as politically involved, but then might see a political figure as trendy or relatable, in a way that makes them more encouraged to be part of the election."

While also targeting Gen Z voters, Trump opted to go after a different part of the group, using creators with a connection to the "manosphere," which is a community of men who shun feminism and blame it for what they see as a corrupted society, to attempt to grow support with young men.

Many of his viral moments stemmed from a livestream he did with Adin Ross, a popular streamer that started by playing video games but in recent years has shifted and aligned himself with ideologically conservative manosphere content creators, notably, Andrew Tate.

In the livestream, which reached a peak of half a million viewers, Trump and Ross discussed various topics, including Trump giving commentary and making remarks about Harris. Ross also asked Trump to give him one-word descriptions of a wide array of figures, including Kim Jong-Un, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Nellys, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Kanye West.

At the end of the stream, Ross gifted the former president a Tesla Cybertruck with "Make America Great Again" decals and pictures of Trump pumping his fist after his failed assassination attempt on both doors, along with a Rolex watch.

The collaboration targets much of Ross' young, conservative male audience, many of whom started to watch him during his alignment with the manosphere. Much of the manosphere's content criticizes society for straying from traditional gender



SASHA VOLOVNIKOV

Political Science Club
President Gabi Muña ('25)
stands by a projection of a
BBC article about Kamala
Harris' 'brat' rebrand.

MATTHEW MAI

norms. The content also gives men advice in shaping themselves into a traditional, hyper-masculine ideal that they say will bring them happiness and success. In appearing on Ross' stream, the Trump campaign hopes that these men will also align themselves with and support the Republican platform.

In addition to each of their standout moments, the candidates have been trying other mediums to reach voters. Both went on various podcasts tailored to young people, with Harris going on "Call Her Daddy," a sex advice and comedy podcast, with Trump going on a multitude of podcasts run by personalities that cater to young men. These include Andrew Schulz and Theo Von, comedians who went viral by posting short clips on TikTok, along with Barstool Sports and the Nelk Boys, both creators who can be described as fraternity-oriented.

Most recently, it was also confirmed that Trump will appear on Joe Rogan's podcast Oct. 25. Rogan's podcast has a massive audience with 14 million followers on Spotify.

With the election posed to be an extremely tight race, both candidates have different ambitions for what a successful social media marketing campaign could bring them. Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor of Political Science Thomas Mann emphasized the dedicated, stable, yet stagnant nature of the Republican voter base, and the danger of not expanding his base.

“Trump just had the problem that he seems to hit a pretty tough [voting] ceiling around 46 to 48%. That could win him a general election if he wins in the right spots, but it does

leave room for his opponents to get 51%," Mann said.

On the other hand, Mann emphasized how the Harris campaign had an opportunity to fight for every group that feels left behind by Trump, but is not totally dedicated to the Democratic party either.

Thomas Mann

It's kind of like making hot dogs, [the Harris campaign] can just kind of sweep everyone who's left on the ground and make a sausage link out of it, and hope that product is enough to do to deliver an election day.

However, the reality of the election and the goals of the campaign are two very separate things. Despite the millions of views and millions of dollars invested, it is still unclear how effective these strategies will be.

Some predictions, like election expert and Associate Teaching Professor of Political Science Patrick Schoettmer's, are a little short of optimistic.

“I do not think it will be effective. I think we will see a low turnout among Gen Z,” Schoettmer said. “Partly, they just have a lot more going on in their lives than older people, so there’s a lot more options and activities competing with voting. It’s just a lower priority.”

In addition, some caution against buying so heavily into the enthusiastic efforts of the campaigns' constructed images and promises.

Associate Clinical Professor of Marketing Joseph Barnes emphasized some of the dangers of campaign marketing, especially in a modern social media context. AI contributes to disinformation, which can be a huge problem, especially in short form content, where fact-checking is rare. Additionally, he stressed that young voters who buy into the candidates may be disillusioned once their candidate comes into office.

"We want to believe in the vision of either one of the candidates, but we also recognize that they're limited in what they can do the way things are gridlocked in Washington, D.C.," Barnes said.

Regular voters have also responded to problems with much of the outreach. For example, Trump and Ross received criticism for the Cybertruck and Rolex that were gifted, pointing them out as campaign contributions that exceeded the legal \$3,300 limit.

On the other side of the aisle, there is worry that Harris bought into the memes and endorsements without thinking of their implications on her image.

Luke Maden, a second-year computer science major, shared that, while a nice sentiment, “Kamala is brat” did not influence his vote.

"Kamala and brat, that's funny, but also, she's an ex-prosecutor [and] I don't really know what affinity she has with an album with more cocaine references than I could count," Maden said.

It is not all doom and gloom, though. Schoettmer emphasized that even if these campaigns aren't directly leading to votes now, they are part of the campaigns building trust with young people for the long term.

“Focusing on Gen Z is not just about winning for today, but winning tomorrow as well,” Schoettmer said.

Voters won't know much about whether the unconventional strategies that the candidates embraced this year were successful until Nov. 5. The one thing people can do, however, is vote.

“Go vote! Flex that muscle,” Mann said. “It’s not difficult, and people fought and died for that right.”

More information on how to register to vote can be found at Vote.gov.

Timeout Session: Lamija Avdic Makes History for Redhawks Tennis Team

Erika Justus

Volunteer Reporter

Lamija Avdic has achieved great feats at the start of her second year on Seattle University's women's tennis team. In April, Avdic was named Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Women's Tennis Freshman of the Year. Now only a few short months later, Avdic has become the first Redhawk to ever reach the round of 16 at the ITA Northwest Regionals.

The Northwest Regionals were hosted in Berkeley, Calif. and included competitors from Division I universities in the Northwest Region. Avdic was one of 16 players to make it to the quarter-finals before being eliminated.

Influenced by her grandfather, Avdic started playing tennis when she was six years old. She is among five other cousins who play tennis and is the fourth Division I athlete in her family. Her younger sister will become the fifth, joining the Seattle U women's tennis team next year for her first year of college alongside Avdic.

The following is a condensed excerpt from an interview with Lamija Avdic. Questions from the reporter are paraphrased for brevity.

EJ: What made you choose Seattle U?

LA: I really liked Kristina [Hollander], the coach, and what her values were and it's close to home. I'm originally from Kirkland, which is close to Seattle. I knew that I wanted to be close to home, and I love Seattle too. So I'm super glad how everything worked out.

EJ: What was it like achieving WAC's Women's Tennis Freshman of the Year last April?

LA: It was honestly really hard.

“It was tough, in the beginning, transitioning from being in such an individual sport and then going into a team now in college. But I was like I'm doing it not just for myself but for my team and my family.”

Lamija Avdic

That's why I really like being home because my family can come watch me anytime. So, it was very relieving when I was like okay I know what I've accomplished and that was my goal at the beginning of the season. I just had it in my mind, and I just went for it.

EJ: How does it feel to be the first Redhawk to make the round of 16 at the ITA Northwest Regionals?

LA: It was amazing. The whole weekend was just unbelievable for the whole team. It was my first time traveling with our new team this year and I just wanted to represent the school in the best way possible and really put our name out there.

EJ: What are some of your favorite ways to bond with your teammates?

LA: We really like going on nature walks and stuff like that. We do family dinners and make charcuterie boards or homemade pizza. Since I'm the only local one on the team, my family hosts the annual lunch or dinner so we invite the whole team to our house and we just hang out. Most of my teammates are Slavic so the girls who are not Slavic are like honorary Slavic girls. We always love to get them into the culture and try their cultures too. It's really interesting to see different types of cultures and what their perspective is on life, and I love that.

EJ: What skills and techniques are you looking to improve moving forward into future tournaments?

LA: I think I am just very passionate when I play, and it can be a really good thing or really bad. Well, no, not bad but just in the sense that it can get to me sometimes. I would like to just be more composed. Just like relax, chill for a second.

EJ: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete?

LA: Just meeting different sports and different people from different cultures and hanging out, experiencing the sport. I have two different worlds now that have been created into one and it's so fun. I have friends who are not athletes, and I have friends who are. We all still hang out, it's just sometimes I escape from one world into the other, and it's just really nice not to think about all this stuff going on.

EJ: Is there anything you would want to say or any advice you want to give younger athletes hoping to play in college?

LA: I would say if you think it's a lot, it is, but it's worth it. It's an experience that shapes you for the better. You learn so much from it. It's such a cool opportunity just to even be at college in the first place. Just enjoy every single bit of it because once you're older, you're gonna miss it. It is just an experience everyone should have in college.



REGAN LUZ 

Catching Frisbees and Creating Connections

Maude Miles

Volunteer Reporter

Flying frisbees aren't the only things that are catching eyes. The Throbots, Seattle University's Ultimate Disc Club, are catching hearts and giving opportunities. In a year marked by new head coach Alyssa Kelly joining the Throbots, the team has grown to new heights.

Alyssa Kelly started playing ultimate frisbee her freshman year of college at Loyola University Chicago. When she moved here she felt an immediate bond to Seattle.

Coach Kelly has brought energy and experience to the Throbots. Using her knowledge, she comes to every practice focused on how she can help each of her players grow and perfect their skills.

Coach Kelly begins every practice by going over names so that everyone can know one another. Then she allows everyone to get a chance with the frisbee and get a feeling of how the game works.

"Instead of a full field where players get lost instead of standing on the side, it's four at a time so they can touch the frisbee and get used to it," Kelly said.

She bounces with joy, applauding when a player makes an extravagant throw or a catch. She has players partake in demonstrations so they can get an idea not just visually but physically about a play.

Miranda Gormley, a fourth-year environmental science major and captain of the women's team, discussed how the Throbots create a sense of togetherness.



A player prepares to throw the frisbee as an opposing player attempts to block the pass during an Ultimate Frisbee Club match.

ALAN BEHAR

"I think building up a place to have that community is important," Gormley said.

Gormley expressed wanting to support others like they did for her. When she first started she didn't feel welcomed and wasn't sure about coming back, but the few people that wanted to make it more welcoming for her created a space for her to feel like she belonged. She wants to do that for other people and pay it forward.

Emerson Hickman, a second-year finance major, is a player on the Throbots. Hickman started playing ultimate frisbee in middle school, and has been enjoying his time with this team since joining last year.

"The beginning felt kinda crazy when I was still learning, but as you improve you start to get this flow," Hickman said.

Hickman explained how everyone looks out for each other and feels that their team has

become a community. Coach Kelly cheers on the new players and creates mini-game team names to help foster this community.

One of the repeated phrases among team members is "Goldfish brain." Hickman summarized it as, "Remember it and move on."

Players agreed that everyone cheers for everyone, that all are welcome at ultimate frisbee and they show that when you come to practice.

The Throbots are a wonderful team full of skill, inspiration and a place where moments of community, and connections can happen.

“ [The coaches] have been terrific teaching us how to improve. They genuinely care for us.

Emerson Hickman

If you are interested in ultimate frisbee visit the field Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-10 p.m.



ZAM ORTEGA

Seahawks Snap Losing Streak, Right the Ship Against Falcons

Morgan Keller

Volunteer Reporter



AHMED ABDIRASHID ABDULLAH

After a hot start to the NFL season winning three in a row under new head coach Mike Macdonald, the Seattle Seahawks hobbled into week seven at 3-3 after three straight losses, most recently to storied division rival the San Francisco 49ers.

The Seahawks fell to the 49ers last Thursday at Lumen Field in a disappointing home loss (36-24) that showcased the highs and lows of this young team and coaching staff. In a battle of two injury-riddled teams, Seattle again appeared worse off without their key defensive pieces, allowing 483 total offensive yards on the night to the 49ers, 228 of which were on the ground. This comes after letting up 420 and 516 total yards respectively to the New York Giants and Detroit Lions the previous two weeks.

The semi-highlight of the game and the season so far for Seattle is their offense under rookie play caller Ryan Grubb, as quarterback Geno Smith stands high as the league's leading passer after a 312 passing-yard performance against San Francisco. The game for the offense was marred by two interceptions and a sheepish rushing average of 2.6 yards per carry, further impacted by a fumble on special teams.

The reasons for the Seahawks' losing streak can be pinpointed with problems in turnover differential, the run defense and all-around team play—factors which were acknowledged by Seattle's coaching staff after the game. In Seattle's post-game press conference, Macdonald emphasized that work needs to be done all around but that the team has the potential to be great.

"We're not playing well enough to be the team we need to be. We have the people in the building, our players, our coaches, to become a really good football team. And right now, we're just coming up short," Macdonald said. "We gotta start faster, we have to win the takeaway differential, that's a team stat."

Despite the team's shortcomings of late, the general consensus among fans is that the Seahawks do have a lot of potential that can be fulfilled, just as long as they clean things up. Seattle University fourth-year international business major Lachlan Soughan shared this sentiment.

“It's kind of been fashionably Seahawks tradition to have at least a level of mediocrity. There's positive signs but I think the potential has yet to be seen.”

Lachlan Soughan

Including week seven, the Hawks have had an average of 14 players on their injury report, including big names in the trenches on both sides of the ball. Seattle's first-round pick this past offseason, defensive tackle Byron Murphy II, hasn't played since their win in week three

but made his return against the Falcons. The Seattle coaching staff holds Murphy in high regard, with defensive coordinator Aden Durde acknowledging his importance to the team in a recent press conference.

"It's huge," Durde said when asked about Murphy's return to the team. "For us, it's been hard not to have him."

Other injuries in Seattle's defensive secondary have led to rookie defensive backs like Nehemiah Pritchett and Dee Williams getting play time. Safety Rayshawn Jenkins was signed from Jacksonville this past offseason and has recently been placed on injured reserve. In the same press conference, Durde signaled that his absence is an opportunity for players to step up and fill his gap.

Despite the ups and downs so far, the Seahawks are still in first place in the NFC West and made it stay that way as they came up against the red-hot 4-2 Atlanta Falcons, who occupy first place in the NFC South. It was posed to be tough competition for Seattle as they tried to break their losing streak, as Atlanta had won three in a row. For the trenches, it's a story of "stoppable force meets moveable object" as the Falcons' weak pass rush went against Seattle's leaky offensive line. Seattle relied on its rookies and second-year players to lead the injury-riddled team to victory on Sunday.

In a dominating 34-14 win in Atlanta, Seattle improved upon their defensive weaknesses and had a clean offensive performance. The Seahawks won the turnover battle, sealing the game in the second half as the defense caused three consecutive turnovers including a strip sack from pass rusher Boye Mafe that was returned for a touchdown by standout second-year pass rusher Derick Hall. Seattle's offense was highlighted by Geno Smith, running back Kenneth Walker and rookie tackle Michael Jerrell. With Seattle's struggling and injured offensive line, Jerrell stepped in and made a huge difference. In part thanks to Jerrell's protection, Smith threw no interceptions while Walker celebrated his birthday with two touchdowns. The Hawks will look to further improve as they come up against even tougher opposition in the 5-2 Buffalo Bills next Sunday.

ReVision Arts Exhibit “Please Touch: Together Breaking Barriers” Creates Unique, Accessible Arts Experience

Tristan Scott

Volunteer Reporter

The top floor of King Street Station, just a mile and a half from campus, serves as the current home for ReVision Arts’ decade-old traveling exhibit “Please Touch: Together Breaking Barriers.” The exhibit includes a huge variety of art, from sculptures to paintings, classical to modern.

The unique twist, however, is that visitors are encouraged to touch each and every piece of art.

The gallery is large and open, with a muted, industrial aesthetic broken up by vibrant pops of color and texture coming from the many pieces of art. A large screen hangs in the back providing audio descriptions of each piece. Additionally, braille brochures are provided at the entrance along with plaques accompanying each piece.

My eyes (and hands) were immediately drawn to Stoned Patti O’s piece “Covid Kid,” a three-foot-tall mannequin covered in multi-colored rhinestones. Not only was it appealing to look at, the texture was exciting and unique to feel. The rhinestones subverted the expectation of smooth, faceless mannequins, giving this typically faceless being a personality that shows through when touched.

This piece stood out to exhibit curator Barbara Oswald as well. Oswald is the founder and director of ReVision Arts as well as a community organizer and activist working to create space for people with disabilities within the art community.

“That artist, Patti O, has seen the ‘Please Touch’ show over the last few years, so I was familiar with her work. You know, those of us with low vision are really attracted to bling. So when I saw the sparkle, I knew we had to ask her,” Oswald said.

Patti O, like a number of artists approached by ReVision, was hesitant to have her art touched.

“Many of the artists have shared that, you know, when they were first approached, they were like, no, not going to touch the art. No, no, art is fragile. No, no, no,” Oswald said.

However, Oswald explained that seeing the positive impact the exhibit has had over the years on sighted and non-sighted patrons alike has convinced many artists to participate.

“As we were curating we were recognizing what barriers currently exist, and one of them

is the cultural barrier that says, ‘don’t touch the art.’ When people are able to get both a visual and a sensory opportunity, the gift of that allows you to have a much deeper interaction with the art,” Oswald expressed.

A typical gallery is inaccessible to those with little or no vision, preventing them from experiencing art or being able to picture themselves as artists. This breaking down of barriers is exactly the point of the exhibit, as it creates a space for visitors to have this experience of interacting with art potentially for the first time.

“For me, it’s almost more meaningful to be able to touch and connect with a piece with my own two hands. It made me wonder what parts of the piece the artist kept coming back to, because certain spots on the artwork were more appealing for me to touch,” third-year Anai Quintanilla said after visiting the exhibit.

Quintanilla’s experience reflects the tactile experience the exhibit provides, which can create a much deeper understanding and personal connection with the art. Comparing the smooth, cool metal of Pieter VanZanden’s “Big Shrimp” against the soft plush fur of Debra Broz’s “Dress Up as Yourself: Rabbit” gives the visitor much more to think about than if they had solely viewed the pieces.

Tesla Kawakami, the visitor services coordinator for ARTS At King Street Station, gets to see these visitor reactions firsthand.

“People are really excited that they get to touch it. There were a lot of people with low

or no vision at the opening that came specifically for this, and it’s been really cool seeing how that has impacted their experience of the art gallery world. It’s just been really sweet to have different types of people being able to appreciate the show

who normally wouldn’t be able to access it,” they said.

Oswald’s own experiences as someone who was born with limited vision led her to prioritize the need for accessibility in the world of art.

“I had the opportunity to study art in Vienna when I was in college, which gave me a chance to understand that I was absolutely as artistic as anyone else,” she said. “When I came home, my advisor said, you know, ‘you have talent as an artist, but as a person who’s blind you’re isolated, and to do art you’re going to be more isolated because you have to spend a lot of time alone.’ So at that point, I decided, ‘Ok, I will pursue art as my career, and I will figure out how to have my art be people.’”

Oswald proceeded to spend her career working with people with a wide range of disabilities through art as well as legislation and activism.

“Part of the oppression that comes with ableism comes when you’re looked at as not capable. You know, it’s also a barrier that needs to be broken,” she said.

“Please Touch” tells a story of creativity and resilience. The exhibit showcases a wealth of diversity from artists of all abilities and provides an experience unlike any other.

“Please Touch: Together Breaking Barriers” can be seen for free at the top floor of King Street Station. The exhibit is running through the end of December 2024.



Sisters by Megan Leah Gottfried hangs on the wall of the exhibition

EVELYNN LABRIOLA 

MPC's First Maker Share Event Featuring Paulo Gonzales

Xol Holigores

Volunteer Reporter

From book-making to photography to sculptures made of trash, Seattle University's Media Production Center (MPC) highlighted a variety of art and artists at their first Maker Share this past Thursday. But what even is Maker Share?

As Billodue Makerspace and MPC Manager Nick Ames put it, Maker Share is the "documentation of anything you do."

The MPC in the Lemieux Library has created a place for creators all across campus to share their work, make connections and bond over creating together. Maker Share events are a great place to dip your toes into Seattle U's creative community.

Maker Share events are hosted at both the MPC and the Makerspace at 12:30 p.m. The ones at the Makerspace are held on the third Tuesday of the month, while the ones at the MPC are every third Tuesday.

This month, the MPC brought in special guest Paulo Gonzales to share his experience as a Seattle U alumnus. Gonzales works at the Photographic Center Northwest (PCNW) and has a large portfolio of photographs, zines, and other analog art creations. At Maker Share, Gonzales passed out his own handmade zines. His pieces were all shots from daily life, presented to the audience in hand-bound photograph books, bound with a combination of bookbinding and hardware store materials.

"Messing with materials is so much fun," Gonzales said as he explained his creative process.



A couple of photos from Gonzales' zine.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NOELLE LEE 

Shooting in both film and digital, he prints his photos out before taking them to the copy machine. While the images are being scanned, Gonzales takes this chance to interact further with his medium. Whether it's tearing, shaking, or even blowing onto the photo, he manipulates the piece into a unique final product.

In August, the PCNW holds a yearly zine fair for those interested in learning more about zines and how to make them. People can meet to purchase zines, photo books and other items to support local artists. There's even the opportunity to apply and be an exhibitor!

The PCNW also hosts a photography fundraiser event in July called Chase The Light. Each year, photographers across the world take pictures during the same 48-hour weekend, ending with an exhibition and print sale later in the month.

Displaying next was Makerspace specialist Rachel Segrest who made a custom banner combining digital illustration, laser cutting and piecing together pieces of felt to make the final product. Segrest's art bridges the gap between digital and analog mediums. They've also worked on Twitch streams that broadcast "Creative Art Therapy Sessions." By taking advantage of the benefits of multiple mediums, Segrest is able to expand upon the limits of working with one medium alone.

Afterward, Ames shared a video of his process of making a model remote out of trash. During the lockdown of 2020, Ames ran Maker Mondays, where he and his students would meet on Zoom to create pieces out of recycled trash. There's value in "Turning trash into something," Ames stated. His work highlights how it isn't required to have expensive or fancy materials to create something cool.



Rachel Segrest presenting their artwork.

Finally, MPC Specialist Alex Guevara showed a video he was involved in the production of as an editor. Made within 48 hours, the short film is the product of a "film off" challenge, requiring certain props, lines, and characters to be involved with the final product. This resulted in the Eye Of The Lamb, available to watch on YouTube.

All these creators have highlighted the unique and special ways to get involved with the creative world. Working with different mediums, materials, and people allows for new creative innovations to be made all the time. If you're a creative looking for inspiration or in need of materials, the MPC's Maker Share has you covered.

"There's so many people getting creative," Guevara stated. "And sometimes you just never meet them."

Maker Share events offer aspiring artists an avenue to network and expand their creative skills. Creatives all across campus are invited to attend future meetings to meet with like-minded people and share their ideas, art, and unique processes.

PSL: Please Stop (the) Lattes

Leila Bunker

News Editor

Ok y'all. It's that time of year again. Evenings have begun falling. The trees are noticeably losing their leaves; cold damp sidewalks becoming decorated with warm hues of orange and red, temporarily combatting overcast skies. There's a crispness in the air, forcing one to stubbornly retire jorts and tanks for cargos and heavy-knit sweaters. Folks are walking around with their thrifted, and fabulous, multi-colored scarves, with a warm beverage in hand. That's right, it's autumn, and the change of season signifies the predictable return of the pumpkin spice latte (PSL), meaning that I return to you with my third annual PSL review.

If you've been following along on this journey, then you already know we've covered a lot of ground in Capitol Hill and that finding the perfect pumpkin spice latte is no easy task. Seriously, they're either all spice and no pumpkin or all pumpkin and no spice (except for the "great pumpkin latte" at Caffè Vita. Never change a thing. You're perfect). However, my frustrations precede me... hopefully. With that, once again, I will be your guide and connoisseur this October, venturing into coffee shops to taste, of what I am slowly beginning to believe is an abomination of a latte, PSLs.

Wunderground is the first spot I will be reviewing. Just gonna say it, not a fan. The cafe feels like a sterile playground for tech bros with money to spend masquerading as a hip and artsy common space with overpriced supplements. As much as I want to like the fungal vibe, the balance between cold minimalism and gaudy embellishments is as unrefined as their coffee.

Official Wunderground PSL rating: two out of five pumpkins

I'm not gonna lie, I think I might just have beef with Wunderground and their weird mushroom coffee. Their "Brainchild" blend is what they serve in-house and differentiates itself from other coffee beans as it contains concentrations of Lion's mane and Cordyceps. The blend is a medium roast with milk chocolate, graham cracker and apricot notes. With the mushrooms, I found it tasted abnormally earthy, and not in a good way for a blend you'd expect to be sweet. Personally, I am only a fan of espresso with a sweeter flavor profile when it's done right, or has notes of caramel, vanilla, brown sugar or cherry paired with a dark, rich and nutty flavor.

When Brainchild is paired with their pumpkin spice, which I found to be underwhelming as they use Monin's syrup, I was utterly disappointed. Maybe it's the mushrooms or maybe it's the artificial pumpkin, or both, but I do not recommend their PSL. Luckily, Wunderground is offering more than one seasonal drink that includes a banana bread latte, a maple spice iced latte and a pumpkin cold brew. Though I can't guarantee I will be going back due to my great distaste for Brainchild.

Up next is Half and Half Doughnut Co. (HnH), a small doughnut shop off East Pike Street that was opened on the hill by Top Pot cofounder in 2019. The shop is small with a grab-and-go vibe, making it unassuming. Initially, HnH wasn't even on my list of places to go. But something about it caught my eye as I walked by, so I figured, why not drop in? While I did not leave with a donut in hand, their pastry case offers a wide variety of sweet and savory rings and fritters, with the barista highlighting their seasonal pumpkin spice glazed old fashioned.

Alas, we are not here to talk about donuts. To return to our objective, while I've found in the past two years that many coffee shops in Capitol Hill like to alter PSLs, HnH kept it simple. Like Wunderground, they also offer a classic PSL.

Official Half and Half Doughnut Co. PSL Rating: four out of five pumpkins

I appreciated the HnH PSL for its simplicity. Their pumpkin spice sauce is house-made with real pumpkin, sweetened with vanilla extract and includes the signature combination of what makes up pumpkin spice; cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger. Honestly, anytime somewhere goes out of the way to make any type of flavoring in-house, I'm usually halfway sold on it. As a barista who works at a cafe where all of our flavors are housemade (shoutout Volunteer Park Cafe and Pantry), I recognize the level of time and effort it takes to try and perfect a recipe, so kudos to HnH.

As far as the PSL itself, I found that it paired nicely with the espresso and was a satisfactory balance of pumpkin and spice. HnH serves Fulcrum coffee, specifically the "Queen City" blend which is a medium roast with hazelnut, macadamia and blackberry flavor notes. Overall, a solid PSL, but I think that the next time I return will be for one of their artisanal donuts.

Last but not least, Victrola Coffee Roasters will be our final destination. Down the street from HnH and also off of East Pike Street, Victrola has been on the hill since 2007 but in Seattle since 2000. Located in an old 1920s auto row building, this location possesses a nostalgia-like charm with exposed dull brick and wooden furniture. There is a considerable amount of seating and big windows that allow for a significant amount of natural light, making it a good spot to do homework.

Victrola offers a "pumpkin pie latte" (PPL), which is made with organic pumpkin spice, brown sugar and a blend of mulling spices; star anise, cinnamon, cassia chips, green cardamom, chopped ginger, Jamaican allspice, orange peel and cloves.

Official Victrola PPL Rating: four out of five pumpkins

In my humble opinion, I think that the typical take on pumpkin spice is to make it more spice-y than pumpkin-y, usually resulting in a flavor that makes one ask: where's the pumpkin? So anytime I encounter a pumpkin-forward latte this time of year, I've found that I tend to gravitate toward it more being someone who prefers sweet over spicy. With that, the PPL was pumpkin-y to my liking and paired nicely with Victrola's "Streamline Espresso," a medium-dark roast with hazelnut, cocoa and blueberry flavor notes. I've actually already gone back for it a second time!

You may be asking, "Leila, why is Victrola's PPL not five out of five pumpkins?" and to that I say, Caffè Vita's "great pumpkin latte" will continue to reign supreme from last year. It's the only five out of five pumpkins PSL I've tasted yet. It's great for a reason, it's like fall in a cup and they've simply perfected it. However, I hope that my review has inspired you to explore some spots on the hill you may have not ventured to yet and indulge in not only iconic but beloved fall flavors.



LEILA BUNKER 

REDHAWK SHARK TANK

A STUDENT-LED BUSINESS PITCH COMPETITION

NOV
04 6-8 PM
STCN 160



NOV
13 6-8 PM
PIGT AUD

Entrepreneurship
Club *at SeattleU*

SEATTLE
UNIVERSITY

INNOVATION &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER

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Innovation Fund