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TALISMAN

Up, up and away

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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.

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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.

Cover image: No balloons were littered in the making of this image. (Annie Welman)

Seniors Natalie Anderson and Eden Murphy reflect on the past four years, celebrating the class of 2023

Eden's perspective, Natalie's perspective, joint perspective

“Ogres are like onions. We have layers.” These wise words come from our favorite childhood movie and critically acclaimed film, “Shrek”, which uses this anecdote about food to express Shrek as an individual. By this end, we felt compelled to draw a similar conclusion with us and our favorite snack, pickles. To mirror Shrek’s telling phrase, “Humans are like Pickles. We are the products of our environment”

While all pickles share the same sour punch and crisp bite, they also individually seem like entirely different foods when comparing, for example, a bright green deli dill to a bowl of gherkins.

Before we lose you guys, I swear we have a point.

In short, depending on the pickle’s environment they can attain a whole new flavor profile while at their core still being the same original cucumber.

Similarly, our identities will morph to adapt to the demands of our environment wherever our futures may take us.

From the soccer field, where I’m forced to be daring and creative, to the classroom, where we are challenged to be inquisitive and curious, each environment allows our identities to take on new forms.

One thing that Eden has always said to me is that life is not a one act play. There is no word count for the facets of our identities, nor is there a label that will properly represent any of our true essences as we are constantly evolving. Like a raft slowly moving down a lazy river, our environment pulls us in new directions, whether it be our family, friends, city or life experiences. But in a time of unprecedented change for most of us as we move on into adulthood, it seems crucial that we all understand the forces that will shape our future identities.

I learned about transitioning to adulthood a little earlier than I expected when my mom suddenly passed away last year. My whole adolescent life was shaped by her care and direction. She was a single mom who was kind and driven and the type of person who did anything she could to set her kids up for success. In her absence, I must admit that the toughest first I had to overcome was scheduling my first doctor’s appointment. That sh*t was terrifying. Last year was a year of many firsts, not just my first time going to the doctor alone, but my

first time being alone. But with each small hurdle I overcame, I have found myself with a wealth of new experiences that have further shaped my identity and have helped me discover new strengths, weaknesses, likes and dislikes.

The most meaningful thing that came out of this new understanding of myself were the friendships that I now surround myself with. Through my saddest moments, I have found my most joyful friendships, which have pushed me to not just adapt to my new circumstances, but to thrive in them.

To bring this back to pickles, as my environment changed, I was able to adapt and evolve, just as I believe everyone here has in their life, or will do in their future.

Though I will always be Natalie and Eden will always be Eden, our essences can evolve to adapt to our environments just as cucumbers become pickles, and perhaps these adaptations will make us even tastierwell, analogies aren’t always perfect.

My advice to the Class of 2023 is to embrace adversity and change, whether it initially seems good or bad, and to not be so quick to judge ourselves as we evolve, because adversity and change will always help us discover new facets of our identities and show us how tough our spirits are. Self-judgment does nothing but steal the joy of discovering new things about ourselves.

With the same grace we give ourselves to adapt and change, I ask we give to those around us.

I won’t pretend that I’ve always been content with the beliefs and decisions of my class and Ballard at large across the past 4 years. However, in a time marked by unprecedented worry about the future, it is crucial to understand the importance of conversation and tolerance.

It’s easy to go through life dismissive of the views of those around us, and secure in our own unquestioned idea of what the world is or should look like. Forgive me as you endure one last Pixar movie reference, from a man who captures this end perfectly, Anton Ego, a fictional food critic from the timeless film “Ratatouille”, who admitted, “in the grand scheme of things, the average piece of junk is probably more meaningful than our criticism designating it so.”

It’s easy to be a critic,

but never of our own values. As our class moves into the next steps of our lives, we are soon to realize that what will prove far more difficult than denouncing and lambasting those around us is sharing deliberate conversations with them.

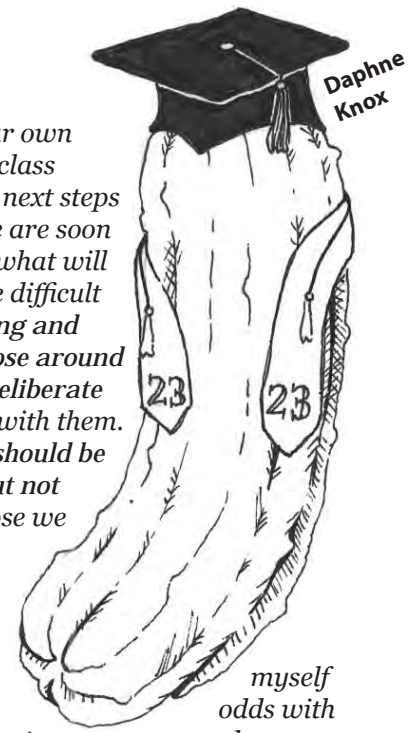
Ignorance should be condemned, but not listening to those we disagree with is the biggest ignorance of all.

I find myself frequently at odds with society’s tendencies towards sweeping generalizations and flirting with cancel culture. But, I implore you to view disagreements as catalysts for examining our own values and challenging our assumptions. Because if someone’s opinions contrast our own, it’s all the more reason to converse.

The irony is not lost on me as I say this right now, but I believe we should all strive to listen more and speak less.

I won’t claim that I’ve never been the critic or that listening to those that you disagree with will be easy, but in a world where we are quick to judge, everyone loses.

Now that we have covered all the bases, Shrek, pickles, ratatouille and some meaningful things that we sprinkled in, I think we are ready to wrap this up. Congratulations Ballard Class of 2023!



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Acknowledging Juneteenth

2023 marks the third year 'Freedom Day' is celebrated as a federal holiday

Sadie Clark News Editor

Juneteenth, celebrated June 19, is an American holiday acknowledging the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. On June 19, 1865, Union troops announced to enslaved peoples in Galveston Bay, Texas that they had been emancipated. The day has been henceforth celebrated as Juneteenth or Freedom Day.

Juneteenth was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, established under President Joe Biden, and is the latest federal holiday created since Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983. The recognition of Juneteenth on a national level has been long awaited by celebrators nationally. Senior Shea Deskins, co-president of Black Student Union (BSU), commented on the relatively recent legislation recognizing Juneteenth.

"Juneteenth becoming a national holiday is something that's been talked about for a while now," Deskins said. "I think now that they're making it a holiday, it's definitely a good look for all black students ... It's been well deserved."

There's no specific way to celebrate June 19, but Malik Prince, advisor of BSU, notes a local option to garner more information around Juneteenth.

"As of right now, [BSU is] just promoting and celebrating the Northwest African American Museum," Prince said. "They're hosting a whole three day event down there, and [we're] just trying to get the word out about that."

While BSU didn't make a Ballard-specific plan for commemoration of this past Juneteenth, Deskins

suggested that they may in the future.

"I think now that [Juneteenth] is a national holiday, BSU should probably do something along the lines of creating a protocol or a game plan as to how we want to celebrate next year," Deskins said.

Beyond the classroom, Juneteenth has significance that can be reflected upon individually. Prince mentioned the history of the holiday in the context of the abolition of slavery.

"The reason why the date is so significant is because of the fact that there were so many people that didn't realize that slavery had ended," Prince said. "It took almost two years after the abolishment of slavery before they were actually free."

Juneteenth marks the two-years-late enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation, an executive order from President Abraham Lincoln, declaring the freedom of slaves outside of Union control. Prince recommends information as the best way to acknowledge the holiday, as well as other cultural holidays.

Prince hopes that, eventually, Juneteenth will be more widely celebrated in the future, including in the Ballard community.

"Juneteenth has been around for many years, but it's still a relatively new celebration for the masses. The more people that start understanding or the more advertisement of said day will generate a school-wide celebration," Prince said. "You want to get to a day like the fourth of July even though it may not never. We want to get to a celebration like Memorial Day."



(Sadie Clark)

Student unions like BSU continue to help spread more information on cultural holidays to students, and leaders like Deskins continue to advocate for awareness within the school community. When asked if she had any final words as she graduated after this Juneteenth, Deskins advocated for community within Ballard.

"To BSU and all the other student unions, I hope that you guys continue to strive within each of your cultures' power to bring a lot more awareness each year to the new students," Deskins said.

Appreciating culture outside the classroom

After the Ingraham High School shooting, a first-year Japanese teacher incorporates traditional Japanese crafts into his curriculum as a symbol of peace

Penelope Neireiter Staff Reporter

After the incident at Ingraham High School earlier this year, many were in distress and trying to find the best way to respond. Japanese teacher Thomas Ager stepped forward, determined to infuse culture and action into his classroom.

Drawing inspiration from Japanese traditions, he embarked on a journey with his students by folding 1000 paper cranes. This tradition holds a profound symbolism, representing a heartfelt wish for peace.

This tradition dates back to the Edo period, but



Drawing inspiration from Japanese traditions, Ager embarked on a journey with his students by folding 1000 paper cranes. (Emma Steinburg)

after the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there was a story of a young woman who folded 1000 paper cranes in response to those events to wish for peace for the world. Ever since, it has become a symbol of hope and change.

"The day after everything happened earlier this [school year], I had conversations with all the students about how everyone was doing, and what they wanted to do to respond," Ager said. "As the year went on, whenever there was downtime or students finished things early, I just had them spend some of that time folding cranes."

Around early spring, the classes finished folding the 1000 cranes. This was a very collaborative process and required many different steps along the way.

"I had some seniors come in for volunteer hours to string together 10 strings of 100, but overall, everyone contributed," Ager said.

For some of Ager's students, this was their first time learning about this tradition. This includes sophomore Yumi Baron, who got to experience this project for the first time.

"After everything happened at Ingraham, I really wanted to take action, but I just didn't know the

best way to do so," she said. "When my teacher introduced this idea, I thought it was a great way to be supportive and connect it back to Japanese." This is Ager's first year teaching, but he had been a student teacher for some time. Ager used his learnings to contemplate how this ancient practice could become a bridge between cultures and a deeply personal experience for his students.

"I've done some origami projects before, and paper cranes are very well known in origami, so this idea just seemed like something that was culturally meaningful and also personally meaningful for students," Ager said.

After visiting Japan himself, Ager recognized the universal allure of this delicate craft, and envisioned it as a form of cultural exploration and personal meaning within the classroom.

"In my studies of Japanese, I saw that this tradition was well represented across their culture," Ager said. "An example of this was at the Hiroshima Peace Museum where there holds a collection of millions and millions of paper cranes that have been donated from across the world."

As the Japanese classes end this crafting, they will send the chain of cranes to Ingraham as a way of showing their support and hopefully bring them a sense of peace. With this project ending, it opens the opportunity to do many more traditions in the future.

"Who knows, maybe we'll have a chance to send some paper cranes to Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well," Ager said.

2023 prom in review

Students voice their opinions on music, decorations and outfits at this year's prom

Matea Hart Staff Reporter

After much anticipation, students filed into elevators that took them to their prom destination: the 78th floor of the Columbia Tower. Despite rumors of Under the Sea sparked by our Senior Class President, this year's theme was A Starry Night—which was fitting coupled with the gorgeous skyline view of downtown Seattle after dark on June 3.

The main display of decorations was featured on the spiral staircase—clouds and fairytale lights—and provided a perfect fairytale entrance to the dance. Senior Lola Foti, the advising arts director on ASB



The 78th floor of the Columbia Tower offered stunning sunset views overlooking the water. (Photo via Wikimedia Commons licensed under CC by 2.0)

who helped decorate the dance, rated it a “solid 8.5” (out of 10) and said her favorite part of the dance was the music and the rewarding feeling of stepping into the room and seeing her planning come to life.

“My favorite part was walking up the stairs and seeing everything come together because we’d been planning [the dance] for so long,” Foti said.

Alongside decorating the dance, Foti helped facilitate the democratically-chosen music.

“For the DJ, we had made a survey and had people fill out songs they wanted to hear, and for some reason they weren’t playing our playlist,” Foti said. “I walked up to him and asked if he had the playlist and they hadn’t received it so once they started using our songs the vibe was instantly better, which was my highlight because I felt like I saved prom a little bit.”

Foti also advised the other classes on preparations for future proms.

“Make a Pinterest board of things that you like and what your plans are and make sure to figure out your plans early,” Foti said. “Don’t wait till the week before, and don’t book an Airbnb; they never work out.”

Senior Leonard Paya who also attended the dance gave it a “solid 8,” complimenting the chosen venue and the vibes on the dance floor.

“Having it mostly just seniors was fun because it felt like we were all really connected to each other,” Paya said. “The dancing was my favorite part, and I loved seeing people I hadn’t talked to in a while and getting to catch up.”

Although he enjoyed the overall experience at prom, Paya’s one critique was the parking situation.



Seniors pose for a photo at the Magnolia Bluff before prom at the Columbia Tower. (Courtesy of Molly Sousley)

“The information about parking was honestly terrible,” Paya said. “I drove to prom with my friends and when we got to the parking area the school suggested the gate was closed. We didn’t know until later that if you drove up to it it would open by itself.”

Paya’s advice to future prom attendees was to ditch your date and attend with friends instead.

“Don’t get a date, it was a lot more fun without one,” Paya said. “You weren’t bound by one person, and you could talk to as many people as you wanted. Go with friends and don’t be worried about not getting a date.”

Senior Jane Holt had a harsher review of the dance, rating it a 6 out of 10. Unlike Foti, Holt was disappointed by the selection of music and felt there could have been more decorations.

“The music could’ve been better, and I wish they played more Taylor (Swift),” Holt said. “They only played ‘Shake it Off’, and didn’t even get to the bridge. I also didn’t see many decorations apart from the fuzzy stuff on the ground and they could definitely go harder next year.”

Holt advised future prom attendees to not take the dance too seriously.

“Enjoy it because it only happens once, especially since we don’t have a junior prom,” Holt said. “If you put too much pressure on it, then it’s really stressful. Just hangout with your friends, and it will be fun.”

Tribal Rights Supreme Court Ruling

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), a federal statute aimed at keeping Native American adoptees within their tribes, was upheld by a Supreme Court decision on June 15. The debate was whether or not ICWA discriminated against non-Native families based on race. Because tribes are political entities, not racial groups, the law was found to not be discriminatory and did not violate the equal protection clause of the constitution, with a vote of 7-2. Concurring opinions express fear that the law will potentially prevent children from being adopted, but Tribal leaders reaffirm the importance of treating tribes with political authority and cultural autonomy, especially in the wake of the cultural erasure caused by Native American boarding schools in the mid-17th to the early 20th centuries.

News-in-Brief

Sadie Clark News Editor

A brief history of Pride Month

Pride Month, taking place during the month of June, commemorates LGBTQ people in the context of the 1969 Stonewall uprising. The Stonewall Inn, a gay bar, was raided by police on June 28, 1969, a frequent occurrence during the time. The Stonewall Uprising is significant in that it represents the one of the first instances of resistance against anti-gay laws and culture. Commemoration takes place in the forms of book and movie promotions, parades, parties and other events. Seattle’s own Pride Parade will occur Sunday, June 25 along 4th Avenue in Downtown Seattle.

Orcas pods sink ships

Orcas ambushes on boats have been increasing in recent years, from 52 in 2020 to over 200 last year, according to Orca research group GTOA. In the recent attacks off the coast of Spain and Portugal, frequently a boat will be systematically overtaken by a pod of orcas who stop the boat by breaking the rudder. Interestingly, the whales are fixated specifically on sailboats, not motorized boats. While a common narrative in response to these attacks maintains that the Orcas are “fighting back against humanity” as a type of environmental reclamation, most of the attacks are not on humans, merely rudders and hulls of boats. Orcas are social animals (like humans), and learn behavior — like sinking boats — from each other. This indicates more of a behavioral trend than a motivated attack on humans.

Taking her l'amour du français to another level

Through a study abroad program, she experiences life as a French girl

Semai Hagos Features Editor

Students have observed an increase in foreign students this year, as the exchange student program has picked up once again.

Junior Mira Slotkin, following her love of French, decided to venture on a trip to France through Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), a nonprofit international education and exchange program. She flew out in January and returned this month, once the French school year ended. She found motivation to pursue a semester abroad after hearing about her soccer teammate's experiences.

Before the adventure began, Slotkin found herself feeling very confident, despite knowing little French, as she walked through the doors of Leon Blum in a town called VilleFranche.

"I wasn't confident in myself enough to ask questions," Slotkin said. "I thought it was undermining my own intelligence."

Having realized the importance of asking



Junior Mira Slotkin stands in front of the capital of Toulouse, on her semester abroad to France. (Courtesy of Mira Slotkin)

questions, Slotkin started being more open to asking people to clarify certain things she didn't understand, which led her towards significant growth.

"Every time I didn't understand something, I stopped and I said, 'can you explain this to me?' and that ended up being my saving grace," Slotkin said.

Slotkin highlights the differences between French and American schools.

"In France, they don't really have a life outside of school," Slotkin said. "You start school at 8 a.m., you end school at 6 p.m. and then you go home and you eat dinner. That's mostly the schedules of most French kids that I know."

While American students are provided opportunities to partake in extracurriculars such as music or sports, from Slotkin's experience French students aren't.

"French students are not allowed to make the school their own," Slotkin said. "Even though they're there way longer than we are."

She mentions that while schools in the U.S. have substitute teachers, French classes are canceled if the teacher is unavailable to attend.

Slotkin also witnessed a French instinct of conserving as much energy as possible.

"You would never leave a light on when you leave a room and you turn the shower off when you're not actively washing your hair," Slotkin said. "So you're conserving as much as you can [and] you don't leave food on your plate. So that part is really great."

Despite positive differences she noticed, Slotkin was a victim of hearing discriminatory language.

"In the US (and I know it's not always genuine), but we act nicer to people just in public," she said. "One thing that was super surprising to me was how much racism and antisemitism I saw in France."

Jokes that she couldn't handle were made at times, making her very uncomfortable.

"People would come up to me (I'm Jewish) and they would make Holocaust jokes to me, which I did not find funny," Slotkin said. "Or like they would pull back their eyes and make no jokes about

Chinese people. Or Arab people."

She explains that despite correcting students about the harm of such statements they don't truly understand the reason it's harmful, especially due to the lack of cultural diversity in the rural parts of France.

"You have to confront these people who have never seen an actual Asian person in their life," Slotkin said. "And they'll be like, 'you don't understand our humor. You're just an American. This is French humor.'"

She found herself feeling quite shocked upon hearing such statements from people who had been so genuine to her.

"It's almost like they get that you don't like it, but they don't understand why they shouldn't do it," Slotkin said.

While social aspects in the rural town caused her much discomfort, Slotkin doesn't allow it to be the main takeaway of her trip, as she wants to study international relations and French.

"French became kind of an obsessive thing for me," she said. "Because you want to get so good at it."

There were other students in the program from the US, including a student from Olympia, who was a good friend of Slotkin.

"We all tried our best to help each other in whatever ways we could," Slotkin said. "There's this girl from Ingram [High School] who was in my group [and] she's actually one of my neighbors."

She describes feeling close to home, despite being thousands of miles away, because of the support within the group.

"When you experience living in another country, you need people to rely on," she said. "You need people who are close to your heart."

Slotkin's love of French has only increased during her semester abroad, and plans to go back.

"Once I really got there and I started understanding everything, French became a part of my life," Slotkin said. "I was constantly learning French and I want to continue to pursue that."



Slotkin has a milkshake with friends at Five Guys during her semester abroad in France. (Courtesy of Mira Slotkin)



Slotkin enjoys ice cream at her favorite spot during her stay at VilleFranche. (Courtesy of Mira Slotkin)



Slotkin spends time with her host sister Darlene at karaoke (right). (Courtesy of Mira Slotkin)

Maritime Academy makes a splash

Students embarked on a field trip on South Lake Union, to learn about the inner workings of the Virginia V

Marley Helfer Copy Editor

The school's Maritime Academy boarded the Virginia V ship on South Lake Union on May 23 to learn about maritime career pathways and the inner workings of ships and maritime adventures.

After a four year break in the program tradition due to COVID-19, maritime teacher John Foster sought to reintroduce the field trip to the program. Leaving the school at 9 a.m., the class spent the day learning about paths in maritime, as well the activities of a ship like the Virginia V.

"The big thing for me is that we get a chance to do these things that we've done in class [on the] water," Foster said. "I can teach navigation in the room. I can teach it in the parking lot. But until you're on the water ... it helps the knowledge to stick."

The maritime program was revived with an NOAA grant when Foster arrived at BHS 23 years ago. After evolving over the years with several teachers including history teacher Greg Feise, the program would ultimately combine into one class.

Taking advantage of this floating classroom, students were split into five groups for rotations throughout the day, including steering the ship,

learning navigation skills and touring the engine room.

In the engine room rotation, Chief engineer Connie Buhl emphasized how experienced and skilled all members of the ship have to be; every engineer and crew member works cooperatively to keep every piece of the ship working.

"Between a few people, we have to do a lot," Buhl said. "Everything is a system, and as soon as one piece fails, it can be dramatic."

With such a small crew, there is always a lot of work to do, Mark Miller, Virginia V finance manager, shared.

In addition to learning about the functions of the ship, students also heard about the history and heritage behind the Virginia V. Originally launched in 1922, the ship operated as a vessel for transporting people around the Seattle area.

Now with much easier transportation throughout the area, the ship works to educate about maritime skills. A foundation for Virginia V was created in 1976 to do just this.

With various experienced seafarers on board, students heard personal experiences and sea stories

from being out on the water.

"I like the combo of knowing the skills and the physical and mental challenge," Joe Schmitt, director of engineering at the Virginia V foundation, said. "I love just being on the water, and the views."



John Foster's maritime class goes on a field trip on South Lake Union to learn about the Virginia V ship. (Tansy Velush)

A handcrafted narrative

Teacher shares her experience with making her own clothing and connecting with students

Penelope Neireiter Staff Reporter

In today's society fashion is dictated by trends. Nonetheless, Melissa Povey is a chemistry teacher whose passion for sewing and creating her own clothing has been woven into the very fabric of her life. From her early years watching her mother sew and learning to play with fabrics, Povey's fascination with crafting took root.

Povey's love for sewing was formed through firsthand experiences, sparking a lifelong interest in the art.

"My mom sewed and made my clothes when I was a baby, so I would play with fabric while she was doing that," Povey said. "I started to sew some things in second grade."

As she grew older, she embarked on a journey of self-expression. With each stitch, her confidence grew.

"I remember making my first shirt for myself in eighth grade," Povey said. "Then, my freshman year I made this quite complicated shirt for myself, and I was so proud of it."

Life has a way of shifting focus, redirecting passions. For Povey, a dedicated teacher, the demands of her profession meant putting her sewing aside for a little.

"Teaching took a lot of my time, so I haven't sewed for a few years," Povey said. "Now I am getting back into it. I could make a shirt or a dress in maybe a weekend if that's all I do. But if I'm just working on something a little bit every night, it might take me a month to make it."

With a concern for the environment, Povey picks her materials carefully, understanding the environmental impact of synthetic fabrics. For this reason, she gravitates towards environmentally

friendly material.

"I strongly prefer natural fibers," she said. "Rayon is a type of fabric made from wood fiber and linen and cotton are plant fibers. I feel strongly about trying not to use petroleum products because of the harm to the environment. Also, I feel like clothes that are [made with] natural fibers are better."

Her passion for sewing has become a bridge, bonding her with her students on a deeper level.

"I really like how it's been something that I'm connecting with students on, and how we can talk about knitting or sewing and do show and tell with each other," Povey said.

Sophie Labiosa, a sophomore and modiste in her own right is one of Povey's students, who shares a passion for crafting and clothing design.

"I really enjoy sewing because it's a great way to create things that are functional, I can make clothes without having to go out and buy them," Labiosa said.

For Labiosa sewing, beyond functional and creative purposes also extends as a gesture of friendship.

"I like to make clothing for other people as a gift," Labiosa said. "I think, for me, it's less about knowing people who also have the same hobby and finding community, and more like being able to share my hobbies with my own group of friends."

For both Povey and Labiosa, crafting is a hobby they are excited to dedicate more free time towards as the school year comes to an end.

"This summer, I want to try making pants, which I did once in high school," Povey said. "It's going to take me more time. So, I want it to be summer when I'm not distracted by grading and school."



Chemistry teacher Melissa Povey has a passion for creating her own clothing and started sewing in the second grade. (Josie Fitzpatrick)

The clothing industry is flooded with mass-produced fashion, concerning individuals like Povey who refuse to settle for poorly made pieces.

"I'm not going to pay that much money for something that feels like it's really cheap or not well done when I could make it myself," Povey said.

Povey has discovered the power and freedom of creating her own clothing. She has found enjoyment in one-of-a-kind pieces, in which it is not just a piece of fabric, but it is a story.

"When you make your own clothes, you can make them fit your own body well," she said. "You can also pick the fabric and the pattern and make a unique thing to wear."

June 22, 2023

Ballard High School (Seattle, WA)

Welcoming new leadership

Excitement fills the air as ASB candidates step into new positions

Semai Hagos Features Editor

The Associated Student Body (ASB) plays a large role in the planning of vital school events such as school dances, assemblies and spirit weeks. As the school year approaches a close, students are allowed the opportunity to be part of next year's leadership.

Students interested in running for an ASB position must fill out an application form and get signatures from students and teachers. Depending on which positions applicants are running for, the application process is different.

"We have elected positions, [which] are positions that students run for," Lehni said. "And students have the opportunity to speak in front of their class or school to get elected by their peers."

Candidates gave their ASB speeches in the Performing Arts Center on May 19 in front of their class. However, students interested in running for appointed positions had a different selection process, which involves being interviewed by Lehni and the ASB vice president.

Clubs Coordinator Addy Wynkoop expresses her joy in her involvement with ASB.

"Sophomore year I joined for the first time and I just fell in love with all the work that we do," she said. "Whether it's spirit weeks or dances or any of the nitty gritty societal change that we're trying to [accomplish], I felt like ASB was a place where I could really be myself and thrive."

Now a rising senior and the ASB president for the upcoming school year, Wynkoop places an emphasis on the relationships she's built beyond the students in leadership.

"Standing in front of the entire school at an assembly or giving a speech ... I don't think there's anything else like that at Ballard," Wynkoop said. "Just because there's no other way to get in front of all of your peers and help them to have that connection with you."

With efforts being made to increase inclusion, Wynkoop hopes to increase student participation.

"For things like the Multicultural Assembly, [it's important to be] making sure that everybody from every class is being there in that space in a respectful manner," she said.

Junior Chase Edwards went about the election in a unique way, giving a rap rather than a standard speech.

"I didn't want to do anything too bland," he said. "I knew I had to grab the crowd's attention in some way, [as] I was going up against some good competitors."

Edwards, with underlying leadership experience from baseball and basketball, plans to take on the role of senior class president through communication and collaboration with next year's ASB and admin.

"I want to help make all the big events the best they can be, and have them be as memorable as they can be," Edwards said.

Junior Bridget Donnelly, with her organization skills, will be stepping up as secretary in the following school year.

"I did ASB in middle school and I really like this team spirit [of] organizing assemblies," she said. "I definitely wanted to get involved in ASB and I felt like secretary would be a good place to do that."

Donnelly has gained much leadership experience from being captain of the cross country and lacrosse teams.

"That's been fun because I do a lot of the same things that ASB does, like planning spirit days, but just [on] a smaller scale," she said.

Donnelly's goals as secretary involve motivating school spirit among the student body, through inclusivity and spirit days.

Izzy Rampersad, ASB's treasurer to-be, has an interest in pursuing a finance-related future.

"I'm in the business classes here and the Academy of Finance," she said. "So it felt like a natural fit for me to step into that role."

As a current junior class ambassador not enrolled in the leadership class, Rampersad highlights the importance of making time in her schedule to take the class next year.

"From running last year and participating this year, I see a lot of potential with all the school leadership with all these different wonderful students," Rampersad said. "And I'm excited to see what we can do [next] year."

FEATURES 07

ballardtalisman.org



Rebecca Howsmon joins staff this year, equipped to teach genetics, biology and systems medicine. (Maria Fonvielle)

A teacher's first year experience

Xander Howarth Staff Reporter

Dr. Rebecca Howsmon has spent her whole life fascinated by science, setting her on a path to be a science teacher at BHS. However, she hasn't always been teaching high school science.

"I worked at Fred Hutch Cancer Research Institute prior to my PhD," Howsmon said. "And then I worked at Seattle Children's Research Institute to study autoimmune diseases."

Howsmon then came to BHS, where she teaches genetics, biology and systems medicine. Systems medicine is a new course offered here, one that Howsmon helped usher in.

"At ISB, one of [my/our] primary focuses is on systems medicine," Howsmon said. "Medicine that is predictive, preventive, personalized and participatory."

It was there that she realized she wanted to bring it here to educate students about healthcare and how different communities face a variety of challenges in the healthcare system.

"One thing I love about it is that the class incorporates art into just about everything we do," Howsmon said.

In the class, students read research articles, participate in labs and create art projects. In the future, Howsmon would hope to include field trips into the curriculum.

Besides what she has noticed on a student level, Howsmon shares how she feels about the school's atmosphere.

"There's a rich community here," Howsmon said. "I've enjoyed going to sporting events, performing arts events and the different functions that are happening around school."

Ava Boyd, a freshman in Howsmon's first period biology class, enjoys the structure of the class.

"Dr. Rebecca is a chill teacher," Boyd said. "We do a lot of projects in that class, which I love."

Danni Rosenfeldt, also a freshman, feels that Howsmon is great at handling classroom situations.

"My period is really uncooperative, but Dr. Howsmon is a really hard working teacher and she patiently deals with the students who are acting uncooperative," Rosenfeldt said.

After a year at the school, Howsmon hopes to continue to encourage students to have deeper understandings of different sciences.

"I hope I am doing and helping students to see how the things that we're doing in class connect to their everyday lives," Howsmon said.



Current ASB Clubs Coordinator Addy Wynkoop (11, left) works with ASB adviser Laura Lehni (right) in the leadership class. (Emma Steinburg)

BEAVER

Washington

Evergreen State College

Piper F-Brader - *Biochemistry*
Remy Hirschfield-Rudy - *Humanities/Fine Arts*

Gonzaga University

Matea Hart - *Business*
Katherine Mullins - *Business*

Lower Columbia College

Kaden Larson - *Undecided*

North Seattle Community College

Fiona Carroll - *Fine Arts*
Cole Morris - *Fire Science*
Nikolas Prestegard - *Architecture*
August Purkey - *Chemistry*
Clara West - *Undecided*
Antria Zelaya - *Undeclared*

Seattle Central Community College

Samantha Buffer - *Criminal Justice*
Camille Lauvstad - *Undecided*
Kari Owens - *Art/Design*
Robert Starnes - *Undecided*
Adalyn Woods - *Fine Arts/Psychology*

Seattle University

Maximo Glassman - *Computer Science*
Milena Kadziolka - *Physics*
Joe Young - *Mechanical Engineering*

Shoreline Community College

Jessa Sorensen - *Psychology*

South Seattle Community College

Jovanni Cruz - *Automotive/Airborne Mechanics*

University of Washington Bothell

Ben Anafi - *Business Administration*
Griffen Chen - *Undeclared*
Jonathan Naumann - *Supply Chain Management*

University of Washington Seattle

Lucy Ahrens - *Business*
Ava Babcock - *Social Sciences*
Leena Bailey - *Biology/Pre-med*
Hank Buttlerman - *English*
Clementine Curtis - *Undeclared*
Jack Eckhart - *Engineering*
Lola Foti - *Film Studies*
Ethan Getty - *Business*
Silas Healy - *Public Health/Pre-med*
Siena Hill - *Political Science*
Zoe Isett - *Biochemistry*
Juliette Klein - *Microbiology*
Jane McKelvey - *Biochemistry*
Lulu Montenegro - *Architecture*
Eli Nelson - *Business*
Macy Parson - *Engineering*
Milo Parson - *International Studies*
Leonard Paya - *Engineering/Business*
Hayden Richardson - *Environmental Studies*
Marina Sellers - *Environmental Science*
Piper Sorenson - *Comparative History of Ideas*
Ralph Stinebrickner - *Finance*
Lucas Sussman - *Engineering*
Lola Velush - *Biology*

University of Puget Sound

Sabrina Myer - *Psychology/Music*

Washington State University

Fi Barnes - *Interior Design*
Nevida Carroll - *Undecided*
Otis English - *Finance*
Orion Iverson - *Business*
Maliyah Johnson - *Marketing/Business*
David Payne - *Finance*
Beck Pedersen - *Education*
Jackson Simmons - *Biomechanics*

Western Washington University

Josie Adamson - *Public Health*
Eva Bifone - *Kinesiology*
Alexandra Borsi - *Education*
Phoebe Carlson - *Environmental Studies*
Connor Chapman - *Business*
Annabelle Conrard - *Undecided*
Peyton Cvitkovic - *Psychology*
Avery Dotson - *Business/Economics*
Nick Fulks - *Recreational Management*
Eden Gabbert - *Sociology*
Danilo Golden - *Biology*
Sydney Goldsmith - *Psychology*
Andy Guthrie - *Undeclared*
Olivia Hall - *Environmental Studies*
Jaden Helman - *Undecided*
Charlie Jensen - *Business*
Garrett Knight - *Engineering/Psychology*
Daphne Knox - *Undecided*
Casey Middleton - *Anthropology*
Milo Palmer - *Music Composition*
Christian Puetz - *History/Political Science*
Mila Souza - *Materials Science Engineering*
Coen Stuart - *Biological Oceanography*

Whitman College

Hahna Beaudoin - *Undecided*
James Liska - *Economics*
Jack Rousseau - *Biology*

Montana

Montana State University

Ben Cordick - *Agricultural Business*
Finn Keenan - *Mechanical Engineering*
Drew Olsby - *Business*
Matthew Wilbur - *Film/Paleontology*

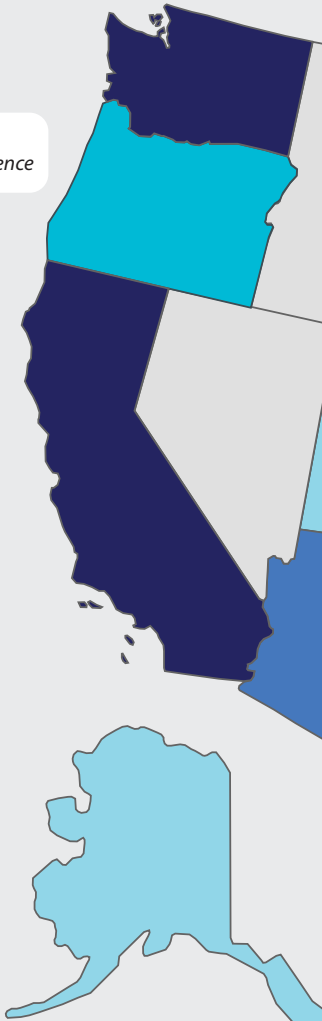
University of Montana

Logan Evans - *Undeclared*
Griffin Martin - *Undeclared*
Imogen Steele - *Undeclared*
Carroll College
Autumn Bailey - *Undeclared*

North Dakota

University of Mary

Tobin Cavanaugh - *Computer Science*



Oregon

George Fox University

Sir Haney - *Marketing*

Oregon State University

Hadley Anderson - *Kinesiology*
Charlotte Gaylord - *Marketing*
Neveah Harman - *Animal Sciences*
Mia Ishii - *Environmental Sciences*
Jena Keller - *Journalism*
Saige Moore - *Sociology*
Ella Singer - *Undecided*
Emma Steinburg - *Kinesiology*
Jacob Watson - *Kinesiology*

University of Oregon

Patrick Canfield-Budde - *Undecided*
Colin Fuller - *Product Design*
Jill Sousley - *Marine Biology*
Louise Whitman - *Child Behavior Health*

University of Portland

Quinn Grove - *Physics*

Portland State University

Lauren Hainje - *Undecided*
Bella Majoros - *Graphic Design*
Alden Payne - *Music Education*

Utah

University of Utah

John Bourlier - *Mechanical Engineering*
Samuel Cox - *Business*
Nils Hoerlein - *Environmental Studies*
Gabe Kenison - *Environmental Studies*
Kate Lauderback - *Pre-dental*

Alaska

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Graeme Mcauslan - *Fire Science*

Colorado

Colorado State University

Yannay Cohen Haddas - *Zoology/Pre-vet*
Scarlett Davis - *Finance*
Caroline Efroymson - *Ethnic Studies*
Charlie Efroymson - *Undecided*

Colorado School of Mines

Hudson Hobbs - *Mechanical Engineering*

University of Colorado Boulder

Cass Sylves - *Chemical Engineering*
Lilly Toland - *Engineering*

Other

Ben Mercer - *National*
Daniel Peterson - *Gap*
Rowan Renn - *Going to*
of New Mexico
Francesca Schmidt - *Br*

California

California Baptist University

James Servey - *Flight*

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Alex Benson - *Construction Management*
Amelia Faust - *Kinesiology*
Paco Jones - *Mathematics*

Cal Poly Pomona

Stella Nilson - *Architecture*

Chapman University

Mena Aliabadi - *Environmental Science and Policy*
Anna Ashmun - *Psychology*

Irvine Valley College

Taylor Dalton - *Accounting/Business*

Loyola Marymount University

Tom Fathi - *Business Entrepreneurship*

Santa Barbara City College

Jake Johnson - *Business*

San Diego State University

Avery Musser - *Political Science*
Lauren Oboy - *Finance*
Paige Pinion - *Education/Liberal Studies*
Leah Robinson - *Psychology*
Jordan Standley - *International Business*
Oliver Tracy - *Business*

Santa Clara University

Lauren Bianchi - *Computer Science*
Kyle Chew - *Marketing*

Scripps College

Sara Wilkson - *Environmental Analysis*

Pomona College

Lina McRoberts - *Undecided*

University of California - Berkeley

Emily Kendall - *Cognitive Neuroscience*
Annie Welman - *Environmental Science*

University of California - Davis

Rachel Dunagan - *Computer Science*

University of California - Los Angeles

Aria Seavecki - *Economics/Cognitive Science*

University of California - Santa Cruz

Roman Garms - *Computer Science*
Finlay Kusik - *Sociology/Statistics*

University of San Francisco

Sofia Angel - *Architecture*
Wyatt Tippett - *Psychology*

University of Redlands

Helen Richardson - *Art & Design/Business Administration*

Arizona

Arizona State University

Ike McMillen - *Business*

University of Arizona

Sofia Bonjrada - *Communications*
Benjamin Braverman - *Undeclared*
Jesse Katz - *Undecided*
Tasha Toll - *Psychology*

Hawaii

University of Hawai'i Mānoa

Ayden Hastings - *Marine Biology*
Arden Rathkopf - *Marine Biology*

NATION

of Montana
Undeclared
Environmental Science
History
ge
Nursing

Illinois

Loyola University Chicago
Cathy James - Nursing
Diyanka Laemmle - Engineering

Minnesota

St. Olaf College
Kelly Foulk - Public Health
University of Minnesota
Alister Teake - Architecture

Wisconsin

University of Wisconsin
Maggie Hall - Business

Indiana

Indiana University
Aidan Bernard - Marketing/Business
Purdue University
Aitana Moreno - Psychology

Maine

Bates College
Alexa Terry - Sociology

Massachusetts

Berklee College of Music
Q Adamson - Music Performance
Ella Papineau - Songwriting/Vocal Performance
Brandeis University
Izzy Kim - Sociology
Endicott College
Thomas Cousins - Undeclared
Mount Holyoke College
Charlotte Bryan - Undecided
Smith College
Lulu Andersen - Undecided
Williams College
Eden Murphy - History/Math

Pennsylvania

Drexel University
Quinton Brewster - Finance
Lehigh University
James Goodall - Business

New Jersey

Monmouth University
Cody Lavin - Physics

New York

Columbia University
Luca Rios - Civil Engineering
Rochester Institute of Technology
Dillon Carney - Game Design & Development
Syracuse University
Jacob Nelson - Political Science/Policy Studies

New Hampshire

Dartmouth College
Bella Neireiter - Political Science

Ohio

Kenyon College
Sadie Clark - Math/Pre-med
Otterbein University
Zella Meyer - Acting

Connecticut

Trinity College
Griffin Henninger - Mechanical Engineering

Washington D.C.

American University
Nicolo Potesta - Political Science
Catholic University of America
Andy Vaughey - Mathematics
George Washington University
Orlando Luce - Undeclared

Georgia

Emory University
Asher Seibel - Neuroscience
Georgia State University
Taylor Whetsel - Social Work

Louisiana

Tulane University
Natalie Anderson - Neuroscience
Ani Bennigson - Environmental Studies

South Carolina

College of Charleston
Simona Carnovale - International Business/
Pre-law
Lucy Holman - Communications

Maryland

Maryland Institute College of Art
Rowan Brownell - Animation

er Paths

Outdoor Leadership School in Patagonia
Year
Japan for five months, then attending University
ridges Program

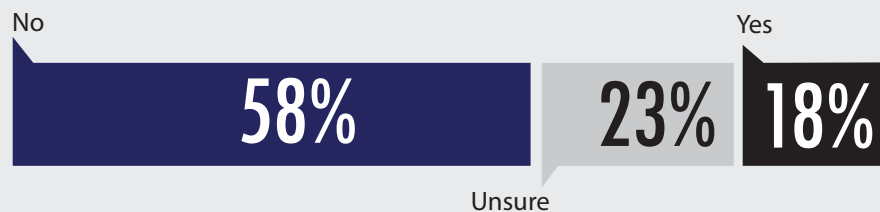
International

Frankfurt School of Finance & Management
Theo Hewey - Economics Management/Philosophy
Ritsumeikan University & Australia National University
Hanako Van Doorn - Asia Pacific Affairs/Global Liberal Arts
Stockholm University
Eliott Steiger - Law
University of British Columbia
Onyx Cheyne - Undeclared
University College Dublin
Maria Fonvielle - Philosophy/Politics & Economics
University of Edinburgh
Emersen Smith - History/Scandinavian Studies
University of Exeter
Jane Holt - Sociology/Anthropology
University of Toronto
Safiya Rajan - Political Science/Public Policy
University of Victoria
Julia Bellabarba - Social Sciences
Josie Fitzpatrick - Chemistry

88%

will be living on campus

Greek Life



Most common majors:

BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

PSYCHOLOGY

Kraken on the rise: a playoff run

Seattle's new hockey team has cracked the code and made a run in the playoffs

Amare Srinivasan Staff Reporter

On Dec. 4, 2018, the Seattle Kraken were officially announced as the National Hockey League's newest expansion team. Sports fans from the Emerald City rejoiced, and have continued to show their passion as a part of Seattle's newest fanbase.

Starting their first season in 2021, the Kraken finished second to last in the Western Conference with a 26-49-6 record. The record was not ideal, but it is typical for a new franchise to struggle at the start.

In the 2022-2023 season, the expectations of the Kraken squad started to rise, and to their fans' delight, so did the team's performance. Starting with a 1-4-0 record, the season seemed to be turning into a repeat of the previous year.

However, against all odds, the Kraken went on a surge and ended the regular season with a 46-28-8 record, securing the seventh seed in the Western Conference and making the playoffs for the first time in the franchise's brief history. Leading the team in goals was left wing Jared McCann who finished the season with 40 goals, while defender Vince Dunn finished with a team high of 50 assists.

Sophomore Kraken fan Matt Wesche is thrilled with how their season is going.

"I've been to many Kraken games, even their first game ever, and I'm not sure if we have a chance, but I'm really hopeful that we can win it all," Wesche said.

Having been to many games, Wesche described how it has felt this season to be a part of this Kraken fanbase.

"The atmosphere of Climate Pledge Arena is very energetic, and I feel like it adds a new aspect to our city," Wesche said. "After goals, we have a very special crowd celebration."

"Honestly I think the Kraken have the biggest fanbase in Seattle as of right now," Wesche said.

"I feel like watching the Kraken is another thing to bond over with your friends and family, even when they lose, it's pretty fun to watch hockey now that we finally have a team."

In 2017, the Las Vegas Golden Knights, who had been recently announced as an expansion team, shocked the world and made the Stanley Cup in just their first season. While the Kraken didn't reach the Stanley Cup, making the second round in just their second season was still very impressive.

"The crowd is nearly always full at Kraken games, and I feel like adding a new sport to Seattle was a great choice as everyone has loved watching the Kraken make the playoffs in just their second season," Wesche said.

Despite getting the seventh seed in the West and taking on the defending champions, the Colorado Avalanche, the Kraken did not settle there. After winning game one on the road, the Kraken finished off the series by winning game seven with a final score of 2-1. "I was watching game seven against Colorado with my family, and it was such a cool feeling to have a very new team come into the playoffs for the first time, and be able to beat the defending champions," Wesche said.

After knocking off the Avalanche, the Kraken won the first game of their second round matchup in Dallas. After ending regulation in a four-four tie, the Kraken won the overtime period in dramatic fashion.

"I think my favorite moment of the season had to have been the game winning overtime goal in game one against the Stars," Wesche said. "The 360 spin by Yanni was incredible and that shot was so hard hit."



A fan's perspective of the Dallas Stars versus the Seattle Kraken in game three of the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs. (Courtesy of Matt Wesche)

The game winning goal by Gourde closed out an intense overtime period, which had Kraken fans watching on the edge of their seats.

"That goal was unsaveable, I felt like [Yanni] Gourde just placed the shot in the perfect place to where the goalie couldn't have saved it," Wesche said. "I felt so relieved when I saw the puck hit the back of the net after being on edge and insanely nervous during overtime due to the rule that the first team who scored in the extra period would win."

After winning game one in Dallas, then falling into a three to two deficit in the series, the Kraken were able to force their second game seven in this year's playoff run. However, the Kraken came up short with a final score of 2-1 Dallas, ending their playoff campaign.

After having a magical, unexpected season and playoff run, the Seattle Kraken were eliminated on May 15, and will watch the rest of the postseason from their homes.

What started as a season with growing expectations ended up creating a determined fanbase, as well as giving Seattle sports fans more hope for the future.

Fastpitch softball competes in state tournament

Junior captain and utility player Addy Wynkoop's perspective on the team's excellent season and playoff push

Jill Sousley Staff Reporter

With spring sports coming to a close, it is important to recognize our amazing sports programs, and one of those is the extremely talented softball team. Junior Addy Wynkoop has been playing softball for 12 years, and shares her experience on the team for the last three years.

Wynkoop said her experience playing softball for Ballard has been "really rewarding," and she said that coming from playing select ball her whole life, playing for BHS has felt "like such a breath of fresh air."

"The community is super well bonded," Wynkoop said.

The team had goals for the season, and Wynkoop

said one of those goals, encouraged by their sixth-year head Coach Dale Griffith, was to make it to state, and attempt to win it all.

"Coach Dale had put in this expectation that not only were we going to make it to state, but we were going to win state," Wynkoop said.

Wynkoop says that as a team they were thrilled to make it to state and she explained that the game that led them to the state tournament was exciting.

"It was crazy. It was a super back and forth game. The last play was wild," Wynkoop said, referring to the great tag made by catcher Katie Davis on an opposing baserunner who tried to leap over the tag at home plate that preserved the Beaver's one run lead and sealed the state playoff

berth.

Wynkoop expressed her excitement for next season revealing that there is a lot of strong talent coming into the program, in addition to the talent already present on the team.

"Going into my senior year, I feel like it's going to be so much fun," Wynkoop said.

After a strong playoff run, the softball team made it to the state tournament.

Unfortunately, the Beavers lost 2-1 in their first game to a lower ranked yet formidable Stanwood team.

The great season and playoff push combined with the early state tournament exit made for a bittersweet end to the team's season.

Boys' soccer second in state finish

Beavers fall just short of a state title after historic playoff campaign

James Liska Sports Editor

After winning three straight state playoff games with a remarkable aggregate score of 11-0, the Ballard boys' varsity soccer team took on a strong Lakeside team in the 3A state semifinals.

The Beavers controlled the pace of the game early on. The aptly named defensive trio "the great wall of Ballard" of senior Lucas Sussman, junior Cole Frech and junior Jack Rollins was impenetrable as ever early on, and senior Midfielders Elijah Post and Karel Van Doorn each had a pair of dangerous shots on goal.

In the 24th minute, Rollins was injured on a hard tackle and had to leave the game, and the great wall was left without its pivotal right back. Senior captain Gray Levasseur dropped back from the midfield to the vacant right back spot and skillfully held down that side of the defense for the rest of the game.

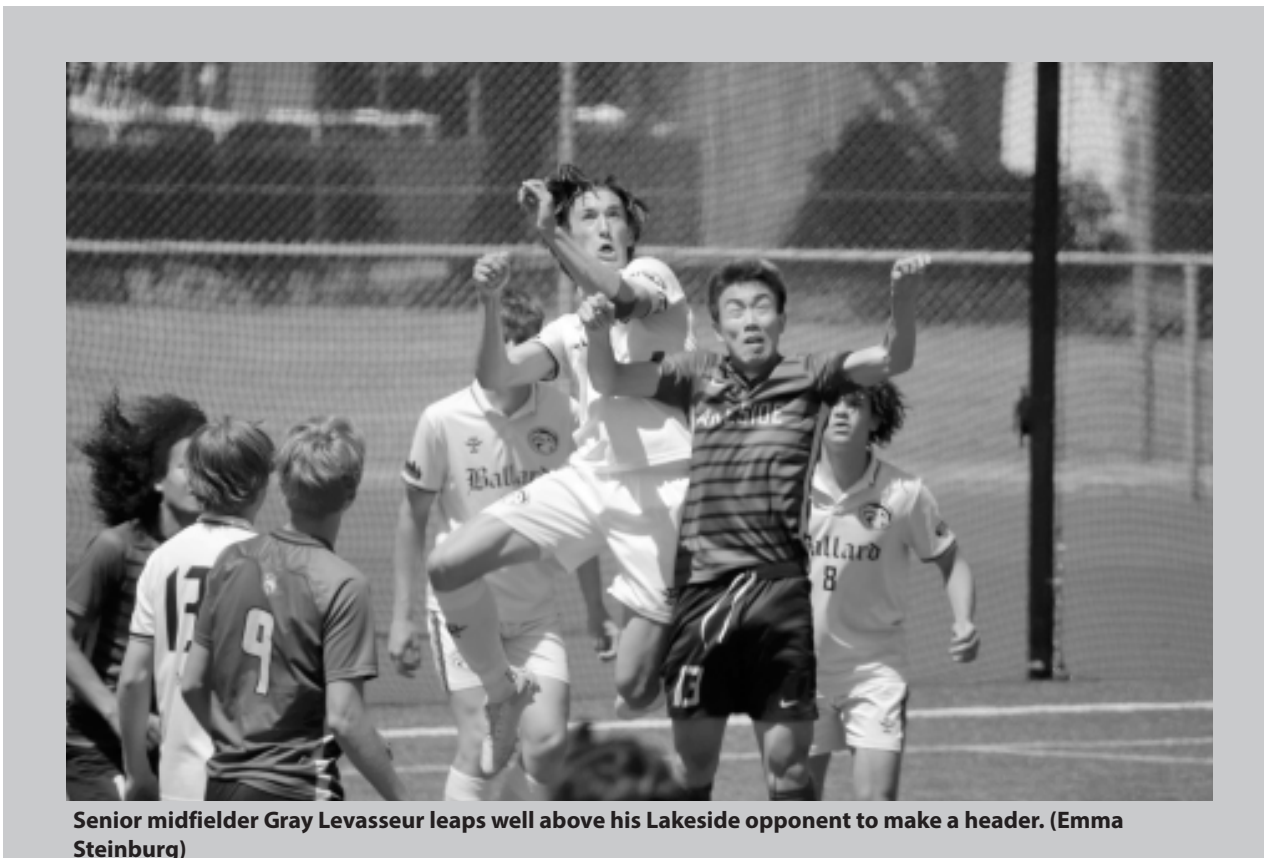
After a few more dangerous chances for both sides, the first half concluded at 0-0.

The Beavers kicked off the second half and continued to control the pace of the game.

Each side had a few set pieces and scoring chances of their own, but both defenses and goalkeepers, senior Natan Admassu of Ballard and junior Thiago Ausland of Lakeside, managed to shut down all attacks and send the game into overtime still tied at 0-0.

Ballard applied all the pressure in overtime. In the first five minute period, Ballard's defense shut down a Lakeside advance and quickly turned the play around into a counterattack with a ball upfield to senior Finley McGehee on a fast break. McGehee beat a defender, and sent a precise ball upfield to Post, who narrowly missed the goal on an acrobatic strike.

The second period of overtime was a similar story. Ballard dominated in terms of offensive possession, but Lakeside narrowly escaped overtime as the



Senior midfielder Gray Levasseur leaps well above his Lakeside opponent to make a header. (Emma Steinburg)

period ended with a dangerous flurry of strikes on goal off the rebound of the previous save by Ausland. The match of two clean sheets and a thrilling contest of defense was then sent into a penalty shootout.

After three shots apiece, the Beavers found themselves down 2-1 in the shootout. As the opportunity to win the shootout was slipping away, Admassu made an incredible diving save to his left on the second to last Lakeside shot, giving Sussman an opportunity to equalize.

Sussman drilled his shot to the right side of the goal, and it found the back of the net to tie the score at 2 heading into the last shot for each team. In Lakeside's fifth and final shot to take the lead, Admassu came up clutch with a third save, giving Ballard a chance to win the shootout in the last round.

Then it all came down to Post. The crowd fell silent in anticipation, then erupted into a roar as Post drilled the ball past the hands of Ausland into the back of the net to send Ballard soccer to its first ever state championship.

The next day, the Beavers would face a dominant #1 seeded Lincoln High School team who went 21-0-1 in the regular season and outscored opponents 21-3 in their playoff run.

The Beavers played a hard and complete match, but struggled to equalize on the impenetrable defense of Lincoln after a 26th minute goal by senior midfielder Wren Wagner.

The Beavers were able to put a few solid strikes on goal throughout the game and even put one in the goal off the foot of Post, but the goal was called back on a foul.

Ultimately, the final whistle blew, and the Lincoln players were crowned state champions. After the game, the Beavers remained gracious in defeat and

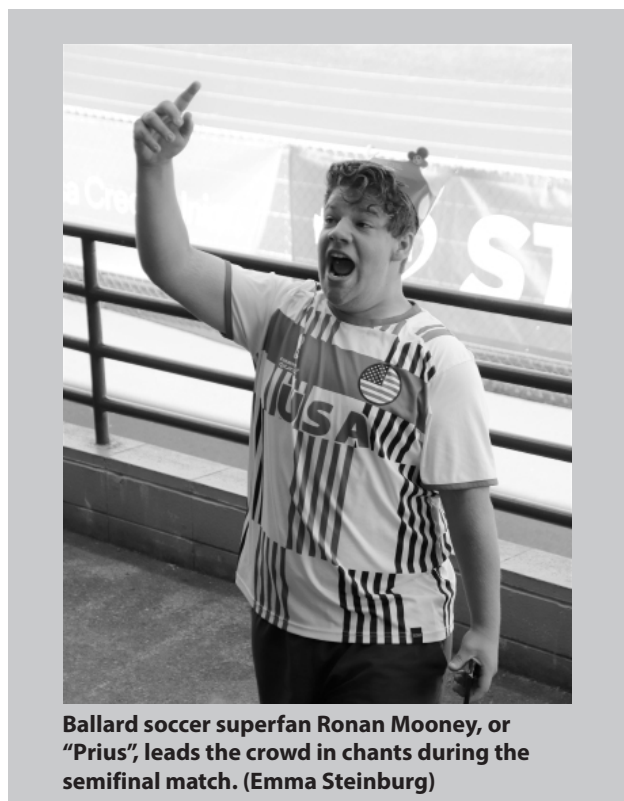


Senior Karel Van Doorn challenging a Lakeside midfielder. (Emma Steinburg)

came over to the stands, lined up and applauded the crowd to express appreciation for the support of the Beaver brigade.

Despite a disappointing championship, the boy's soccer team's playoff run as a whole was anything but disappointing. The team came alive and played on a completely new level during their historic playoff campaign, and only fell to a very strong team in a close game.

This was the highest ever finish in Ballard boys' soccer history.



Ballard soccer superfan Ronan Mooney, or "Prius", leads the crowd in chants during the semifinal match. (Emma Steinburg)

HBO's new series 'The Idol' takes satire too far

The scathing critique of celebrity culture becomes what it tried to attack

Piper Sorensen Staff Reporter

Singer Abel Tesfaye, better known as “The Weeknd.” Actress and model Lily-Rose Depp. A breakout role for Blackpink’s Jennie. “The Idol” has been HBO’s next big thing for a while now. Here’s why it’s not worth your time.

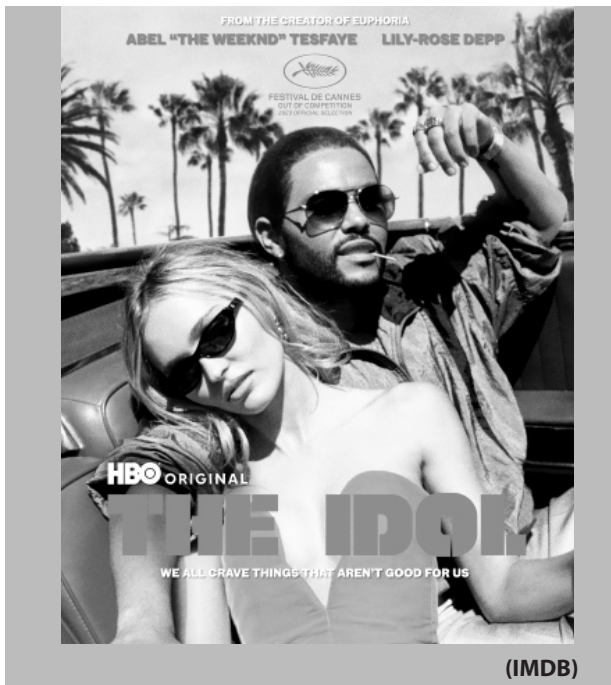
Tesfaye isn’t shy about expressing his struggle with fame and celebrity culture. In many of his songs, he portrays the toxicity and hardship of being a celebrity – drug abuse, oversexualization and more. His new HBO show, “The Idol,” tried to send the same message. Unfortunately, it falls short.

The potential for the show was great: Tesfaye has the inside scoop on how showbiz can both give you meaning and destroy you. In-demand “Euphoria” director Sam Levinson also joined the crew, bringing his own experience in directing dark cinematography.

Levinson has been criticized for his gratuitous sexual scenes, notably in “Euphoria” since the characters involved were teenagers.

But “The Idol” also contains disturbingly violent sexual scenes, many involving women being abused. Tesfaye plays underground cult leader Tedros, who starts a relationship with Lily-Rose Depp’s character, volatile young singer Jocelyn.

The show addresses the blurred lines between exploitation and power, especially preying on young women in showbiz. However, “The Idol” turns into



a glorified power trip of a sadist. Tedros manipulates Jocelyn under the guise of self-help, leading her into an extremely abusive partnership.

This could be attributed to the exit of female co-director Amy Seimetz. Seimetz left the show with 80% of it wrapped up, leaving many to speculate whether she was pressured to leave. Large parts of

the show were rewritten and reshot after Seimetz’s departure.

In the show, Jocelyn’s assistant points out that Tedros is “so rapey,” and Jocelyn remarks that she “kinda like[s] that about him.” This makes it shockingly clear that the show was written and directed completely through the male perspective.

Overall, the story was about the dark underbelly of fame and the industry that destroys young stars. But by scrapping any semblance of a female point of view – yet having a female protagonist – the show instead turns into Levinson’s strangest fantasies.

Levinson had nothing holding him back from his most graphic ideas, meaning any delicate satire was thrown under the bus for the cheap sexualization and commodification of Depp’s character.

Satire is defined as “the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people’s stupidity or vices.” Then why does it seem like the only one getting exposed and humiliated is Jocelyn, while showbiz culture is glorified throughout?

Even if Tesfaye and Levinson stand by their claims of satire, it’s lazy and lacks dimension. But forget all the criticism, because a quote from Tesfaye on making the show was that he wanted to “piss people off. That’s a great coincidence, because it seems “The Idol” has done just that.

Unveiling the sisterhood

While the idea of a sorority sounds appealing, 'Bama Rush' reveals that the recruitment process is not as bubbly as it is perceived online

Penelope Neireiter Staff Reporter

Stepping into the glimmering world of sorority recruitment at the University of Alabama, “Bama Rush,” a recently released documentary on Max, sets out to delve into the captivating universe of Greek life. However, despite its initial potential, the film ultimately disappoints by failing to deliver a truly engaging and profound exploration of this subject matter.

One of the positives of “Bama Rush” is its ability to capture the vibrant atmosphere of sorority recruitment. The documentary showcases the over-the-top decorations, the enthusiasm of participants and the spirited events that unfold during rush week.

Personal stories humanize the participants and offer some insight into the potential benefits and connections formed through sorority life. While these accounts are interesting, they represent a narrow perspective and fail to address some of the more important, structural aspects of Greek life such as challenges, controversies and criticisms associated with the Greek system.

Adding on, the documentary took an unexpected turn when very suddenly director Rachel Fliet came on screen and shared her personal struggle with alopecia, drawing parallels to the Rush week experience. While the topic holds significance, the abrupt insertion felt unnecessary and odd for viewers.

Not only was this the first unexpected thing to come up in the documentary, but a prominent

presence throughout the film was something called “The Machine.” The Machine is an influential secret society at the University of Alabama that holds significant sway over Greek life and student politics. Operating behind closed doors, The Machine is known for its intricate web of connections, strategic endorsements, and influential decision-making.

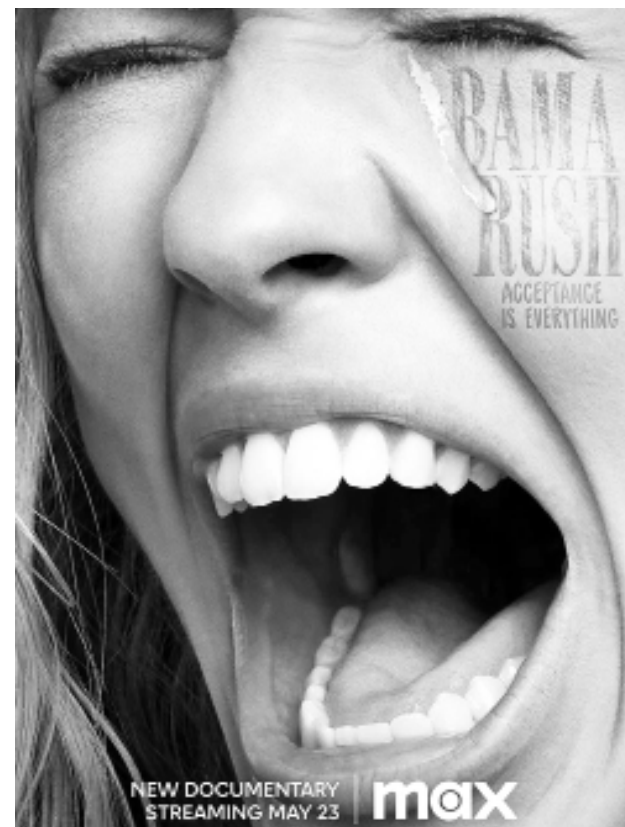
Though the doc briefly touches on The Machine, it doesn’t delve deep enough to draw any interesting conclusions and the insertion feels jarring next to the bubbly depictions of the rush process.

In the past, the University of Alabama has become a hot topic on social media platforms because of how these so-called sisterhoods present themselves. This has led to an extreme increase in recruits.

There is an undeniable significance of sororities at the University of Alabama. As Alabama Life & Culture reports, there are over 2,500 women opting to join these sisterhoods.

This, along with many other factors leads to an emotional rollercoaster throughout “Rush” week, unveiling the profound amounts of screaming and tears that are shed when those who participated receive their coveted bids (meaning they got into a sorority).

Throughout the whole documentary, the general idea is that the sororities picked new recruits based on morals and interest. However, it is clear that these sororities first look at appearance. As mentioned in the documentary, the more attractive



the sorority, the more power they hold.

This standard has quickly led to body image issues within young girls who are striving to be in one of these communities, along with people all around the world who see these values on the internet of what it takes to be successful.

Overall, “Bama Rush” offers a partial glimpse into sorority recruitment at the University of Alabama. While it successfully captures moments of excitement and camaraderie, the documentary lacks depth, critical analysis and a balanced portrayal of Greek life.

Thoughtless devotion pays off

How Mindy Kaling produced the ideal ending to Netflix's 'Never Have I Ever'

Olivia Schaer Staff Reporter



(NBC News)

I have never been fond of Mindy Kaling's work. I find the way that she writes and personifies her Indian characters agitating and overly simple. Her work on shows like "The Sex Lives of College Girls" and "Velma" have several unsavory and black and white portrayals of young Indian or Asian women. When I began watching the Netflix original "Never Have I Ever," I reexamined that prejudice due to the hilarity and idiocracy displayed by its protagonist, Devi (Maitreyi Ramakrishnan).

Although most view this series as an additional teen dramedy, Kaling was able to encapsulate themes of grief, immigration, deep rooted cultural traditions, love, sexual relationships, denial, female friendship and betrayal all within the Vishwakumar family. Despite Devi's unfathomable irritants, she is vulnerable and passionate in a uniquely childlike sense which is probably the root of the large fanbase.

Since the season one release in April of 2020, Kaling's character has had three things on her mind: boyfriends, her late father and getting into Princeton University. Because each season of the show has been representative of a year in high school, we have watched Devi's perception of these goals shift with experience and poor decision making.

While Devi has had many boy toys throughout the series, fans think that her loyalty lies with either Paxton Hall-Yoshida (Darren Barnet) or Ben Gross (Jaren Lewison). This season needed to end with Devi in the school of her dreams and one of these young men on her arm.

Devi's largest problem throughout season four was caused by one of her best friends, Fabiola (Lee Rodriguez), deciding to compete with Devi for a spot at Princeton. This is yet another example of these characters being poor communicators.

I don't feel as though Kaling wrote these characters this way to halt the plot and extend the episodes but to show the flawed power dynamics that these friends must work to overcome. Devi has regularly let her friends down by her so it was a nice

change to see the opposite come to fruition.

Personally, Ben Gross has always seemed like the correct choice for Devi. They have unbeatable on screen chemistry and can match one another's energy at all times. I was thrilled when the season opened with Both Ben and Devi having feelings for one another. However, that glimpse of hope was shortly derailed after Ben decided to pursue a relationship with another classmate, Margot (Victoria Moroles).

Of course Devi attempted to move on but their attachment to one another remained throughout the season until the pair of them where available. However there was still a series of miscommunications before Ben was finally ready to step up and perform a perfect romantic gesture.

Ben and Devi, deciding to stay together once they began their first semester at their east coast Ivies, was seemingly the perfect choice and felt incredibly gratifying as an audience member.

I found that this season did a wonderful job conveying the internal conflicts that come with the decisions post-high school graduation. Paxton gets into Arizona State University, but promptly drops out two weeks into the semester because he didn't feel instantly accepted into the community.

While his decision is valuable and could have been the right one, he develops some awareness throughout the season that he dropped out because he was unwilling to challenge himself and experience personal growth.

Similarly, Devi decides to exclusively apply to Ivy League schools, even when advised by her counselor to prepare a backup plan. Devi is told by both friends and family, after receiving seven rejection letters, that it doesn't matter what university she chooses to attend. These messages are incredibly relevant to my life and current challenges, as well as those of many high schoolers, and are important to uphold especially on television series like this one.

Devi's family also experiences several rapid changes that luckily put them in the prime position for her transition into college. Her mother finds a partner that she isn't ashamed of and helps her

feel safe and transparent, while her grandmother finds a man that she plans to spend the rest of her life with.

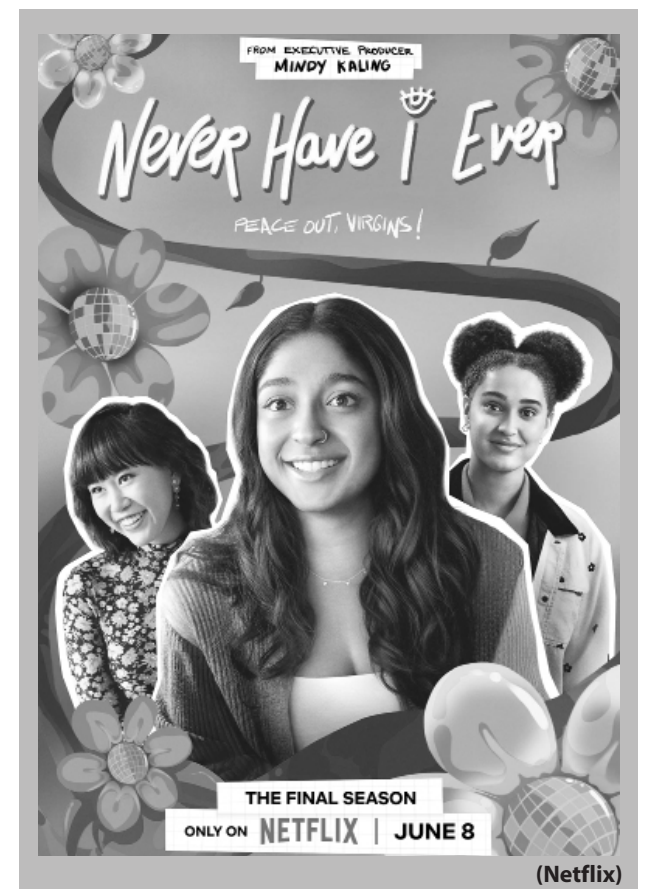
By providing these women with the support they felt they lacked, the audience could finish the series feeling that these characters were satisfied. In addition, Nirmala's (Ranjita Chakravarty) decision to get remarried allowed for a large Indian wedding to stretch throughout the final episode providing a final taste of Devi's wonderful family and culture.

Devi has seen a therapist since the first season of the series. Dr. Ryan (Neicy Nash) is a calming presence that is one of the most reliable voices of reason throughout the show. Kaling provided the most relationship-based closure between Devi and Dr. Ryan when Devi begins to sob and crosses the room to give her a large embrace

Dr. Ryan reminds Devi of all she has overcome and is similarly moved by the fact that she has now helped prepare this young woman to be her most substantial and secure self. This twenty second moment revealed an entirely new perspective and reminded us that Devi has been evolving throughout the good and the bad just as any other teenage girl would.

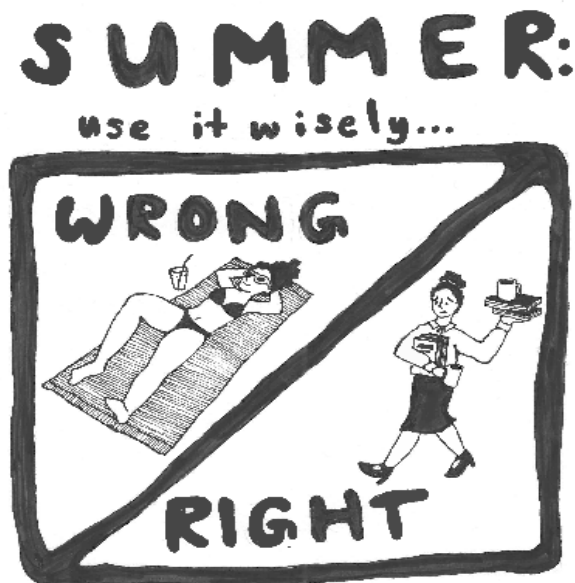
Kaling has created a series that shows self drive and improvement within both its production and characters. It teaches individuals how to respect not only their friends and family but also themselves.

Advocating for oneself is an incredibly valuable skill, and each of Kaling's characters show up for themselves by telling it like it is and never backing down. Although Devi's actions can be perceived as thoughtless throughout the series, she is consistently devoted to school, her relationships and most importantly herself. She has room to grow, and so do the rest of us.



The summer dilemma: how culture puts pressure on our breaks

Evan Sadler Staff Reporter



(Daphne Knox)

For high school juniors, the summer break between their junior and senior years is often viewed as a crucial time to boost their college applications. The pressure to intern or work towards college applications can be overwhelming,

especially with the expectation of demonstrating impressive extracurricular activities and gaining valuable work experience, all while trying to enjoy your last summer as a highschooler.

I am no stranger to this, as I applied for an internship at UW, but the reasoning behind my application was similar to most people: I thought that it would bolster my college application and help me develop skills for my future.

However, the pressure surrounding the idea of being successful and vigilant during the summer in recent years has caused many students to stagnate and burn out faster in the coming school year.

Often overlooked is the toll internships and the pressure to get ahead during your three months of break takes on students' mental health. The pressure to excel academically, participate in extracurricular activities and now secure prestigious summer experiences can lead to burnout and increased stress levels. The constant anxiety of meeting these expectations can have long-term negative effects on students' mental well-being, leading to anxiety disorders, depression and especially academic underperformance.

Instead of fostering equal opportunities for all students, the emphasis on summer internships

perpetuates a system that benefits a privileged few.

By fixating on summer internships and resume-building activities, we also consistently fail to recognize the inherent value of experiences that cannot be quantified on a college application. Activities like volunteering, pursuing personal hobbies or spending quality time with loved ones offer valuable life lessons and contribute to the development of an individual.

These experiences, although not easily quantifiable like internships and jobs may be, shape character, foster empathy and provide unique perspectives that are equally valuable as any internship experience.

Furthermore, Society for HR Management held surveys about the benefits of internships, which included talking about the expectations for internships from highschoolers that are not always met.

But most of all, the summer before senior year is a time that should be spent bonding with family and friends, enjoying leisure activities and recharging for the final push ahead. Students already endure immense academic and extracurricular pressures throughout the school year, and they deserve a break.

A plea from the seniors: we're not lazy, we're scared

Alexa Terry A&E Editor

Feeling fully established in an environment is no small feat. Throughout our time at BHS, we have formed connections, joined extracurriculars and taken on leadership roles.

The unsure freshmen we were just a few short years ago feel like a distant memory, yet many of us will be returning to that state of uncertainty this coming fall, once again being small fish in an unbelievably large pool.

We have all faced transitions throughout our lives, from middle school to high school, in-person to online education, and from naive children to near adults. Yet there has been a security blanket throughout all of it, a sense of home. Not just where we live but where our lives reside.

As we take the next steps in our lives, our definition of home will at the very least, take on a new form.

During our few final weeks of high school, it's hard not to feel the crushing weight of the loss we are experiencing. There are many catalysts leading to this sense of grief. As performing arts are coming to a close, seniors are saying goodbye to the programs they have dedicated thousands of hours to. Club leaders must pass the torch to younger members or accept that the extracurriculars that once made up a significant portion of their identity will soon be obsolete.

The Ballard community will no longer be a place we are welcome, the American high school experience is coming to an end.

As we stress over this loss, our peers, teachers and parents have near-constant conversations about "Senioritis," the phenomenon of seniors half-assing their schoolwork if they bother to do it at all.

It is widely believed that we are getting lazy, and it's easy to see why. Classes composed of primarily

seniors are becoming emptier by the day, chairs have collected dust, and school assignments have piled up in the overdue tab. But senioritis is not just laziness, it's a coping mechanism.

The weight of academics on top of everything in our lives falling out beneath our feet becomes too much to bear. It may seem dramatic, but everything about leaving high school feels dramatic.

How are we expected to focus on calculus when all we can think about is how hard it will be to live without the support of our parents, our teachers, and our friends? Though skipping school may not be the most effective avenue for coping with this confusing cocktail of emotions, for many of us it is an unconscious choice.

Not only are we skipping to cope with the stress of such a huge transition, as school drags on weeks into June, we are itching to move on with our lives. Though we are scared, we are ready to leave the final chapter of our childhood education.

As people crouch in fear of the dreaded T-shirt cannon, or as we get stuck in the hall behind yet another group of chatting underclassmen, we are reminded that we have outgrown our school's community. At this point, Preparing for the exhilarating unknown of our futures feels far more pressing than attending every class to sit in a room with other restless seniors.

Most of us are going to colleges or universities



(Daphne Knox)

next year, and along with that comes countless tasks to complete before stepping foot on campus in the fall. As these tasks arise, it is difficult to choose high school assignments over ones that will actively affect our future.

Who will we live with? What classes will we take? What programs will we partake in? These questions feel far more important than "What work am I missing?"

There is no period of time up to this point that has contained as huge a transition as this, I think we deserve some slack, perhaps even a bit of compassion.

Greatest prom dress trends of 2023

Online shopping arises as a popular way of finding affordable and original outfits

Jill Sousley Staff Reporter

I think everyone would agree with me when I say that prom was a blast, but what was even better was seeing everyone's choice in dresses and accessories. 2023 was a year of bright colors, ruffles, and simple, silk gowns.

Some opted for expensive dresses and some went for budget options, but most dresses this year were purchased online. This is a contrast to years ago when people would seek out boutiques or specialized dress stores to buy their dresses in-person.

Sites like Princess Polly, Dillard's, Free People, Lulus, Nordstrom, Revolve, Reformation and many more were scoured by prom attendees for months prior to the event. It was hard to tell where dresses were bought from, as many of the sites sell similar products.

Personally, I was a fan of the simplistic look that was popular this year. Many elevated simple dresses

by wearing statement jewelry or a fun hairstyle. I saw very few sequin or sparkly dresses, which was different from the 2022 trends.

Some dresses featured cut outs, which weren't my personal favorite because I feel that cut outs mix more of a "going out/party" vibe with formal.

Bright colors were extremely popular this year, even borderline neon colors which I actually really liked. It made pictures so fun to look at and just added so much character to a dress.

I saw lots of ruffles and tiered dresses. My dress was actually tiered, which ended up being super comfortable because of the flowy aspect. I loved the way these dresses

looked in pictures and hope this trend sticks around for many years to come.

All of the 2023 trends were pretty good. I loved the online aspect of shopping and all the new styles that emerged this year. I can't wait to see what pops up in 2024!



Fun in the sun: summer activities to beat the heat

The ultimate guide to summer plans from volunteer work to creative pursuits

Amare Srinivasan & Clyde Curtis Staff Reporters

Summer is a time for students to unwind and take a break from their academic responsibilities. However, it's also a great opportunity for them to engage in activities that can help them develop new skills, make new friends and have fun.

While many people think of summer as just another break from school, a time to eat all the ice cream you can get, and a way to cool yourself down in the trenches of Green Lake, it also helps to find hobbies, interests and allows students across the community to explore their identities.

In an anonymous survey, many students presented the different activities they are looking forward to doing this summer.

Multiple students expressed that they would be going to a variety of places in Europe, including France, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Italy and England. Other students who are participating in summer internships or jobs, noted that they would be involved in the music program at Cornish, Seattle, working at the Ballard pool and working at the gym.

However not all of the responses were to do with internships and traveling across the

world, an anonymous replier was heading to Miami and Las Vegas with other plans. "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas," they said.

While these responses are some of the top activities that students like to do on their sunny vacation, this article will also present some alternative solutions on how you can spend your time.

Number one, Internships: Internships are a great way for students to gain work experience and learn new skills. Many companies offer summer internships, which can provide students with valuable insights into different industries and career paths.

Number two, Volunteer work: Volunteering is a great way for students to give back to their communities while also gaining valuable experience. Whether it's working at a local food bank or helping out at a summer camp, volunteering can help students develop important skills such as teamwork, communication and leadership.

Number three, Travel: Summer is the perfect time for students to explore new places and cultures. Whether it's a road trip with friends or a trip across the globe with your family,

travel can broaden students' horizons and provide them with new perspectives on the world.

Number four, Sports and fitness: Summer is a great time for students to stay active and healthy. From joining a local sports team to taking up a new fitness routine, there are plenty of ways for students to get moving and stay in shape.

Number five, Creative pursuits: Summer is also a great time for students to explore their creative side. Whether it's writing, painting, or playing music, engaging in new ideas can help students develop new skills and find their true identity, as well as what they love to do, expressing themselves in horizons they hadn't seen before.

Overall, summer is a great time for students to engage in a wide variety of activities that can help them grow and develop as individuals. Whether it's gaining work experience, giving back to the community, or exploring new places and cultures, there's something for everyone to enjoy during the summer months, it's just a matter of what you are willing, and want to do.

Check out more articles on the Talisman website!

Rating past senior pranks!



The divide in Ballard class culture: why our community is lacking



BEAVESDROPPING

HEARD IN THE HALLWAYS: WANT IT TO BE FUNNIER? THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR!

“I swear to god if I hear one person say I’m ‘giving’ I’m gonna give them a slap across the face”

“You would not believe the yawn I just yumpt”

“One day I wanna blow a bubble and have it go really far”

“Well I don’t know I just though Hugh Janus was a famous person or something”

Satire: Absurdity unveiled: Ballard’s bathroom ‘delights’

Matea Hart Staff Reporter

Using the bathrooms at Ballard is easily the most enjoyable experience this school has to offer. To give you insight on this, a few weeks ago my friend was mid-poop in the girls bathroom and in order to make sure she didn’t fall down the toilet, school staff fearlessly risked the stench to shout at her to exit the stall immediately and return to class – despite the potential mess. Being screamed at made her realize that the worksheet on factors was indeed riveting, and the shouting adult was right: that worksheet was far more of a priority than listening to her own bodily needs.

Same for “that time of the month!” Honestly, us girls should just start free-bleeding all over the seats in an effort to stay in class. Teachers are always so understanding of this experience – especially men. I love being badgered by my teachers on why I’m using the bathroom until I have no other option but to declare “I’m on my period!” for the whole world to hear. Having a period is the most delightful experience one can have, and the school really honors this time by allowing me autonomy over my own body’s schedule. The empty tampon and pad dispensers in the girls bathrooms prove to be a constant reminder that this school truly does care.

The staff’s dedication to protecting female students is inspirational. The fact that they’re comfortable (as men) barging into the girls and gender neutral restrooms at all times during the day and harassing us to get to class by banging loudly on walls and yelling is such a brave and

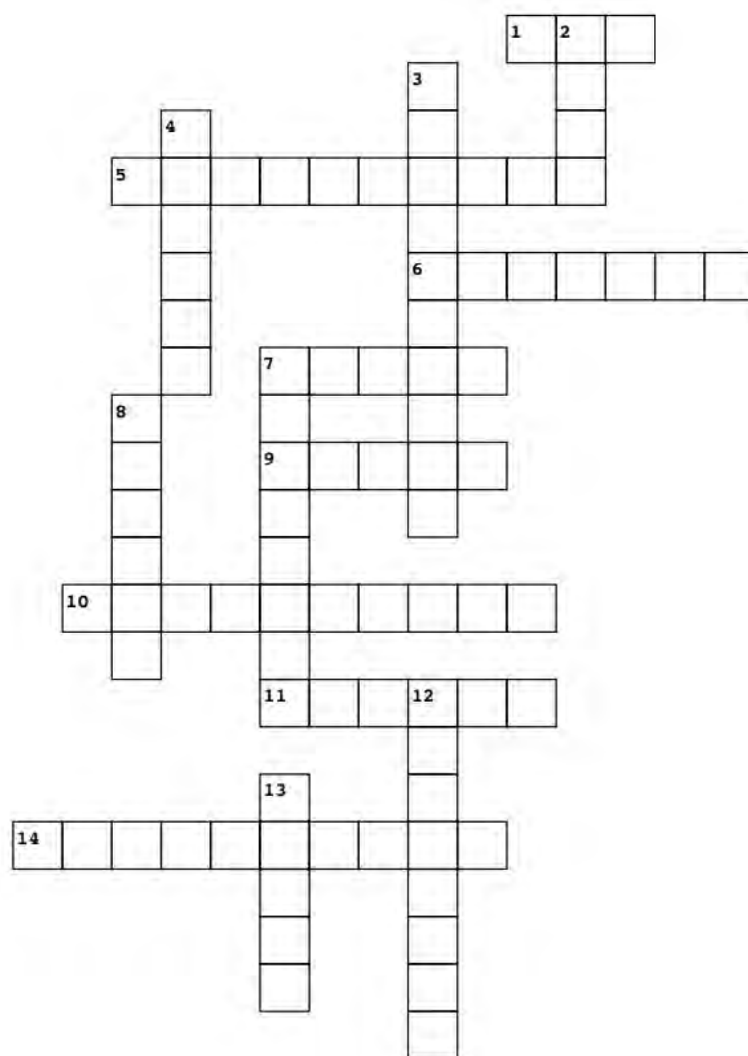
effective way to make girls feel more comfortable taking care of their personal needs, especially because you know these guys understand your experiences. Not to mention, a great way to wake up in the morning. Ditch that coffee from Top Banana – you won’t need it anymore because the staff have got your back.

Fortunately for boys, our school allows you to compare while peeing since there is no privacy at all. Worried you aren’t “normal”? Now you can know for sure as there’s absolutely no dividers between urinals. It’s a great way to encourage students to connect with each other on a much, much deeper level that they didn’t even know they needed.

Having a bad day? Need a moment to just cry it out in the bathroom with a friend? Lucky for you this school has got your emotional needs covered. They know that the perfect fix at this moment is someone banging on the stall telling you to GET BACK TO CLASS! Your tears will evaporate instantaneously, leaving you instantly prepared for that chem test you didn’t study for.

I concede that administrators may be concerned with some of the vaping habits of students at our school, but I can assure you that breaking down the bathroom stall door unfortunately won’t solve anyone’s nicotine addictions. Trust me, they’re dedicated. Or maybe staff just want to be included in the small-talk behind the closed doors of these flimsy bathroom stalls. If that’s the case, just knock and maybe you’ll be let in.

“He kind of reminds me of a horse when it starts to trot”



Down

2. ASB successor
3. State finalists
4. End of year stress
7. Most common major
8. Mr. President
12. Assembly theme
13. June is ___ month

Across

1. Convocation hat
5. Classic BHS cheer
6. “More than Meets the Eye” creator
7. 23 color
9. Post-grad all-nighter
10. Junior-senior showdown
11. Freedom
14. Disease rampant at BHS