

Pershing High School West Side Leadership Academy Ulysses S. Grant Senior High School Morris Jeff High School Helix High School Daniel Webster Public School Duff Elementary School Mevers School of Excellence St. Margaret of Scotland School Riverside University

High ry Scl **VOLUME 105 ISSUE 2** **December 16, 2022** **ballardtalisman.org** ementa- School School / Drey-lemen- n Stem South- Houck d High School

# TALISMAN

St. Monica Catholic School Roosevelt High School Erie High School Bloomington High School South Tanglewood Middle School West Philadelphia Achievement Charter Elementary School Booker T Washington High School Kingman High School Lucy Addison Middle School Western High School North Crowley High School Oakdale Elementary School Highland High School Royse City High School Brighton High School Rippon Middle School James Madison Middle School Woodrow Wilson High School New Smyrna Beach High School Leap of Faith Middle School Mahone Middle School Desert Canyon Middle School Central Baldwin Middle School Barrington High School Redington Jr/Sr High School Loma Vista Middle School Eisenhower High School Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School Tech Academy Boston Forest Park Middle School Kraemer Middle School New Foundations Charter School Jerstad-Agerholm Elementary School Madison High School Fairland Middle School De Anza High School Hamilton Middle School Cora L. Rice Elementary School Rock Canyon High School Kimball High School Espanola Valley High School North Gardens High School East High School Olathe East High School JW Sexton High School Boys and Girls High School Dunbar High School West Mesa High School Sonnie Hereford Elementary Woodbridge High School Alief ISD Center for Advanced Careers Liberty Point International Middle School John Carroll Elementary School Wilson Middle School McColm High School Camelot Elementary School Tewksbury High School McClure Elementary School Lake City Middle School Eagle Academy McKinley High School Minneapolis School Bus Mount Vernon High School Catonsville High School Southwest DeKalb High School Wenonah High School Speight Middle School Logan County Community Technology Center Rufus King High School Academy Park High School South Education Center Alessandro Volta Elementary School Beloit Memorial High School Carroll High School Montgomery Elementary School Bartram High School Sunrise Mountain High School Magruder High School McNair High School Manor High School Pittsburgh Oliver Citywide Academy Seminole High School Anacostia High School Pyburn Elementary School Gaithersburg High School Valley High School Florin High School Auburn High School Childpeace Montessori School Columbus School Bus Catawba College Woodrow Wilson Junior High Eau Claire High School South Division High School Menchville High School West Charlotte High School East River High School School No. 17 Jones County High School Edward A. Upthegrove Elementary School Canal Winchester High School Jesse C. Carson High Greater Oaks Charter School Ewing Marion Kauffman School St. Matthews Elementary School Haines Elementary School Susan E. Wagner High School Wilmington Park Elementary School Blytheville High School Garfield High School Sam Rayburn High School Humboldt High School Whitehall Yearling High School

## Ingraham High School

**EDITORIAL:  
PROTECT  
KIDS NOT  
GUNS P. 2**

**SEATTLE  
STUDENTS WALK  
OUT FOR GUN  
CONTROL P. 10-11**



## Mission

### Statement

The Ballard Talisman is an open public forum for student expression, and exists to give a student perspective on issues relating to the Ballard student body and community. Please send signed letters with author's name, class or position (e.g. parent, student, teacher, etc.) to the editor.

## Advertising

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## Letters to the Editor

Letters submitted must be signed. Though, in some cases, the author's name may not have to be printed. Letter will appear on the editorial page or in the opinions section

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Unsigned editorials represent the majority view of the staff editorial board.

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The staff reserves the right to refuse or edit editorials and letters for libelous content, obscenity or material considered inappropriate for publication. The Talisman staff is aware of sound journalistic practice found in the 'Code of Ethics,' as part of the Society of Professional Journalists.

## Land

### Acknowledgement

The Ballard Talisman acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of the Coast Salish people. We respect Indigenous sovereignty and honor their right to self-determination. In our coverage, we commit to uplifting Native voices and the experiences of the Indigenous community.

The cover presents a list of school shootings in the United States since 1970. It is not comprehensive.



Students protest in front of a spray painted message reading "protect kids not guns" at Seattle City Hall after the Ingraham shooting. (Arden Rathkopf)

# ONE MONTH LATER, WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN

On Dec. 20, 2012, just six days after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, the Talisman wrote that "there is almost no way to prevent these deadly shootings except to control what these unstable people use to conduct their mass murders; guns." In 2016, following a gun threat on the Ballard campus, we wrote that "it's high time that we took some kind of measure to protect civilians and prevent further tragedies." Yet again in March of 2018, we covered nationwide student walkouts after 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz murdered 17 at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. Only seven months ago, we sat down to write an editorial about the tragedy in Uvalde, Texas, exhausted from watching a "never-ending cycle: shooting, thoughts and prayers, protest and repeat." With regrettable foresight, we wrote that "we wish we could promise things will get better, but that would be a lie."

It's been over a month since the deadly shooting at Ingraham High School, and we've seen this cycle repeat yet again. First, we were scared; scared for our friends, family and former classmates at Ingraham. We received texts from loved ones hiding in silent locked classrooms, unsure whether their lives were at risk. Once days had passed, we contended with shock and grief as we read articles describing the shooting. The coverage felt familiar, as we have all witnessed a regular onslaught of gun violence headlines, but this time they focused on our own local community. Next came the anger. We walked out, we chanted, we painted signs and we demanded change. Condolences were made, Instagram posts were shared on stories and empty promises of safety were offered up. Seattle policymakers told us that what happened at Ingraham was a tragedy. They told us that they were horrified that a 14-year-old brought a gun

into a school and took the life of another. SPS officials shared support, saying they were heartbroken for the family of the victim and the Ingraham community. They reminded us that it never should have happened.

But like the news coverage of shootings, we've heard this already. We've imagined possible escape routes from our classrooms in an attempt to stifle fear of gun violence at Ballard. We've heard the same talking points every time a student is murdered in their own classroom. At this point, writing about gun violence feels unproductive and futile. Even the message that "we've heard it all before" is repetitive. We don't know what else we can add to this conversation; it's all been said already.

What we will say is that every time gun violence takes the life of another student, it deserves to be covered. Regardless of the fatigue we feel, it is our duty to report on this. The weight of a school shooting is not lessened when it is one of thousands of similar events, and we must report on the gravity of each and every event. When school shooting coverage is no longer front page news as we become accustomed to these tragedies, we will have failed each child who has lost their life at the hands of gun violence. This is why we have dedicated considerable space in this issue to covering the school shooting at Ingraham. We may feel helpless and numb as we grieve, but we will not stop covering gun violence until substantial changes are made and students are safe in the classroom.



(Daphne Knox)

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# Tutor.com: an accessible tutoring service for students

New online tutoring has recently gained notice at the school, providing free, fast academic support to all Seattle Public Schools students

Marley Helfer Staff Reporter

The online tutoring service Tutor.com has become popular among students and teachers this year, giving students access to free, on-demand tutoring services.



Student explores Tutor.com, a free tutoring service for all SPS students. (Emma Steinburg)

Through their Seattle Public Library (SPL) account, students can receive one-on-one tutoring all day for core classes, AP classes, college-related materials, test preparation and paper review.

TuesD Chambers, librarian and library department head, spoke on the new tutoring

website.

“In terms of a service that’s easy to follow, easy to understand, has systems in place for safety... it’s a really great tool,” Chambers said.

As a free tutoring service, Tutor.com provides students with affordable academic support which was previously hard to come by.

“Reading tutors are \$75-\$150 an hour,” Chambers said. “And teachers can’t be everywhere and help everyone. I think this is one more way to assist families.”

Teachers like English Language Arts (ELA) teacher Theresa Burton used Tutor.com this fall with her Comparative Literature class, giving her students direct exposure to the service.

“[Tutoring] is pretty pricey,” Burton said. “I know it can be really tricky for families to get that.”

While initially launched in 1988, students gained access to the service in 2017 when Seattle Public Schools partnered with The Seattle Public Library to create the Library Link.

“It means everything that [SPL] is available online,” Chambers said. “They just made it really easy for librarians and teachers to give [all students] access to anything digital.”

This followed a larger pattern of school districts

throughout the nation partnering with their cities’ library systems.

Tutor.com is now partnered with The Princeton Review and the Department of Defense as well, helping students across the country receive academic support.

Despite its presence nationwide, teachers at BHS only recently became widely aware of the service.

“This year, I presented it at a staff meeting, so all the teachers then knew about it,” Chambers said. “and because the teachers knew about it, everybody learned about it.”

The service has become especially popular in ELA classrooms, especially with its on-demand paper review option.

“We had an overwhelming amount [of students] who had some really great experiences,” Burton said. “[They] had a lot of great feedback, things that were really helpful for them, that were very specific...”

Junior Zara Van Bronkhorst found the service helpful as well.

“It was very fast. The people who reviewed [my narrative] gave me really good feedback on grammar and sentence structure,” Van Bronkhorst said after using the service for her American Literature and Composition class.

However, some students have found the service underwhelming in some respects.

“It was pretty good, but some of the prompts for the text boxes were a little vague,” Junior Faolam Linx Jowaisas said. “but it gave good feedback.”

This remained a common thread through both student and teacher experiences.

“I had a couple students who didn’t get much feedback and didn’t feel like they got a whole lot out of it,” Burton said.

Nonetheless, Tutor.com gives students access to something that’s hard to achieve with in-person support.



(Courtesy of Ralph Bloemers)

## Earth Service Corps raises funds for PNW environmentalism

Wildfires call attention to climate change for Seattle students

Evan Sadler Staff Reporter

In September 2022, the Cedar Creek Fire in Central Oregon turned Portland’s sky orange as smoke from the fire erased the sun. The smoke’s effects persisted as far as the Seattle area.

Just the next month, forest fires raging in the Cascade Mountains combined with weeks of unusually dry, warm autumn weather caused the Air Quality Index (AQI), to reach peak values of 220 in the Ballard area, marking Seattle as the city with the worst air quality on Earth for days straight.

After this concerning wildfire presence in the greater Pacific Northwest area, Ballard’s Earth Service Corps presented the documentary, “ELEMENTAL: Reimagining Our Relationship with Wildfire,” on Saturday, Dec. 10 in the Earl Kelly Performing Arts Center.

Earth Service Corps’ social media and communications manager, junior Madeleine Koenig, described what pushed them to bring awareness to this cause.

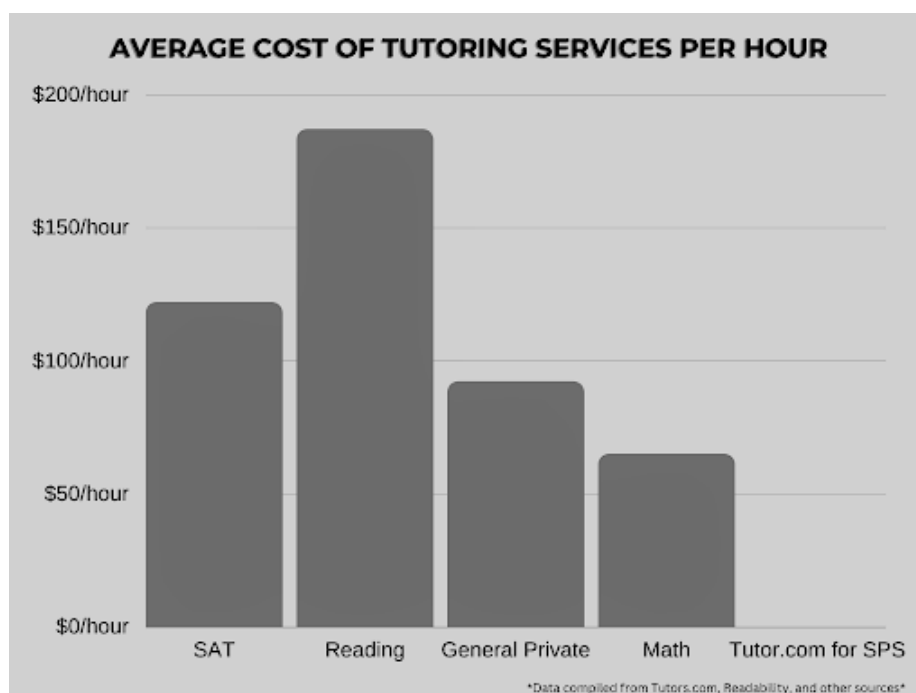
“These problems should not just be relevant to people in environmental concern clubs, or people wanting to better their environment, but everyone in Ballard and our world,” Koenig said. “Sports were canceled, pools were closed due to ventilation issues, and the air was difficult to breathe.”

The doors opened at 6:00 p.m., and the screening started at 6:30 p.m., followed by a Q & A with Executive Producer Ralph Bloemers and wildlife biologist Maya Khosla. All of the fundraiser’s proceeds will be donated to the film’s wildfire education efforts and RE-Sources, a PNW-based environmental non-profit.

Filmed in Oregon, Washington, California, Montana and Colorado, “ELEMENTAL” takes viewers on a journey with the top experts in the nation to better understand fire.

The film itself focuses on the roles of firefighters, native peoples and homeowners in wildfire-prone areas. It places emphasis on both the inevitability of wildfire and the ways fire is beneficial to forests and carbon-neutrality.

The film ends with a hopeful outlook on the ability of homeowners to fire-proof their homes, so humans can live in tandem to wildfires in light of the futility of fire suppression.



(Marley Helfer)





The Beavers gather with the Roosevelt Rough Riders at the end of the Unified basketball game to receive sportsmanship awards. (Semai Hagos)

## Unified breaks down barriers of separation through sports

SPS forges ahead in providing opportunities of inclusivity for GenEd students

Semai Hagos Features Editor

General Education (GenEd) plays a huge role in the social and economic lives of students, shaping who they hang out with and how they spend spare time. Throughout the years, students with learning disabilities have been pushed to isolation by peers.

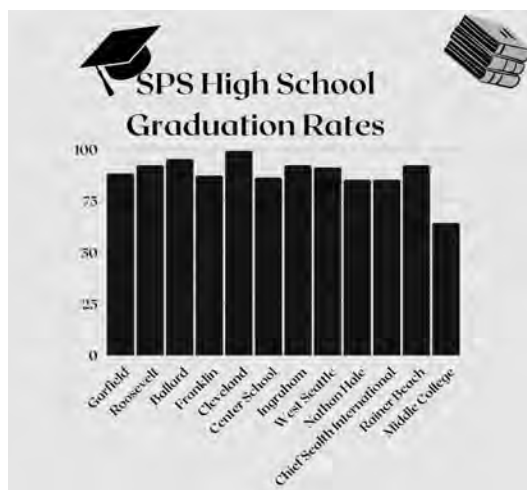
Co-teachers Denise Bolen and Robyn Maddess provide a safe and enthusiastic classroom environment for any student that walks through the doors of SW208.

“We support kids that are in GenEd classes,” Bolen said. “They have a period each day where they do life skills [such as] cooking, cleaning and work on their specific IEP goals.”

Otherwise, students are in modified courses.

Students stay in the same inclusion class throughout their four years at the school, allowing Bolen and Maddess to build relationships with students’ families.

Along with connecting with families, they treasure the bonding of students with different educational backgrounds.



In King County, 65.4% of students in the Special Ed program graduated on time, while 88.9% of students with disabilities graduated, beating the previous average of 86%. (Semai Hagos)

“Unified is our club that promotes inclusion here at Ballard,” Maddess said.

The Unified club allows students of different abilities and grades to form a team and play basketball together.

“These are after school activities, where students with and without disabilities are coming together to participate,” Maddess said.

Each year, Unified has an event in which the team will compete against another Unified team from the district.

“Every year we have an event called ‘Jam the Dam,’” Maddess said. “It’s a big basketball game ... the band comes, the cheerleaders come, the concession stand is going and we sell swag, and it’s this super fun event.”

Dec. 7 was this year’s Jam the Dam event, and was held in the main gym against Roosevelt.

“It’s really cool for our students with special needs to get an opportunity to play basketball on this full size court in their home gym,” Maddess said. “Because they don’t get that opportunity otherwise.”

Such occasions have proven to have a positive outcome, as it makes high school a time worth looking back on.

“We have some of the highest graduation rates for students with IEPs in the district,” Maddess said. “We do a really good job here at Ballard.”

This is no exaggeration either. In previous years, there’s been Unified drama, robotics, soccer, and Video Game Club. Bolen noted student improvement throughout the years, and has received positive feedback from families.

“I feel like a lot of our students don’t report feeling bullied here at Ballard. A lot of our students come in being really scared of high school [because] it’s so big and they’re worried about being bullied, but they really don’t leave with that experience,” Maddess said. “They feel included. They feel part of Ballard High School, which is really great.”

## Mixed opinions on phone use in the classroom

Students and teachers come together to weigh the pros and cons of phones at school

Penelope Neireiter Staff Reporter

Over the past weeks, staff and students have questioned the possibility of a school wide phone policy. Despite the difficulty to agree on one policy, it’s become clear to teachers and students that phones are one of the biggest distractions in the classroom.

On Nov. 30, a survey was sent out to the student body asking questions about monitoring their own phone use, as well as that of their peers. The survey also asked if students see that using phones while someone else is talking is disrespectful or not. Sophomore Sophie Labiosa had mixed thoughts about whether phones are a distraction at school.

“I think it depends if they’re being actively used for school in the classroom. They can be helpful, but I do quite often see many people on their phones for things that are not related,” Labiosa said.

While people might recognize the obvious problem of phones in the classroom, it seems that avoiding the problem is the solution for many students. Sophomore Alice Berman agrees with this observation.

“I think for me it’s a distraction and for other people it is also a distraction, but I don’t think they should not let us have them,” Berman said. “[The school] can’t really stop us from using them, unless they take our phones.”

Teachers have many classes throughout the day, allowing them to observe why certain classes use their phones more than others.

“My class that uses the phone the most is also the classroom they don’t talk to each other in,” Oana Rus, a math teacher said.

The correlation between phone usage and socialization is something more teachers are noticing. Some teachers are introducing more hands-on activities in the classroom to remove down-time and create opportunities for student engagement.

Rus was conflicted in her thoughts on a potential policy.

“I think there should be some kind of policy, but it’s hard to get a universal decision, so it really depends on the teacher’s teaching style,” Rus said. “Long term, I feel like phones create more isolation and stress for students.”



Students place phones into numbered hanging pockets on their classroom wall. (Emma Steinburg)



# Gendered bathrooms, a sign to change

*A simple plan for improved gender equality*

**Hugo Heim Romero** Staff Reporter

This year, the decision was made to turn the gender neutral bathrooms next to the counseling center into gendered bathrooms. At the same time, one new gender neutral bathroom was added. This means that in a school of around 1600 students, there are three gender neutral bathrooms, one of which is near most classrooms.

Feeling a lack of support from the school, the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Club decided to take matters into their own hands by reaching out to a Seattle Public Schools coordinator about making bathrooms gender neutral.

Club member, freshman and Talisman reporter Benji Emfinger had this to say about the club's reasoning for adding more gender neutral bathrooms.

"People feel more comfortable going into those if they are gender non conforming or something under the trans umbrella," Emfinger said.

President of the GSA Club, Stuti Adhikary, is at the head of organizing these changes but said that it wasn't all their doing.

"Last year, the [GSA] president themselves reached out to the district about the gender neutral bathrooms," Adhikary said.

The club is serious about what they want to accomplish, and they wanted to put their best effort into this endeavor.

"We made this entire list of problems that [were] wrong with it and how we can better it and then we sent it to the district," Adhikary said.

Although GSA had reached out last year, it was only this November when they were able to officially meet a coordinator.

"The idea that was agreed on was making all of them gender neutral, except for one set for people who either weren't out and didn't feel comfortable ... using the gender neutral bathroom yet, or people who just didn't use gender neutral bathrooms," Emfinger said.

The GSA club also plans to talk with architects on what changes are needed to make to these bathrooms gender neutral.

"[A]ll we really need to do is change the signs," Adhikary said.

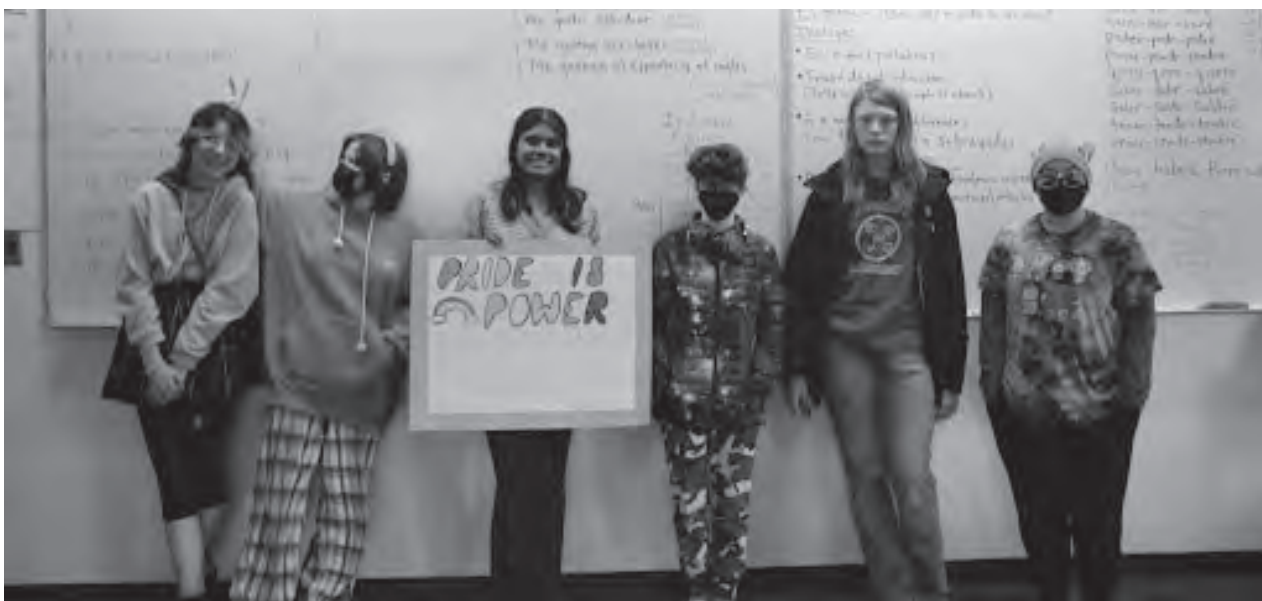
Although there are architects involved, there is no current definitive plan to change anything inside the bathrooms or adding urinals.

"I'm actually not quite sure about that yet. I feel like that's a good topic for greater discussion," Adhikary said.

With many additions still being up in the air, it is unclear when these changes will take place.

"I cannot say for sure ... I hope that these changes would be made by this year, but sometimes it can take a bit long," Adhikary said.

Although this may be as simple a change as just changing signs on bathrooms, GSA hopes this will be a small step to a more progressive Ballard.



GSA students pose during a weekly Wednesday meeting. From left to right, Benji Emfinger, Nykyt Cron, Stu Adhikary, Ryan de Forest, JC Shiff and Lucas Wenneman. (Maria Fonvielle)

## News in Brief

**Sadie Clark** News Editor

### Congress passes the Respect for Marriage Act

On Dec. 8, the House cleared legislation mandating federal recognition of same-sex and interracial marriages. The bill was a monumentally bipartisan effort marking a political shift for opinions on LGBTQ+ rights for all Americans. The Respect for Marriage Act redefines the legal definition of marriage as between any two people, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity or national origin. After the Dobbs decision and the overturning of Roe, many have worried about the Supreme Court's potential motive to push against marriage rights, specifically for same-sex couples. This legislation will allow same-sex couples around the country to receive benefits provided to opposite-sex marriages. The bill upholds religious liberties to deny marriage licenses, and it does not recognize marriages between more than two individuals.

### Brittney Griner released from Russia after 10 months

Brittney Griner, W.N.B.A. player for the Phoenix Mercury, was released Dec. 8 after 10 months of captivity in Russia. Griner was imprisoned on drug charges for allegedly carrying hashish oil – a marijuana concentrate – in her luggage. Griner's dubious conviction, 9 years in a penal colony, has been largely perceived by the U.S. Government to be in response to the sanctions placed on Russia after their launching of the war on Ukraine. Griner was released in exchange for Viktor Bout, notorious Russian arms dealer also known as "The Merchant of Death," causing a breath of relief for many. Griner is currently in a U.S. Army hospital located in San Antonio, being reunited with her loved ones.

### Georgia runoff renders a Democratic Senate

Democrat Raphael Warnock won the U.S. Senate seat in Georgia on Dec. 6, marking the end to the U.S. midterms. The House has a Republican majority (221 out of 435), and the Senate is narrowly held by a Democratic majority (51 out of 100). The Democratic win in the Georgia runoff election between Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker marks the end of a pivotal election for both parties. This midterm also marks a continuation in the upward trend of voter turnout since 2016. It's common for the midterms to flip from the party of the current president, so many have been shocked that this midterm election resulted in a Democratic majority in the Senate. With a split congress, legislation may be in a gridlock for the next couple of years.

### Members of German Reichsbürger arrested for plots of German coup

Twenty-five people were arrested in Germany on Dec. 7, suspected of belonging to a far-right domestic terrorist group during raids by 3,000 police officers and Special Forces. Plots were uncovered to storm the German Capitol in Berlin, arrest lawmakers, and instate a prince descended from German nobility as the new head of state. The conspiracy group, Reichsbürger, believes that the current German government is an illegitimate corporation created by the Allies after World War II. It's made up of an estimated 21,000 people, and often represents ideologies of neo-nazism and facism. It takes inspiration from the U.S.'s own QAnon, another far-right political conspiracy. This organization, along with the Washington capitol raid on Jan. 6, demonstrates a concerning trend in political violence as a result of extremist ideology.

# Getting to know one of the newest staff members

*Security Specialist Dwayne enters his new position with charisma, building relationships and making students feel seen*

Maria Fonvielle Staff Reporter

Originally from Seattle, Ballard's new security specialist, Dwayne Mattis, also known as Dwayne by students, has already formed meaningful connections with students and says he feels welcomed and accepted in the halls after relocating from Miami.

Mattis plans on becoming a physical education teacher, saying his preferable grades to teach are high schoolers, after previously teaching elementary schoolers.

"Elementary schoolers are not for me," Mattis said. "They are cute individually, but a full class is too much for me."

Mattis previously worked security for McClure Middle School for a year, making his transition to Ballard easier when seeing familiar faces from former McClure students.

"They kind of spread the word, like, 'hey, he's a nice guy, [you can] talk to him' and everyone else fell into the loop," Mattis said.

The spreading of this word proved to be quick and effective, as Dwayne can always be found conversing with students in his office and the Commons during lunch and in passing periods.

In order to facilitate these student connections, Dwayne's strategy is "meeting them where they're at."

By learning what a student's interests and passions are, Dwayne is able to have more genuine conversations with them in an attempt to create the most welcoming atmosphere possible.

In the case of seniors, Mattis is excited to hear about student's plans for the future.

"There are some really great kids at Ballard, and I'm excited to see some of them grow to the next level," Mattis said.

Whether it's going to student's football games, checking in with someone sitting alone at lunch, hearing about future plans, or just asking "what's up?", his main goal is to make all students feel seen.

This goal is based on his personal experience in school.

"A lot of my teachers didn't really know me,"

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*"There are some really great kids at Ballard, and I'm excited to see some of them grow to the next level," - Dwayne Mattis*

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Dwayne greets a student in the halls (Maria Fonvielle)

Mattis said. "They knew my name, but they didn't know anything about me."

This inspired him to try and form a connection with as many students as possible, and it appears to be working, as freshman Bryce Stoner describes.

"It's always fun to run into Dwayne in the halls," Stoner said. "Talking with him is never awkward."

Former McClure students, including Stoner, have expressed how seeing a familiar face made their transition from middle to high school easier.

# Assistant principal helps revive a unifying space for students

*The Adoptee and Foster Club continues for a second year, working to create a safe community*

Hazel Engstrom and Marley Helfer Staff Reporters

For some students, adoption is an integral part of their identity. However, conversations about adoption can be limited, along with opportunities for social gatherings among adoptees.

The Adoptee and Foster Club sought to bring those students together by creating a safe space for them to connect.

However, with the club's founding members graduating this year, the club was at risk of discontinuing.

Assistant Principal JaLynn Montes, an adoptee herself, sought to keep the club available for BHS students.

"I was hoping to try to connect adoptees together and give all of us a chance to connect and build community," Montes said.

To do so, she reached out to two core members of the club.

"I asked [Lina McRoberts] and her friend [Monse Eckert-Mariscal] if they would like me to organize a few social get-togethers throughout the year, and they said 'yes,'" Montes said.

The club's first event of the year took place Friday Dec. 9, after school. With bubble tea, pizza and activities, the event had nine students in attendance.

"It's a place for people to talk," senior Monse Eckert-Mariscal said. "Sometimes being adopted



(Semai Hagos)

feels like something only you've gone through, but [that's] not true. There are other people who have gone through what you are experiencing and they are often willing to talk to you about it."

While the club's meetings are intended to be fun and social events, they also give students a platform to share their more personal experiences.

"It's a place where you can talk about more

serious things because adoption can sometimes be traumatic, so having a place to process that can be very helpful for people," Eckert-Mariscal said.

Montes explained that while meetings won't happen regularly, the club will continue to provide an outlet for adoptee students and allies who she encourages to participate in the club's activities.

"The goal of the club is just to build relationships, to get to know each other, to share our experiences with one another, and to support each other," Montes said.



(First row: Lina McRoberts, Jessa Sorensen. Second row: Olivia Hall, Maraike Van Schepen, Asha Windus, Natsanet Bolser.) Adoptee and Foster Club meets Fridays at lunch in Ms. Katrell's room (SW102). (Courtesy of Lina McRoberts)



## New assistant principal shares goals and ambitions

*Ms. Montes joins the school community, promoting student visibility and inclusivity*

Sam Grannis, Lena Rainlyn and Linnea Wacker-Sprague *Cub Reporters*



JaLynn Montes gives a press conference interview to the Introductory Journalism class, to share her priorities as an educator. (Michael Smith)

This year, students welcome new administrators, including Assistant Principal JaLynn Montes. Montes hopes to strengthen the community, bring out the best in students and teach them to look at life's challenges as a series of obstacles to triumph.

Montes is an experienced educator who has always been interested in teaching, graduating from the University of Oregon with degrees in English and education.

Adopted from Seoul, South Korea, and raised by white parents in Portland, Oregon, Montes has wanted to be a teacher since she was 14.

She has spent her entire career as an educator, from teaching English in Seoul to middle schoolers in Edmonds.

She hopes to build connections at school, striving to create an environment where students feel safe, seen and supported. Together as a community, she hopes to tackle concerns such as sexual assault and harassment, as well as racial equity.

"I will say [racial equity] is always going to be a passion for me," Montes said.

Continuing to share her thoughts on education, Montes shared her personal views on the importance of a college degree.

"[College allows young adults to] be involved in society in an informed way," Montes said.

Additionally, she believes that college can be essential for building critical thinking skills and expanding resources to make connections.

Because Montes is new to the school, she mentioned the importance of community building.

With three children and years of experience in the education field, this is a skill right up her alley, even if this is her first job as a high school assistant principal.

One way she plans on connecting with students is to be out in the hallways forming personal relationships.

Montes is also invested in developing integrity within the school and addressing issues like safety in gender neutral bathrooms and diversity at the school.

She plans to join the S.T.A.R. club (Students and Teachers Against Racism), to become a bigger part of the community and to build trust with students.

On a closing note, Montes shared advice with students that she wished she had known earlier.

"Life is a series of problems to be solved ... don't get surprised when life is hard," Montes said.

She explained that to prosper in life, one must accept difficulty and adapt to problems, but ask for help when needed.

A self-described free spirit, Montes loathes being bored and does not like things dull; she enjoys her job because it is full of obstacles and proves challenging. She is always looking for meaning, and loves learning and growing through all of life's challenges.



Henry lays on the windowsill at his house. (Courtesy of Emily Nolan)

## The inside scoop on Henry the Cat's whereabouts

Jill Sousley *Staff Reporter*

Henry is a 7-year-old tabby that has been lurking around the school in recent months, making friends, exploring new places and gaining attention. Emily Nolan, Henry's owner, shares his life story and how his newfound fame affects his day to day life.

"He has always been a people person, he loves to get pets and attention from everyone," Nolan said.

When Henry's family brought him home for the first time, they soon realized he was going to be an outside cat.

"He was instantly jumping over the kitty gate and explored every inch of the house," Nolan said.

During the first few years of his life, Henry didn't roam very far. He would come and go from his house and only end up a few blocks away.

"Three years ago his territory started to expand, that's when we started getting more calls about him and would often find him in the high school parking lot," Nolan said.

She adds that sometimes her and her family wouldn't see Henry for weeks at a time, but his food would be gone in the morning, so they knew he was still around.

Henry loves attention and he has learned that he can get lots of it from students.

"I get pictures of him in other peoples homes sleeping on their couches [or] porches, walking with them and of little kids hanging out with him," Nolan said.

After calls increased and Henry began traveling further, they equipped him with a GPS tracker.

Henry has ventured as far as Phinney Ridge and Ballard Market in the past few years. Nolan explains that the only time they require Henry to stay inside is after he gets in the occasional fight and needs time indoors to heal.

Henry has gained lots of attention from students, reeling in quite the reputation. He's known as a super sweet furry friend that roams in the parking lot looking for pets.

"I love that Henry has so many people that watch out for him and know who he is," Nolan said. "He is absolutely living his best life out there."

Henry is loved by many and he will always be looked out for by the community.

### Hiring Process for Assistant principals

**Interview committee selected**

The hiring process starts with the formation of the interview committee, which consists of students, staff, and family members.

**Committee member selection**

Interested members must fill out an application about why they're interested in being on the committee, including experiences.

**Creating interview questions**

Selected members gather to discuss what they are looking for in an A.P. and prepare for interviews.

**Interview prep**

Once the date of interviews has come, committee members will record applicants' answers and give a score from 1-5 (5 being the best possible answer).

**Final sections**

After interviews and scores have been finalized, is when it will be revealed as to who got the job.

(Semai Hagos)

*"Life is a series of problems to be solved ... don't get surprised when life is hard,"*  
- JaLynn Montes



## Hallway artwork: new pieces and old favorites

### Revisiting the Orre Nobles Collection 25 years after its creation

Annie Welman *Editor-in-Chief*

As students pass between classes, their heads are often turned down towards shuffling feet or towards each other, wrapped up in hallway conversations. Every now and then, though, heads turn up, away from the clutter of moving bodies.

In these moments, students might notice the vast array of paintings and art features, scattered throughout the corners of the school. Accompanied by small, shiny plaques, these pieces make up the Orre Nobles Collection, an assortment of curated and eclectic pieces.

This collection was named after a former Ballard High School teacher who was known for his mentorship and creative influence on the community.

Though many are unfamiliar with this feature of the school, this collection is a unique and involved effort to showcase diverse art. In fact, Ballard is one of the only high schools in the country to house an art collection, with more than 75 pieces on display.

Despite its unusual existence, the news of the Orre Nobles Collection rarely reaches students.

“I did not know that there was a collection,” senior Garrett Knight said. “I’ve seen a lot of the paintings around and I’ve always kind of wondered what the deal was with them.”

Art Teacher Matthew Harkleroad seconds these thoughts, after interacting with students each year who have never heard of the collection.

“I get the sense that students aren’t very aware of the art around them,” Harkleroad said.

The collection is maintained and curated by the Ballard High School Arts Foundation, which is led by Matthew Kangas, a professional art critic and Ballard alum.

“I don’t know of any other public schools in the country that have a collection like this,” Kangas said. “It’s like a regular small museum.”

Within this “museum,” a variety of art is showcased in an attempt to meet the foundation’s four goals for the collection. As a whole, these goals focus on exhibiting art that represents regional history and the school’s diversity, often created by local or alumni artists.

“[The collection] should represent the given makeup of the student body and the staff,” Kangas said.

Throughout the 25 years since the collection’s creation, new pieces have been regularly added with

these goals in mind. Recent additions have been no exception, and include pieces by African-American artists like Jacob Lawrence and Gwen Knight. Indigenous artists such as Randy Capoeman and Susan Point are also showcased, along with Nigerian artwork gifted by UW Anthropology Professor Simon Ottenberg.

“I call [the collection] the curriculum-free art history class,” Kangas said, referring to the opportunities for students to learn from the varied pieces as they pass through the halls each day.

In addition to the Orre Nobles Collection, several murals adorn the school walls, adding to the array of hallway artwork. One mural was created in 2019 and resides outside the library, while another was added to the Activities Center last spring.

“[The murals] are a complement to the collection as a whole,” Kangas said.

The Multiculturalism Club led the creation of the most recent mural, which was designed by BHS graduate Cameron Patel.

“Our goal with the mural was part of a larger project to make the Activities Center more overtly welcoming of multicultural students,” Patel said over email. “We specifically wanted to highlight the contributions of activists and artists of color while also showcasing patterns from a variety of cultures.

The mural depicts various prominent figures, such as poet and activist Amanda Gorman, surrounded by a rainbow color scheme and bright background patterns. Many of these patterns were contributed by students or clubs, adding to the mural’s goals for diverse representation.

“[PASIFIKA Club] submitted a Samoan pattern, [Ballard graduate Eden] Mulu sent me an Ethiopian pattern, and [junior Semai] Hagos sent me an Eritrean pattern,” Patel said over email.

Leaders of both the Orre Nobles Collection and the murals hope that their messages extend beyond the artwork itself.

“Ideally, it is a gateway for people to learn more ... I don’t want this mural to be the only time people interact with these cultures and histories, I want it to be a jumping-off point,” Patel said over email.

In the future, the array of hallway artwork will continue to grow and shift, as the collection is maintained and students make their creative marks on the building.

“I surely hope [that clubs continue adding artwork to the building], because it makes our school a more beautiful, vibrant space,” Patel said over email.



“Poplars by the Ship Canal,” (1973) by Joan Stuart Ross, is located above the attendance office. The painting depicts the trees as “dancing figures,” and was inspired by Ross’s experiences with local student artists. (Emma Steinburg)



“Big Red Boat,” (2018) was created by Steve Jensen, who graduated in the class of 1974. This wooden piece reflects the traditions of Norwegian boat builders. (Emma Steinburg)



This mural was designed by Cameron Patel, through the Multiculturalism Club. It celebrates activists like Amanda Gorman, Marsha P. Johnson and others. (Emma Steinburg)



“Warm Spirit Brings Light ... Golden Gardens,” (2000) was painted by Ballard alum Joe Reno. This piece is a reference to teenage love and Golden Gardens. (Emma Steinburg)



# Fifa's greed is ruining soccer

*As the 2022 World Cup commences this winter in Qatar, concerns of human rights violations and accusations of corruption loom over the largest sporting event in the world*

Hazel Engstrom Staff Reporter

Played by over 20 million people in nearly 140 countries, with billions of fans worldwide, soccer is the most popular sport in the world. From its origin, it's been a unifying force for competition and comradery, adapted by players all over the world into the unique and ever evolving game we watch today. However, despite its long and storied history as a sport of the people, the "beautiful game" is no stranger to the infection of capitalism, especially on the world stage.

When Qatar was selected to host the world cup in 2010, criticism was in no short supply. For starters, summer temperatures in the desert state regularly break 100 degrees. This would mean that the matches would be pushed into winter, putting the English, German and Spanish leagues on pause, as players left to represent their respective countries.

Then the matter of the country's size. Only slightly smaller than Connecticut, with a population just shy of three million people, Qatar would have to radically transform its infrastructure in a decade to build stadiums, transit and lodging to accommodate teams and fans from around the world.

However, the complaint that FIFA has dodged with shocking nimbleness despite its age (118 years old) and size (weighed down by bribery), is of the slew of human rights violations that the host country has accumulated. Despite attempts to low-ball numbers to the media, Qatar's stadium construction has been linked to the deaths of over 6,800 migrant workers, most of



(Daphne Knox)

whom had little protection due to their precarious financial and immigration status. These deaths and accompanying violations should have come as no surprise to FIFA, who awarded the cup in 2010, prior to the dismantlement of the Kafala system in Qatar. This system legally binds foreign workers, preventing them from changing jobs or even leaving the country without permission from their employers.

While Qatar did abolish Kafala in 2020, the weak attempt by the host country to wash away the stain of human trafficking and forced labor from their stadiums

and venue infrastructure is absurd, considering how much they profited from the system during the decade prior to its abolishment.

As a longtime fan of the sport, FIFA has gotten countless hours of viewership from me. It's hard not to buy into the greatest monopoly of the soccer world, intentionally or not. Qatar is not the first, nor will it be the last world cup plagued with misconduct and corruption, it's simply on a pedestal, its flaws bared to the world, with FIFA on the hotseat – at least until the next one.

## Senior takes hobby to the next level

*The behind the scenes of Shot by Quinton*

Alina Zahn Staff Reporter

It all started for senior Quinton Brewster when he went abroad to live on the coast of Spain during eighth and ninth grade. While in Spain, he started experimenting with his dad's Canon camera. He quickly developed an interest in photography and was able to take photos of places he traveled to around Europe. Those were the years he discovered his love of photography.

However, once he returned, he put the camera away for a while until his dad brought it to one of Brewster's lacrosse games. That game, Brewster grabbed his dad's camera again.

"I just started taking photos of my teammates," Brewster said.

This was the moment Brewster realized that sports photography is his passion.

"When I am playing lacrosse, I am in it, [but] when I get to take photos of people playing a game that they love, it allows me to be out of the spotlight and capture the important moments," Brewster said.

Brewster was hired by Ballard football to take their photos, graphics, and highlight reels of games this year. Brewster attended every football game and more practices than he could count.

"It's a lot, but I absolutely love it," Brewster said.

Brewster strives to capture players in the best light possible.

"The goal is to always make them look good," Brewster said.

Brewster feels that part of his job is to capture important moments football players experience on the field.

"The hours of waiting on the sideline of the field always pay off in the end," Brewster said.

Brewster used a FujiFilm X-T3 with custom presets to capture football players on and off the field.

"I understand my camera, which makes for a successful outcome every time," Brewster said.

Brewster has also been able to take many videos showing the football team in action. Brewster is able to show a lot of this work through his social media presence.



Brewster filming from the sidelines. (Courtesy of Quinton Brewster)

He has an instagram account dedicated to his photos, as well as a website that showcases photos he's taken over the years.

Brewster has made a name for himself in the metro league due to his success with the Ballard football team. Noticing the quality of his work, O'Dea hired Brewster to play a similar sports media role there.

"It's cool that something I love I get to do so much," Brewster said. "The feeling I get from [sports photography] is unbeatable."

Brewster's recent success could lead him to many possibilities in his future.

"No matter where the future takes me, I'll always have a camera with me," Brewster said.

# Seattle students walk out for gun co

*In the wake of Ingraham school shooting, students demand change at City Hall*

Hazel Engstrom, Marley Helfer and Xander Howarth Staff Reporters

Thousands of students across Seattle gathered on the steps of City Hall Nov. 14, walking out of their classes in solidarity with Ingraham students, with the larger goal of preventing gun violence in schools.

This demonstration was in response to an incident of gun violence on Nov. 8, when a 17-year-old Ingraham High School senior and 14-year-old Ingraham freshman engaged in an argument that began in the school's bathroom, moving to the hallway as it escalated. Shots were fired, and the incident culminated as the older student received 5 gunshot wounds to the back, later dying of the injuries he had sustained.

The school went into lockdown for hours as police made two arrests and released a statement, all while parents congregated at the designated reunion site as their students were slowly released by school officials and law enforcement.

The incident at Ingraham, while shocking for many in Seattle, follows a nationwide trend as

shootings in schools reach record numbers this year, with 2022 marking the most school shootings resulting in deaths in 20 years according to Education Week.

For Seattle students, these statistics have become front and center in their everyday

lives. The fear and anger they felt when hearing of incidents of gun violence now hangs heavily in their classrooms and hallways.

This newfound proximity to the issue inspired many to take action. Ingraham Students Against Gun Violence and the Seattle Student Union organized the walkout, detailed demands, and gave speakers a platform to share their stories and concerns.

## Student speakers voice demands

Ingraham students gave speeches from the start of the rally at 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"It makes me sick to think that in many ways, this could have been prevented," a student speaker from Ingraham said.

Speakers discussed the inaction from school

**"We are demanding actions be made so we can resume to a safe learning environment,"**  
-student speaker



After students gathered at City Hall, organizers led the group in a march through the surrounding streets. Thousands gathered around the focal point of the march: the large banner that read, "Ingraham Strong." (Arden Rathkopf)

and city leadership, personal experiences and demands.

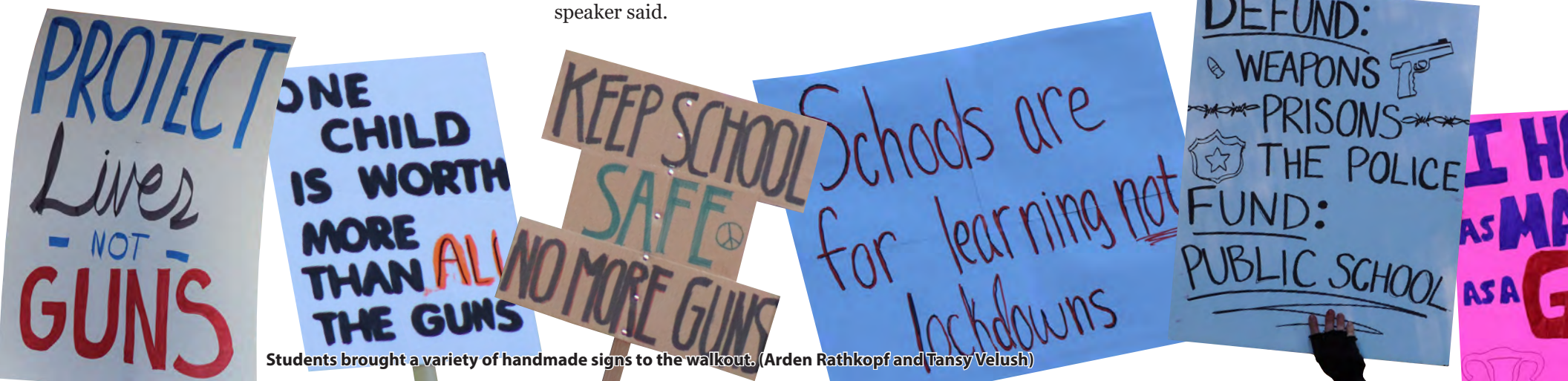
The Seattle Student Union, who worked to organize the walkout, are demanding one counselor for every 200 students, updated school curriculum, increased security trained in de-escalation and restorative justice, and improved outreach programs within schools.

"We are demanding actions be made so we can resume to a safe learning environment," a student speaker said.

## Seattle leaders' responses

After the shooting, Seattle politicians responded promptly with hopes of sharing concern and compassion for those suffering from this tragedy and addressing the need for gun legislation reforms.

SPS Superintendent Brent Jones addressed changes in an official written statement on the SPS website and at the School Board meeting on Nov. 9.



Students brought a variety of handmade signs to the walkout. (Arden Rathkopf and Tansy Velush)



# Control and mental health resources



Student protesters paused at an intersection before continuing to march through city streets around City Hall, chanting “No more silence. End gun violence.” (Arden Rathkopf)

“I am introducing three actions as part of a district-wide safety initiative,” Jones said.

Jones detailed his plans of establishing a Community Action Team to improve school safety as well as launching a child well-being council of experts to meet mental health needs.

On Nov. 8, US Representative Pramila Jayapal of Washington’s 7th Congressional District gave her official written statement on the shooting.

“This is a multi-faceted crisis that requires comprehensive solutions, including at the federal level,” Jayapal said in her statement. “We must also take on the crisis of mental health, and particularly youth mental health.”

**“[I] ran to the nearest classroom I could find. I just wanted to get away,”**  
**-Hazel Morton**

The Seattle City Council later passed its 2023-24 budget on Nov. 29, adding \$4 million for mental health counselors in SPS to address this issue.

Ultimately, Seattle politicians responded with a common focus.

“Our young people need real tools and resources to help them get through the challenges of our world today and to find solutions that don’t involve guns and violence to address disagreements,” Jayapal said.

## Student perspectives on the walkout

While the walkout was organized by speakers, the root of the support was from the students who were there. Many of these students hailed from Ballard High School, pouring

into the courtyard of City Hall by bus.

Attendees had different motives for participating. Ruby James Madden, BHS freshman ambassador, talks about why she joined in the protest.

“I’m here to show support for Ingraham students and raise awareness for stricter laws surrounding gun control,” Madden said.

That is a sentiment shared by many protesters at City Hall, their signs and words expressing more than the action of walking out, all of it stemming from overwhelming support for Ingraham students and teachers.

BHS senior Lina McRoberts worked with Seattle Student Union board members to help organize Ballard’s participation in the walkout in support of the Ingraham community.

“I think it’s a really important cause ... I have, and of course other students have, friends who attend Ingraham,” McRoberts said.

Many felt that stricter gun laws were the best course of action.

BHS sophomore Elvia Maldonado spoke on why stricter gun laws matter so much.

“Because kids matter a lot more than guns,” Maldonado said.

Maldonado also brandished a sign, which

many protesters brought. Some signs sought to be supportive of Ingraham students, while others were more grave.

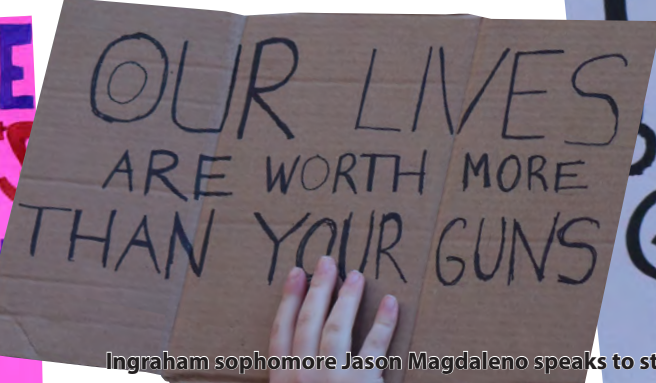
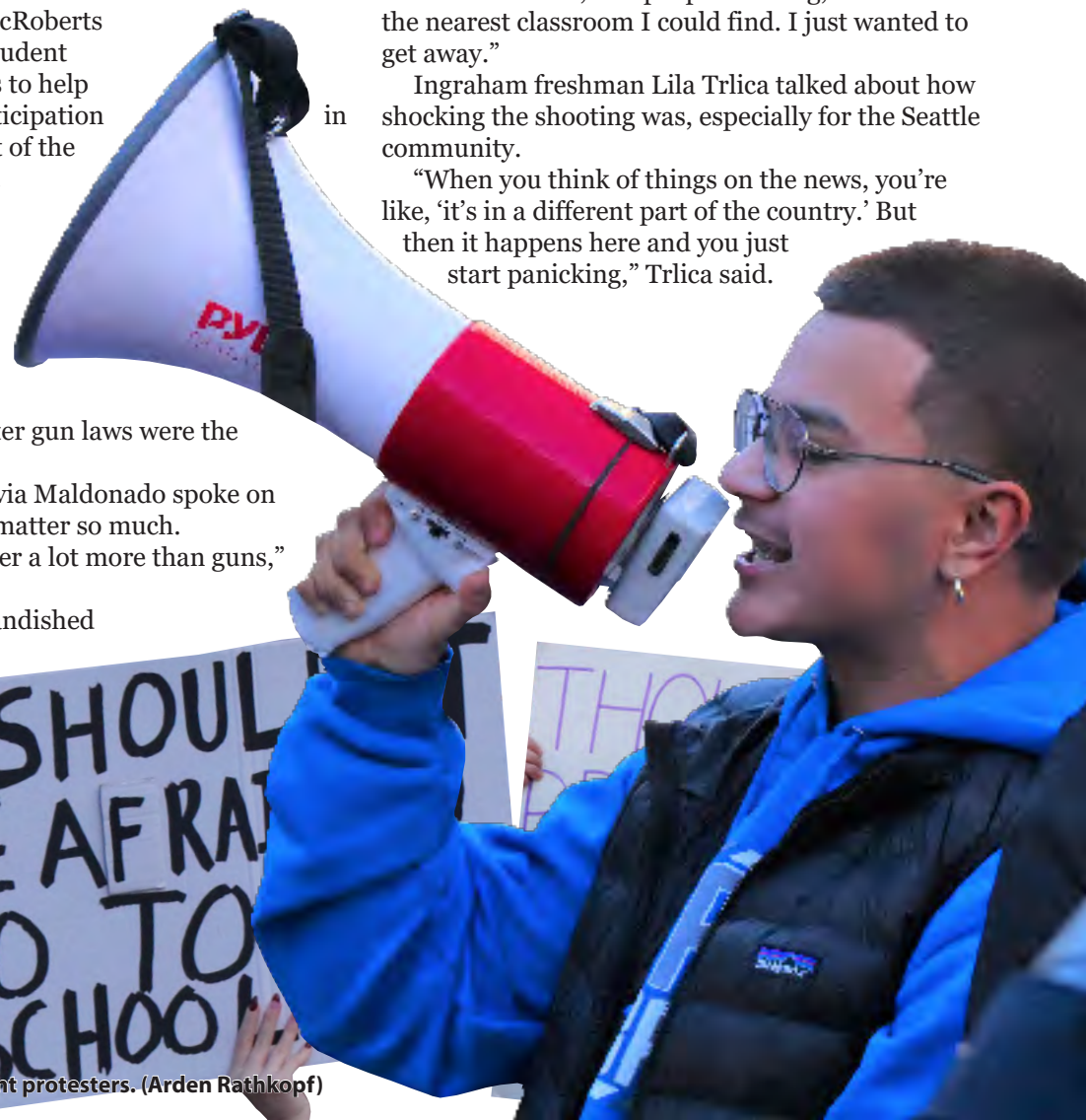
Signs read, “We’re in this together,” “I want to attend graduations not funerals,” and “I don’t want to die.”

These signs may have struck the deepest for Ingraham students, many of whom will hold Nov. 8 in their lives for a very long time.

“I was in the hallway... and I heard gunshots,” Ingraham junior Hazel Morton said. “I turned around and froze, saw people running, and ran to the nearest classroom I could find. I just wanted to get away.”

Ingraham freshman Lila Trlica talked about how shocking the shooting was, especially for the Seattle community.

“When you think of things on the news, you’re like, ‘it’s in a different part of the country.’ But then it happens here and you just start panicking,” Trlica said.



Ingraham sophomore Jason Magdaleno speaks to student protesters. (Arden Rathkopf)



# Four members of girls swim team break school record and qualify for state meet

*Stars of girls' swim reflect on their experience at the 2022 State Championships*

Matea Hart Staff Reporter

This year's girls swim team ended their season in a notable way: by securing a ticket to state. Senior Lucy Ahrens, junior Claudia Yovanovich, sophomore Mia Onkels and sophomore Alyson Chew qualified for state in the 200 yard medley relay on Nov. 5 by placing in the top seven at district competitions.

Ahrens, who anchored the relay as the freestyle swimmer with a time of 27.01 seconds, reflected on the process of making it to state.

"We didn't actually make our cut for that meet until later on in the season so we were working to get that time the whole season," Ahrens said. "It pushed us to work harder in practice every week because we really wanted to get there."

As a senior, this is Ahrens' last high school swim season, which prompted her to reflect on her four years as a member of the swim team.

"It is something that I'm proud I did for as long as I did, and I made great friends from it. It's an experience I would recommend to anyone," Ahrens said.

Yovanovich was responsible for the 50 yard backstroke in the team's relay.

*"It's something that I'm proud I did for as long as I did, and I made great friends from it,"*

*- Lucy Ahrens*

She also competed in an individual event, the 50 yard freestyle, with an outstanding time of 23.61 seconds, and 100 yard backstroke with a time of 56.66 seconds, placing 3rd in both events. Yovanovich aspires to swim competitively at the next level.

"I really want to swim in college. So this high school swim team sets it up for that. I also do club swimming outside of school, and I really enjoy it," Yovanovich said.

The girls' relay team placed 12th at state with a final time of 1:53.76, setting a Ballard high school girls' record.



Alyson Chew swimming breaststroke in the second leg of the medley relay at the district championship which led to the relay qualifying to the state meet. (Emma Steinburg)



The girls relay swim team (Ahrens, Chew, Onkels, Yovanovich) leading the band through the halls in celebration of their qualification for the state swim meet. (Maria Fonvielle)

## Metro League splits the basketball divisions

*Adjustments made by Metro League for the 2022-23 season*

James Liska Sports Editor

This basketball season has been marked by change as the Metro League was divided into an upper division and a lower division for both the boys' and girls' leagues.

Hoping to reduce the number of games with lopsided outcomes, Metro League placed stronger teams in the upper division and weaker teams in the lower division, determining strength based on the teams' records from the 2021-2022 season. This reorganization of Metro League basketball was designed to increase the probability of competitive matchups.

For the 2022-23 season, the Ballard boys' and girls' teams will compete in separate divisions. The girls were placed in the upper division of Metro basketball, while the boys were placed in the lower division.

Athletic Director Eric Ensign approves of the Metro League's new structure. "I think it's the fairest way to do it," Ensign said. "There's so many

blowouts in Metro basketball; Garfield beat Cleveland girls 102-0 last year. That's just not good for anybody."

Senior captain Nevaeh Harman has mixed feelings about the change.

"We can't play against my friends from Lincoln or Roosevelt. Those are usually fun games to play, but we can't play them because they're in a different league," Harman said. "But now that we are in the higher league, it's going to be a lot more competitive, so our team's skill base will get a lot stronger."

Senior Max Sevier is looking forward to playing in the new division, explaining that the boys' team is in the lower division by choice.

"We had the option to be in the higher division because we had a lot of success last year, but because we have a new coach and we lost four of our six players who got any playing time last year, we decided to move to the lower division and Roosevelt took our spot," Sevier said. "It should be a fun season, I have high expectations for it."



# Classics to rekindle holiday spirit and joy

Whether a re-watch or a first time indulgence, these movies are guaranteed to lift spirits

Alina Zahn Staff Reporter

**H**oliday season is the time to indulge, whether that's by eating too many sweets, spending too much money on gifts and holiday decor or sleeping in. However, my favorite indulgence during the season is snuggling up with a blanket and watching some of my favorite Christmas classics. Must-watch movies during this time include "It's a Wonderful Life," "Home Alone," "Christmas with the Kranks" and "Elf."

## 'It's a Wonderful Life'

This 1946 movie by Frank Capra is truly a Christmas classic. The movie follows George Bailey, a man who can't see his purpose. He has spent his life constantly giving back to the people in his town, but feels that he hasn't truly made an impact. Through a Christmas miracle and an angel giving him a glimpse of what the town would look like without him, George is finally able to recognize his self-worth.

This movie wholeheartedly embodies the true spirit of Christmas. Getting to follow a simple man's story about going through a hard time in his life, with Christmas and the values that are embedded into the holiday becoming his saving grace, makes for one of the most heartwarming Christmas classics ever.

## 'Home Alone'

Directed by Chris Columbus, "Home Alone" is undeniably a Christmas favorite for many. The 1990 movie stars an 8-year-old makes for a truly fantastic watch.

This unique and unexpected Christmas story is undoubtedly on countless watch lists, which also explains why there are several spin offs to this classic. You don't want to miss the "Home Alone" experience this holiday season.

## 'Christmas With the Kranks'

A newer Christmas movie still considered one of the greats is "Christmas with the Kranks," directed by Joe Roth. The 2004 movie starring Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis is an enjoyable and relatable Christmas experience that has become a modern classic.

Luther (Tim Allen) and Nora (Jamie Lee Curtis) Krank decide that while their daughter Blair is off in Peru, they will skip Christmas. Instead of spending their usual money on elaborate decorations they decide to invest it in a luxury 10-day Caribbean Cruise. Unfortunately for the Kranks, this doesn't go over well with their neighbors who take Christmas very seriously. A turn of events occurs when their daughter Blair calls on Christmas Eve to tell them she's coming home for Christmas. Of course they then must scramble to make their house a place where their daughter can have a memorable Christmas experience

Watching the Kranks, that have tried their hardest to ignore Christmas, manage to put together a magical Christmas in a matter of hours truly makes for a great story. This film takes a different but brilliant spin on the importance Christmas carries for families.

## 'Elf'

Lastly, what I believe to be one of the most popular and re-watchable Christmas movies is "Elf." The 2003 movie starring Will Ferrell is a spectacularly done Christmas comedy that has become beloved by many.

Buddy the Elf grows up in the North Pole, but when he learns that his biological dad is living in New York, he makes the journey from the North Pole to the big city. When he meets his father, he realizes that he needs to start embracing the Christmas spirit.

Buddy's contagious energy that he brings to the city, his dad's life, and everyone else he meets along the way truly encompasses the meaning of Christmas. Buddy's journey to find the importance of Christmas is one that is so enjoyable to watch. I rewatch this movie almost every year and still get the same entertainment I got when I watched it for the first time.

These Holiday movies can be enjoyed with a wide range of people. From a cute holiday party with your friends, to your whole family, you get the same appreciation from each movie.

These films are perfect for cozying up with a blanket on Christmas Eve or trying to extend the Christmas joy with a Christmas watch party on New Years Eve, With winter break just around the corner, hopefully you will get the time to relax and indulge in watching one or maybe even all of these incredible films!



(Amazon)



(IMDB)



(Rotten Tomatoes)

# Tasting the Starbucks holiday season

Ditch or delish: The iconic drinks are back, but are the seasonal delights worth it?

Josie Fitzpatrick Staff Reporter

**E**very year, Starbucks greatly increases the amount of holiday cheer in the air the moment they start serving their seasonal drinks. The list consists of some traditional flavors that regain their place on the menu and some new original flavors that spur excitement from devoted customers.

On top of the delicious (and in some cases nostalgic) flavors we get to experience, there's joy spread through the cup designs that perfectly represent the holiday season. These decorated cups were first introduced in 1997, and this year, they feature four new designs. This includes a red, green and white theme with various Christmas trees, stars, and snowflake shapes.

As for the drinks themselves, they were announced and first appeared on the menus on Nov. 3 this year and are expected to slip away around mid January. This gives everyone a good two months to try each flavor and collect each cup.

For the 2022 season, there are six flavors on the holiday menu that you can try. A classic option is the peppermint mocha, though close to a peppermint hot chocolate, you get to enjoy the caffeine boost as a little bonus.

There's also the toasted white chocolate mocha and Irish cream cold brew, which don't seem to be creating much buzz this year.

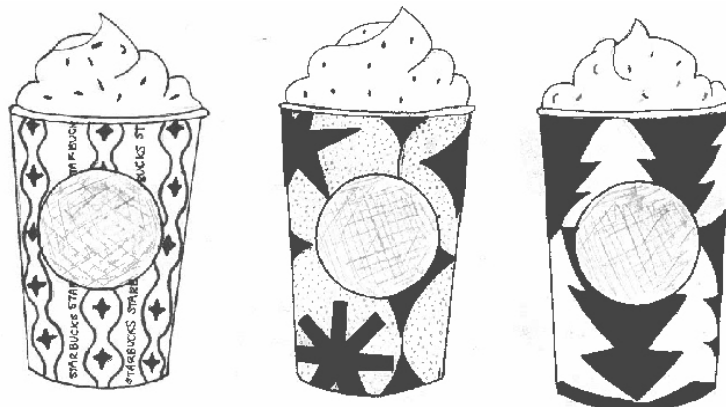
The toasted white chocolate mocha is definitely worth your time, especially if you're a fan of the regular white chocolate mocha.

Although the Irish cream cold foam isn't as favored, the slight coco undertones pair really well with the vanilla flavors.

Next, onto lattes. You could try the caramel brulee, chestnut praline or iced sugar cookie almond milk latte which leaves you with the decision of which flavor will compliment your mood.

I will have to say, the iced sugar cookie almond milk latte tastes surprisingly similar to an actual sugar cookie and definitely satisfies my inner sweet tooth, especially with the red and green colored sprinkles added on top.

As far as I'm concerned, you can't go wrong with any of their choices, especially when complimented with a snowman cookie or a reindeer cake pop. My only advice is to choose wisely, and let the holiday magic take over from there.



(Matea Hart)



# Growing pains of a god

## 'God of War: Ragnarök': an awkward teenager of a masterpiece

Hugo Heim Romero Staff Reporter

In 2018, Santa Monica Studios rebooted their flagship series. After years of intense work and worry, "God of War" was released to critical acclaim and was awarded Game of The Year. The game explores themes of family, growth and forgiveness all under the lens of Norse mythology. While the sequel, "God of War: Ragnarök" had amazing reviews at its launch, it struggles to live up to the monumental legacy set by the first game.

The two protagonists of both games are Kratos, and his son Atreus. Kratos was born in Greece as a Spartan warrior, eventually becoming the God of War and killing the rest of the Greek pantheon for wronging him. After he demolishes Greece, he leaves for Scandinavia and makes a new family. This is where the second protagonist is revealed, Atreus. Atreus is the son of Kratos, and is also eventually revealed to be the Norse God, Loki.

The most obvious improvement from the first game is the combat; not only do you get another weapon, but the combat has been reworked, allowing for new moves and strategies.

The biggest complaint for the first game was the lack of enemy variety. Throughout the first game you fight many trolls; almost half of all bosses you are forced to fight are trolls. The most disappointing moment was traveling to Helheim, realm of the dead, and then just fighting another troll.

The second game made sure to fix this, having such varied enemies that by the time you start understanding one enemy, they make sure to send another just to mess you up. But while the gameplay is an improvement, it matters little compared to the main reason people loved the first game: the story.

The first game is based around a story of a father-son duo traveling to the highest peak in all the realms to spread their mothers' ashes. Its simplicity is what allows for such a compelling story. Throughout the adventure they each teach each other and grow; the father teaches the son how to be a god and the son teaches the father how to be a human.

The second game takes place three years after the first, as the characters have been surviving Fimbulwinter, the three years of winter that precedes Ragnarök. Ragnarök is a cataclysmic event that is described in Norse mythology, it leads to the death of many people and gods along with the destruction of the world.

The second game has a much more complicated story. While the first one is all about climbing a mountain, in the second, you never know what's going to happen. You travel all across the nine realms of Norse mythology, searching for gods, items and prophecies, all while the characters argue on whether to prevent Ragnarök or not.

In the first game, Kratos was the main character, merely traveling with his son Atreus. But in the sequel, Atreus, acts as a foil to Kratos, not just as a side character, but as a playable character all on his own. Although the game begins with them as a duo like the first game, they slowly start butting heads

Rating  
★★★★★

and eventually split off. You get to play as both characters, and thus you are stuck in an awkward tug of war where Kratos wants to just mind his own business and keep his son safe, while Atreus wants to discover his destiny and prevent Ragnarök.

While this is interesting, it definitely strains the game. There is such a tonal whiplash and awkwardness during the first half, causing a reluctance to play each character. Kratos shows no enthusiasm for the adventure and does not interact with the world in meaningful ways.

While playing his sections, I kept thinking, 'can something important happen?' Atreus is such an entitled brat that although interesting things are happening, I kept hoping he would grow up. Even though he has good ideas he never communicates them.

There is a whole scene where instead of calmly discussing with his father, which could lead to a healthy and reasonable outcome, he just runs away. This was much of my opinion throughout a lot of the game, but at a certain point where Atreus makes a decision, things finally got better, and then I realized the purpose of the game.

"God of War" is like a child; grabbing you by the hand and showing you what it wants, while Ragnarök is like a teenager. It starts off as an awkward mess that doesn't know what it wants, but then it starts discovering itself, exploring the world and making important decisions.

If "God of War" is a game that starts off amazing and ends slightly better, then "God of War: Ragnarök" starts off great and gets exponentially better, succeeding even its parent game.



"God of War: Ragnarök" is a successful sequel to the beloved original game, however the storyline can seem overcomplicated at times with the many new additions. (Sony)

### The Performing Arts Scoop

Nov 16

Students perform at Bickerson's Brewery

Choir winter concert

Dec 7

Dec 8

Band winter concert

Orchestra winter concert

Dec 9

Jan 27-29

Jazz band trip to Clark College

Band, orchestra and choir perform together for the first time since 2019

Dec 7-9



# ‘Wendell and Wild’ fills gaps in the claymation genre

## The 2022 release provides proof that everything Jordan Peele touches turns to gold

Olivia Schaer Staff Reporter

In the year 2022, Netflix startles us once again with its recent delivery of the first stop-motion film starring a Black, female, protagonist.

Nominated for a Netflix Oscar, produced by Monkeypaw Productions, written by Henry Selick and Jordan Peele, and starring fan favorites like Keegan-Michael Key, Angela Bassett, and James Hong, the film was almost set up to be a success.

As a lover of stop and clay animated movies, I had my doubts when I first viewed the brief and jarring preview in early 2022, however “Wendell and Wild” entirely swayed my opinion within the first 15 minutes.

The film finds subtle ways to speak on race and the issues in our country without making that the focal point of the film.

The plot follows a 13-year-old girl named Kat, whose parents die when she is 8. She falls down a dark path during the next five years and goes through a series of foster homes while her town starts to deteriorate due to a corporate private prison company.

The story officially starts when Kat is brought to a catholic girl’s school by her foster care worker, Ms. Hunter, played by Tantoo Cardinal. This was the first eye-catching moment in the film due to the sudden attention to detail during the drive, like a single shot of the van’s tire running over and cracking some ice on the street.

The film follows traditional stop-motion animation techniques but breaks tradition when it comes to the facial features of each character.

For instance, Ms. Hunter is portrayed with tunniit (face tattoos) on her chin and cheeks and

has long gray and brown hair. She shows as much concern for Kat as a supportive mother figure and is subsequently the first accurate animated portrayal of an indigenous woman I have seen within my lifetime.

When Kat arrives at school, It doesn’t take long for her to see that she is no ordinary girl when she summons her own demons, Wendell and Wild, from the underworld through wishes to reunite with her parents in the world of the living. From here the film takes a few wild turns and the attention to detail



(IMDB)

Rating



remains superb, which can be observed through the film’s use of paper cutting and felt props.

Although the film is seemingly simple, with a fun eerie plot, it emphasizes alternative behavior, shown through Kat’s expressive style, taste in music, and rebellious nature, calling our main character a “disruptor” and “breaker of the status quo.”

Although Kat dresses more “alternatively” than her classmates and listens to rock, written exclusively by Black artists, the message around exploring differences connects to her perspective as a young Black woman more than her difference in taste.

This is also seen through her parallels, Wendell and Wild voiced by Jordan Peele and Keegan-Michael Key, when they are punished for trying to make an idea of their own come to fruition.

Their actions are labeled as a rebellious insurrection, both words that have been frequently targeted throughout American history towards Black and Indigenous people.

The rest of the film encapsulates other modern ideas about how we manipulate the system to get laws passed in our country, the basis of racial identity, fighting negative internal dialogue, the poorly constructed prison system, and the acceptance of trans students and children.

This film encapsulates everything that animated television should be in 2022. Because the messaging is subtle, it is perfect for young kids and is still a wacky, attainable and memorable film.

# ‘Bones and All’: Love at first bite

## New romantic horror film captivates just as much as it disturbs

Piper Sorenson Staff Reporter

For decades, fantastical themes have played a part in the romance genre. Most everyone has picked up a book about fairies or a movie about vampires, thinking nothing of it. Usually, these elements are more interesting than terrifying, with their inhuman behavior romanticized by both the other characters and the audience. “Bones and All” doesn’t play by those rules.

Maren, played by Taylor Russell, is a cannibal, albeit a fairly unwilling one. Abandoned by her mother and raised by her normal father, she feels alone and misunderstood by everyone around her. She doesn’t want to eat people, but her inexplicable compulsions leave her with no choice.

Lee, played by Timothée Chalamet, is just your everyday teenage boy, except he’s always on the run, never staying in one place for long. Oh, right. He’s also a cannibal, with significantly less solid morals than Maren. The character sports a signature red mullet that is (hopefully) box dyed, not permanently stained from his victims’ blood.

This whirlwind road trip through the backstreets of the American South in the 1980s could be classified as both horror and romance. Cruising through state after state, the teenagers continue

to meet both friends and foes on their way.

The journey hits the breaks when Maren makes a discovery that throws her off course. Both she and Lee have to decide for themselves whether they should stay on the run together or whether their moral gaps are too wide to bridge.

From renowned Italian director Luca Guadagnino comes a story of star crossed lovers trying to find all the answers while finding themselves as well. He directs with an air of tastefulness, showing framed pictures and scrapbook-esque images of people even when their bodies are being eaten alive.

His message is clear: The gore isn’t there for shock value, and these people’s lives mattered greatly. It’s not about good vs bad, but about the inevitable tragedy of their compulsions. It’s emotional and poignant, even when dealing with situations that are less than picture-perfect.

“Bones and All” also doesn’t fall into the trope of normal girl and otherworldly guy like so many other stories have, such as a fellow undead romance “Twilight.”

The movie is best described as a can’t-look-away experience that captivates just as much as it disturbs. The main duo enralls viewers with their undeniable chemistry while the vast American

Rating



heartland serves as the achingly desolate backdrop. Mixing rattling graphic scenes with heart-tugging domestic romance, the abrupt mood changes are reminiscent of visual whiplash. As the teenagers’ voracious journey comes to a close, the ultimate question will be answered. Can Maren and Lee overcome their dark history and live a happy, normal-enough life with each other? Or will their past eat them alive, bones and all?



Maren and Lee stop at a gas station during their southern road trip. “Bones and all” follows these characters through moral greys as they attempt to control their cannibalistic desires. (IMDB)



# Ten gifts under ten dollars

*Impress your friends this holiday season by gifting them something they can cherish*

Alexa Terry A&E Editor

## A mini candle

We all know that high school brings a lot of unpleasant things into our lives, don't make tragic odors one of them. Allow your friends to light up a candle and give them the gift of pretending their life smells of flowers and sandalwood rather than rotting dishes and BO.

## A pair of wool socks

If there is one thing that is universally hated, it's cold feet. I don't mean running out on a fiancé, I mean the full-body chill that is elicited when the Seattle rain creeps its way through canvas sneakers, soaking into cheap, thin, cotton socks.



Save your friends from this horrific experience; get them a pair of wool socks.

## A pack of gum

You smell bad. Your friends smell bad. Fix it.

## A scrunchie

HAIR! One of the human body's wonders, most people have it, yet few know how to make it look halfway decent. Gift a scrunchie and save your friend the embarrassment of drowning in their own mane.

## Stickers

Reject modernity, the sleek look of our current age is bland and uninspired. Give stickers and watch your friends' quality of life immediately skyrocket.

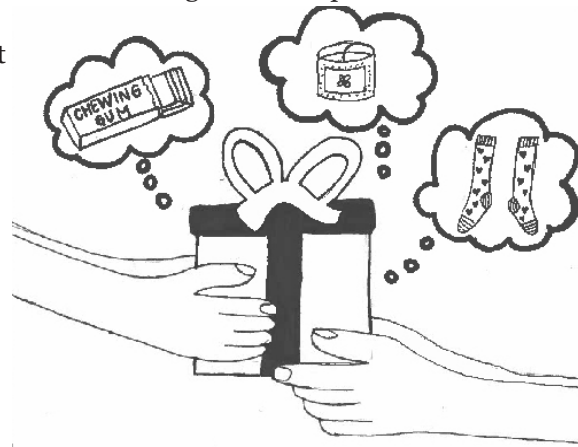
They'll no longer look at their laptop and feel the dread of living in an era where the constant development of technology is valued above the health of our planet. Instead they'll think of the fun pictures you have given them to adorn their Mac. Stickers provide a much needed distraction from the capitalist hellscape that plagues our modern age.

## A good pack of pens

The time has come; the pens that students brought to the school year, bright-eyed and ready to learn, have been lost.

Whether kicked under desks, never to be seen again or written with until the ink creates a crusty, inconsistent line, they are long gone.

Students will have no choice but to fall to their knees in gratitude if they are gifted a fresh new pack of their favorite pens to power through the next quarters.



(Matea Hart)

## A Hot Wheels car

Let's face it, we high schoolers are growing up. We no longer see the kids at our local high school and gaze in awe at their maturity and coolness. However, just because our age is increasing, we don't have to lose all of the childlike wonders we used to experience.

When you gift a Hot Wheel, you're not just gifting a little car, you're gifting the joy of being a naïve child without a worry in the world.

## A friendship bracelet

Nothing is a more classic demonstration of platonic affection than a well-crafted friendship bracelet.

With countless ways to customize it, this is a gift that can be adjusted for every type of friend you may have.

From the theater kids to the jocks, everyone loves these stringy joys.

## A deck of cards

Everyone knows it, there is no better icebreaker than pulling out the "anyone up for a game of go fish?" This holiday season, give your friends the gift of always having an avenue to form new bonds, give them a deck of cards.

## A really cool rock

I know what you're thinking. 'I would rather gift a dead insect than a rock!' Allow me to change your mind while staying under my designated word count.



Everyone feels lonely, it's nothing to be ashamed of.

This is the only gift on this list that I would consider a friend. Every rock is unique, they contain personality and spunk.

When you're giving a rock, you're not giving something you can buy at the store, you're giving a piece of yourself. Bonus points if it's adorned with crafty details.

## A&E in short *Check out the full stories at ballardtalisman.org*

### Drake, reimagined

*With his fourth collaborative album, Drake brought back familiar sounds, injected with new ideas*



(OVO Sound)



(IMDB)

**'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'** and why you should watch it  
*Marvel honors late actor Chadwick Boseman in new movie*

### Royal hierarchies broken down by depicting stereotypes



(IMDB)

*A Swedish queer love story turns into a deep look into social classes and monarchy in Sweden*



# The comforting cardigan that is Taylor Swift

## From capitalist mastermind to beloved icon, and everything in between

Xander Howarth Staff Reporter

After Taylor Swift's newest album and smash hit "Midnights" came out, she has decided to undertake a tour that has shifted the very fabric of reality.

On Nov. 1, a shadow descended across the internet. Yes, that's right, Taylor Swift released the news that she would be going on her "Eras Tour," where she will travel across the United States performing for millions of fans. Swift released this news on "Good Morning America," triggering an epidemic across fans who were already watching her broadcast with rapt attention.

Swift will be stringing along other singers to open for her. Alongside Phoebe Bridgers, HAIM and other musicians, she will visit locations from coast to coast, spanning Seattle's very own Lumen Field to Tampa's Raymond James Stadium.

Some loyal fans signed up for the verified presale, where they had access to tickets sales a day early, on Nov. 14.

That is, before Ticketmaster crashed unexpectedly multiple times. Some of BHS's own Swifties were hunched over their computers at 10 a.m. during the original presale, and again at 3 p.m. for the post crash presale, shelling out entire life savings in order to see Swift.

Now, we have a revolution against Ticketmaster and millions of Swifties writing articles on how Ticketmaster should have known that millions would be trying to buy their overpriced tickets.

### 'I play them like a violin, and I make it look oh so easy' ('I Did Something Bad')

I'll give it to Swift though, nothing's more impressive than creating a whole legion of fans that'll buy whatever you put in front of them. Three vinyls of the same album in different colors? Check. Thousands of dollars to see her perform? Check.

Sacrifice a Jake Gyllenhaal doppelganger? Of course. She even has them sing her songs like they are mantras. It's like the songs program their brains to defend her with their life.

"So what if she has the highest amount of CO2 released? She rents her private jet out!" A concerned Swiftie said, right after listening to "Anti Hero." That was me.

Yes, I am a Swiftie. The songs of "Lover" and "Folklore" thrum through my veins. And yes, I do coincide with some of the controversies surrounding the fandom. The idolization of Empress Swift? We're all guilty of that. Enabling her capitalist tendencies? Yes, I've shelled out hundreds for her.

It's a cycle for me because I feel comforted by her. Her songs reverberate through my soul and make me feel seen. "This is Me Trying" still makes me sob and "The Archer" makes me feel oh so seen.

That's why it's so hard to judge her, why so many fans are slow to process any negative thing she does. She seems so human, like an untouchable friend that sings sweet ballads through my earbuds, at my worst and best.

I may be a slack jaw zombie who owns records from "Lover" to "Midnights," but I wouldn't change a thing. I would still be staring beady eyed at my computer waiting for the queue to move, I would re-listen to "Cardigan" whenever I needed a hug.

So no, Taylor Swift is not some puppeteer piloting her fans' emotions and actions. In reality, she's just like us. She has an outlet and she's successful because she's so truthful and gut wrenching that it makes us feel a little close to someone we've never met.

### 'I'm The Problem It's Me' ('Anti Hero')

Many people see the Ticketmaster fiasco as another way Swift is to blame. "It's all Swift's fault," they'll say.

They'll call her a "manipulator" or a "narcissist" or maybe even a "snake," all the same things spat in

2016. Many will say that she's just "being the victim" or "acting like she cares."

There is definitely a double standard with that. What if this was a man? Would the scrutiny be so present for all the decisions Swift makes if she was of the male gender?

But why is being calculated a bad thing? Swift's a smart business woman who takes advantage of her fan's loyal devotion, for better or for worse, and would be held on a higher

pedestal if she were a man. So yes, she is calculated and manipulative, but that is why her fans, including me, love her.

She is definitely not to blame for Nov. 15 because she had no other choice but to use Ticketmaster. To quote Swift herself, "You knew I'm a mastermind. And now you're mine."



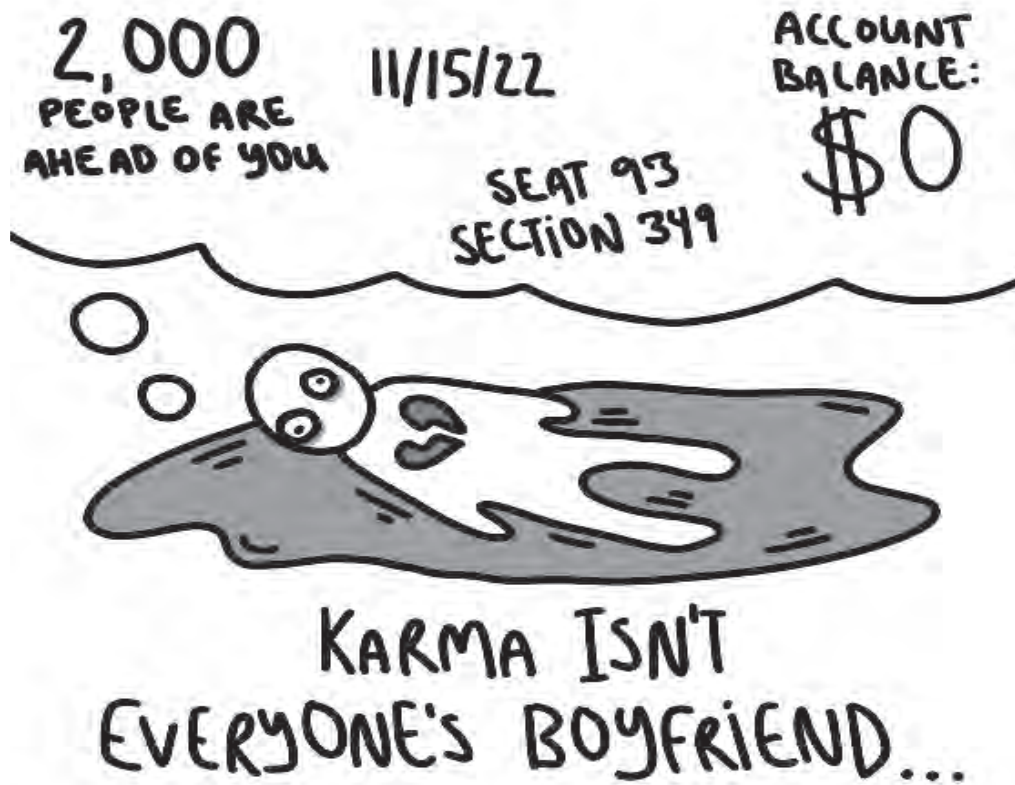
### Why I hate biopics- Alexa Terry

Biopics do so well with mass markets because they encapsulate our most selfish desires. We want to see the successes of our idols, but more than anything, we want to see their failures. We want stories that feed our own egos, we want to know that no matter how sad our stories have become, they are still not as sad as those of the people we admire.

Do you have strong opinions but nowhere to share them? Do you want to see your name in print? To be featured, submit roughly a paragraph to [lmacluniesross@seattleschools.org](mailto:lmacluniesross@seattleschools.org)

### Nostalgia is a curse- Benji Emfinger

Nothing that we created in past decades, or even just in the 2000's, are free from recreation. Nostalgia is the absence of something you once had. The longing for that can easily take over your brain if not careful. Sentimentality is something our generation struggles with, and the lockdown really brought that all to the surface, with the 'indie' aesthetic, as an example. Brighter colors, retro patterns and older accessories. No matter what we do, nothing can stop the reality that almost nothing we have is original.



(Tansy Velush)



## Worldwide sport isn't recognized in Washington public high schools

*Ultimate Frisbee receives the same participation as other sports, but doesn't receive the same benefits*

Marley Helfer Staff Reporter

It is estimated that seven million people in over 80 countries play Ultimate Frisbee, according to the non-profit organization USA Ultimate. There are club teams and high school teams throughout the country, state championships and nationals. Ultimate Frisbee is a globally recognized sport.

However, Ultimate is considered a club sport at public high schools in Washington, including BHS. This is opposed to "official" sports like soccer and football, in the eyes of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), the organization that oversees official high school sports in Washington.

What this means is Ultimate Frisbee receives less funding, field space and community recognition than WIAA sports, despite the high participation in the sport.

Nearly 50 players tried out for the boys fall season at BHS, and the mixed season received a turnout of over 55 players. Though the girls season typically has a significantly smaller turnout with close to 15 players, the overall size of the program is comparable to the turnout for other sports.

Seattle is also a hotspot for Ultimate Frisbee, as several Ultimate teams in Seattle went to nationals this year. Eastside Prep, Lincoln, Nathan Hale, Roosevelt and Lakeside all represented Seattle in the national Ultimate Frisbee scene. But even then, Ultimate is getting the short end of the stick.

At BHS specifically, the Ultimate program's funding comes almost entirely out of pocket. For each of their three seasons, the program receives a \$500 grant, as well as some money from the Ultimate league DiscNW for coaching, but that is not

nearly enough to cover the entire program. Players pay a \$250 due each season to cover coaching costs, equipment, fields, snacks and any additional fees. Similarly, lacrosse players are required to pay a due of over \$500. This is opposed to WIAA sports in which almost all funding is provided by the school district.

Ultimate receives no priority for field space either. This winter, the mixed team has been sharing the field with the flag football team, but only through the kindness of the flag football coaches. Aside from this, fields are reserved through Parks and Recreation using player dues. As a result, the boys team in the fall were practicing before school starting at 6:30 a.m., instead of the after school time slot other sports get. Even lacrosse, also a club sport, gets some priority for field space.

More importantly, above the inequitable funding and field space, Ultimate receives not nearly enough community recognition. The boys team made it to the state tournament this fall, and all they received was an update on the BHS website, social media posts and parent support. Even throughout the community, Ultimate is thought of by many as a recreation: a club.

There are a few reasons that might justify this treatment of Ultimate, the first of which is the claim that Ultimate isn't a sport. So, what is a sport? The Oxford Dictionary defines "sport" as "an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or a team competes against another or others for entertainment." So a sport requires an individual or team, competition, physical exertion and for the purpose of entertainment. Ultimate Frisbee seems to check all those boxes.



(Marley Helfer)

So, tell me again, why is Ultimate a club sport? It comes back to WIAA. For a sport to be considered WIAA and to receive the benefits of such, at least four schools must initiate an amendment or trial sports process for Ultimate Frisbee. It's a somewhat lengthy process, with approval by the school's superintendent, the league, and WIAA. But if over 50 schools in Washington state alone have Ultimate teams, and almost half are private, shouldn't the public school programs get the benefits too?

I don't play Ultimate Frisbee and I barely understand the sport, but the fact that Ultimate is still a club sport is curious. BHS should consider taking steps towards Ultimate Frisbee becoming a WIAA sport because the current treatment of Ultimate is unfair to student athletes.

## Reboots are twisting the plot of original movies that were already great

Penelope Neireiter Staff Reporter

Nothing beats an original movie. Yet, the main goal of the movie industry is to make money, and what better way to make money than building off a popular movie. However, knowing when to stop is key, which the movie industry has a very hard time comprehending.

Sequels, remakes, and tropes are the foundation of movies nowadays and are loved by the industry because for many aspects of making a movie, they are a safe bet. There is already a plot, main characters and a large audience that fell in love with the original.

I can't remember the last time I saw something genuinely unique. It almost feels as if the movie industry has run out of ideas. But in reality, they're just trying to collect as much revenue as they can get. Within this generation of entertainment, there has been an exponential increase in reboots of movies and television.

There is proof of a movie remake as early as 1896. Ever since, the movie industry has been very strategic when they release a reboot. Our parents' generation got the originals, which they fell in love with. So, by the time they have children of their own, or forget the plot of their beloved movies, a new rendition of an iconic film comes out. Suddenly, nostalgia drives views, drawing in those who hope to get the same sense of joy and excitement they got many years ago. This is exactly what the point of a remake is: An already hooked fan base, plus new fans, leading to significantly more viewers than there were when the original movie came out.

Not only are there many remakes and sequels these days, but it's very hard to find a movie that doesn't rely on some of the most overused tropes. Some include walking away from a crash that would have killed a normal person, the one last case before retirement, hacking into the pentagon in less than three minutes, being knocked out is no big deal, dying people always live just long enough to say something moving or significant, a message gets sent

out to the whole school like there is one big group chat, and the one that every horror movie loves, "lets split up." These tropes are repetitive, over-used, and simply frustrating.

A few examples of reboots we see now are, "West Side Story," "IT," and "Dune." I feel that it is essential to understand the importance and historical significance of the originals. Over the years, technology has increased drastically, but returning to the origin of these movies just captures a different moment in time and shows how far we've come as a society. Most movies we deem "classics" were revolutionary for their time. They paved the way, and we wouldn't have the type of storytelling we have now without the originals.

In the end, why remake a movie that was great to begin with? A reboot is a cash grab by the movie industry. However, it does work, as people are pulled in based on nostalgia, curiosity and excitement. But what makes a good movie? Is it something familiar and reconstructed, or rather an original, innovative, inspiring tale? Is it better for a story to answer all the questions, or should the viewer be left with some wonders and opportunity for imagination? Although it is all a matter of preference, the great originals that stood the test of time have had the ultimate influence on the movies we see today.



(Tansy Velush)



# Global leaders fail to address climate disasters

*World's biggest climate conference flops for the 27th year in a row*

Sadie Clark News Editor

This past summer was a dreadful series of climate disasters. In Pakistan, a multi-week heat wave causing temperatures above 120 degrees Fahrenheit precluded floods that submerged over a third of the country, killing 1,300 people. Heat waves and droughts in China and India dried up rivers, killing food crops, disabling hydroelectric dams, and cutting off ships carrying supplies. Wildfires in Europe burned three times larger than is precedent. South African heavy rainfall caused mudslides and floods that killed 45 people.

Closer to home, in the U.S., 2022 has hosted 15 climate disasters that have cost over \$1 billion. News reports on Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Fiona traded time on the television screens, radio reports and newspaper subscriptions of millions. In our own backyard, the newly-less-evergreen PNW, wildfires tore through thousands of acres of forest, leaving destroyed homes, devastated communities and lost economic security.

*These are just the obvious disasters. Climate change has displaced thousands, rendering them "climate refugees." This is a humanitarian crisis.*

The world's biggest climate conference occurred this November in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. COP-27, significant of the 27th Conference of the Parties, is a global United Nations meeting held from Nov. 6 to Nov. 8. 35,000 delegates attended, including Biden and 100 plus heads of states. With all these important people in one room, you'd think something would get done; alas, this year's climate conference was comparably successful to a large group of chickens fighting for the greater good.

There were three main battles fought for by developing countries: climate finance, global decarbonisation and recognition of the responsibility of developed countries to pay for loss and damage.

"Loss and damage" is the term used to reference monetary reparations given from developed countries to undeveloped countries that have suffered the brunt of climate change, such as Pakistan or India. The idea is that industrialized and developed countries, like the U.S. or Britain, have put out the outstanding majority of carbon emissions

since the industrial revolution.

Many first world countries, the U.S. included, have loosely promised to pay these reparations and simply not followed through. The great fear is that paying up for years of conscious (yet obviously apathetic) environmental destruction will label them liable for climate change. News flash, they are.

What we've gotten instead is a vague agreement to meet in 2023 and revisit the idea of loss and damage. I won't be any more shocked than as I am now when absolutely nothing happens.

COP-27 is only the most recent of a multi-decade streak of UN climate inefficiency. COP-26, for an example, simply agreed that the nations involved should adhere to the 1.5 degree Celsius rule of the Paris Agreement; Global temperatures cannot rise above 1.5 degrees celsius from the temperature they were pre-industrialization, or the climate effects will be irreparable. Since that time, only 1/50th of the work needed to achieve that goal has been accomplished.

Excuses for the halting nature of COP-27 circle around the war on Ukraine. As the world falls further towards recession, most countries are scrambling to find new sources of oil and gas to replace Russia's, redoubling efforts to procure fossil fuels. Few have thought of the opportunity this shortage presents — renewable energy could be the new norm. Every country, no matter how wealthy, believes themselves to be in a poor enough financial state to evade putting money towards a slow moving crisis. No world leader seems to realize that a short term economic crash holds no weight against climate change slowly killing people. What's more, the biggest companies that are some of the largest abusers of environmental resources could be the only hope. Companies like Coca-Cola, Microsoft and Google that host the top 1% possess the wealth to fix this issue, but again, the short term is possessing everyone's thoughts.

In the meantime, people will continue to lose



Corporate greed overshadows environmental destruction. (Daphne Knox)

their homes to wildfires, their families to floods and their livelihoods to hurricanes. Poor people globally will continue to suffer disproportionately while our world's leaders will say they're just working on our economic crisis. At least the upper middle class will continue to afford gas and the United States can't be sued for remaining the world's best producer of fossil fuels.

When will it be enough? When will politicians get up and decide that vacuous statements about the big ol' problem that is climate change are not actually exchangeable for real change? What will happen to the citizens of our big, beautiful, dying earth?

## COP27 FAST FACTS

**35,000**  
DELEGATES  
ATTENDED COP27

**1/50**  
OF THE NECESSARY WORK TO  
KEEP TEMP DOWN HAS BEEN  
ACCOMPLISHED

**15**  
US CLIMATE  
DISASTERS COST  
OVER \$1 BILLION

# Fitted: Winter spirit week edition

Asher Seibel (12) channels his middle school self



Ayden Hastings (12) bundles up for Snow vs Surf



Ruby James Madden (9) opts for a net to carry her books



Ella Singer (12) feeling under the weather in PJs



Lucy Ahrens (12) shows off her BHS pride



**MONDAY:**  
*Dress like your middle school self*

**TUESDAY:**  
*Snow vs Surf*

**WEDNESDAY:**  
*Anything but a backpack*

**THURSDAY:**  
*Ugly sweaters vs Under the weather*

**FRIDAY:**  
*Beavers vs Shingle weavers*

## BEAVESDROPPING

HEARD IN THE HALLWAYS: WANT IT TO BE FUNNIER? SAY FUNNIER THINGS

***“My immune system is as down bad as I am”***

*“And he has dyslexia!  
‘What does that have to do with reading?’”*

*“I think I might flush a ton of dry ice down the toilet and become a registered bioterrorist”*

***“Jeff Bezos looks like an animated breadstick and he’s NOT hot!!”***

***“Knitwear is the sluttiest thing a man can wear”***

***“Real men play land polo, what is this water polo nonsense”***

*“How do you have fleas? You don’t have fur!”*